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The Manager
Announcements
Company Announcements Office
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Drilling Update at the Hazelbrook Joint Venture

Weebacarry Drilling Update – further targets identified

Aurora Minerals has received preliminary assay results for the first 3 diamond and 2 reverse circulation (RC) drillholes at the Backyard Prospect, in the northern part of the large Hazelbrook Project in Northland, New Zealand.

To date 3 diamond holes and 16 RC holes (including 3 precollars for diamond holes) have been completed. Total metres drilled is approximately 350m of diamond and 1600m of RC. A fourth diamond hole is in progress. A map of hole locations is attached.

Gold grades of up to 6.9 g/t gold were obtained from surface sampling of the main east-west Backyard quartz vein. Assay results from the first 3 diamond drillholes, which were directed at intersecting the east trending quartz vein, show only trace amounts of gold in the quartz intersected at depth.

Interpretation of the results and geology suggests that the gold mineralization at Backyard may be influenced by northerly trending structures and quartz veins which have been observed in the area (refer attached maps), as it is at the Toolshed and the Eastern Anomalies. There, gold mineralization appears to be in generally northerly structures (veins and veinlets) which run across the easterly trend.

The current RC drilling program will include focus on the area just south of the high grade gold bearing surface samples to test these northerly trending structures and holes will be located where drill rig access is available.

Eastern extensions

RC drilling has also been testing for extensions and vein repetitions along the 1.7km interpreted strike extent to the east across the farm paddocks.

Chips of quartz veined material have been encountered in each of the 3 lines of RC holes drilled across the farm paddocks along the interpreted easterly strike. The quartz chips there vary from trace to up to 90% quartz in some 1 m samples.

Ongoing assay results

Drill samples are being sent in batches to the laboratory for assay as the program proceeds. Results of the first batch are reported here and others will be released progressively over the coming months.

An estimated 600 metres of drilling remain in the current program at Backyard.

Access for the truck-mounted drill rig along the western part of the main vein is restricted due to steep topography. A skid mounted rig may be suitable there.

Toolshed and Eastern Anomaly targets

Toolshed and the Eastern Anomalies located respectively to the west and east of Backyard are yet to be drilled. Discussions are underway with the relevant landowners with a view to entering into access agreements to allow this drilling to occur.

The Hazelbrook Joint Venture comprises Aurora Minerals Limited and Emerald Mining Limited. Emerald has the right to earn a 50% interest by providing \$10 million in expenditure for the project. Aurora is the project manager.

Details of drillholes for which assays have been received

HOLE	NZMG E	NZMG N	DIP	AZIMUTH	EOH (m)	COMMENTS
HBD001	2585967	6681792	-60°	340°	120.1	Quartz vein 79-81.6m and 83.1-84.8m
HBD002	2585862	6681723	-60°	340°	129.1	Zone of brecciation and quartz veining 101.35-110.6m
HBD003	2585881	668167	-60°	340°	191.0	Quartz vein 153.2-153.4m and 154.3-155.7m
HRC001	2585902	6681612	-55°	340°	102	No significant results
HRC002	2585881	6681671	-60°	340°	102	No significant results. Precollar for HBD003

Weebacarry Drilling Update, Western Australia

As recently reported, the Company has been compiling new, previously unavailable data which documents exploration work in the area. This is yielding encouraging results, including a series of sparsely tested gold and arsenic anomalies from soil-lag sampling programs (max values of 360 ppb gold and 1450 ppm arsenic). There is also potential along strike from a series of previous drill intersections (of up to 8m at 6.1g/t gold). These areas will be subjected to field prospecting and checking by Aurora's geologists.

Following compilation and evaluation of the new data, which is expected over the next few weeks, a more formal report will be submitted to ASX and NZX. The original drilling program is expected to be expanded to an estimated 12,000m to test newly identified targets in a series of campaigns to commence when the weather clears (currently awaiting weakening of Cyclone Emma), and to continue over the coming months.

The two large Exploration Licences forming Aurora's Weebacarry Project in the Murchison district of the Western Australian Goldfields were granted in 2005 and in early December the Company received the report of the Aboriginal Heritage site clearance which found only three small areas of significance, all close together, and away from the current exploration target areas.

