



ASX RELEASE

13 May 2010

Major Diversified Western Australian Minerals Explorer

- **Manganese**
- **Base metals**
- **Uranium**
- **Gold**
- **Iron ore**
- **Nickel**
- **PGE**

**47% owner of Uranium
explorer
Desert Energy Ltd
(ASX Listed)**

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CAPRICORN SOUTHEAST MANGANESE PROJECT

- **COMPLETION OF FIRST DRILLING PROGRAM**
- **ASSAYS AWAITED**
- **UPDATED COMPANY PRESENTATION ATTACHED**
- **PLANNING FOR NEXT DRILL PROGRAM UNDERWAY**

Aurora Minerals Limited is pleased to announce the completion of the first drilling program of its 2010 drilling campaign on its 100% owned Capricorn Southeast Manganese project in Central Western Australia.

180 RC holes were drilled for approximately 7,500m. The Company is very pleased with the progress of the drilling rig, which completed the work in just one month, providing valuable information for the next program.

Drill logs are anticipated to be available for release to the market within the next two weeks.

The first of the beneficiation samples are now being processed with results due by the end of May. Individual one metre sample assays are expected to be available in the later part of June.

Permitting is underway for the next drilling campaign which will be a 650 hole campaign. The next drilling program is planned to infill parts of the program 1 drilling plus testing laterite and detrital targets shown in the presentation. The program maybe modified according to ongoing results.

The attached presentation includes a map showing areas the proposed next drilling program.

Dr Robert Taylor
Managing Director

Garry O'Hara
Executive 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 based on information supplied by a number of geological consultants to Aurora Minerals and Desert Energy who are corporate members of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

Robert Taylor and Garry O'Hara are both executive directors of Aurora Minerals Limited and consult to the Company through their respective consulting companies Able Kids Pty Ltd and Anketell Pty Ltd.

Robert Taylor and Garry O'Hara have sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation 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 the information provided to them in the form and context in which it appears.

The Company's website www.auroraminerals.com is recommended reading for interested market watchers, brokers and investors. The website contains information on the Company's projects project maps, a list of the Company's announcements to ASX, information on Native Title (including the tenement grant process and heritage surveys) including in the Aurora Minerals Annual Reports and the Desert Energy Prospectus, the legislative environments under which the Company operates, Corporate Governance, a section on risks, many of which are common to exploration companies, and other useful information. A list of the Company's announcements is also obtainable from the Australian Securities Exchange website at www.asx.com.au

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CAPRICORN SOUTHEAST MANGANESE PROJECT

A wide-angle photograph of a rocky, arid landscape. In the foreground, a person is crouching on a rocky outcrop, looking down. In the middle ground, another person wearing a hat is standing and looking out over the valley. The background shows a vast, flat expanse of land with sparse vegetation under a clear sky.

2010 EXPLORATION PROGRAM



AURORA MINERALS LIMITED

CAPITAL STRUCTURE



Shares on issue	104.1 million
Directors and Management Options (Exercise price between \$0.30-\$1.62)	33.25 million
Market Capitalisation at \$0.70c	\$72.87 million
Fully Diluted Market Cap at 70c	\$96.14 million
Cash on Hand (approx)	\$20.7 million
Investments	
Desert Energy 47.4 million shares at 15 cents	\$7.11 million
Top 20 Shareholders own 53% of issued capital	
•New Zealand Group Fully Diluted	18%
•Directors Fully Diluted	19%
•Forbar Custodians	5.55%
•ANZ Nominees	5.27%

