

#### NW Mineral Province Discovery Program

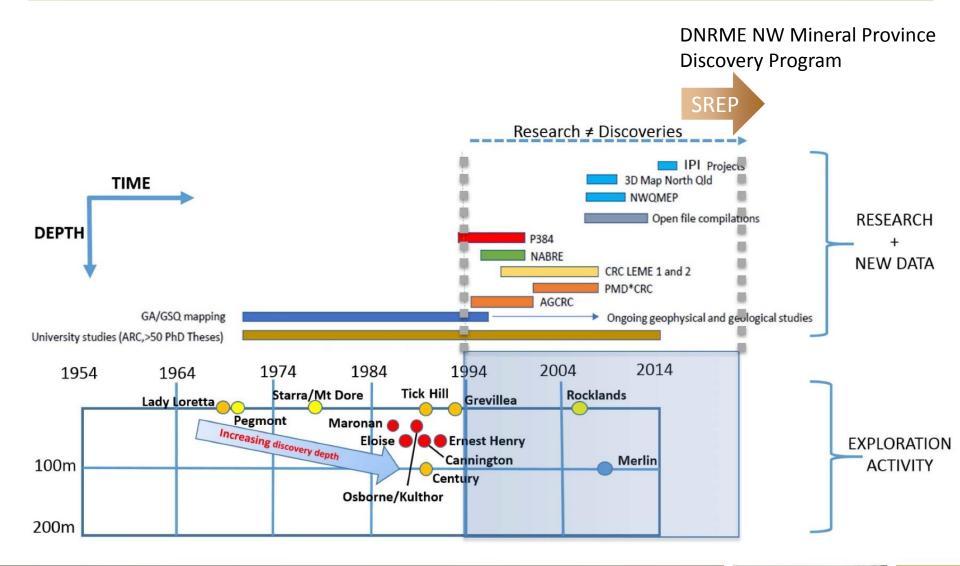


# Discovery Success in the NW Mineral Province

R Valenta – March 2018



#### Recent history – discoveries and studies





WH Bryan Mining & Geology Research Centre



#### **Current state**

#### NWMP mines are maturing

- Short time frame to closures
- Declining economics of remaining

## Lack of exploration success – need for a "step change"

- Multiple research projects and compilations over decades
- Strong base of data and knowledge
- Potential to improve industry focus of precompetitive products
- Untried approaches required

# Decline in technical resources for exploration companies

- Declining exploration expenditure
- Decreasing resources for technical support

#### Increased role of junior companies

- Shorter time frames
- Need to reach drill stage quickly
- Need to maintain investor interest

