

COMMUNIQUÉ -

VICTORIA'S EXPLORERS LOOK TO THE BLUE SKY

At the Minerals Council of Australia's annual Victorian Exploration Workshop held in Ballarat on 29th July 2005 progress with a number of greenfield and advanced exploration projects was reviewed along with various geoscience research initiatives both within Victoria and nationally.

The explorers strongly supported plans by Geoscience Victoria for a seismic traverse across the Lachlan Fold belt from north of Stawell to north of Bendigo. The seismic traverse is seen as the next vital step in understanding the bedrock geology below the Murray Basin sediments; a step vital to unlocking the mineral wealth of the State. The explorers recognised that the seismic traverse was a vital input to the Tasmanides project of the pmd*CRG, which will create 3D images of the Fold belt geology.

In addition, the explorers agreed that the SEEGrid project for interoperability of pre-competitive geoscience data was essential when it comes to long term benefits to aid future exploration effort in Victoria.

SEEGrid and CSIRO's proposed flagship project – "Minerals Down Under" together offer a truly national solution to the issues of prospectivity and improved exploration techniques.

In addition to the blue sky offered by the research initiatives, the delegates also discussed the importance of effective community affairs management during exploration projects; the revised JORC Code for the reporting of mineral resources; and the intersection between geologist's reports and finance analyst's assessment of exploration projects. In all, 80 delegates attended the Workshop and included explorers active in greenfield and mine sites, gold, mineral sands, coal and coal bed methane.

Chris Fraser
Executive Director, Victoria