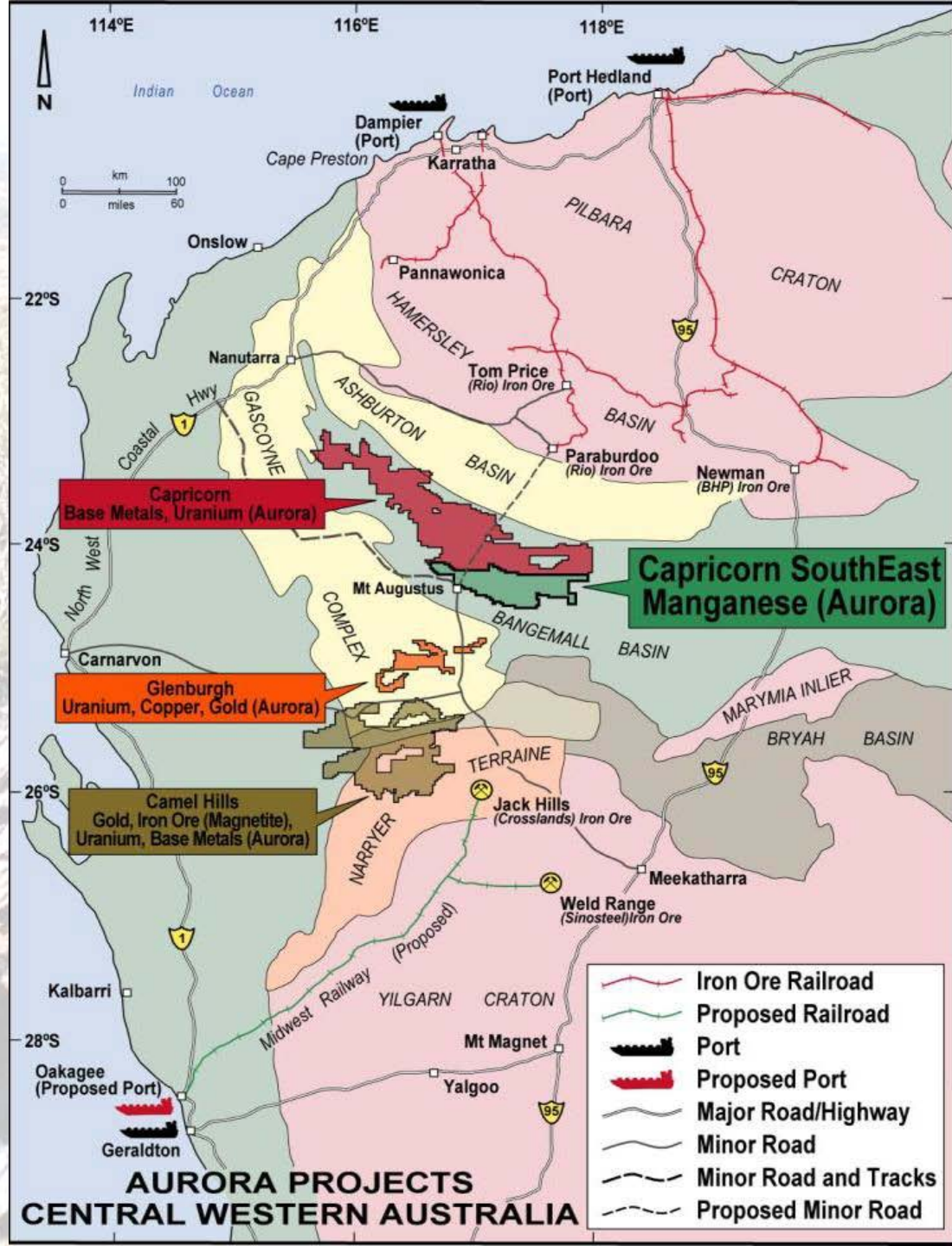
Project Location & Infrastructure

Situated Central Pilbara, 100km SW of Paraburdoo and 420km from Dampier port.

Logistics, various possibilities:

- Truck to Paraburdoo and rail to Dampier
- Truck to Dampier port
- Oakajee port/rail
- Truck to Carnarvon

All subject to availability and economics



MANGANESE



- **Essential to iron and steel production - hardens and strengthens steel - there is no substitute!**
- **Steel making accounts for 90% of total manganese demand**
- **Annual global production is 38 million tonnes of manganese mine product**
- **70-75% of production is from South Africa (mainly Kalahari region)**
- **China accounts for between 45-50% of demand**



AUSTRALIAN MANGANESE DEPOSITS



Bootu Creek NT (OM Holdings – Market Cap \$1.1bn)

- Ore Reserves 22.4m tonnes at 22.1% Mn
- Beneficiates to produce 650,000+ tonnes per annum at 41.9% Mn
- Deposits occur as series of pods and lenses over 20kms

Woodie Woodie WA (ConsMin - Privatised 2008 for \$1.15bn)

- Ore Reserves 15.8m tonnes at 42.1% Mn
- Produces 900,000 tonnes per annum at up to 48% Mn
- Deposits occur as series of 50 pods and lenses over 20kms




EXPLORATION TARGETS CAPRICORN SOUTHEAST



**>10 million tonnes of manganese resources
(based on Bootu Creek Feasibility Study)**

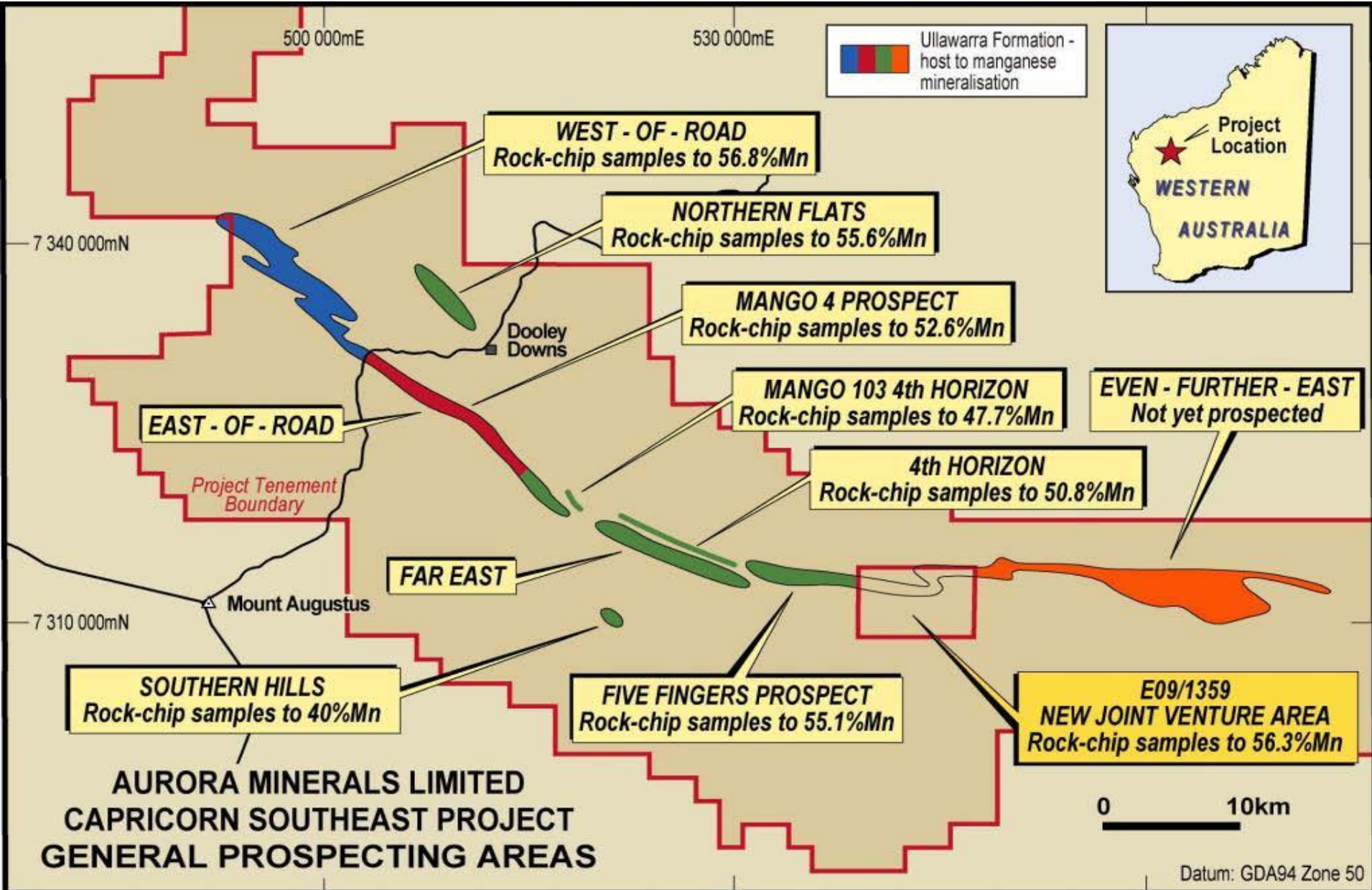
Grades of 15-40% Mn, low impurities

Beneficiation to +42% Mn, saleable product

A person wearing a hat and a blue shirt is standing on a large, dark, layered rock formation, pointing towards the rock face. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

