



Another gold rush looms at Hill End

Story: LOUISE EDDY

BOOM times could come again for a district village if Hill End Gold finds what it is looking for.

The gold exploration company has applied to carry out exploration work north-west of Lithgow.

The Hargraves and Hill End Project tenements cover 614 square kilometres of land between Bathurst and Mudgee.

Hill End Gold intends to become a mid-tier gold producer based on these two flagship projects at Hill End and Hargraves, which lie in the historically gold-rich Lachlan Fold Belt.

The first gold rush in the 1850s mined out the rich surface gold around Hill End but a resurgence of activity occurred in the 1860s and '70s when very rich, hard rock deposits were discovered in the Hawkins Hill, Reward and Red Hill areas.

These were only mined to a shallow depth and Hill End Gold began work in the area in 1994 to explore beneath the old workings.

The company believes the area is under-explored and has now made an application for an 86-square kilometre exploration licence in the Lachlan Fold Belt, 40km east of Hill End.

Mapping, sampling, ranking and drill testing of priority targets is planned.

Hill End Gold managing director Philip Bruce said the new area is an important addition to the company's large property portfolio in this highly prospective region.

He said a large two-kilometre by one-kilometre gold anomaly (the Willandra Prospect) and a mineralised north-west trending structure (the Brigadoon Structure) near the contact of Ordovician Sofala Volcanics have yet to be adequately drill-tested. However, significant gold anomalies and mineralisation are present in the area.

The Willandra Prospect was located by Goldfields Ltd in 1995, but a 450m diamond drill hole completed by Goldfields in 1996 failed to adequately test it.