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# Tennant & District Times

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PAY DIRT: Keith Clinton from Fugro is one of the crew members carrying out the ground gravity survey.

## Survey steps up in search for gold

A LOCALLY-BASED mining company plans to spend more than \$1 million on geophysics alone to map geological structure and identify ore bodies within the Tennant Creek goldfield.

This includes conducting the most comprehensive aeromagnetic survey ever undertaken in the region and a widespread gravity survey.

Emmerson Resources plans to fly a 40,000 line kilometre aeromagnetic survey in a bid to locate areas with potential to host gold-bearing ore bodies.

The survey is contracted to UTS Geophysics.

Geophysicist, Steve Massey, says while other detailed surveys have covered the area to some extent, this one will fill in large gaps.

"The survey will cover the majority of the Tennant Creek mineral field with great accuracy," he said.

"Ore bodies here are spatially small but very rich so we need to have a highly detailed aeromagnetic picture of the region to help us

locate the small bodies.

"The survey will provide us with a detailed map of the entire geological structure and we're confident it will lead to a new generation of discovery and development."

The high-definition aeromagnetic survey, which is estimated to cost \$600,000, will begin in less than two weeks.

Residents may notice the low-flying aircraft in the region for about seven or eight weeks, although the pilots will not be surveying over the town area.

Meanwhile, the ground gravity survey is already underway.

Carried out by three crews on quad bikes, the survey aims to identify bodies of high density ore.

"In the Tennant Creek mineral field, gold occurs in iron-rich rocks, also termed ironstone," Mr Massey explained.

"And while most of this will be identified by the aeromagnetic survey, some ironstones are non-magnetic and so these bodies will be

identified by the ground gravity survey."

Emmerson Resources has committed \$500,000 to this survey which is being carried out by geophysical contractor, Fugro Ground Geophysics.

Mr Massey said while the area has already been well studied, the Tennant Creek mineral field is very rich - it has a historical production of 5.5 million ounces of gold - with plenty of opportunities to identify new targets and to learn more about the old ones.

"Hopefully, we'll locate a world-class gold deposit which would have wide-ranging benefits, including the local economy," he said.

Emmerson Resources, which was publicly listed in December last year, has exploration licenses over most of the tenure in the local mineral field, having purchased the old Giants Reef assets.

The recent increase in interest in the Tennant Creek goldfield has been sparked by investor confidence due to strong increases in the gold price.

This week it is worth \$A924.78 per ounce.

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