2009 PROSPECTING RESULTS



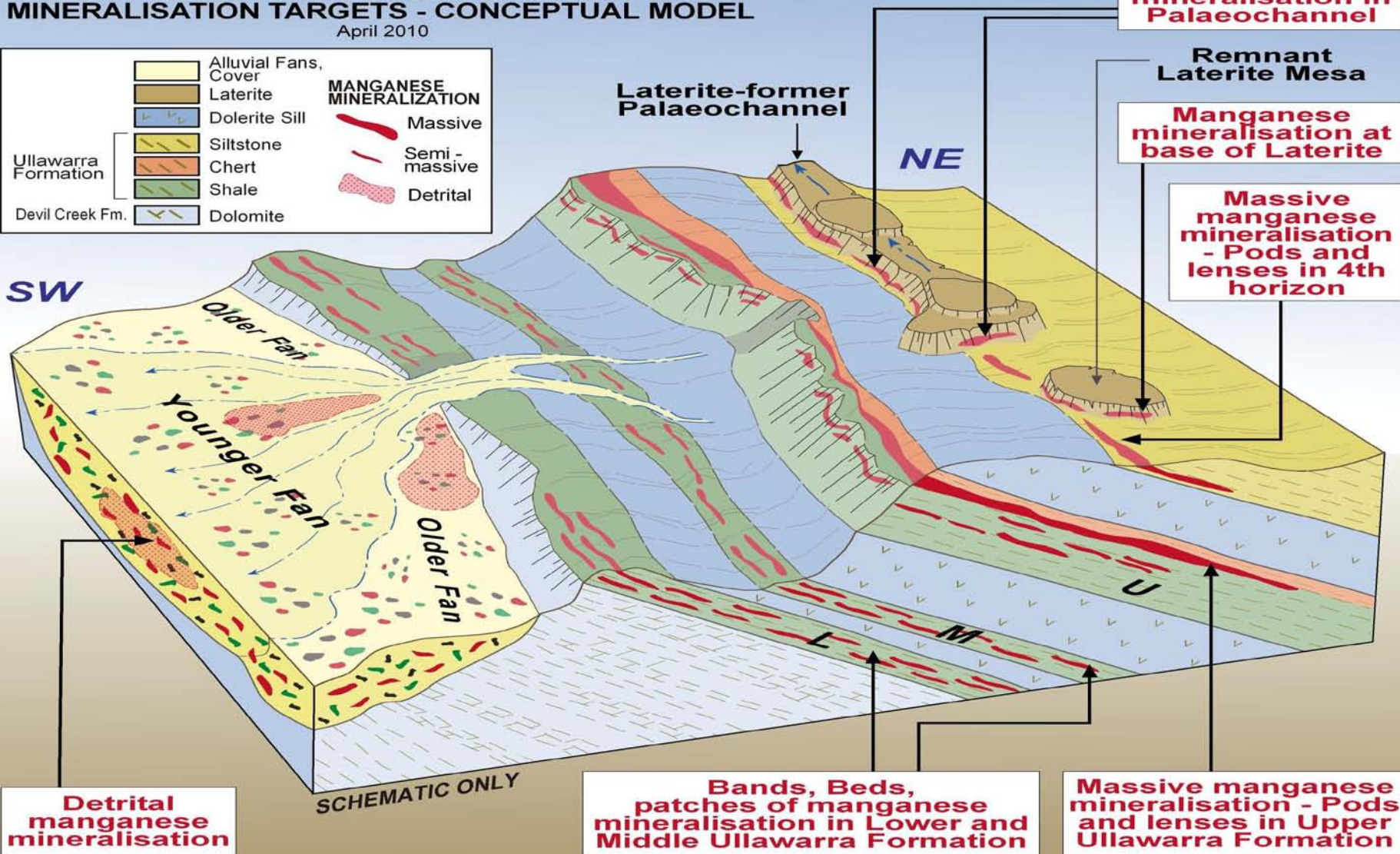
CAPRICORN SOUTHEAST CONCEPTUAL MODEL



AURORA MINERALS LIMITED
 CAPRICORN SOUTHEAST PROJECT
 INTERPRETED BLOCK DIAGRAM
 MINERALISATION TARGETS - CONCEPTUAL MODEL
 April 2010

	Alluvial Fans, Cover	MANGANESE MINERALIZATION		Massive
	Laterite			Semi-massive
	Dolerite Sill			Detrital
	Siltstone			
	Chert			
	Shale			
	Dolomite			

Ullawarra Formation
 Devil Creek Fm.