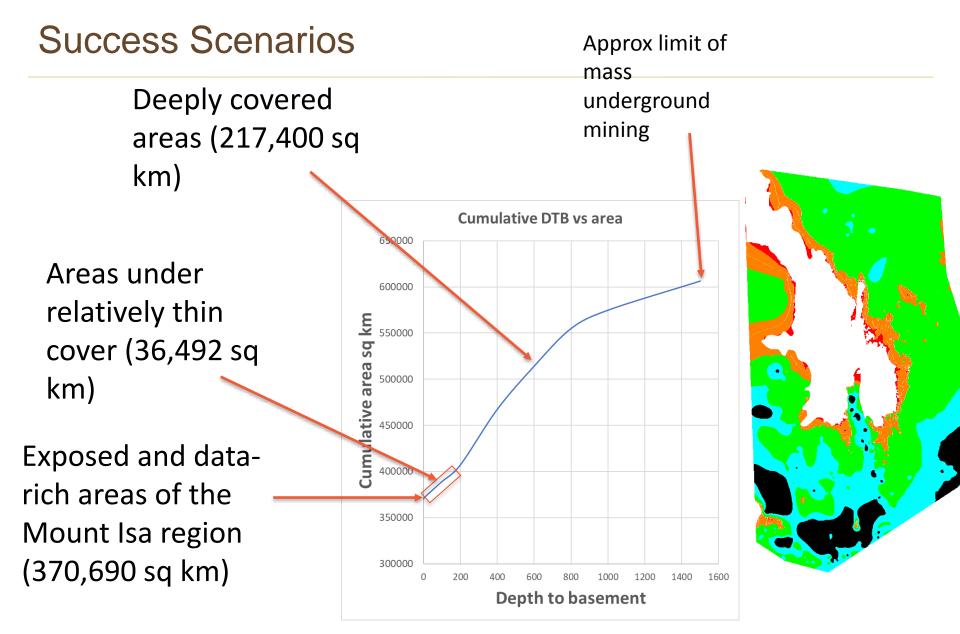
#### New discoveries will not be easy

- Subtle
- Blind
- Buried under younger cover















#### **Success Scenarios**

1. In exposed and data-rich areas of the Mount Isa region: Value-added interpretation of geoscientific datasets, combined with state-ofthe-art data analytics, uncovers a previously unrecognised or underappreciated target which turns into a major discovery

2. In areas under relatively thin cover: New insights into key controlling features and halos related to known deposits, combined with new geophysical and deeplooking geochemical data, result in a new major discovery

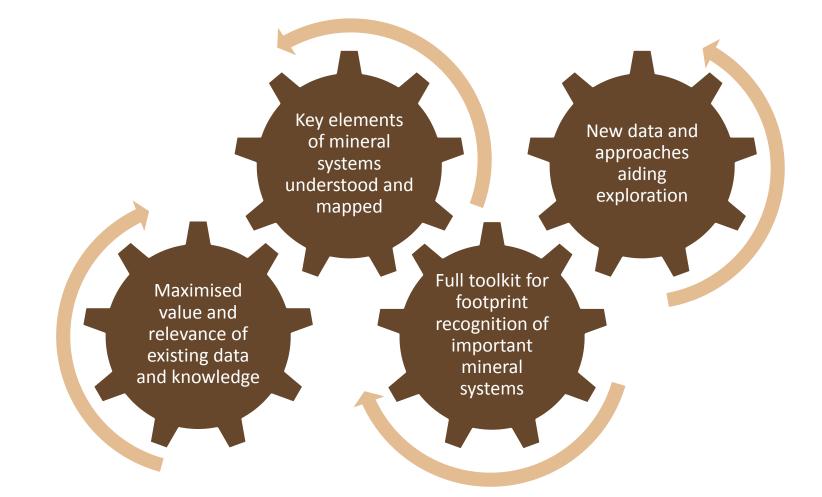
**3. In deeply covered areas:** New interpretations and 4D models allow mapping of high priority target regions, and a new major discovery is made with the aid of these interpretations and new datasets







#### Future state









### NWMP Discovery Program Components

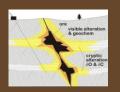
#### Comprehensive compilation

- updating the existing open file data compilations (to extent possible)
- distilling the results of geoscientific studies
- ensuring that this information is comprehensive, spatially consistent, wellexplained
- delivered in a form which can be easily used by explorers and other projects



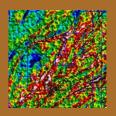
#### Mineral systems insight

- Regional structural/stratigraphic targeting frameworks
- Mineral systems and footprints
- Studies of Igneous fertility
- New insights from data analytics



#### Exploration toolkits

- Atlas of Northwest Mineral Province mineral deposits
- Geochemistry over post-mineralisation cover sequences
- Halo models for recognition of blind or covered systems



#### Transformative new data and interpretations

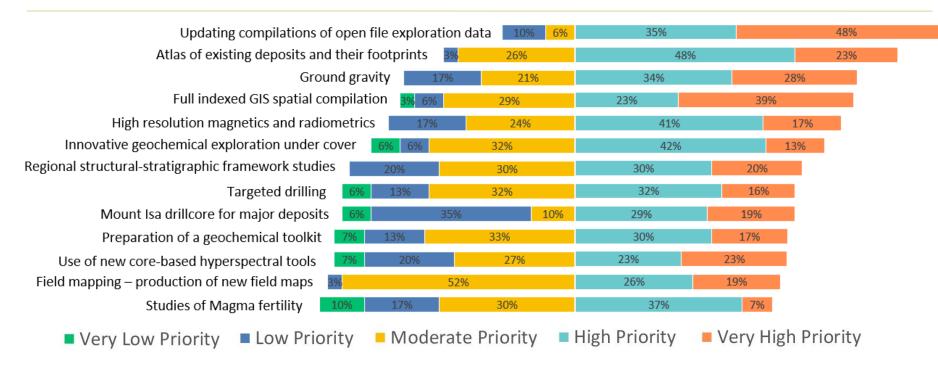
- New regional airborne gravity gradiometry
- Cover geochemical surveys
- Targeted drilling
- New interpretations of existing precompetitive datasets







