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The Manager
Announcements
Company Announcements Office
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
PO Box H224 Australia Square
SYDNEY NSW 2000

ANNOUNCEMENT

Drilling update at the Hazelbrook Joint Venture

First Assays Awaited

Aurora Minerals is pleased to announce that diamond and reverse circulation (RC) drilling is progressing well at the Backyard Prospect, in the northern part of the large Hazelbrook Project in Northland, New Zealand.

To date 3 diamond holes and 13 RC holes (including 2 precollars for diamond holes) have been completed. Total drilling to date comprises approximately 250 metres of diamond and 1300 m of RC drilling.

The RC holes have generally been drilled to 100m depth and the diamond holes vary between 120m and 199m in depth. All are angled at 55 or 60 degrees to the north-northwest. A map of the hole locations is attached.

The 3 diamond holes have been sited to intersect the gold-bearing epithermal quartz vein discovered at Backyard in October 2004 (refer attached map) and the RC holes have generally been sited on the 1.7km interpreted strike extent to the east across the farm paddocks.

The diamond holes have intersected vein quartz with widths varying from three metres down to sub 1 metre. The thicker zones include colloform and calcite replacement textures and pyrite/silica alteration zones.

Chips of quartz veined material have also been encountered in each of the 3 lines of RC holes drilled across the farm paddocks along the interpreted strike. The quartz chips there vary from trace to up to 90% quartz in some 1 m samples. However diamond drilling would be needed to confirm these widths.

Alteration of the andesitic and argillite wallrock together with the quartz veining indicates the possible continuity of the fault/ shear associated with the Backyard quartz vein across the 1.7 km of interpreted strike.

The first batch of drill samples has been sent to the laboratory for assay. Initial assay results, for the 3 diamond holes and 1 RC hole at the far western end of the drilled area, are expected in approximately two weeks when a further update will be reported to ASX and NZX.

Results for the other drill holes to the east, and those holes still to be drilled are expected progressively over the coming months.

There is an estimated further 700 metres of diamond drilling planned for the main Backyard quartz veined zone and the inferred extension to the east, and approximately 300 metres of RC drilling planned including reconnaissance holes to the south testing for parallel quartz veins to Backyard. In places along the western part of the main vein access for the truck mounted drill rig is restricted due to steep topography. A skid mounted rig may be suitable for those areas.

The Backyard Prospect, the focus of the current drilling, is one of several zones of epithermal-style quartz veining and associated gold-in-soil anomalies identified within the interpreted east west striking Huia structural trend.

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.

