



Confidence level soaring

As Western Australia's resources sector enters 2012 on the back of a powerhouse previous 12 months, one of the state's more advanced copper-gold projects, Yuinmery, continues to build a results base around new and historical drill data that reinforces the project's potential for development.

By the end of 2011, that confidence level was such that junior explorer and Yuinmery's owner, Empire Resources, was satisfied enough to consider a decision that would elevate the project to scoping study status.

In the interim, the company activated a two pronged end-of-year drilling program at Yuinmery, with a reverse circulation campaign across its A Zone, Just Desserts, Augustus and YC6 prospects, and a deeper drilling diamond core program within the A Zone, YC11 and YC5 prospects.

Not surprisingly, it is the sort of activity level and project confidence that is sending a fresh message to equities markets about the region's untapped mineral wealth, despite the conventional belief that all its major mining fields have been discovered.

Yuinmery, a wholly-owned deposit at which Empire, in 2011, extended its discovery of additional high grade copper and zinc with supportive platinum group metals opportunities, is a perfect example of 'the new way' of exploring in the minerals rich but still heavily

under-explored west.

Modern technology and exploration methodologies led to a string of discoveries by Empire at Yuinmery - an area of central Western Australia that abuts a well travelled highway close to other mining and regional infrastructure - not some isolated deposit stranded by remote access difficulties.

Empire managing director, David Sargeant, points to Yuinmery's emergence as a modern day discovery opportunity. He said that such a discovery is indicative of WA's broader untapped potential for easy access, near surface, close to infrastructure opportunities that can be readily converted to mineable resources and reserves; given the relatively sustained price and demand cycles during 2010 and 2011 for base metals such as copper, and precious metals such as gold.

"A desire to 'unlock' this under-explored potential is fundamental to our business and exploration modelling and has been highly successful for us to date.

"This approach was further underpinned by our success in 2011 in being a prominent winner of co-funded drilling support from the WA Government," Mr Sargeant said.

"This government backing is only awarded to those explorers whose exploration strategies are

deemed most likely to deliver drilling success.

"Yuinmery is a very good example of modern day opportunities in WA.

"It already hosts a one million tonne plus resource of 1.82 per cent copper and 0.78 grams per tonne gold. It has continued to deliver a stream of new and, in some cases, large and high grade intersections of a tenor that with further drilling, are very likely to add to our maiden inferred and indicated copper and gold resources," Mr Sargeant said.

"As a result, through 2012 we intend to maintain an active resource expansion drilling program as Empire strongly believes that the economics of Yuinmery can be dramatically lifted, just from attention to our current round of high priority targets.

"The broader project area also exhibits strong potential for additional PGM and nickel discoveries.

"Significantly, our PGM discovery, which is in close proximity to our main Yuinmery Cu-Au prospects, is in wide horizons containing disseminated sulphides.

"We believe, at this early stage, this discovery may have the potential to emerge through further successful drilling as a major PGM project in its own right," he said.



String of discoveries: Empire Resources has activated a two pronged end-of-year drilling program