



17 MAR, 2021

## East Tennant's mining data sparks excitement

Northern Territory News, Darwin



Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

Page 1 of 2

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## GARY SHIPWAY

EXCITEMENT in the mineral prospects of the East Tennant region of the Barkly Tablelands has reached new levels with the recent release of preliminary analysis of data and samples from 10 stratigraphic drill holes confirming the area is highly prospective for minerals, particularly copper and gold.

The data, which has come from the Morrison government's ongoing \$225m Exploring for the Future program, has created a buzz among mining companies that have had their eyes on the East Tennant region of the Barkly Tableland for the past few years.

The exploration program is directing its focus on new critical mineral deposits in northeastern Australia.

Resources and Northern Australia Minister Keith Pitt was upbeat about the results from the National Drilling Initiative's (NDI) first campaign.

He said the new knowledge would help industry more effectively explore the region, potentially leading to a new wave of discoveries.

Northern Territory Mining and Industry Minister Nicole Manison agrees.

She said knowledge gained from the NDI provided an exciting opportunity for future mineral explorers in the Territory.

"Mining is a huge job creator in the Northern Territory, employing over 4400

people directly and with a number of projects in the pipeline we can only expect this number to boom," Ms Manison said.

"Our resources industry is one of the biggest contributors to the Territory economy and successful pre-competitive geoscience programs like the NDI help to grow the industry in regional and remote areas – so all Territorians can benefit."

The NDI campaign was led by the MinEx CRC with support from Geoscience Australia and the Northern Territory Geological Survey.

Mr Pitt has instructed Geoscience Australia to carry out further scientific drilling, surveying and sampling across the Northern Territory to uncover new sources of minerals, energy and groundwater.

"This project will shed light on potential untapped deposits of zinc, lead and silver, as well as copper, cobalt and gold in the Barkly-Isa-Georgetown region," Mr Pitt said.

"We will also try to find new sources of uranium, rare earth elements and critical minerals.

"While further analysis will be conducted in collaboration with MinEx CRC researchers, this drilling data confirms our view that the East Tennant region has the right geology to host a range of mineral systems.

"The drilling uncovered

copper mineralisation that could indicate that rich deposits occur in the region.

"As it has done over the last four years, Exploring for the Future is expected to create short, medium and long-term jobs in the resources sector, and to play a key role in Australia's gas-fired recovery.

"We have already seen that the value of the geological

data from the first stage of the Exploring for the Future program, with more than 20 resource companies taking up new investments in over 120,000sq km of exploration acreage across Queensland and the Northern Territory.

"Unlocking new resource-rich regions will provide ongoing economic and employment growth to local communities and the nation."



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