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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008

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Permission sought for exploratory drilling

THE managing director of junior miner Reedy Lagoon Corporation Ltd Geof Fethers was in Northam last week seeking permission from farmers to undertake exploratory drilling on their land.

Reedy Lagoon has several mining tenements mainly north-east of the Northam townsite and has conducted aerial magnetic surveys for iron ore deposits.

The next stage is exploratory drilling at promising sites and, for this to go ahead, the company needs landowners' permission.

"I've been talking to landowners and basically they've been positive," Mr Fethers said.

"Our proposals are generous and the farmers I have talked to appear to realise this.

"There are substantial rental payments on the land temporarily alienated and the farmers will receive royalties

"Individual farmers would lose the use of the land involved for only one or two seasons.

As in all modern mining, the company must also rehabilitate the land

with landowners probably having the opportunity to have new fences and realised their dream of fencing according to soil types.

If mining goes ahead, it will be on a minuscule scale compared with the major Pilbara operations.

In fact, it would take place in localised small areas where the best quality ore is located.

Northam ore is magnetite rather than the Pilbara's haematite.

"If we could mine between half a million and a million tonnes a year in

a low-cost operation, there could be a mine life of three to four years as we would have no problems marketing our product," Mr Fethers said.

Mr Fethers estimates a ballpark figure of around 50 jobs if the project goes ahead.

There would also be opportunities for people involved in environmental rehabilitation, earthmoving and fencing contractors.

"We hope to be drilling by early April," Mr Fethers said.

"It is very important to our share-

holders that we show progress and drilling is progress."

While he was in Northam Mr Fethers held discussions with the member for AvonMax Trenorden.

After the meetings Mr Trenorden said he had changed his views on the project.

"I didn't really think it would proceed but I am now convinced this is a really feasible project," he said.

"Landholders to whom Mr Fethers is talking should take what he has to say seriously."



Explaining: The managing director of Reedy Lagoon Corporation Ltd Geof Fethers explains a point on a geological map to the member for AvonMax Trenorden.

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Trades Hall demolished

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New co-ordinator for Killara

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NRL trophy in Northam

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