

Coda could be on the verge of big things at Emmie Bluff

Stuart McKinnon – The West Australian



SPINIFEX: Drill results from Coda Minerals this week suggest the explorer could be closing in on a large-scale iron ore copper gold deposit at its Elizabeth Creek project in South Australia.

Punters poured into the stock in June, sending its share price from less than 40¢ to a high of \$1.76 when it reported 50m of copper mineralisation from its first diamond drill hole at its Emmie Bluff Deeps prospect.

Subsequent assays revealed a total of 35m of mineralisation with peak copper grades of 5.39 per cent and 1.19g/t gold.

This week the company released the results of wedge holes off the original parent hole at a depth of 500m that included 12.9m at 3.5 per cent copper and 0.6g/t gold with peak grades of 15.3 per cent and 4.49g/t respectively.

The mineralisation was encountered in chalcopyrite and deeper bornite zones typical of big IOCG deposits.

The results represent the best-ever assays received from the Emmie Bluff prospect over several years of drilling by previous explorers.

Coda believes its wedge holes have intersected an apron of flat-lying mineralisation that it believes surround a sub-vertical structure close to its original hole.

For the company's Oxford and WASM-educated chief executive Chris Stevens, pictured, the question is whether the company can find the main structure and if so, how big it is.

“There has to be mantle-tapping structure that’s conveying these fluids from the basement,” he said.

“What we don’t have yet is the thickness you would expect to see from a major IOCG.”

Coda is hunting in what is elephant country for IOCG deposits with BHP’s celebrated Olympic Dam operation, its Oak Dam West deposit and OZ Minerals’ Carapateena mine all within a 100km radius.

It has four rigs rolling at Emmie Bluffs with further assay results pending.

Coda listed in October after being spun out of the former Gindalbie Metals, when it closed the book on its failed involvement in the Karara magnetite project in the State’s Mid West.

Gindalbie struck a farm-in agreement with Torrens Mining over Elizabeth Creek in March 2017, with Coda now holding a 70 per cent stake in the project as operator and a \$1.5m option to take its cut to 75 per cent.

The company is expected to release a maiden resource in November on its separate Zambian-style copper-cobalt mineralisation at Emmie Bluff, but the main game remains its deeper IOCG targets.

Significant shareholders include chairman Keith Jones, China’s Ansteel, Regal Funds Management and Sprott. Coda has \$21m in the bank and closed at \$1 yesterday for a market capitalisation of \$98m.