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**ASX/MEDIA RELEASE**

**Gold Drilling at Acra and EM Surveys at Golden Ridge Nickel Take Priority**

**Pioneer Sets Out Exploration Strategy for 2013.**

Western Australian explorer Pioneer Resources Limited (“Pioneer”, “The Company”) (ASX: PIO) today set out its Exploration Strategy for 2013 when it released its December Quarterly Activities Report.

The Company’s priority is to get drilling as soon as possible at its Acra Project near an exceptional aircore drill hole which returned 15m at 17g/t Au, and to confirm three nickel sulphide targets identified in 2012 by completing detailed EM surveys before planning to drill these as well.

The Company has embarked on an aggressive exploration campaign to realise the substantial potential it believes sits within its portfolio of Projects, all located in Western Australia.

Pioneer upped its stake in the Golden Ridge Nickel and Gold Project (PIO 100% - all commodities), and in gold rights for the Acra Project (PIO 100% - gold) in 2012 on the back of the Company’s successful divestment of the Mt Jewell West Gold Project to KalNorth Gold Mines Limited (ASX: KGM).

The sale of the Mt Jewell project to KalNorth was for \$8 million cash. Pursuant to the deal Pioneer immediately received \$A4.5 million with the remaining \$A3.5 million to be paid in instalments each March for the next three years.

The 466 km<sup>2</sup> Acra Project, located 60 kilometres north east of Kalgoorlie, is rated as Pioneer’s main priority, with drilling planned to target the Jubilee East Prospect, comprising gold-mineralised drill holes within a gold-in-soil anomaly over a strike length of 4.2 kilometres.

Target confirmation aircore drilling is to resume at Acra during February 2013 with the objective to identify and develop an understanding of target(s) to enable the Company to commence RC drilling in April 2013.

The overall prospective zone for the Acra Project has been determined to have a strike length exceeding 20km, which is based on gold-in-soil anomalism, mineralised drill holes, nugget patches and rock chips.

“We will be the first company to systematically explore the Acra tenements for gold using modern-day exploration technologies and methods,” Pioneer Resources Managing Director Mr David Crook said.

“The Acra Gold Project, particularly the Jubilee East Prospect, has long been recognised for its potential to host nickel sulphide mineralisation.

“Because of that focus most of the earlier exploration undertaken at Acra predominantly concentrated on the discovery of nickel.

“Many of the earlier holes were not even assayed for gold, however, where gold was assayed, a number of holes were noted to have made significant intersections – including at the Kalpini South, Jubilee and Jubilee East Prospects,” Mr Crook said.

Nearby, detailed EM surveys have been booked to commence at the Company’s 100%-owned Golden Ridge Project in February 2013.

The Golden Ridge Project covers an area of 163km<sup>2</sup> and is located 30km south east of Kalgoorlie.

The surveys have been commissioned to follow up the successful campaign conducted in July 2012, which detected conductors that may reflect nickel sulphides at Duplex Hill, Anomaly 11 and Blair South Prospects.

The 2012 campaign consisted of approximately 33 line kilometres of EM surveys, testing 16 areas that were considered to be prospective for nickel sulphides.

The stand-out anomaly from these surveys was the Norton Prospect, which underwent further testing with a detailed fixed loop EM survey that confirmed it to be a discrete anomaly.

Subsequent modelling suggested the conductive source could be approximately 175-200m below the surface, approximately 200m long x 100m wide, moderately dipping towards the west and with conductivity in the order of 7500 Siemens, which places it in the category of a potential massive sulphide deposit.

Depending upon results achieved from the upcoming survey, Pioneer could move to drilling selected targets (in addition to the Norton Prospect which is drill-ready) during the April 2013 RC drilling campaign.

“When it became obvious we were selling the Mt Jewell West Gold Project, our major objective became finding worthwhile Projects to replace it,” Mr Crook explained.

“We believe we have successfully put together a portfolio that has achieved this objective through the acquisition of the remainder of the Golden Ridge Nickel and Gold Project, and gold rights for the Acra Project.”

The Company has also secured the highly-prospective Fairwater Gold and Nickel Project, which has great strategic value.

The project is located in the fast emerging Albany-Fraser Province, which hosts the world-class Tropicana Gold Project and recent Nova Nickel-Copper discovery.

Pioneer has already generated new gold and nickel soil anomalies since securing the Project.

“Pioneer Resources’ operational objective for 2013 is to turn one, maybe more, of these significant exploration opportunities into our next discovery,” Mr Crook said.

## **Competent Person**

*The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results is based on information compiled by Mr David Crook. Mr Crook is a full time employee of Pioneer Resources Limited and a member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (member 105893). Mr Crook has sufficient experience which is relevant to the styles of mineralisation and types of deposit under consideration and to the activities undertaken 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'. Information in respect of soil geochemical data and interpretations was provided by Dr Nigel Brand, and Information in respect of geophysical data and interpretations was provided by Mr Ben Jones. Mr Crook, Dr Brand and Mr Jones consent to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on their information in the form and context in which it appears.*

## **Caution Regarding Forward Looking Information**

*This document may contain forward looking statements concerning the projects owned by the Company. Statements concerning mining reserves and resources may also be deemed to be forward looking statements in that they involve estimates based on specific assumptions.*

*Forward-looking statements are not statements of historical fact and actual events and results may differ materially from those described in the forward looking statements as a result of a variety of risks, uncertainties and other factors. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to business, economic, competitive, political and social uncertainties and contingencies. Many factors could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking information provided by the Company, or on behalf of, the Company. Such factors include, among other things, risks relating to additional funding requirements, metal prices, exploration, development and operating risks, competition, production risks, regulatory restrictions, including environmental regulation and liability and potential title disputes.*

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