



# Media release

**The Hon Michael O'Brien MP**

Minister for Gaming  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Energy and Resources

Thursday 4 October 2012

## Exploration to secure a golden future for Victoria

Energy and Resources Minister Michael O'Brien today launched a gold exploration project north of Bendigo where a new drilling program has commenced targeting the next big Victorian gold find.

Navarre Minerals has this week commenced a drilling campaign at its Tandarra prospect which will see it carry out 13,000 metres of air-core and diamond drilling as it works to prove up the near surface extent of gold mineralisation in the area.

Mr O'Brien said the project was an example of how companies were continuing to invest in gold exploration, providing significant employment opportunities in regional Victoria.

"The Victorian Coalition Government is committed to the responsible development of a strong mining and exploration industry in Victoria that works co-operatively with other industries, with respect for landholders and the environment," Mr O'Brien said.

"Victoria has a proud history of gold production and projects like this show that there is a strong future for gold exploration.

"The Coalition Government recently recognised the special role gold has played in the development of Victoria by making the precious metal the official mineral emblem of Victoria.

"Victoria has produced 80 million ounces of gold since the 1850s and the Department of Primary Industries estimates there could be as much as another 80 million ounces still to be found.

"Companies like Navarre are now working to unearth a new generation of gold discoveries and in the process they are bringing jobs and investment to regional Victoria," Mr O'Brien said.

Mr O'Brien said geological data collected by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries had played a key role in helping Navarre identify the Tandarra prospect.

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