

MinEx CRC's Model for Collaboration in Exploration Geoscience

David Giles^{1,2}, Andrew Bailey¹

¹Minex CRC, Perth, Australia, ²UniSA, Adelaide, Australia

We established MinEx in 2018 just one year after publication of the Uncover Roadmap with its call for a ~15 year, > billion-dollar investment in a continent-wide collaboration in exploration geoscience. Uncover provided important context for MinEx in our start-up phase. You can see the shadow of Uncover in our mission statement: "To deliver market-ready technology, work practices and knowledge designed to increase the likelihood of mineral discovery [in frontier provinces] and facilitate the transition from discovery to mineral production." "Uncover Lite" is a description of our collaboration that we have heard on more than one occasion. In truth we don't mind the association, but it is not entirely fair to either MinEx or Uncover. We'd be more comfortable with "Uncover Previewed" (because MinEx has provided a template for the type of collaborations that could work on a larger scale and over a longer time) or "Uncover Under Cover" (because MinEx and our collaborators have quietly played our part in promoting many of the goals of Uncover without the formal recognition or funding of Uncover as its own entity). In this talk we will outline the achievements of MinEx through a selection of case studies from our research portfolio. We think these achievements speak for themselves. But there is a deeper story behind them, which is as much to do with the logistics, practicalities, people and relationships as it is to do with the science and engineering. Collaboration at scale can be complex, expensive, energy-consuming and at times frustrating. We won't shy away from presenting those challenges here. But collaboration can also be (and has been!) hugely rewarding. We hope that some of our learnings from MinEx CRC will help inform and promote the continued national (and international) collaborations that we will need to meet future mineral resource requirements.