Detrital manganese mineralisation

Bands, Beds, patches of manganese mineralisation in Lower and Middle Ullawarra Formation

Massive manganese mineralisation - Pods and lenses in Upper Ullawarra Formation



TARGET MINERALISATION FOR DRILLING



Massive manganese oxide horizons

+40% Mn

Interbedded manganese oxides and shales

15 to 35% Mn

Potential beneficiation material

Upgrade to +40% product

Laterite-hosted

Large area for prospecting to north

Detrital-hosted

Large alluvial fans to southwest

PLANNED EXPLORATION PROGRAM – 2010



Program 1 first pass drilling. First 30 prospects Commenced Week of 12 April 2010

More Drilling Approvals

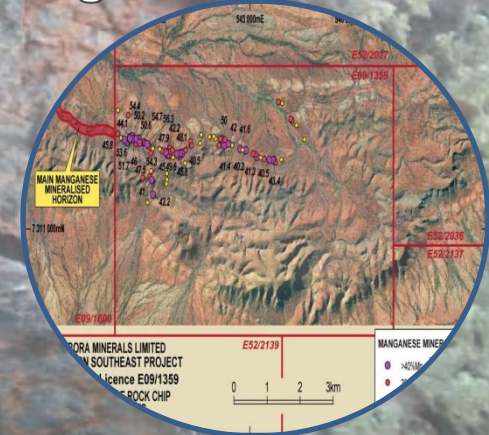


Simultaneously Prospecting & Mapping - key areas

Develop More Drill Targets



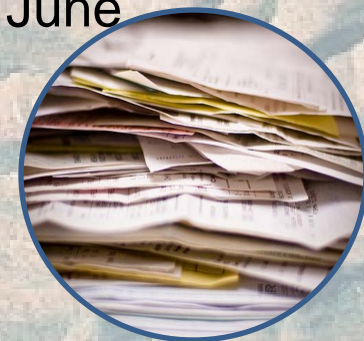
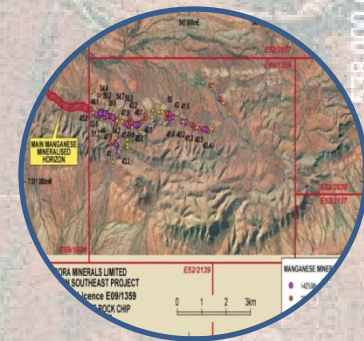
Beneficiation Testwork & Drill Assays



2010 DRILLING

First Drill Program Completed May 2010

- 69 named prospects identified in 2009
- First pass reconnaissance drilling completed on first 30 prospects
- Excellent drilling progress - commenced 12 April 2010 and took 1 month to complete 180 RC drill holes for approximately 7,500m
- Samples being collected for shipment to metallurgical and assay labs
- First beneficiation results expected by end of May
- Individual 1 metre samples - Mn assay expected later in June
- Beneficiation tests ongoing



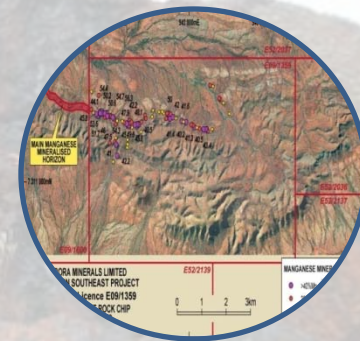
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2010 DRILLING



Next Drill Program

- Proposed 650 drill holes
- DMP (Governmental) permitting and Heritage Surveys process underway



Geophysics

- EM and Gravity Surveys proposed



BENEFICIATION TESTWORK



Beneficiation Tests

- Selected RC drill samples plus laterite/colluvial samples
- Uses density differences between heavy manganese oxide (density 4 to 4.5) and lighter shale beds (density 2 to 2.5)
- Separates out heavy material to produce an upgraded Mn product

Aim

- Determine if lower grade manganese (18% to 30% Mn) and interbedded Mn-shale samples are upgradable to high grade Manganese

Note

- Beneficiation on RC drill chips is very preliminary and may not be representative of lump ore beneficiation in a mining operation



PROSPECTING

2009 Discoveries

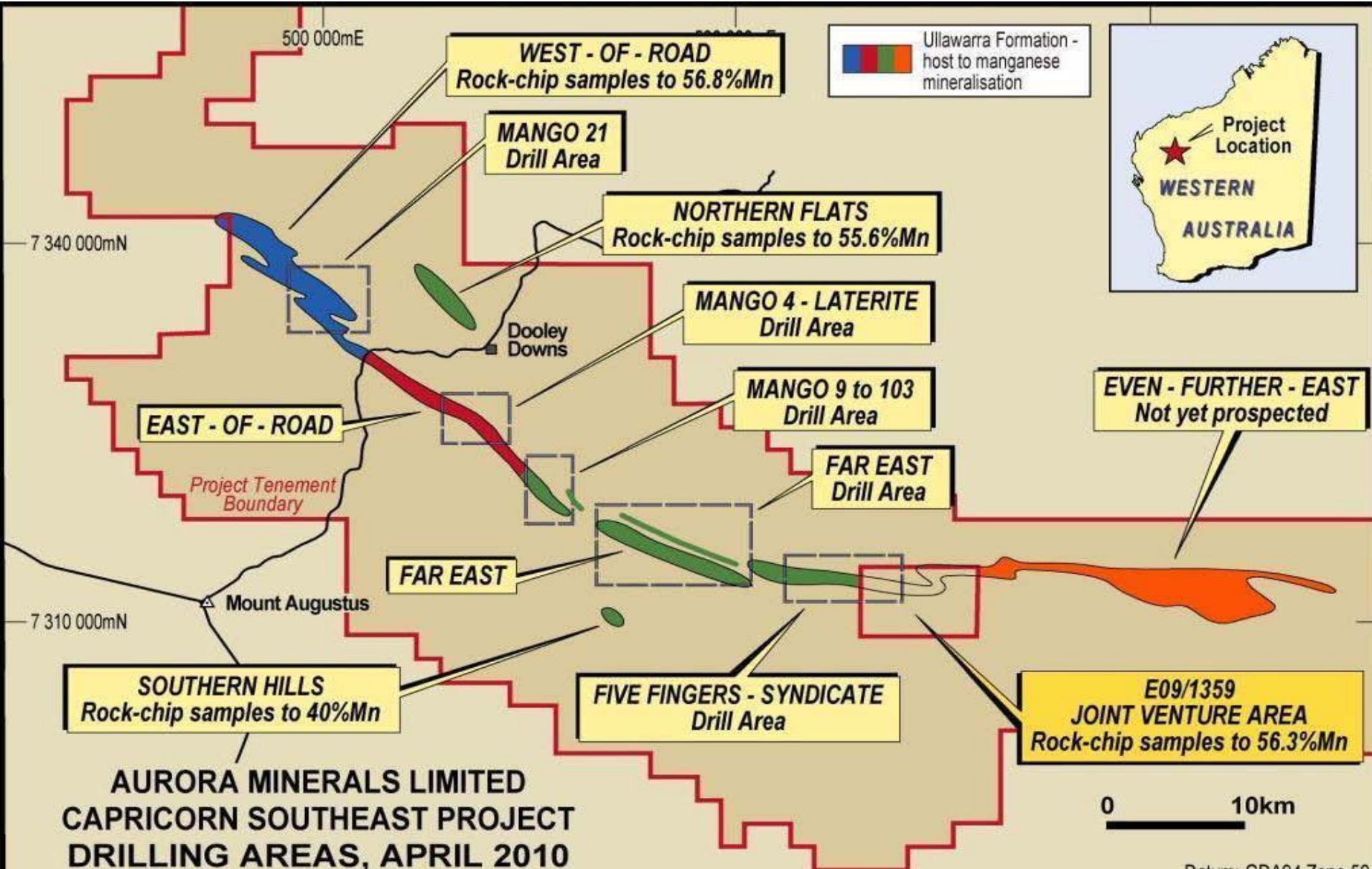
- 95 kms of strike of Mn-host Ullawarra Formation identified (53kms prospected)
- Multiple pods and lenses of massive manganese oxides
- High grade surface samples up to **56.5% Mn**
- Laterites – initial samples (Mango 4 area) up to **59% Mn**

