

Westgold ready to shift NT focus

By Michael Quinn, 21 January 2008



Westgold drilling at Explorer 108. Focus set to shift to the Rover 1 gold-copper target, 75km south-west of Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory.

A PROMISING gold-copper target in a high grade locale is set to be drilled by Westgold Resources after 25 years in the exploration wilderness.

The Rover 1 prospect 75km south-west of Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory featured historical drill hits such as 35m grading 8.6gpt gold, 1.3% copper and 0.07% bismuth (including 22m at 13.4gpt gold, 1.3% copper and 0.1% bismuth) prior to the ground being tied up by the indigenous owners. Other hits included 37m at 2.9gpt gold, 1.4% copper and 0.12% bismuth (including 9m at 10.1gpt gold, 1.3% copper and 0.40% bismuth), with Rover 1 said by the company to have "many characteristics similar to the large high-grade Warrego mine at Tennant Creek (that) produced over 1.3 million ounces of gold and 90,000t of copper".

Westgold, which as of this month is headed by managing director Andrew Beckwith (the company's former exploration manager), reached agreement with the owners late last year and plans to begin drill testing in March following the wet season. The iron oxide copper-gold mineralisation drilled previously by Peko was intersected at about 450m depth, but Westgold believes there are up-dip extensions as shallow as 120m or so.

"Peko initially targeted their drilling on their early but poorer quality and less detailed magnetic, gravity data and modelling which showed the target at around the 450-500m depth based on their initial rock assumptions," Beckwith told *HighGrade*. "They then continued to drill based on initial positive results. Plans were in place to drill both along strike and up dip when the access to the area was put on hold by the veto. Detailed geophysical modelling of more recent and quality magnetic data provides a greater clarity to the model indicating strong indications that the ironstone occurs close to the unconformity at 120m. This model will be significant improved shortly with our own ultra-detailed ground magnetics and gravity which is currently underway."

Beckwith believes a resource could be delineated by the end of 2008.

Westgold was capitalised this week at about \$A32 million, with some \$A2 million of cash on hand. Its work over the past year has concentrated on the nearby Explorer 108 zinc-lead prospect where a resource is set to be delineated.

The company's major shareholder is tin and nickel project developer Metals X.

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