

Dunny sits on hidden riches for Rum Jungle

RESOURCES

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IT is a very humble bush dunny by any measure—a 44-gallon drum with a plastic seat on top and the traditional 15m drop below.

With only a bit of shade cloth for a degree of modesty, it is an unlikely company-changing piece of equipment. But this Northern Territory dunny holds plenty of promise for phos-

phate explorer Rum Jungle Resources.

"We wanted to put the toilet in a sterile area well north of the grid where we were drilling," explained chief executive David Muller from the company's Ammaroo phosphate find on the Sandover Highway, 350km north of Alice Springs.

So a drill rig was shifted from its day job to create the hole for the dunny and bingo, it hit a thick layer of yellow phosphate modules right where the geologists were not expecting to find them.

An X-ray fluorescence machine quickly confirmed a significant high grade phosphate find and David and his team started to rethink their \$9.5 million drilling strategy.

While 300 holes are in the process of being drilled in the grid pattern as planned to establish a phosphate resource, some exploration holes will now also skew towards the north to try to get a feel for the extent of the new and unexpected thick phosphate layer.

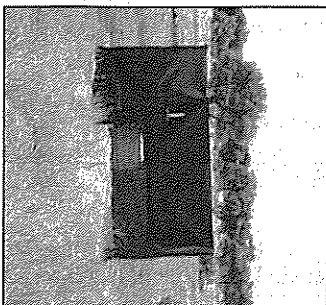
A 24km line to the west has been drawn up and a series of 200 wildcard exploration holes will be drilled along it in an attempt to repeat the success of the dunny drilling.

Though David admitted the dunny was a "historic hole", he said he was not sentimental—and it is still in daily use by male and female geologists and drillers.

With the presence of phosphate already established and with nitrogen and urea being added to the hole daily, David thought it could one day also produce some horticultural bounty. "We might stick in a mango tree when we finish and see how it goes," he said.

Early results from the Ammaroo drilling have shown phosphate layers between 3m and 5m thick and grading up to 31.9 per cent phosphate.

RJR shares closed down 2c at 48c yesterday, but have risen from a year low of 42c.



Pit luck: Rum Jungle's resourceful bush toilet.