2010 Prospecting to Identify Further Drill Targets

- Laterites northeast of the Ullawarra Formation
- Detrital deposits to the south of the Ullawarra Formation
- 40kms of strike in Even-Further-East Area
- Bedrock mineralisation at
 - Northern Flats
 - Southern Hills



MAP OF FIRST DRILL PROGRAM 2010

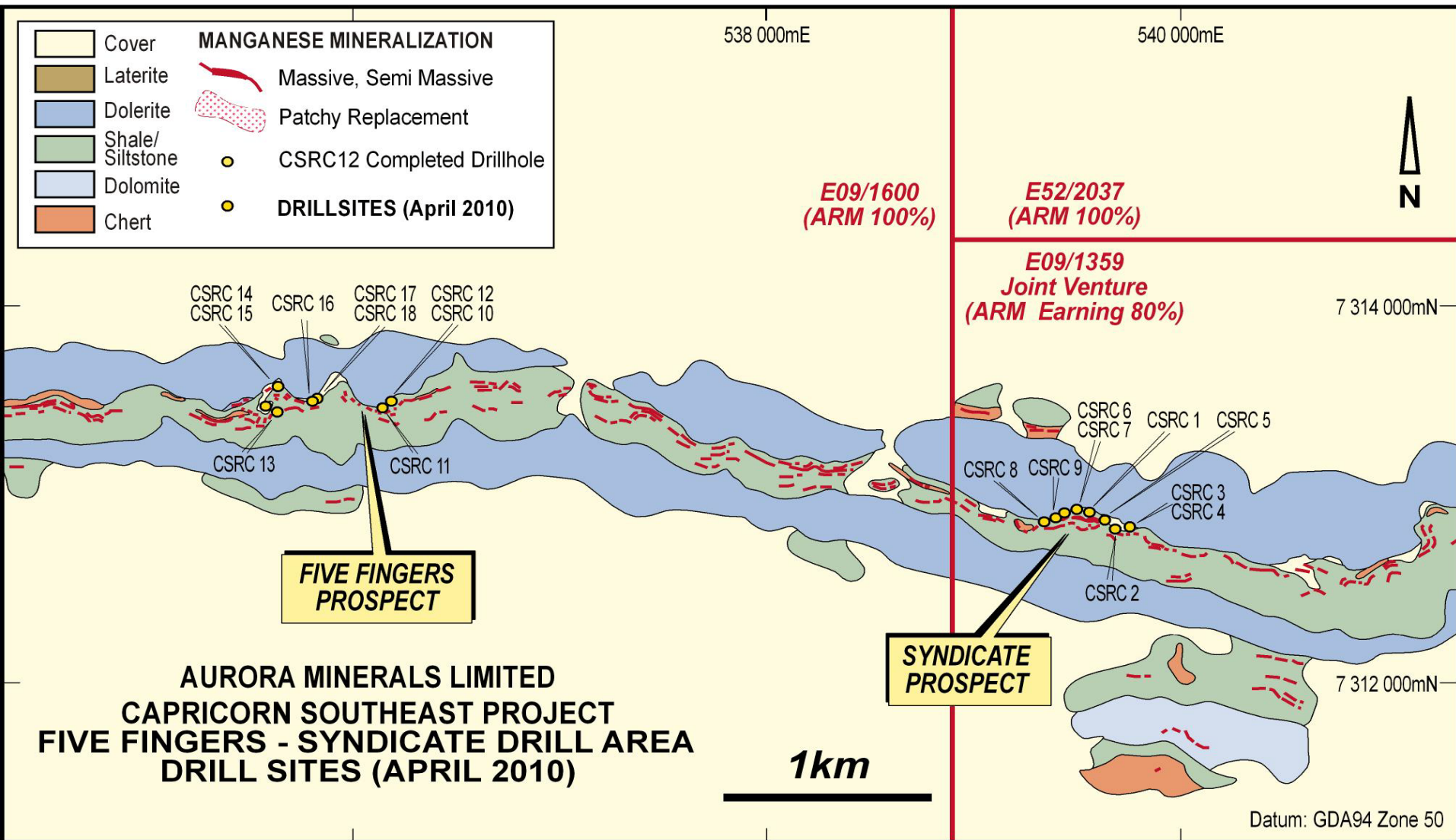




Syndicate

Five Fingers Prospects

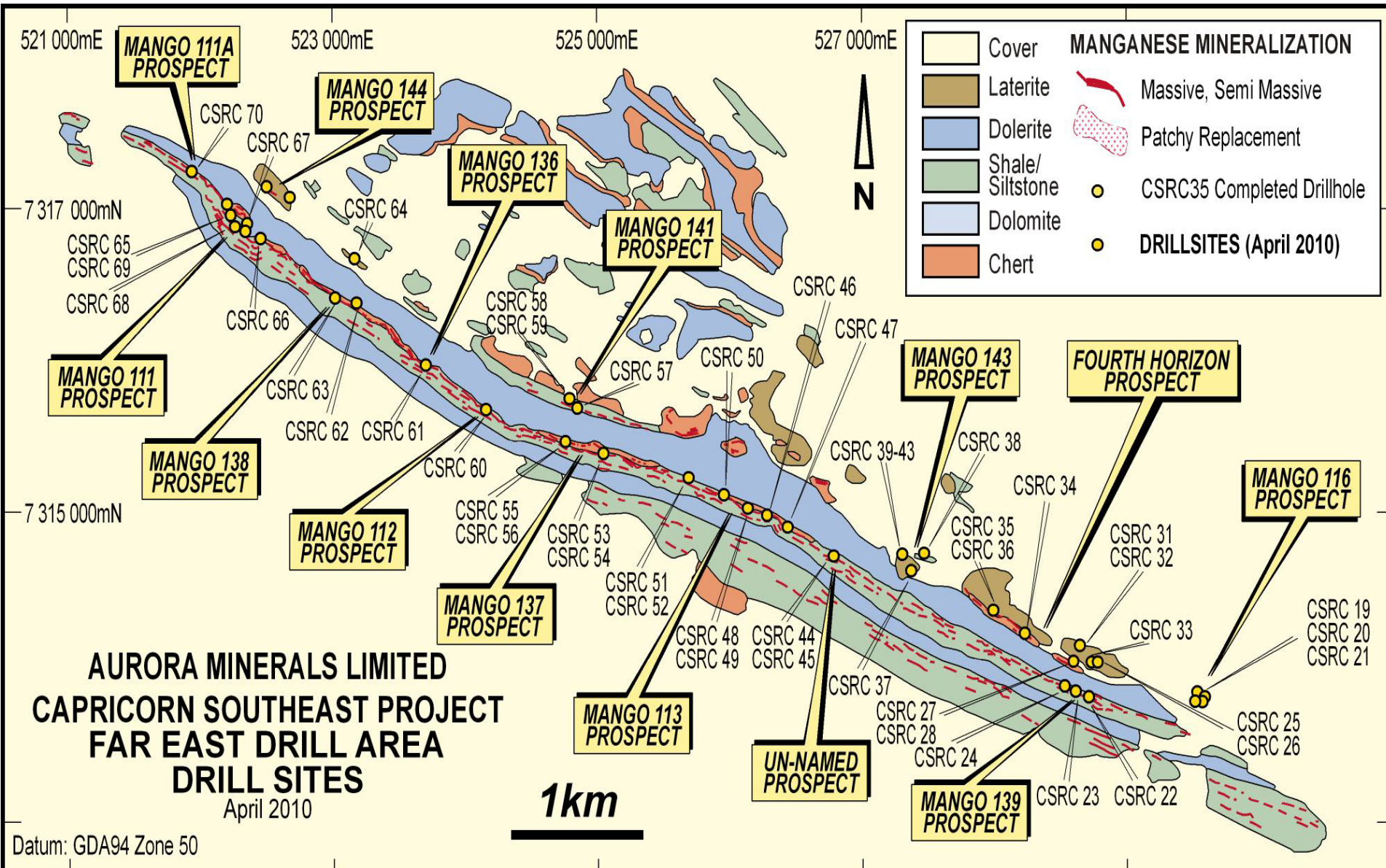
Showing Program 1 drill holes



AURORA MINERALS LIMITED
CAPRICORN SOUTHEAST PROJECT
FIVE FINGERS - SYNDICATE DRILL AREA
DRILL SITES (APRIL 2010)

