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Musgrave testing new ground in WA and SA

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Andrew Duffy

PAST explorers have steered clear of where Musgrave Minerals is now focused, and that's exactly why the company has set up shop in those regions.

The tenements in the Fraser Range and southern Gawler Craton are both promising areas, and they haven't been ignored for their lack of prospectivity.

Rather, it's the ground cover that's kept most explorers and prospectors at bay.

Of the two new areas Musgrave boss Rob Waugh is particularly excited about the Mamba project in the Fraser Range, with that land holding between 5-40m of cover.

"It's enough so you can't see anything at surface. That's prevented all previous exploration," he told *MiningNews.net*.

"That means this tenement hasn't really been touched."

Waugh is upbeat about the potential at Mamba, with the land laying claim to a strong electromagnetic anomaly.

It's also located on the edge of a gravity high, with the wider region positioned on a craton boundary.

It's where you might expect to find another Nova-Bollinger, and Waugh said that was the name of the game at the new tenement.

"The prize is huge. If you are successful and find that kind of deposit then it's definitely company-making," he said.

Finding another Nova isn't going to be easy, however.

One big challenge at Mamba is that the ground cover has rendered techniques like surface geochemistry ineffective.

"It's a little bit more difficult to explore, but that gives opportunity as well because it's stopped previous explorers," Waugh said.

"We know there are multiple deposits to be found in these belts. It just takes a bit of time, persistence, and good geoscience to get to that point where you make another discovery."

Last week Musgrave posted drilling from the high-priority M8 target at Mamba, and while those early results were disappointing, the company said it was still encouraged by the prospectivity of the wider holding.

It's obviously very early days at the tenement, which was acquired through a ballot against 10-15 other companies.

That fact alone should give readers an idea of how sought after the new licence was, but like all other greenfield projects, the proof will be in the pudding.

Chasing another monster

Along with Mamba in the Fraser Range, Musgrave has started drilling at the Corunna project in South Australia.

That tenement was also won through a ballot, with five or six other companies in the running for the area east of Menninnie Dam.

"The reason we liked that tenement was we thought it was a pretty good analogue for the position of the mineralisation at Menninnie Dam," Waugh said.

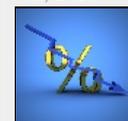


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There are a number of similarities between Menninnie Dam and Corunna, including the geophysical signatures.

The project is also located at the intersection of major faults on the edge of the Gawler Range volcanics, and like Mamba, Corunna also holds some cover.

The good thing is that mineralisation in the area is still very close to the surface.

"It's almost like the perfect environment because you can't see it, but you know it's very close to surface," Waugh said.

"Easy soil sampling will work, but the prospectors haven't been able to find it because it's not sticking out of the ground."

Prior to Musgrave, the most notable exploration around Corunna was carried out by Mega Uranium, and there are no special points for guessing what that work focused on.

Mega collected soil geochemistry, testing for uranium and a number of other commodities, but apart from that they did very little in the area.

Previously some of the majors like BHP also took a look but no extensive work was completed.

"That was another attraction. There hadn't really been a lot of work done," Waugh said.

Right now the focus at Corunna is on aircore drilling six geochemical targets.

That work will drill down through the regolith to the fresh rock boundary, which is interpreted to be somewhere between 30-60m at depth.

"The ideal is to find something better than Menninnie Dam, something that's a bit higher grade and a little bit closer to surface," Waugh said.

"We think the geological environment has the potential to host a big deposit, and that's what we're looking for."

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