### Survey of Industry – top half priorities



- Open file exploration data (1/26)
- Atlas of existing deposits and footprints (2/26)
- Full indexed GIS spatial compilation (4/26)
- Mount Isa drillcore repository (9/26)





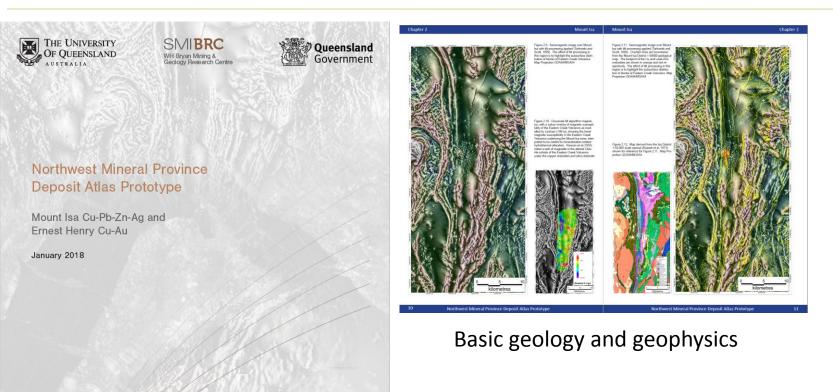


Updating compilations of open file	exploration data	a 10% <mark>6%</mark>	35%	48%	
Atlas of existing deposits and their footprints 3% 26%			48%	23%	
Ground gravity	/ 17%	21%	34%	28%	
Full indexed GIS spatial compilation	<mark>3%</mark> 6%	29%	23%	39%	
High resolution magnetics and radiometrics	17%	24%	41%	17%	
Innovative geochemical exploration under cover	6%	32%	42%	13%	
Regional structural-stratigraphic framework studies	20%	30%	30%	20%	
Targeted drilling 6%	13%	32%	32%	16%	
Mount Isa drillcore for major deposits 6%	35%	10%	29%	19%	
Preparation of a geochemical toolkit 7% 1	13%	33%	30%	17%	
Use of new core-based hyperspectral tools 7%	20%	27%	23%	23%	
Field mapping – production of new field maps 336	52%		26%	19%	
Studies of Magma fertility 10%	17%	30%	37%	7%	
Very Low Priority Low Priority	Moderate P	riority 🗖 H	High Priority	Very High Priority	/









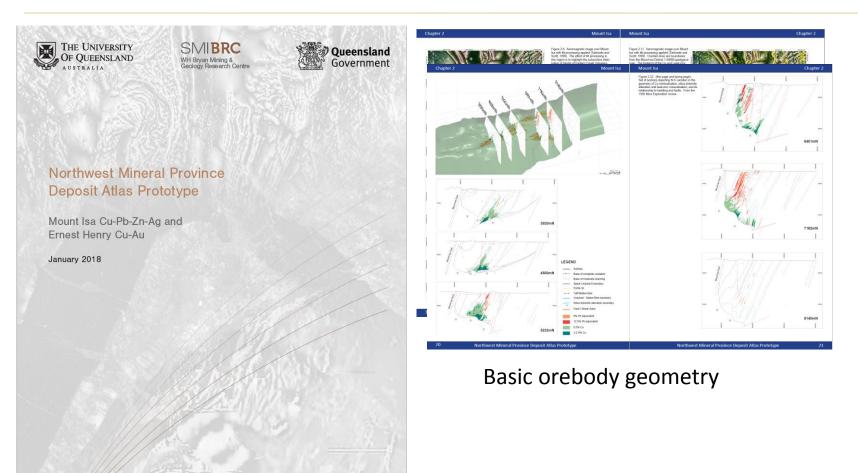
The Sustainable Minerals Institute The University of Queensland, Australia P +61 7 3346 40003 F +61 7 3346 4045 E enquiries@sml.uq.edu.au www.sml.uq.edu.au







