NDI gets underway in the Delamerian as new MT highlights Cu and Au potential

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The National Drilling Initiative (NDI) gets underway this week in South Australia, with MinEx CRC spudding the first of eight to 10 holes near Alawoona, about 200 km east of Adelaide.

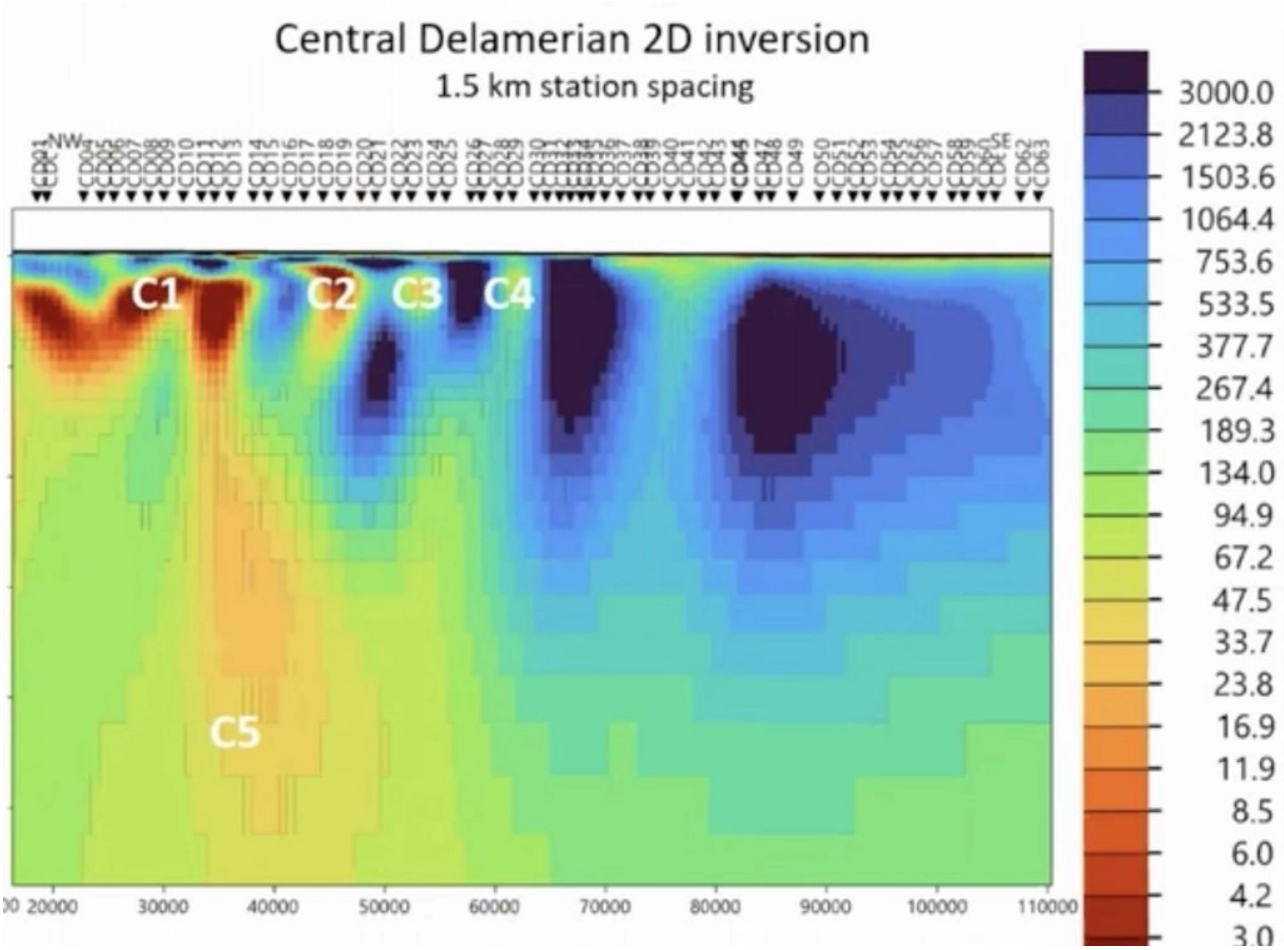
The program is targeting basement rocks of the Delamerian Orogeny under the Murray Basin. The campaign is designed to derisk the basement and open up its mineral potential, in the same way the first NDI campaigns added to excitement about the East Tennant region and the South Nicholson Basin.