Far East Prospects

Showing Program 1 drill holes



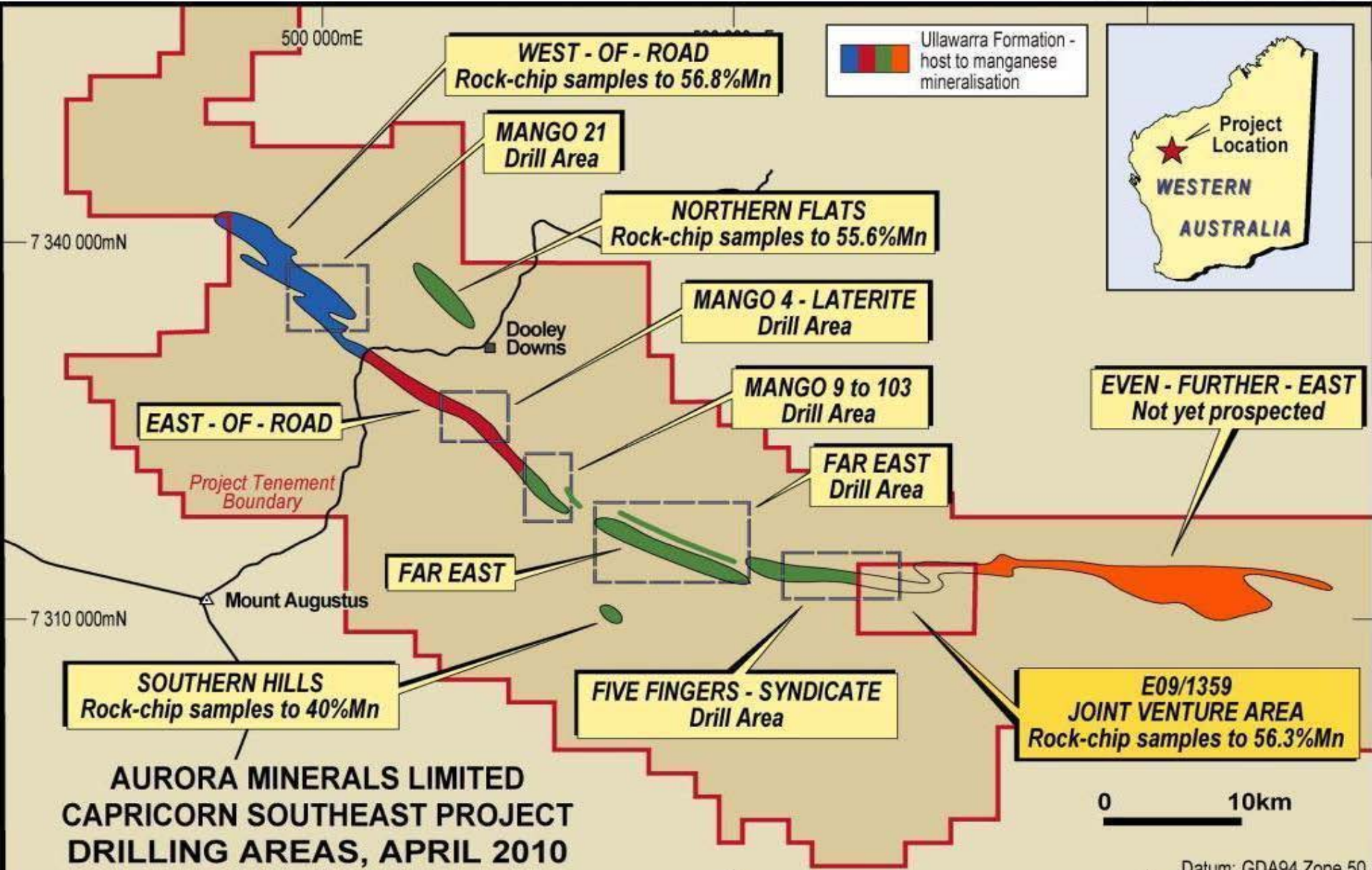
Datum: GDA94 Zone 50

Selected Field Geologist Drill Logs from First 70 drill holes Syndicate-Five Fingers-Far East Areas



HOLE #	Interval (Thickness) metres	FROM (depth) metres	MINERALISATION (VISUAL ONLY)
CSRC0013	36	18	Shl w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0008	35	5	Shl w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0004	22	11	shl w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0009	19	9	Shl/Slt w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0014	18	6	Shl w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0002	15	6	Shl w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0001	13	19	shl w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0012	13	20	Shl/Slt w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0011	12	18	Shl/Slt w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0026	12	0	Mn