10

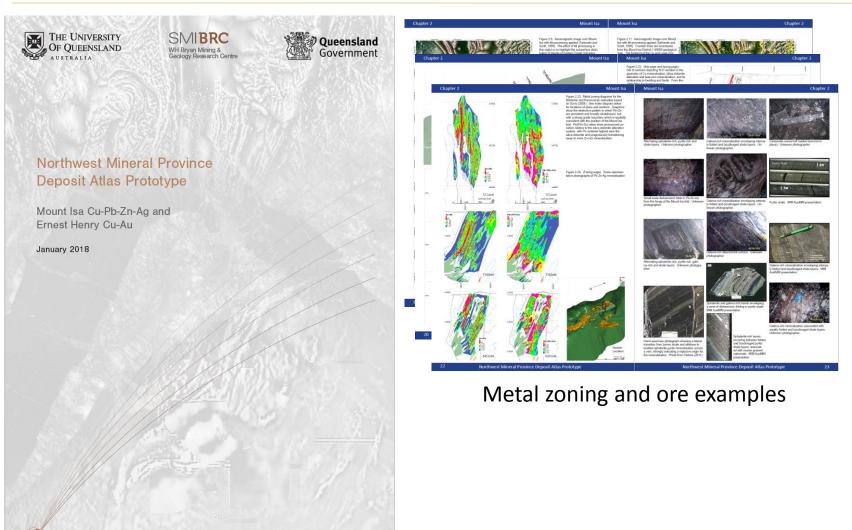


The Sustainable Minerals Institute The University of Queensland, Australia P +61 7 3346 40003 F +61 7 3346 4045 E enquiries@smi.uq.edu.au www.smi.uq.edu.au







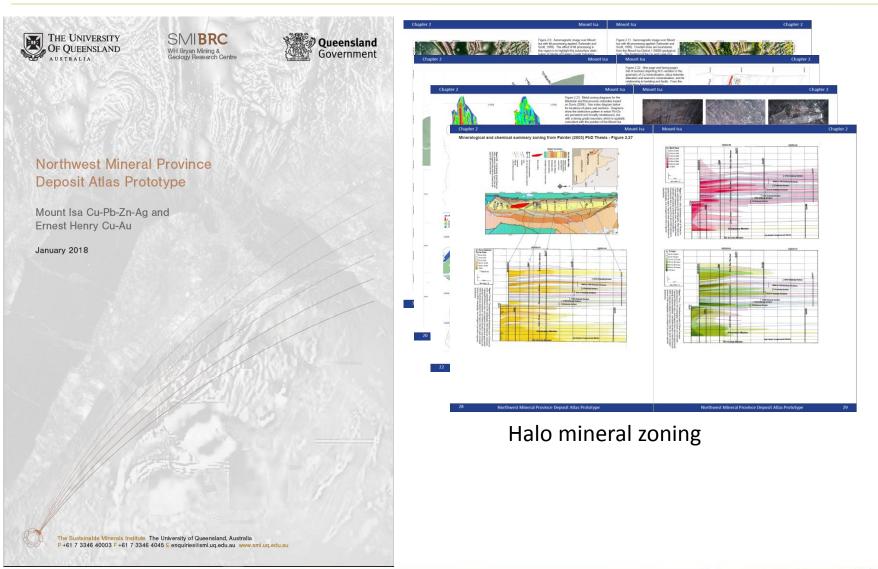


The Sustainable Minerals Institute The University of Queensland, Australia P +61 7 3346 40003 F +61 7 3346 4045 E enquiries@smi.uq.edu.au www.smi.uq.edu.au





