



# THE NEW GOLD RUSH

## Exploration for Hill End

By **LOUISE EDDY**

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

The gold exploration company has applied to carry out exploration work north-east of Bathurst.

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# Preparing for a new gold boom

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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. Previous exploration at Willandra has identified a large two-kilometre by one-kilometre surface gold-arsenic soil anomaly and a mineralised north-west trending structure near the contact of Ordovician Sofala Volcanics.

Mr Bruce said the exploration data was compiled by Dr Stuart Munroe, a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

"The Willandra property covers a very prospective portion of the Sofala Volcanics near our major Hill End and Hargraves properties," Mr Bruce said.

"We plan a comprehensive test of the Willandra property as soon as possible."

The Brigadoon Structure hosts historical gold workings five kilometres north of the Willandra Project. It parallels a well-known geographical trend in the Lachlan Fold Belt.

Mineralised systems along the structure have been previously mapped and sampled, but no adequate drill testing has been completed.