

Indiana's SA crusade starts with a bang

A barely believable start to gold exploration in the Central Gawler has Indiana Resources Ltd executive chair Bronwyn Barnes eager to kick off the next round of drilling.

Indiana opened its South Australian exploration account in February with hits of 19m @ 2.88 g/t gold from 78m, 5m @ 24.35 g/t from 106m, 22m @ 3.07 g/t from 125m, 3m @ 18.33 g/t from 189m and 8m @ 4.79 g/t from 89m following RC drilling on the Minos prospect, part of its 5,000sq km Central Gawler project.

Those first five holes were followed in March by the remainder of a 10-hole, 1,600m programme. The second set of results included hits of 38m @ 6.54 g/t from 29m, 2m @ 6.32 g/t from 100m and 26m @ 4.28 g/t from 68m.

Barnes told **Paydirt** she was “beyond thrilled” with the results.

“For a first programme to produce a cracking set of numbers like this really underlines that the belief we had before acquisition – that this whole area is underexplored – was warranted,” she said.

Indiana acquired Central Gawler in a largely scrip deal with private group Patron Resources Ltd in October last year. The package comprises 14 exploration licences and one mining licence covering more than 2,600sq km near three historical gold mining centres – Challenger, Tarcoola and Tunkillia. Indiana subsequently pegged another 2,500sq km of ground.

“It is a fantastic ground position at a time

when it is really hard to get a contiguous land package in a known mineral province,” Barnes said. “We have ended up with 5,000sq km in an underexplored belt which has a history of not only discovery but production. Where else do you get a dominant landholding in a Tier 1 jurisdiction and known province like this?”

The ground contains some historical workings as well as more recent geological work, but Indiana is intent on following its own course. Barnes said the detail of the company's early efforts was reflected in the drilling results.

“A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes while we were doing due diligence on the ground,” she said. “We reviewed the historical data and there were some assumptions around structural orientation of the deposit, but we have taken a different approach and drilled in a different direction. We believed we had the technical justification for it and that has been proven, so hats off to the exploration team.”

Minos within the 30km-long regional structure known as the Lake Labyrinth shear zone. Nine of the 10 holes ended inside the mineralised shear zone and could be extended for repetitions of the structure at depth. There are several discrete high-grade structures within the intersections which will be better defined with upcoming diamond holes.

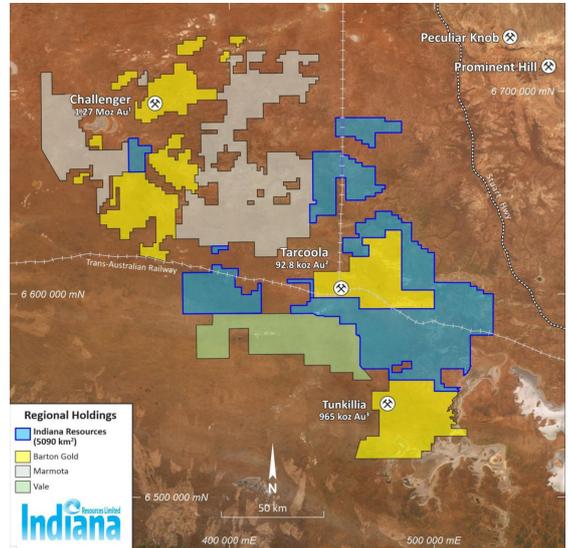
A follow-up programme was announced in late March with RC and diamond holes planned at Minos and several other prospects.

Regional targets will also be tested.

“We would like to expand the drilling down to the Ariadne prospect and to the north-west end of the tenements, but we are still waiting on some Native Title and SA Government access approvals.”

The Central Gawler is undergoing a revival of sorts with private group Barton Gold Pty Ltd attempting to restart mining at Challenger – once a prolific high-grade producer for Dominion Mining – and the Tunkillia (965,000oz @ 1.15 g/t gold) and Tarcoola (16,000oz @ 1.3 g/t gold) projects.

Elsewhere in the district mining heavyweights such as Fortescue Metals Group Ltd and Vale SA have been accumulating ground and building exploration pro-



Indiana has picked up 5,000sq km of ground in the Central Gawler district of South Australia

grammes.

“We think the Central Gawler probably hasn't had enough attention in the last few years,” Barnes said. “There is an opportunity to consolidate a ground position and we are happy to talk to others.”

A decade after the State was last an exploration hotspot, SA could be back on the radar again and Barnes is happy to be involved early.

“We appointed an SA-based exploration manager in February; that is often the secret to good relationships with government and community, having someone on the ground,” she said. “SA has a long mining history and there are plenty of services and support around. You have no trouble accessing rigs and labs. We are really pleased with how quickly we have moved, even in the face of COVID.”

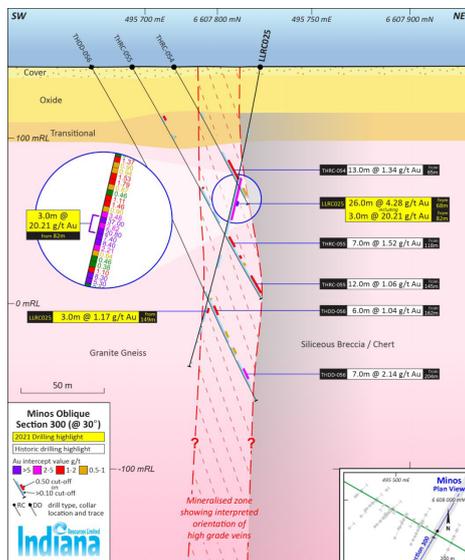
The instant progress in SA is in contrast to Indiana's African portfolio where the company is embroiled in a dispute with the Tanzanian Government over the withdrawal of licences in the East African nation.

The tussle is set for a first World Bank-backed arbitration hearing on April 22 and Barnes is eager to get the process moving.

“We are very keen to have a solution,” she said.

The death of Tanzania President John Magufuli in March is not expected to alter the hearing.

– Dominic Piper



The Minos prospect returned impressive intercepts in the maiden round of drilling