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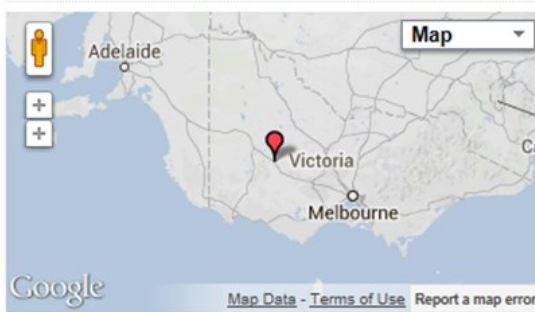
Navarre keen to maintain Stawell mining workforce

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A Stawell-based exploration company says it hopes to keep jobs in the town by using the existing gold processing plant for other projects in western Victoria.

Navarre Minerals is currently searching for copper deposits near Lake Bolac, after an earlier discovery by another company which was never followed up.

Navarre has also applied for an exploration licence for gold at Tatyoon, south of Ararat.



MAP: Stawell 3380

Managing director Geoff McDermott says if the company does find mineral deposits close to Stawell, it makes sense to maintain the existing workforce and knowledge in the town after the closure of its gold mines.

"The hope is, and it all comes down to timing and whether the mine gets approval on Big Hill, but Stawell is a community that there's a lot of skills that have been [been] learned over the last 30 years of operations in the area and it's of strategic importance to us," he said.

"If we can find mineral deposits that are nearby, within trucking distances, that we can tap into that skill in Stawell and to use those facilities in Stawell Gold Mines, that would be an ideal situation for us and obviously for the town as well in maintaining a gold business which would employ a lot of the in-house skills that are already there."

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