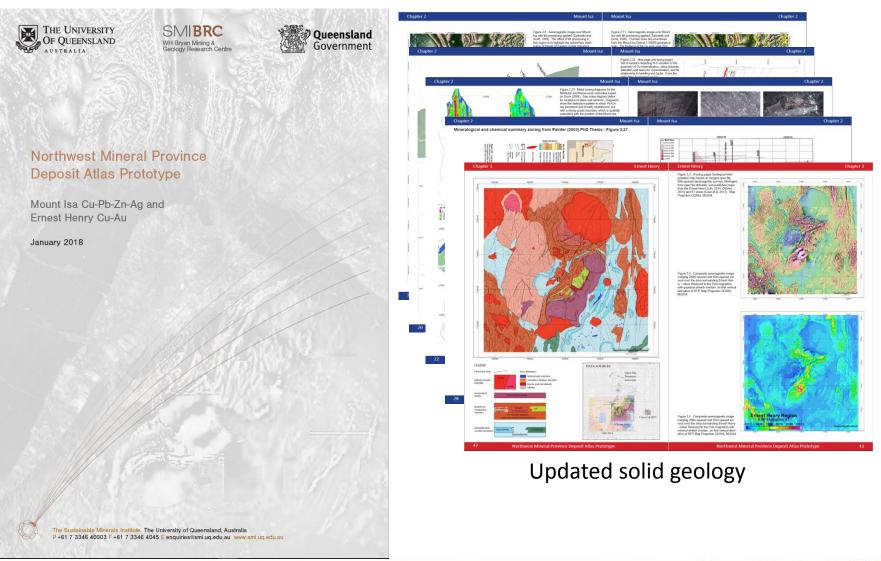








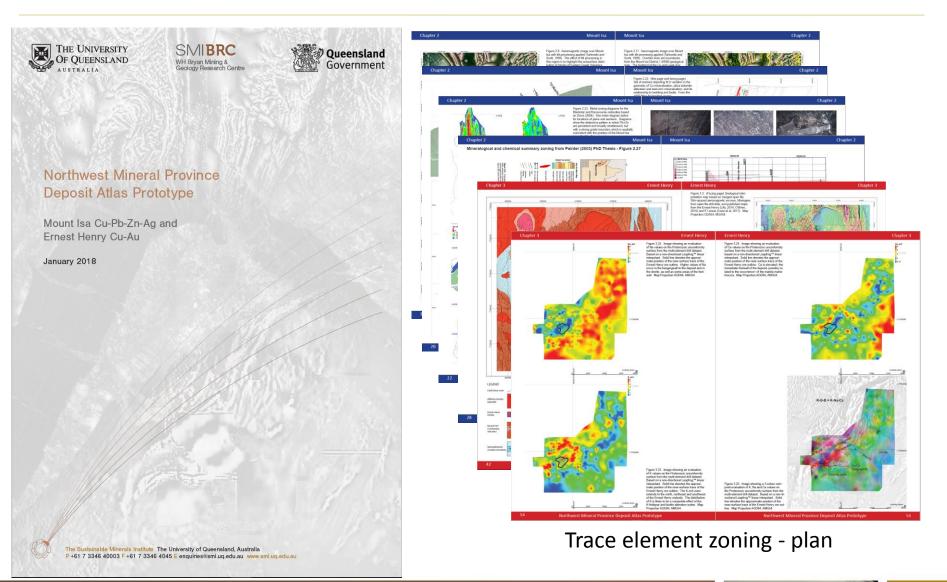








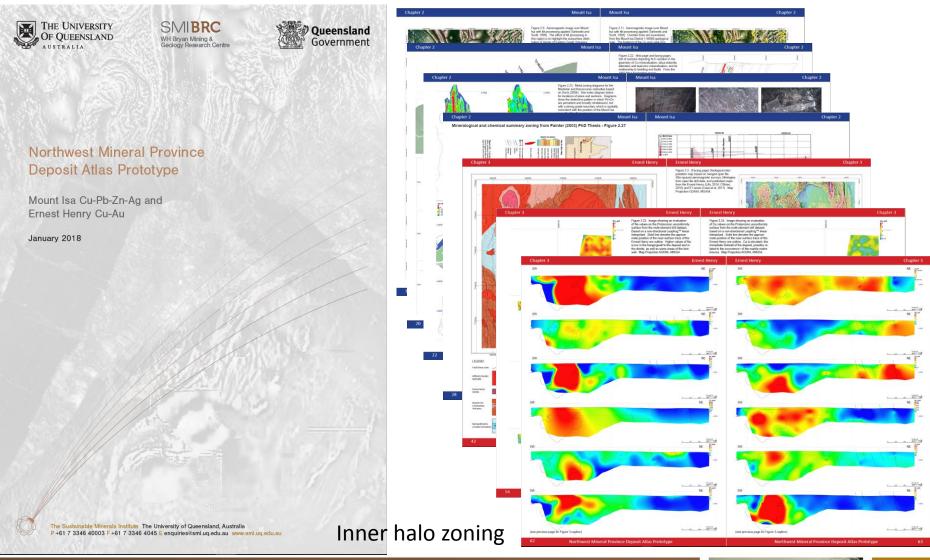










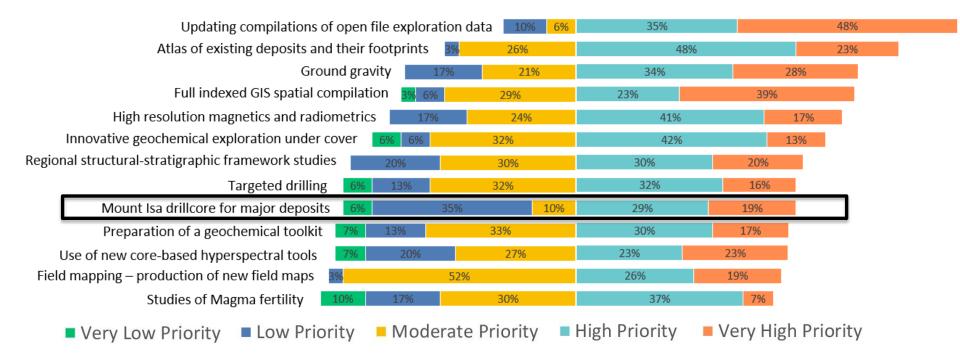








#### Mount Isa Region Drillcore Collection









#### Mount Isa drillcore repository

- Key resource for explorers in the region
- Representative core and accompanying information all major deposits
- Collection under way









#### Full indexed spatial data compilation

Updating compilations of open fil	e exploration data	a 10% <mark>6%</mark>	35%		48%
Atlas of existing deposits and their fo	otprints 3%	26%	48%		23%
Ground gravit	ty 17%	21%	34%	28	3%
Full indexed GIS spatial compilatio	n <mark>3%</mark> 6%	29%	23%	39%	
High resolution magnetics and radiometrics	17%	24%	41%		17%
Innovative geochemical exploration under cover	6% 6%	32%	42%	13	3%
Regional structural-stratigraphic framework studies	20%	30%	30%	20%	
Targeted drilling	13%	32%	32%	16%	
Mount Isa drillcore for major deposits 6%	35%	10%	29%	19%	
