

Media Release

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Evolution to commence exploration drilling

Evolution Mining NZ announced today that it is about to commence exploration drilling for gold and silver mineralisation in its Puhipuhi Exploration Permit area. This drilling is required by the NZ Government as part of the Permit conditions and follows identification of new exploration targets from low-impact geophysical surveys that were undertaken in late 2015.

A NZ-manufactured drilling rig with a small environmental footprint will be used to drill up to 10 boreholes of approximately 100mm diameter to depths of up to 600m. It can take up to 3 or 4 weeks to prepare, drill and rehabilitate each drillsite. Holes will be plugged and grouted to protect aquifers in accordance with the New Zealand Drilling Environmental Standard and will comply with all central and local government requirements.

Jackie Hobbins, Senior Geologist and NZ Project Manager, emphasised that exploration drilling does not automatically mean that mining would follow. "Even if an economic gold deposit is identified from drilling, mining would be at least 5 years away and would be dependent on the outcomes of a series of feasibility studies to investigate environmental, economic and engineering-related aspects in addition to undertaking extensive consultation and obtaining all relevant mining Permits and resource consents."

Evolution NZ's website <http://evolutionmining.co.nz/> has more information on Evolution's exploration activities, detailed environmental reports, historical facts about earlier activity at Puhipuhi and Evolution's approach to environment and community relations.

For media enquiries please contact:

Michael Vaughan
Media Relations
Tel: +61 422 602 720