The first NDI campaigns in the NT had the advantage of a big launch pad. Geoscience Australia's Exploring for the Future program invested heavily in East Tennant and the wider region between

Tennant Creek and Mt Isa ahead of NDI drilling.

While the Delamerian does not have the same scale of precompetitive investment, GSSA and MinEx CRC have recently completed impressive work, including an MT transect last year of 63 stations at a spacing of just 1.5 km, a bedrock geology map based on new analysis of historical drill core and even prospectivity maps. (And as of last week, there is now high quality AEM as part of the Eastern Resources Corridor AEM survey.)

Preliminary results from the MT (https://precompetitive-review.com/gssa-nails-it-in-the-delamerian/) transect (which extending almost 100 km from a location near Mannahill on the Barrier Highway towards the Danggali Conservation Park) were reported last November in Precompetitive Review. Since then, GSSA's senior geophysicist, Kate Robertson, has led more work on the inversions that has firmed up exciting evidence of multiple conductive flares that stretch from the mantle all the way to surface. Kate presented the updated inversion earlier this month to AEGC, and the main slide is reproduced below.



GSSA geologist Tom Wise, who produced the new bedrock geology map, is co-author with Kate on an upcoming paper that interprets the MT in terms of the geology in the region of the transect, which is dominated by the Nackara Arc (not a volcanic arc, but an arcuate band of rocks where the Adelaide Fold Belt dips under the Murray Basin).

The conductive flares are mapped at the surface at a location about 10 km south of the vein-hosted

gold of the Wadnaminga field, and at locations either side of the Ordovician-age Anabama pluton.

The fact that the flares appear to have bent up around the pluton is intriguing. Tom and Kate's interpretation is the conductive pathways post-date the pluton, but are still Ordovician in age, and could be associated with fluids activated by the Lachlan Orogeny.

Anabama is a large granodiorite pluton that is known to have copper and molybendum occurrences of both porphyry style and skarn style. It is an exciting indicator of the porphyry copper potential of the Delamerian and is one of the factors behind the decision to bring the NDI to this part of South Australia.

Interestingly, Kate told AEGC last week that fluid inclusion studies of vein-hosted gold at Wadnaminga and the copper-molybendum associated with the Anabama pluton suggest they all share the same fluid source. That marries up with the new MT inversion, which found the flares all have a common root in the mantle.

