



## **ASX RELEASE**

30 August 2010

**Major  
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Western Australian  
Minerals Explorer**

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- **Base metals**
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(ASX Listed)**

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## **AURORA MINERALS LIMITED**

### **EM SURVEY COMPLETED OVER CAPRICORN SOUTHEAST MANGANESE PROJECT**

- **Multiple “conductors” identified from EM survey which will add to priority targets selected for follow-up drilling**
- **RC drilling is expected to commence in early October, subject to regulatory approvals and Heritage survey clearances for an estimated 20,000m**

Aurora Minerals Limited is pleased to announce that it has completed the airborne Electromagnetic (“EM”) and Magnetic survey over its Capricorn Southeast Manganese Project (“Manganese Project”) in central Western Australia.

Preliminary field plots highlight a range of prominent EM conductors, both as bedrock over the ridges hosting surface massive manganese oxide mineralisation and near-surface conductors in covered areas to the south and north with potential for laterite and detrital-hosted mineralisation. Based on these conductors high priority targets have been identified and will form part of the basis for the next and subsequent drilling programs at the Manganese Project.

A Heritage Clearance Survey is due to commence later this week which will clear drill holes for follow-up to the initial drill program completed in June 2010, and will include areas of laterite and detrital potential and EM conductors identified from the airborne survey.

Commenting on the programme Managing Director Martin Pyle noted: “We are pleased with the results of the EM survey as it helps us prioritise drilling targets. Given the large strike extent of surface manganese mineralisation, the encouragement received from the first phase of reconnaissance drilling and exciting targets generated from the EM survey we currently anticipate conducting several phases of drilling beyond Stage 2 over the next 6-12 months”.

## **Details of Airborne Survey**

The airborne survey was carried out for Aurora by GPX Surveys using its XTEM system. This is a time-domain electromagnetic system designed for near-surface to moderate depth conductors, and includes a magnetic component. It is considered well suited for detecting near-surface and bedrock conductors, such as massive manganese mineralisation on the ridges and detrital or laterite-hosted mineralisation in ancient, often buried palaeochannels draining the ridges to the north and south.

The survey covered an area of 49km strike from the Dooley Downs-Mt Augustus road to the Joint Venture area E09/1359 and from 9 to 16 km in width. This covers most of the recent drilling program.

Receipt of final data and flight-line profiles is expected in the near future and detailed identification and interpretation of individual conductors will ensue which is likely to generate further targets and will likely aid target selection over areas already drilled in the Stage 1 reconnaissance drilling program.

## **Stage 2 Drilling Program**

This drill program, expected to commence in early October is designed to follow-up and infill manganese mineralisation intersected in the June 2010 program, especially at the Laterite M28 and the Fourth Horizon prospects. Several detrital targets including those associated with EM conductors will also be tested. The program is expected to be up to 20,000m and may subject to logistics and field season considerations occur in more than one campaign.

## **Capricorn Southeast Manganese Project Background**

Aurora's Capricorn Southeast Manganese Project is located over the northwestern arm of the mid-Proterozoic Bangemall Basin, approximately 950kms north of Perth, Western Australia. The project consists of 25 exploration licences.

The maiden drilling program in May to June this year focussed on the stratiform manganese mineralisation in a 30km stretch of the Ullawarra Formation ("Ridge Mineralisation") which strikes for over 90kms in the Project area, as well as two examples of lateritised colluvial manganese mineralisation at Mango 28 and Fourth Horizon prospects ("Laterite Mineralisation"). One metre intercepts of greater than 40% Mn were returned in four holes while the application of a 15% Mn lower cutoff returned mineralised intercepts in 51 drill holes. Full details of the drilling results were released to the ASX on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

The drilling program, while reconnaissance in nature, was designed to test various targets which typically had been delineated from surface prospecting and rock-chip sampling. Nineteen individual prospects returned at least one hole with >15% Mn intercepts.

These first drill results provided Aurora with considerable encouragement and scope for follow-up exploration including further prospecting of the main manganese horizons in the 30kms of the Even-Further-East area, follow-up RC drilling in and around zones of higher-grade mineralisation, and testing of EM conductors identified in the just-completed XTEM airborne survey.

Martin Pyle  
Managing Director

Dr Robert Taylor  
Executive Director

The information in this presentation 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. John Jordan, a corporate member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Executive Director of Aurora Minerals Limited, Robert Taylor, and John Jordan, consultant, consult to the Company through their respective consulting companies Able Kids Pty Ltd and Churchlands Consulting Pty Ltd.

Robert Taylor and John Jordan 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 John Jordan consent to the inclusion in the presentation of the matters based on this information in the form and context in which it appears.

*The Company's website ([www.auroraminerals.com](http://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), 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](http://www.asx.com.au)*

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