

MONARCH TO DRILL NICKEL TARGETS

A fresh approach to nickel and gold exploration in the Lake Johnston region of Western Australia has yielded positive results for newly-listed explorer Monarch Resources Limited (**ASX: MRS**) with a series of promising new targets identified and drilling set to commence next month.

Monarch – which commenced its maiden exploration field season earlier this year after listing on the ASX in October 2002 – said it had completed a 9,000-kilometre high-resolution airborne magnetic survey (at 50 metre line spacings and 20 metre sensor height) over its Lake Johnston tenements.

An independent geological review of the area concluded that a high-resolution survey would significantly enhance the probability of identifying areas of mineralisation.

“There are a number of promising nickel intersections which require more comprehensive follow-up, untested nickel sulphide targets and a large magnetic anomaly,” said Monarch’s Chairman, Colin Smith.

The anomaly is interpreted to be an ultramafic extension of the rock sequence hosting the Emily Ann and Maggie Hays nickel deposits.

Mr Smith said the results of the survey, combined with information from a new geochemical regolith map, would significantly enhance exploration targeting.

“The regolith interpretation has identified 10 areas for geological follow-up,” he added. “This information combined with the results of the magnetic structural interpretation will provide the basis for a much more effectively targeted drilling program.”

A final decision on drilling targets will be made once the results of the magnetic survey have been received and site confirmation visits undertaken. Drilling is expected to commence in June.

“We are very encouraged by the work completed to date and we look forward to finalising our drilling programs over the next month,” Mr Smith said.

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