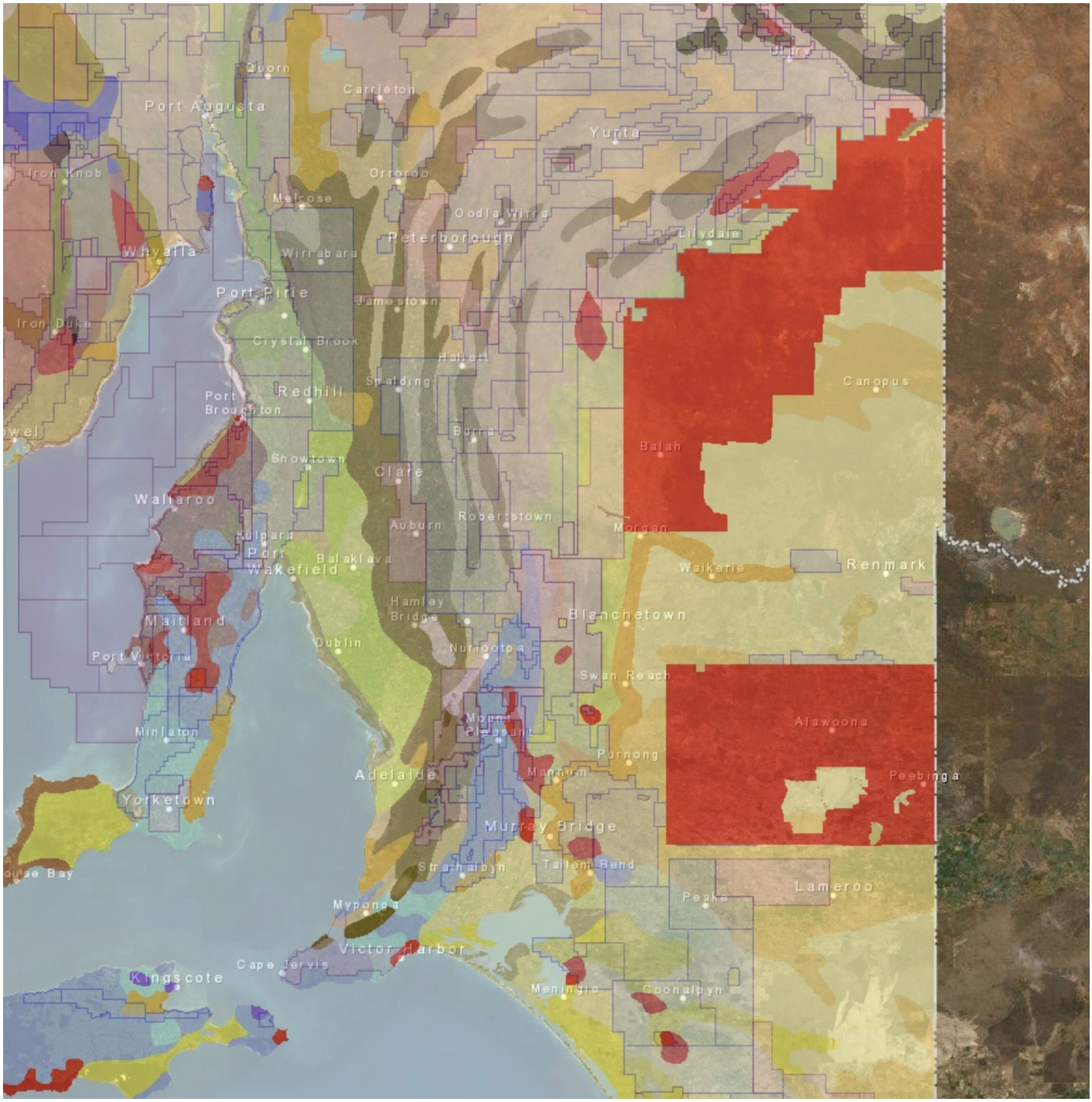
These exciting ideas about the mineral potential in and around Anabama will be tested by the second stage of the NDI in the Delamerian, centred on an area known as Quondong Vale, about 200 km north of the drilling now underway near Alawoona.

MinEx CRC is using its innovative CT rig in an NDI program for the first time, as well as a new Hydraulic Processing System (HPS) that is self-contained on the back of a 12-metre truck. Drillhole fluids are entirely recirculated, which removes the need for drill sumps or external tanks. Ahead of the NDI campaign in South Australia, the HPS was successfully tested at trial holes at the University of SA campus at Mawson Lakes and at the historic copper mining town of Kapunda, 80 kms north of Adelaide. MinEx CRC is also drilling some twinned holes with a diamond drill rig to benchmark the results produced by the CT rig.

It is expected that all NDI drilling in the Delamerian will be completed by the end of the year. When do we get to see the results? If East Tennant is any guide, we could be seeing logs from the CT rig and diamond drill core within a matter of months from the completion of drilling.

The other good news for explorers is the ground surrounding both NDI campaigns remains open under what's called a section 15 (the red areas in the image below). This keeps speculators at bay until the NDI results are known and an orderly release of ground can be undertaken by the South Australian government.

The image below shows Section 15 areas around the NDI drill locations in the southern (Alawoona) and northern areas (Quondong Vale) of the Delamerian campaign. Section 15 is being used to effectively run a moratorium on new applications for exploration licences until the the NDI results are released.



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