
NEWS

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URANIUM AND COAL IN TASMAN RESOURCES' SIGHTS **AS IT STEPS UP S.A. MINERALS SEARCH**

Tasman Resources NL (ASX: TAS) is stepping up its South Australia minerals search after identifying a range of potential uranium and coal targets with a new aerial survey.

Tasman announced today that it is preparing a uranium exploration program for the Wynbring and Garford prospects within its Central Gawler Craton tenement portfolio, and plans a drilling program to test coal prospects north of Tarcoola.

The heightened activity follows the interpretation of data from a recent airborne electromagnetic survey, highlights from which include:

- The defining of more than 80 kilometres of the uranium prospective Tertiary Garford palaeochannel within Tasman's 100% owned Central Gawler tenements,
- Indications of the presence of deeper Mesozoic and Permian palaeochannels which are also uranium targets, and
- The highlighting of a separate northwest-southeast trending trough of probable Permian age with obvious coal potential and strong similarities to the Lake Phillipson coal deposit 10 kilometres to the east.

Tasman's Chairman, Mr Greg Solomon, said the Company planned to drill test both the Wynbring and Garford Tertiary age palaeochannels for uranium potential and the Garford Permian – Mesozoic age palaeochannels for both uranium and coal potential once a detailed review has been completed.

"The commercial potential of these coal targets is enhanced by the fact that the Adelaide-to-Alice Springs railway is located only 30km to the east, and the Leigh Creek power station, which is serviced by rail, is anticipated to deplete its coal reserves within 10 to 15 years," he said.

Tempest Airborne EM Survey Completed

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Processing, imaging and interpretation of the data from Tasman's recent airborne EM (TEMPEST) survey flown over the northern portion of its 100% owned Central Gawler project approximately 80km southwest of Coober Pedy in South Australia has now been completed.

The survey totalling 1450 line km was flown for Tasman by Fugro Airborne Surveys on north-south lines spaced 1km apart to better define the uranium - prospective Garford palaeochannel which trends in a generally east-west direction across Tasman's tenements.

Uranium Targets

Interpretation of the TEMPEST conductivity images suggests that in excess of 80 kilometres of the Garford palaeochannel exists within Tasman's tenements to depths of around 40 to 50m. Tertiary palaeochannels are known hosts to uranium mineralisation elsewhere on the Gawler Craton eg. the Beverley and Warrior deposits.

A similar length of deeper linear TEMPEST conductors to maximum depths of 130m located partially beneath the Garford channel are interpreted to represent older buried Mesozoic - Permian palaeodrainages, based on the available stratigraphic drilling data.

As the latter are also draining Precambrian crystalline basement rocks (potential uranium source rocks) and are known to contain carbonaceous material (potential uranium traps) they are also considered prospective for the sandstone/palaeochannel hosted style of uranium deposit identified in the younger Tertiary palaeodrainages.

Coal Potential

A strong NW-SE trending conductor from 70m to 130m depth is believed to be indicative of a Permian trough very similar to several narrow linear troughs further to the east which host the Lake Phillipson and Penrhyn coal deposits.

These are located within the upper portions of the Mt Toondina Formation within the Permian Arkaringa Basin and according to government reports contain in excess of 5 billion tonnes of sub bituminous coal (PIRSA Report Book 96/25, 1996).

The potential for other troughs to the west of Lake Phillipson was alluded to by a PIRSA magnetic/ gravity interpretation and from three holes drilled in 1996. One of these holes (CPC 16) lies at the northern end of the interpreted trough and intersected several coal seams up to 2m in thickness within the Mt Toondina Formation from 54 to 100m. The EM data implies a broader, potentially more favourable portion of the trough up to 8.5km in width within Tasman's EL 3532.

The Mt Toondina Formation however is possibly missing from hole CPC15 which was drilled at the southern end of this feature. This hole, which intersected carbonaceous sediments interpreted to belong to the older Permian Stuart Range Formation, may be on a local structural high between two sub basins.

Future Program

Tasman is currently finalising a uranium exploration strategy for the Wynbring and Garford palaeochannels within its Central Gawler tenement portfolio.

An RC drilling program is also planned to test the coal potential of the recently interpreted Permian trough.

Any future coal discovery by Tasman could benefit from its close proximity to the existing Lake Phillipson deposits and the Alice Springs – Adelaide railway line.

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