

Gold potential in Tatyoon district

The Ararat district settlement of Tatyoon might become the site of the region's next gold boom if an exploration company's hopes for the area become reality.

Stawell's Navarre Minerals has identified rocks beneath shallow cover at Tatyoon that are similar to those at Stawell Gold Mine's Magdala Mine.

It is now poised to probe Tatyoon and another site south of Ararat for copper and gold after securing two new exploration licences.

The licences are for an area within a gold-bearing 'Stawell Corridor', running almost north-south through Murtoa to the south coast and historically responsible for the birth of Ararat and Stawell.

As well as the five-million ounce Stawell Gold Mine, the corridor is also home to the one-million ounce Ararat Goldfield.

Navarre Minerals managing director Geoff McDermott said the next step after gaining the licences was to reassess data to establish target sites and priority areas and to get in touch with landowners and the general farming community.

"We'll have a clearer picture about priority areas in the next 60 days. Once we get permission from landowners it would all start happening relatively quickly. I would envisage that when all the crops are off the ground we would start shallow drilling in the first quarter of next year so we can prove the concept," he said.

Mr McDermott said Stawell Gold Mine geologists discovered the Tatyoon site while searching for a Stawell look-a-like gold deposits in a regional search program.

Back on radar

He said with a succession of corporate takeover activity involving Stawell Gold Mine and a focus on mining operations from 2007 onwards, exploratory drilling ceased at Tatyoon and the licence expired expiration and slipped 'off the radar'.

"Hopes are high that the Tatyoon exploration licence will yield a discovery that will add to the region's gold-production success," he said.

"These types of deposits are attractive to us because the gold mineralisation is usually finer-grained, more continuous and more predictable than gold deposits typically found at

Bendigo and Ballarat.

"It therefore makes for simpler and more consistent gold production.

"We're excited that Tatyoon might be a Stawell look-a-like in terms of duplicating the Magdala Mine, its longevity and its success. We're hoping that all the studies lead to a great gold discovery.

Mr McDermott, former Stawell Gold Mine chief geologist, outlined the benefits for Stawell, Ararat and surrounding communities should exploration lead to the discovery of gold and a new mine.

"If we can deliver a new gold mine at Tatyoon, the ore could be trucked to Stawell for processing using existing Stawell Gold Mine facilities, maintaining jobs in Stawell and creating new jobs at Tatyoon and Ararat," he said.

"We could also make use of a potential Western Highway duplication."

Navarre's other new exploration licence is for Glenlyle, 20 kilometres south-west of Ararat on a Miga Arc copper belt. The licence area is next to a Navarre's Stavely exploration licence site where the company is looking for porphyry copper gold deposits.



GOLD COUNTRY: The area west along Grange Road at Tatyoon where Navarre Minerals hope to find a significant gold desposits.