



DRILLING: Stawell exploration company Navarre Minerals has started drilling for gold deposits between Great Western and Tatyoon.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

Hunt for gold

By ERIN McFADDEN

A STAWELL exploration company has started drilling for gold deposits in western Victoria.

Navarre Minerals has been investigating a 60-kilometre stretch of the prospective 'Stawell corridor', between Great Western and Tatyoon.

The company has started drilling at its Stawell Corridor Gold Project.

Managing director Geoff McDermott said the drill program was targeting gold mineralisation in the region.

"We've got up to a 2000-metre drilling program and we are looking for a gold deposit, concealed under about 30

metres of ground cover," he said. "Stawell and Ararat are the two main gold areas in the Wimmera, and only part of the Stawell corridor sticks out of the ground - which is the part where the old timers found gold. If we move north and south of that divide, the rest of the corridor is hidden underground."

"We now have new technology that allows us to look underneath the ground and hopefully find what the old timers couldn't."

Mr McDermott said the company hoped to complete drilling - which started on Friday last week - by early next month, before farmers needed the land for sowing.

The drill program comprises at least three diamond holes.

"We are pretty happy with the process so far and we have just started diamond drilling now," he said. "The diamond drilling is the slowest part of the process as it only covers about 30 to 40 metres a day."

"The next steps after we finish drilling will be to log the information, take geological measurements, send away samples and interpret all the results."

Mr McDermott thanked for the community for its support during the process.

"We couldn't do this without the help of the community and landholders. We are very grateful for their support," he said.