CSRC0006	11	18	Shl w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0025	11	0	Mn
CSRC0010	10	34	Shl/Slt w/ interbedded Mn
CSRC0019	10	0	Mn
CSRC0009	3	6	Banded to Massive Mn
CSRC0001	2	8	Banded Mn
CSRC0002	2	4	Bedded Mn
CSRC0007	2	11	Banded Mn
CSRC0018	2	0	Massive Mn
CSRC0005	1	10	Massive Mn
CSRC0006	1	10	Massive Mn
CSRC0007	1	13	Massive Mn
CSRC0010	1	2	Massive Mn

MAP OF FIRST DRILL PROGRAM 2010



500 000mE

WEST - OF - ROAD
Rock-chip samples to 56.8%Mn

Ullawarra Formation -
host to manganese
mineralisation

MANGO 21
Drill Area

NORTHERN FLATS
Rock-chip samples to 55.6%Mn



7 340 000mN

MANGO 4 - LATERITE
Drill Area

MANGO 9 to 103
Drill Area

EVEN - FURTHER - EAST
Not yet prospected

EAST - OF - ROAD

Project Tenement
Boundary

FAR EAST
Drill Area

FAR EAST

7 310 000mN

Mount Augustus

SOUTHERN HILLS
Rock-chip samples to 40%Mn

FIVE FINGERS - SYNDICATE
Drill Area

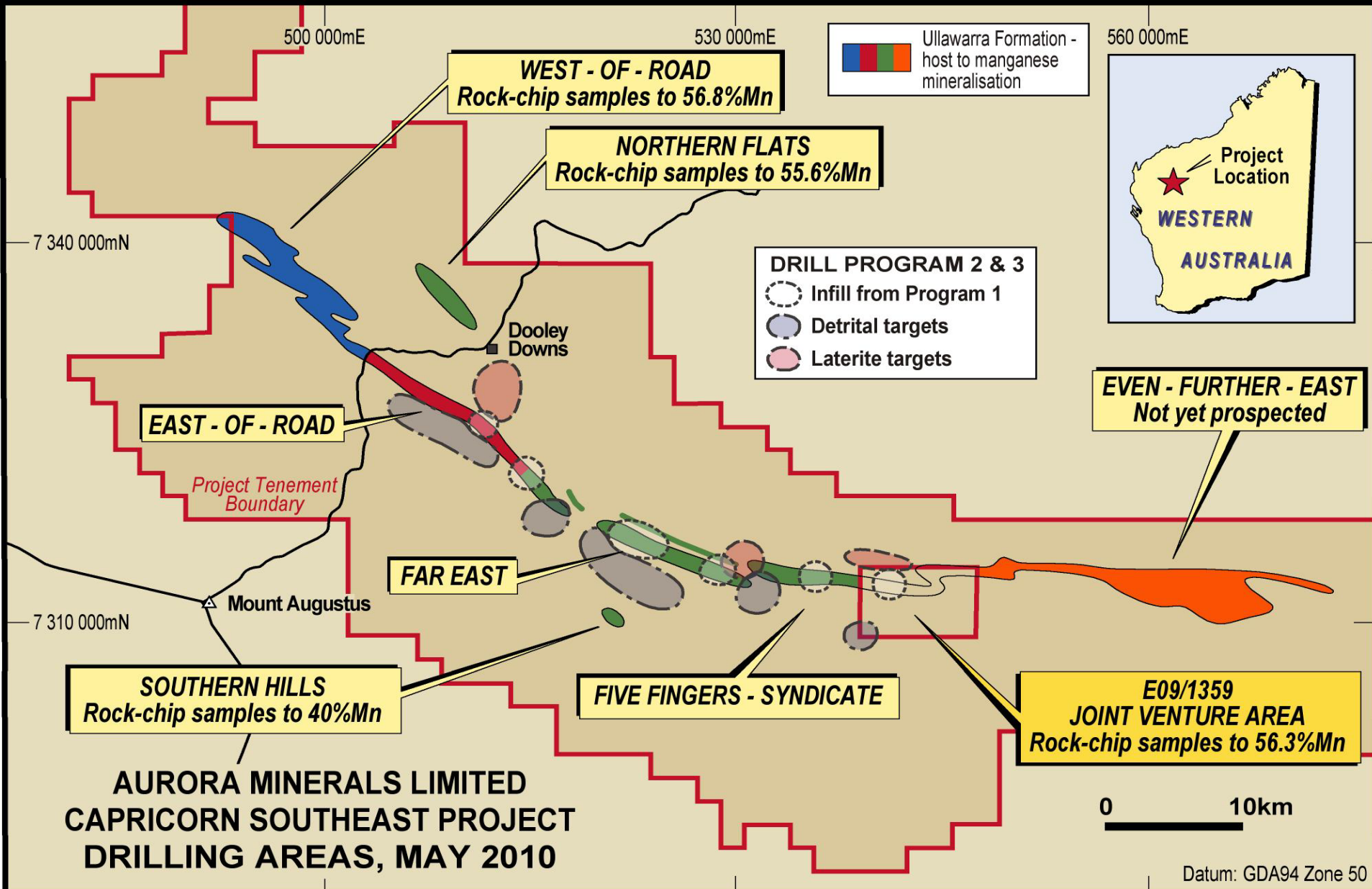
E09/1359
JOINT VENTURE AREA
Rock-chip samples to 56.3%Mn

