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## TWO NEW EXPLORATION TARGETS FOR HASTINGS

- New targets identified within existing tenements
- Potential to locate rare earths and rare metal mineralisation to complement current resources

Hastings Rare Metals (ASX:HAS) is pleased to announce that recently acquired radiometric data has highlighted two new target areas for rare earths and rare metals exploration within its existing tenements.

Radiometrics is a scientific method of measuring radioelements at the Earth's surface. It is achieved by using low-flying aircraft or helicopters. It is used primarily as a geological mapping tool and is capable of directly detecting potential mineral deposits.

Hastings considers that the two new targets offer the potential to host rare earth and rare metal mineralisation.

Exploration of these targets will commence with an extensive sampling and mapping program to determine whether potentially economically-viable mineralisation does occur.

### Two new target areas

A strong correlation between thorium radiometrics and niobium mineralisation in the vicinity of the Hastings deposit was identified by explorers in the early 1970s.

The thorium radiometric data in Figure 1 clearly shows the trend of the current JORC Resource area that contains 36.2 million tonnes at 0.21% total rare earths (TREO) including 0.18% heavy rare earths (HREO), plus 0.89%ZrO<sub>2</sub> and 0.35%Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

The radiometric data also highlights the Southern Extension and Northern Extension to the existing resource.



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Further information on the Southern Extension was referred to in the ASX Announcement dated 22nd January.

Two additional target areas have now been identified, based on the radiometric data, being the Northern Target and the Southern Target shown in Figure 1.