Preparation of a geochemical toolkit 7%	13%	33%	30%	17%	
Use of new core-based hyperspectral tools 7%	20%	27%	23%	23%	
Field mapping – production of new field maps 336	52%		26%	19%	
Studies of Magma fertility 10%	17%	30%	37%	7%	
Very Low Priority Low Priority	Moderate P	riority 🗖	High Priority	Very High	Priority







### Full indexed GIS spatial compilation

- Faceted spatial data index
- Updated time-space chart
- GIS time-sliced stratigraphy, structure, igneous events
- 2D isopachs/depths from existing 3D models
- Exploration target compilation
- Compilation of miscellaneous legacy datasets
  - Metamorphic map
  - NABRE sections
  - CRC LEME regolith maps
  - Others as available
- Update of solid geology interpretation where justified

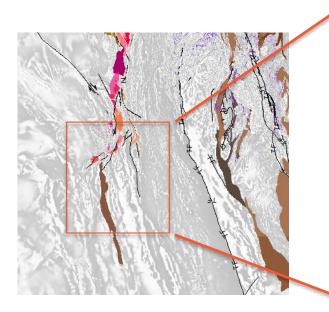


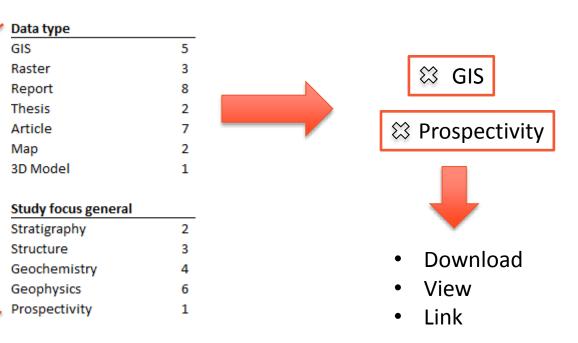




#### Faceted spatial data index

- Full compilation of reports, theses, publications, etc
- Categorised by study focus, data type, mineralisation style,...
- Spatially indexed
- Faceted search by theme

