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Strike potential tested

Clermont gold project seeks to quantify area's 'nugget effect'

MELANIE WHITING
Melanie.Whiting@dailymercury.com.au

A SECOND phase of bulk sampling is starting this week at Impact Minerals Limited's gold project near Clermont.

The bulk samples will weigh up to 25 tonnes – larger than the one-tonne samples taken in the first phase in October.

Impact bought rights to mine for gold at the Blackridge site, about 30km north of Clermont, last year. Blackridge covers the historic Blackridge and Springs mining camps, which produced about 185,000 ounces of gold between 1879 and the early 1900s, equating to about $309 million in today's gold prices.

In a statement to the ASX, the WA-based prospecting company said the second phase of bulk sampling would help further quantify the "nugget effect" and optimal sample size required.

"Impact has shown that the nugget effect was an important factor in previous exploration drilling at Blackridge leading to a probable underestimation of grade," it said.

"The phase one work demonstrated the project contains large volumes of mineralised free-digging conglomerate that was easily processed using simple water-based gravity separation equipment."

Impact bought a second-hand small mobile water processing plant capable of processing up to 50 tonnes of material per day to fast-track the new sampling results. The plant is now being moved to site to test the strike potential at Foxes Lead. Further samples will also be taken in trenches at the Harveys and Smiths prospects.

"There is significant potential at these two prospects to define a previously undiscovered high grade run at surface within the target conglomerate unit," Impact said.

"The results of this work will be used as a basis to determine if an exploration target can be calculated for the gold mineralisation at Blackridge.

"If such a target can be calculated this will be used as a basis for a scoping study for a potential mining operation at the project."