AURORA MINERALS LIMITED
CAPRICORN SOUTHEAST PROJECT
DRILLING AREAS, APRIL 2010

0 10km

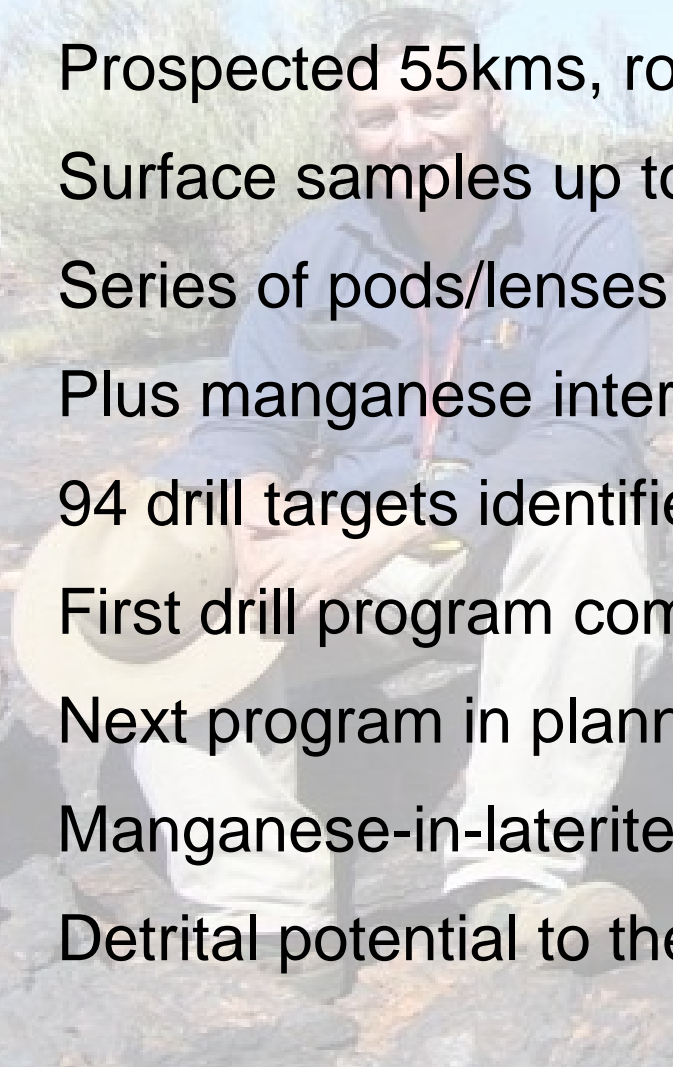
Datum: GDA94 Zone 50

MAP OF PLANNED NEXT DRILLING 2010





SUMMARY

- 95kms hard-rock greenfields manganese strike potential
 - Prospected 55kms, rock-chip sampling and traversing
 - Surface samples up to 56% Mn
 - Series of pods/lenses massive manganese identified
 - Plus manganese interbedded in shale sequence
 - 94 drill targets identified so far
 - First drill program commenced April 2010
 - Next program in planning/application
 - Manganese-in-laterite, prospecting underway
 - Detrital potential to the south of main ridges
- 

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Forward-looking statements

Forward-Looking Statements are statements included herein, including regarding future ability to finance projects and other statements that express management's expectations or estimates regarding the timing of completion of various aspects of the projects' development or of our future performance, constitute "forward-looking statements". The words "believe", "expect", "anticipate", "contemplate", "target", "plan", "aims", "intends", "continue", "budget", "estimate", "may", "will", "schedule", and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are necessarily based upon a number of estimates and assumptions that, while considered reasonable by management, are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies.

In particular, Aurora Minerals and Desert Energy's announcements and presentations include many such forward-looking statements and such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual financial results, performance or achievements of Aurora Minerals and Desert Energy to be materially different from its estimated future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by those forward-looking statements and its forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. These risks, uncertainties and other factors are included in the Risks section of the Companies' websites and ASX announcements available on the companies' and ASX websites. Aurora Minerals and Desert Energy expressly disclaim any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, events or otherwise, except where required by law.