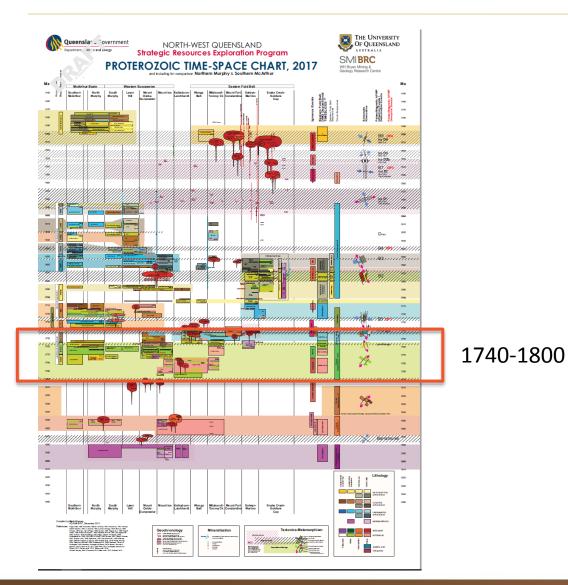








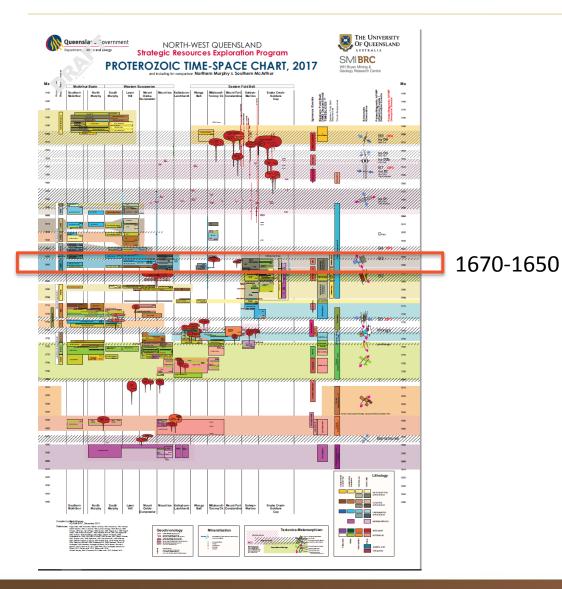
#### Updated time-space chart







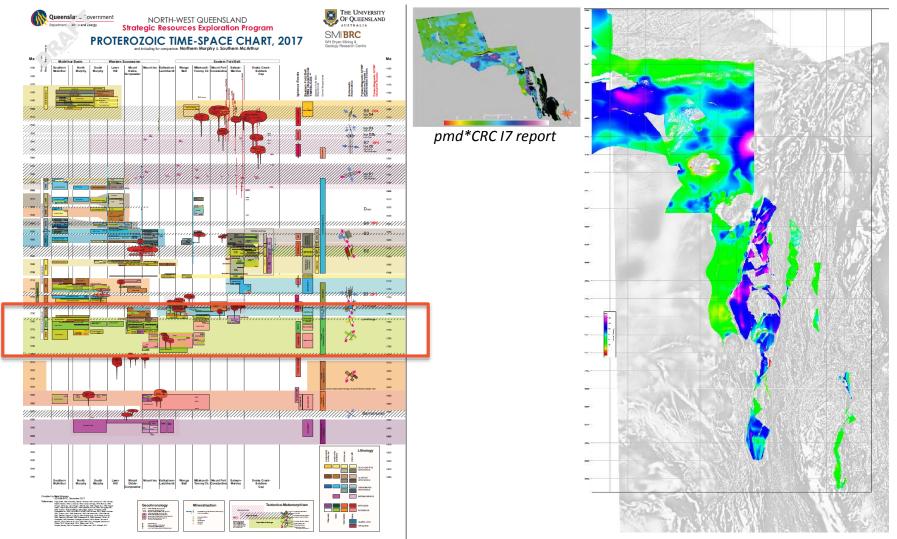
#### Updated time-space chart







### 2D isopachs/depths from existing 3D models



Pmd\*CRC – Thickness Leichhardt Superbasin

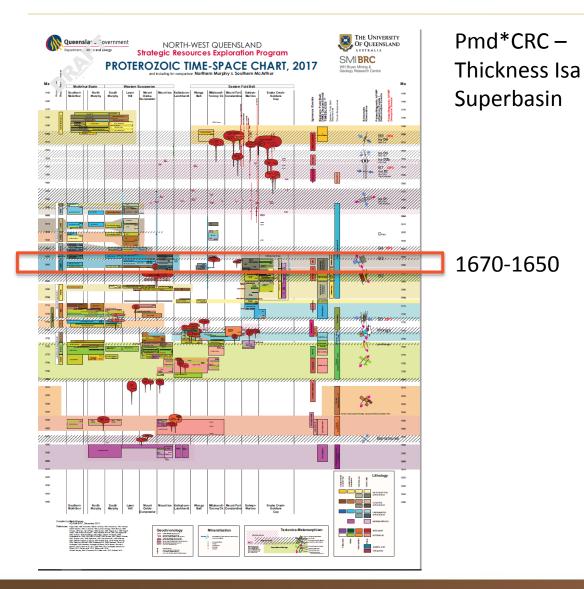


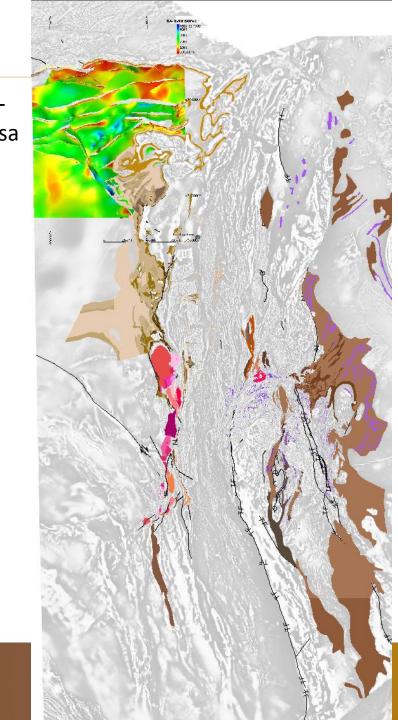


SMIBRC

WH Bryan Mining & Geology Research Centre

### Isopachs from 3D models

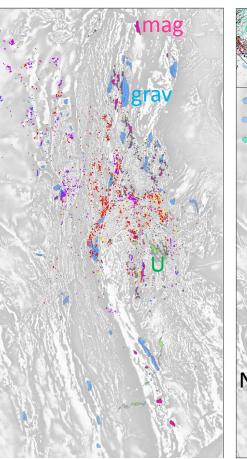


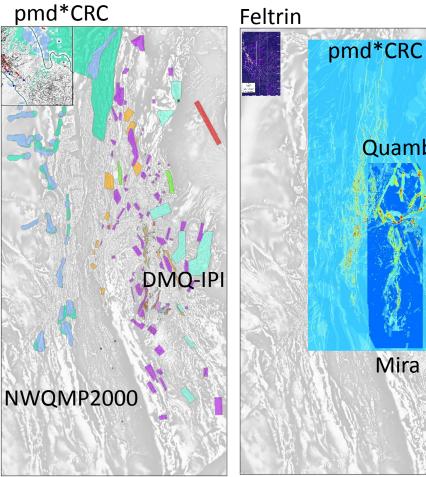






### Exploration target compilation





Conceptual

Prospectivity

Quamby

Mira

Geomechanical



Geophysical/

Geochemical





pmd\*CRC

**GMEX-IPI** 

### **Current Status and Next Steps**

#### Current Status

- Time-space compilation complete
- Atlas Prototype complete
- Target compilation complete
- Spatial data index well progressed
- Core collection under way
- Legacy datasets near completion
- Solid geology updates under way
- Next Steps
  - Expand Atlas Prototype (Mt Isa/EH) to full atlas of all deposits
  - Full core collection
  - Additional studies based on gap analysis





