



27 March 2006

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Update of drilling at the Hazelbrook Joint Venture, North Island, New Zealand**

#### **Quartz veins and sulphides intersected south of Backyard Vein**

Aurora Minerals is pleased to announce that the current program of diamond and reverse circulation (RCP) drilling has been completed at the Backyard Prospect in the northern part of the large Hazelbrook Project in Northland, New Zealand.

Assay results are expected shortly for the last series of drillholes (RCP 17,18,19,20 and 21).The locations of these holes is shown on the attached map.

Hole RCP19 was drilled in a north-westerly direction to a depth of 132m to test directly beneath the Backyard vein where surface samples previously assayed up to 6.8g/t gold. This hole intersected the Backyard quartz vein at the predicted depth, as well as a number of other quartz/pyrite-rich intervals over the entire length of the hole.

The other four drillholes, RCP 17, 18, 20 and 21, focused on the area just to the south of the Backyard vein and were angled to test for northerly trending quartz veins and structures which might influence the gold mineralisation (refer map). All encountered a number of thick zones of altered host argillite, with associated quartz and pyrite.

At the nearby Toolshed and Eastern Anomaly prospects, surface gold mineralization appears generally to be related to northerly trending structures,veins and veinlets.

## **Eastern extensions**

The first series of drillholes (diamond holes 1 to 3 and RCP holes 3 to 12 on map) were oriented in a north-northwest direction to intersect the east trending Backyard quartz vein including the eastwards extension of the vein across the farm paddocks.

All results from these holes have now been received. There were no anomalous gold assays, although silver and arsenic were elevated in part in holes 8, 9 and 10. The significance of these silver and arsenic results will be assessed.

## **Toolshed and Eastern Anomaly targets**

The Toolshed and the Eastern Anomaly prospects are located respectively to the west and east of Backyard. Discussions are underway with the relevant landowners with a view to entering into drilling access agreements.

## **Drilling statistics**

The total drilling programme comprised 21 RCP holes (including 2 precollars for diamond holes) for 2039m drilled, and four diamond holes for 489m drilled.

The RCP holes average 100m depth and the diamond holes vary between 120m and 213m in depth. All holes were drilled at an angle of 55 or 60 degrees.

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**

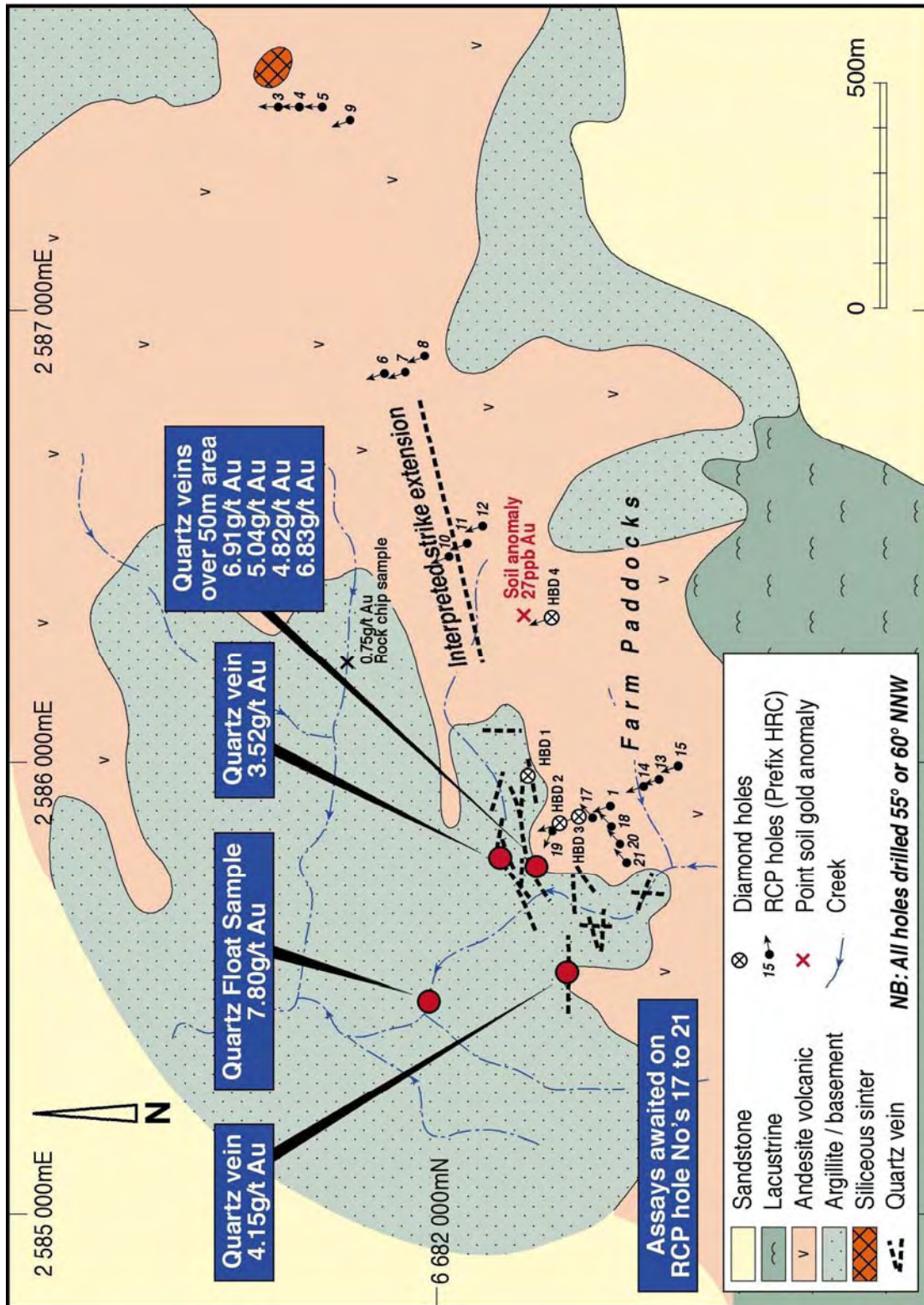
Email: [info@auroraminerals.com](mailto:info@auroraminerals.com)  
Website: [www.auroraminerals.com](http://www.auroraminerals.com)

Investor Relations: Ken Banks

Mobile:

Australia 0402 079 999

New Zealand 0061 402 079 999



### Hazelbrook Project: Backyard Prospect - Drillhole Locations