

Golden Gate growing

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WEDGETAIL Exploration has returned high-grade hits at the Golden Gate gold project in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and confirmed the presence of a new gold prospect.

The company said the results from Golden Gate would provide the basis for a new resource estimate which would then be incorporated into an ongoing feasibility study for the Nullagine project, due in the first quarter of 2006.

The feasibility study incorporates the Golden Gate, Golden Eagle, Bartons and All Nations prospects.

Wedgetail said drilling at Golden Gate has confirmed the D reef as a "continuous sheet of high-grade mineralisation" with a strike length of at least 180m to a vertical depth of at least 80m, while high-grade mineralisation in the C reef has been intersected over a strike length of 50m to a depth of 150m.

Results from the D reef included 17m at 13.5 grams per tonne gold from 33m, 16m at 11.2g/t from 66m and 10m at 5.49g/t from 32m.

The best results from the C reef were 15m at 6.76g/t from 39m and 3m at 4.97g/t from 62m.

Wedgetail said mineralisation at the D reef remained open at depth, along strike and to the northeast. Mineralisation as the C reef is open to the southeast and at depth.

"We're really excited by the news we've seen in the last couple of weeks," Wedgetail's project development manager Peter Woodman told *MiningNews.net*.

"If we can unlock the resource potential in the Golden Gate area it could transform the company."

The new resource estimate for Golden Gate is expected by the end of the year.

In addition, Wedgetail has discovered a new gold prospect after RAB drilling at the Billjim North prospect "produced significant high-grade near surface intercepts over a 600m strike length".

Drilling was targeting a soil geochemical anomaly although the company said the area had no previous recorded mineralisation.

The results from the program included 16m at 5.78g/t from 8m, 12m at 5.77g/t from 28m and 4m at 6.36g/t from surface.

Woodman said there were a number of anomalies left to be drill tested which could produce substantial amounts of near surface, high-grade resources. The company plans to be drilling again prior to Christmas, weather permitting.

He said despite the promising results, Billjim North wouldn't be included in the Nullagine feasibility study, but if the company got the project off the ground, high-grade ore from Billjim North could easily be processed at the company's plant down the track.

Shares in Wedgetail were down 0.2c (4.3%) to 4.4c during midday trade.