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

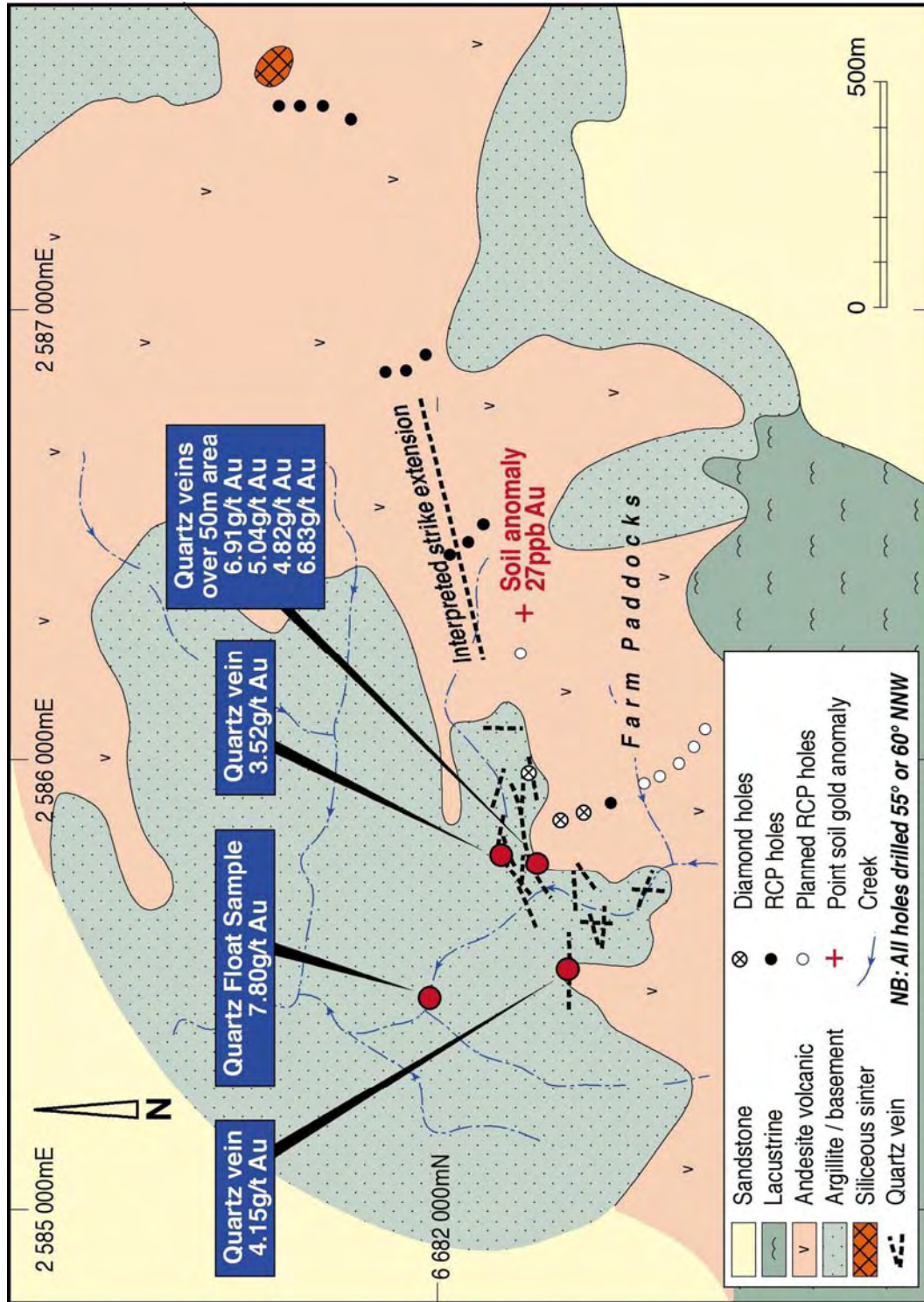
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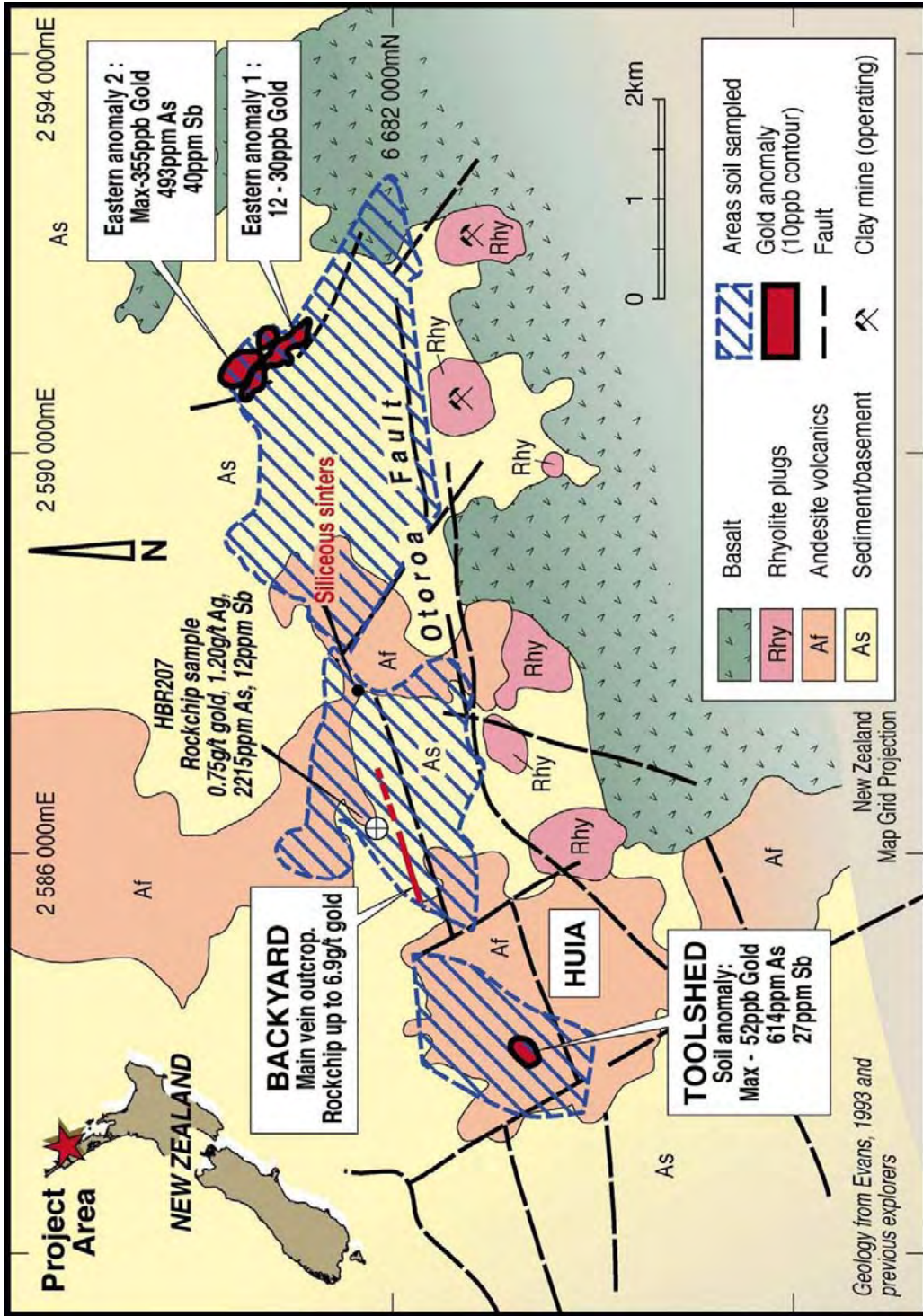
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Hazelbrook Project: Backyard Prospect - Drillhole Locations



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