



NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy,
Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for State Development

Earth's gravity measured

A new gravity survey is underway to collect precise measurements of the earth's gravity field, Minister for Mineral Resources Ian Macdonald announced today.

This survey from south of Broken Hill to the Victoria/South Australia borders is being carried out as part of the NSW Government's *New Frontiers* \$16.5 million exploration initiative.

"The survey will cover an area in excess of 16,000 square kilometres and cover a 100 kilometre wide corridor with its northern extent near the town of Burra and extending south to Wentworth," Mr Macdonald said.

"This survey will provide us with important information on the distribution of different rock types at depth and will provide essential data to assist with better understanding of the geology of the area.

"The \$200,000 survey will provide an insight into the location of potential resources.

"It will allow geoscientists to look deep into the earth's crust for potential deposits of metals, such as copper, zinc, lead, nickel and gold.

"The gravity measurement involves a small, delicate scientific instrument being placed on the ground for several minutes.

"To efficiently acquire these readings Australian contractor Atlas Geophysics will use a small light utility helicopter to land at each pre-planned reading point.

"The helicopter will traverse the survey area, to understand what is in effect earth density mapping."

There will be no ground disturbance or sampling and some of the reading points lie along existing roads and tracks, while some of the proposed reading points are on private property.

Individual landholders and lease holders have been notified of the survey.