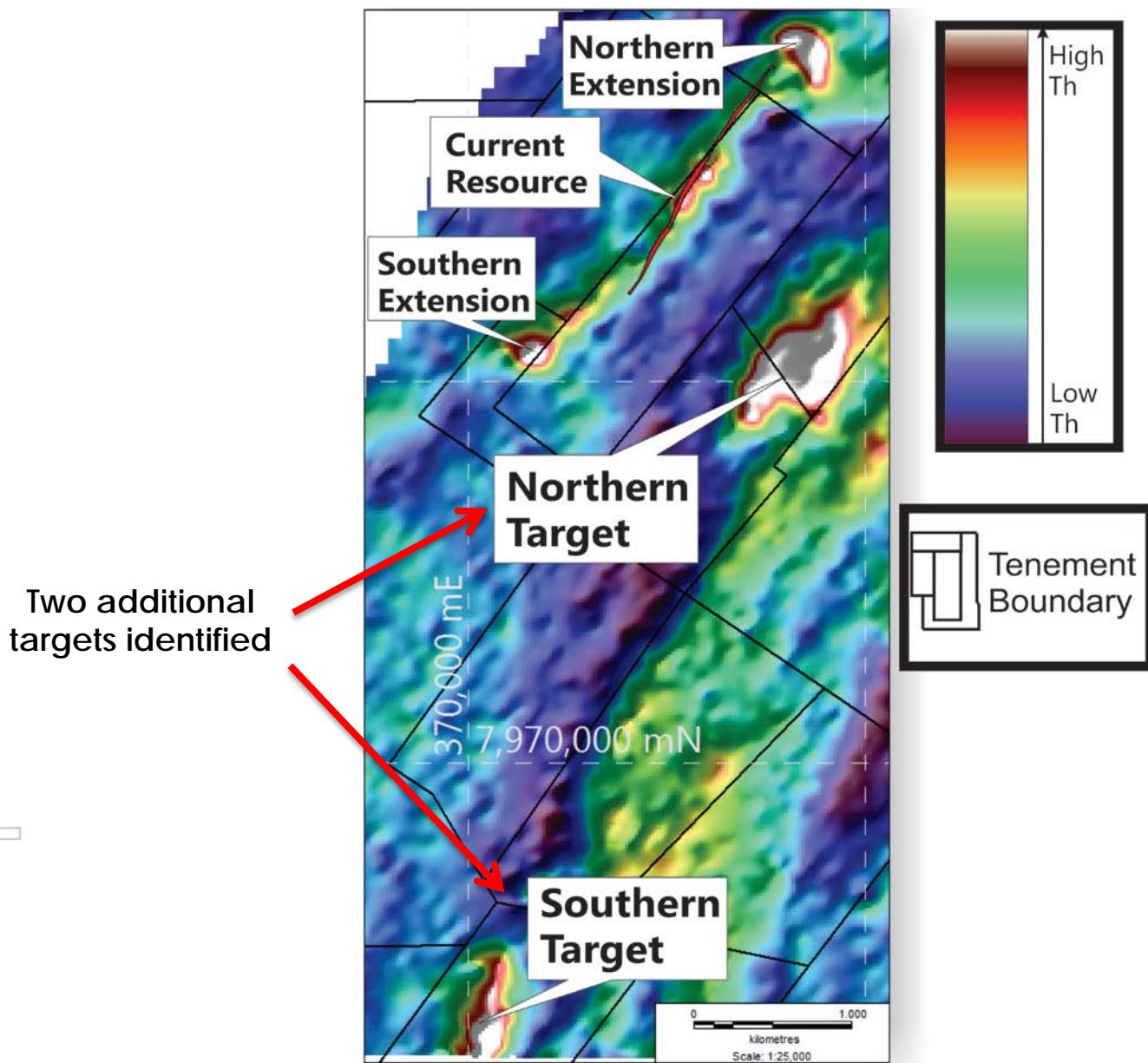


Figure 1 – Current Resource and Radiometric Anomalies



The Northern Target was investigated briefly by previous explorers with soil sampling and rock chip sampling programs, at 20m spacing. Grades exceeding 0.07% Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (to a maximum 0.16% Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and up to 0.06% Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> were returned over a continuous 240m wide zone. Based on the new radiometric data, the past samplings did not appear to have tested the most prospective portion of the Northern Target.

The Northern Target was identified as being one of a number of volcanic flows or subvolcanic intrusives that are lithophile element-enriched (that is, containing rare earths, Niobium, Tantalum and Zirconium).

Despite the encouraging initial results, this area was largely ignored once the main target was identified. One further rock chip sample returned 0.20% Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 0.69%ZrO<sub>2</sub>, and elevated rare earth values for Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (570ppm), La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (525ppm) and Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1040ppm).

The Southern Target has received less previous exploration. The geology coincident with the radiometric anomaly has been mapped as a lithophile-enriched volcanic centre, with strong fluorite mineralisation. A rock chip sample returned 0.18% Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

Hastings considers that both targets offer the potential to host rare earth and rare metal mineralisation. The limited previous exploration means that both sites warrant thorough investigation.

Exploration of these targets will commence with an extensive sampling and mapping program to determine whether potentially economically-viable mineralisation is present. If results are encouraging, drilling will then be required to obtain information on the potential depth and extent of the targets.

\* HREO is the sum of the oxides of the heavy rare earth elements europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), terbium (Tb), dysprosium (Dy), holmium (Ho), erbium (Er), thulium (Tm), ytterbium (Yb), lutetium (Lu), and yttrium (Y). TREO is the sum of the oxides of the heavy rare earth elements (HREO) and the light rare earth elements (LREO), where LREO is the sum of the oxides of the light rare earth elements lanthanum (La), cerium (Ce), praseodymium (Pr), neodymium (Nd), and samarium (Sm). ZrO<sub>2</sub> is zirconium oxide and Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is niobium oxide.

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**About Hastings Rare Metals**

- Hastings Rare Metals is a leading Australian rare earths company, with two rare earths projects in Western Australia.
- The Hastings deposit contains JORC Indicated and Inferred Resources totaling 36.2 million tonnes (comprising 27.1 million tonnes of Indicated Resources and 9.1 million tonnes of Inferred Resources) at 0.21% TREO, including 0.18% HREO, plus 0.89% ZrO<sub>2</sub> and 0.35% Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.
- Rare earths are critical to a wide variety of current and new technologies, including smart phones, hybrid cars, wind turbines and energy efficient light bulbs.
- The Hastings deposit contains predominantly heavy rare earths (HREO) (85%), such as dysprosium and yttrium which are substantially more valuable than the more common light rare earths (LREO).
- The company aims to capitalise on the strong demand for heavy rare earths created by expanding new technologies. It has recently validated the extensive historical work and completed a Scoping Study to confirm the economics of the Project.

**Competent Person's Statement**

The information in this document that relates to Resources is based on information compiled by Simon Coxhell. Simon Coxhell is a consultant to the Company and a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. The information in this document that relates to Exploration Results is based on information compiled by Andy Border, an employee of the Company and a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

Each has sufficient experience relevant to the styles of mineralisation and types of deposits which are covered in this document and to the activity which they are undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves' ("JORC Code"). Each consents to the inclusion in this document of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

