
NEWS

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NEW AERIAL SURVEY OVER BAROSSA RANGES

TO ASSIST SEARCH FOR DIAMONDS

An aerial survey is to be flown over the Barossa Ranges next month as listed diamond explorer, Flinders Diamonds Limited, steps up its search in South Australia for the precious gemstone.

The diamond explorer told the “SA Resources & Energy Investment Conference” in Adelaide today that the high resolution airborne magnetic survey would commence in the first week of June.

The flights would be at a height of about 60 metres and would be flown at 100 metre wide intervals on a north-south axis as part of Flinders Diamonds’ focus on locating new kimberlites – the potential known source of diamonds – in the region.

“We have confirmed a number of actual and inferred kimberlites in the broader region of the Barossa Ranges,” Flinders Diamonds’ Managing Director, Dr Kevin Wills, told delegates to the conference.

“However, the presence of confirmed and inferred kimberlites and 10 positive kimberlite indicator mineral samples, suggest the occurrence of a cluster of kimberlite pipes in the Barossa Ranges,” Dr Wills said.

“It would therefore be unwise to progress too far at this stage, detailed exploration of any one specific kimberlite pipe until the emerging and whole kimberlitic profile of the Ranges is exposed.”

The proposed survey areas are to the east of, and not associated with, the wine growing areas of the Barossa Valley, and are set in predominantly sheep farming country.

“The aerial survey will help establish an initial basis for determining the likely extent of kimberlite pipes in the region, their frequency, clustering and intensity and the exploration priority and schedule we need to assign to each, as required,” Dr Wills said.

“This is very early days yet but the Barossa Ranges have emerged in recent months as one of three flagship projects that have sufficiently matured within the Flinders Diamonds asset profile to take priority in terms of exploration and analysis.”

Dr Wills told the conference the Company’s other two projects were the Euralia area of the Springfield Basin project northeast of Port Augusta in South Australia and the Hamersley project in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

He announced to the conference that tests in recent weeks on 50 kilogram samples taken from the Bunyara and Ian Ross kimberlites in the Barossa Ranges had not revealed the presence of microdiamonds.

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“This exploration work can only be described as very preliminary as we embark this year for the first time on proving up any undiscovered kimberlites in the Barossa Ranges,” Dr Wills said.

“Encouragingly, our drainage sampling this year in the region has located kimberlite indicator mineral anomalies, several of which contain multiple grains of different kimberlitic minerals,” he said.

“These grains have exhibited low wear factors, and that suggests that the potential source is close by.”

Dr Wills said existing airborne magnetic data over the Barossa Ranges had mostly been flown at 300 metre spacing and along east west lines, as opposed to Flinders Diamonds’ planned impending flight lines of 100 metres spacing, along the north-south axis.

“At 300 metre spacing, some kimberlite pipes between the lines could be missed,” Dr Wills said.

“Our scheduled new aerial survey will be better able to locate any dipolar anomalies associated with kimberlite pipes.”

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