The Weebacarry Project is part of a joint venture with Aurora earning a 51% interest from Hampton Hill Mining NL.

Yours faithfully

Robert S Taylor
Managing Director

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Dr Robert S Taylor, a Member of The Institute of Materials Minerals and Mining, and Mr Garry P O'Hara, a corporate member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

Robert Taylor and Garry O'Hara have sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralization and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which they are undertaking to qualify as Competent Persons as defined in the 2004 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Robert Taylor and Garry O'Hara consent to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

CONTACTS

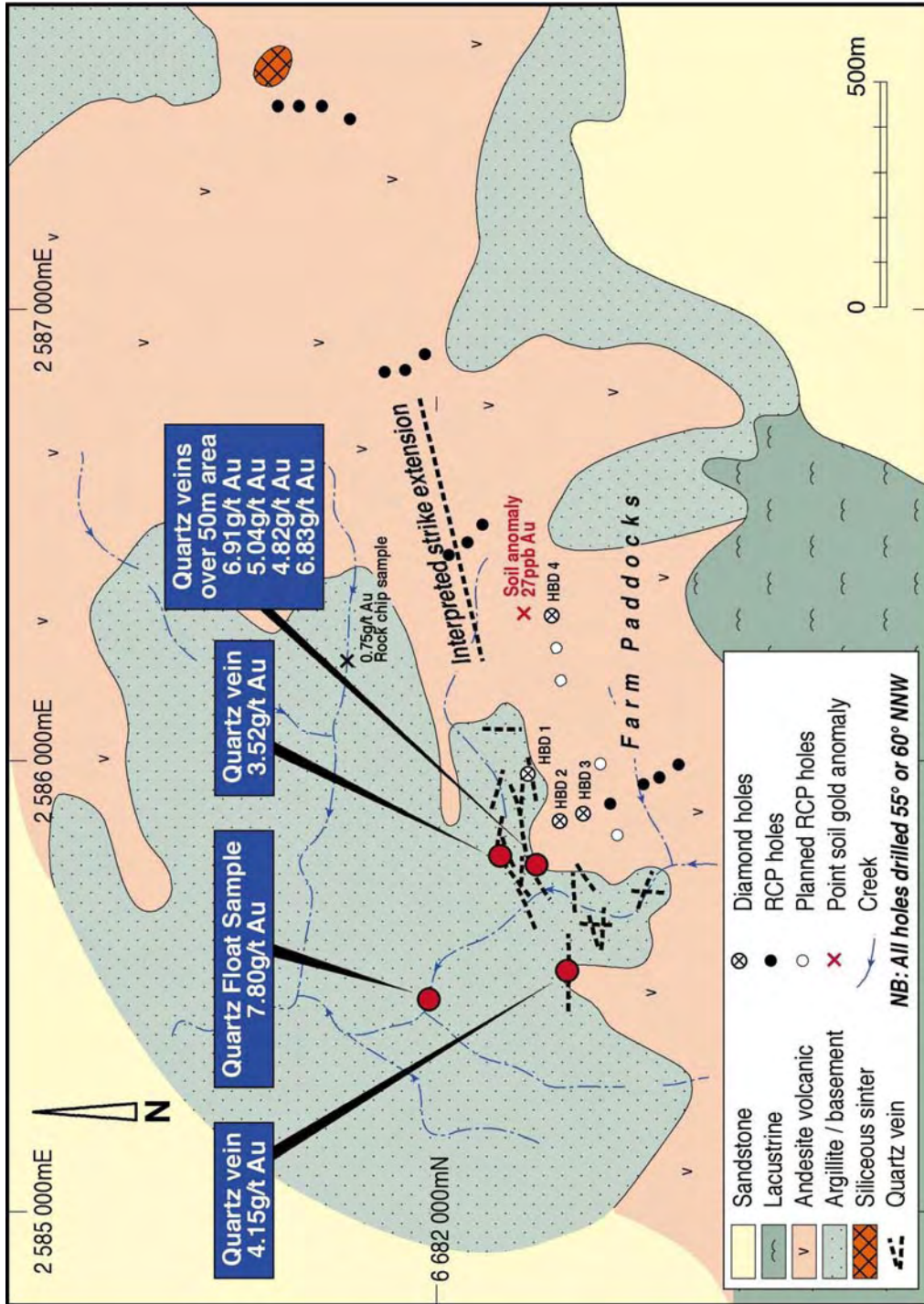
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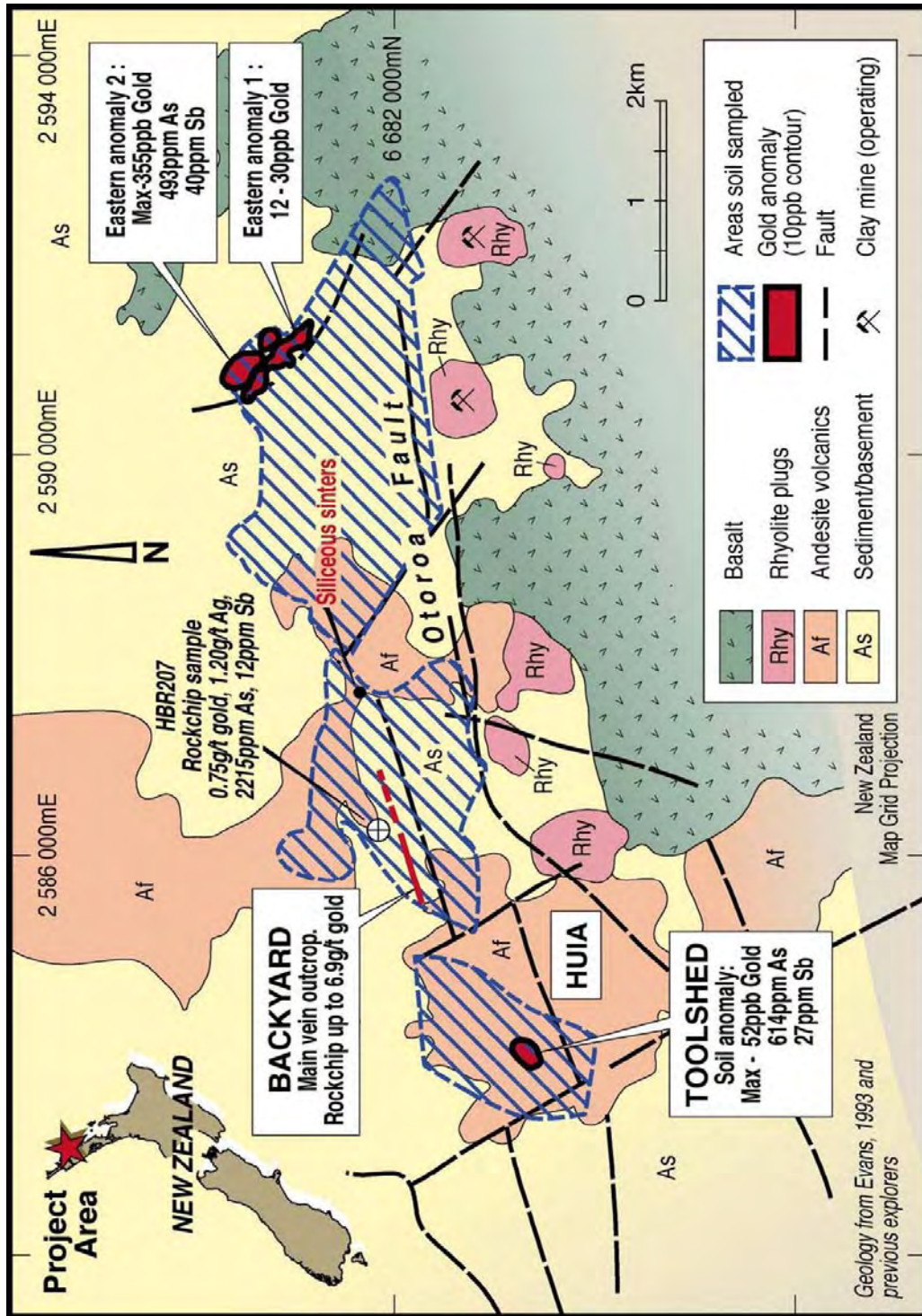
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Hazelbrook Project: Backyard Prospect - Drillhole Locations



Hazelbrook PP39/270: Huia Trend - Joint Venture Sample Results