



# Mediaportal Report

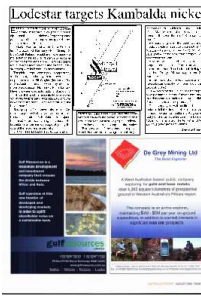
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▶ **Lodestar targets Kambalda nickel**  
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# Lodestar targets Kambalda nickel

Eastern Goldfields nickel explorer Lodestar Minerals Ltd has kept a low profile in its first eight months but is confident of reporting some good news about its largely unexplored tenements in the near future.

Lodestar was formed when Dioro Exploration NL acquired Harmony Gold Mining Co Ltd's South Kalgoorlie gold and nickel assets, a move that propelled Dioro's status to producer on the gold prospects alone. Dioro decided to focus its resources on gold and formed Lodestar to explore its Kambalda nickel assets.

The pick-up represents a golden opportunity for Lodestar, headed by experienced nickel sulphide evaluator Bill Clayton (formerly of LionOre Australia), because Harmony and tenement predecessors Normandy-Poseidon and Newmont were looking for gold, and gold only.

Hence the area is essentially unexplored for nickel, despite being located in a district renowned for the metal – and Lodestar is in the box seat to find it.

Surveying so far, concentrated on the Abattoir prospect (which sits on one of three ultramafics in Lodestar's Penfold nickel project), has failed to turn up anything spectacular. But Lodestar is at the earliest stage of joining the dots of the region's prospectivity.

Clayton said Lodestar had to contend with

fragmented data about nickel recorded somewhat arbitrarily by the previous tenement holders. In addition, initial surveying has indicated mineralisation is erratic along the ultramafics.

"EM surveying of the Abattoir prospect in March has led us to downgrade that project. It's not a drill-out, but it's encouraging in terms of the Abattoir ultramafic in a regional sense because it proved there is NiS mineralisation there."

EM surveying over the past two months should provide a more complete picture of the Abattoir ultramafic. A new round of EM surveys looking at the Mt Marion prospect was in progress this month.

Also to be assessed are several nickel-copper anomalies identified in previous drilling programmes. The historical drilling data included 17m @ 593 ppm copper and 2,600 ppm nickel.

Before the end of the year, Lodestar should have a better idea of what those gold prospectors overlooked.

"The long term survival of Lodestar depends on exploration success," Clayton told **Paydirt**. "We don't want to remain a minnow indefinitely. Our aim is to become a producer."

The company is well positioned if it does make a drillable find. Its 48km strike area is

located between Kambalda and Kalgoorlie, directly on the rail route between the towns and 12km from a smelter. The terrain is very flat and thus overheads are minimal.

– Andrew Pascoe

