

9<sup>th</sup> July 2009

ASX/Media Release

**COMPANY UPDATE: MAJORS CREEK DRILLING PROGRAM**

**RANGE OF NEW TARGETS TO BE TESTED AT MAJORS CREEK GOLDFIELD**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- ✦ **10,000m+ RC and diamond core drilling program ongoing**
- ✦ **Includes ~6,000m of regional exploration drilling**
- ✦ **Large new target identified at Tulloch**
- ✦ **Several new targets to be drill tested**

**Overview**

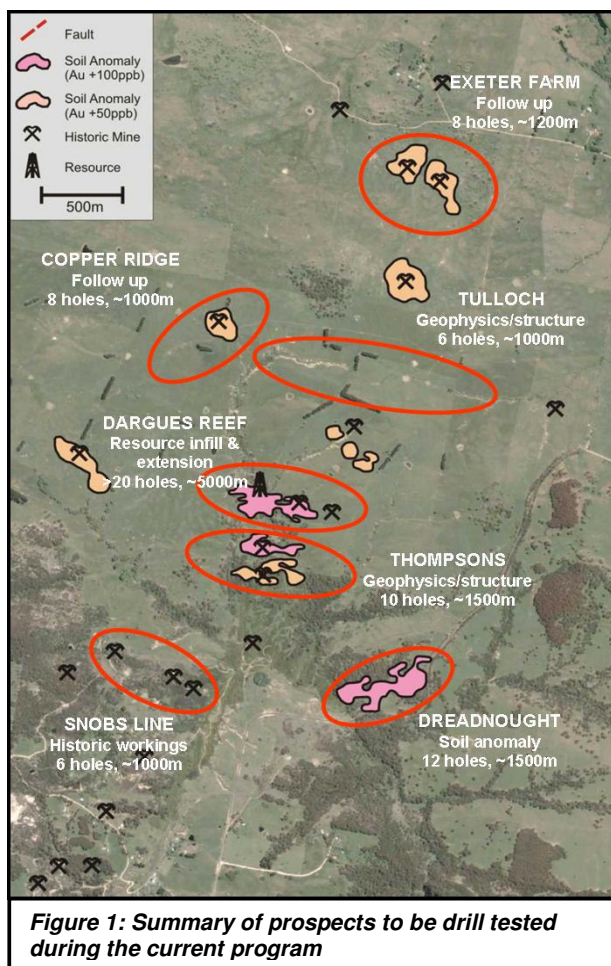
Australian gold company Cortona Resources Limited (ASX: **CRC** – “Cortona”) advises that **drilling** at the **Dargues Reef gold deposit** (1.44Mt @ 6.2g/t gold for 286,000oz), is ongoing in order to take the resource forward to feasibility, and drilling has commenced on a range of new targets ‘within the shadow of the head frame’ (Figure 1).

This fully funded and approved **10,000m+ drilling program** represents the first ever regional exploration campaign of this nature to be conducted at Majors Creek, the richest historic goldfield in NSW. It is anticipated that the following prospects will be drill tested over the coming weeks and months:

**Tulloch**

The Tulloch fault is located ~800m north of Dargues Reef and strikes sub parallel to the Dargues structure. Significantly the structure is coincident with a large IP dipole-dipole chargeability anomaly (Figure 2). There has been no prior drilling at the prospect, where Cortona has planned a series of 100m to 150m deep holes.

This newly identified prospect presents an opportunity for Cortona to assess an isolated IP target away from known mineralisation. Any success would have significant implications for future regional exploration programs.



**Figure 1: Summary of prospects to be drill tested during the current program**

## **Dreadnought**

Dreadnought is a high level gold-in-soils anomaly discovered by Cortona earlier this year (Figure 1). There has been no previous exploration or mining at the prospect, which lies under a thin layer of soil cover in an area of very sparse outcrop. The +100ppb gold-in-soils contour is equivalent in size and tenor to that around Dargues Reef, measuring greater than 500m in strike length and containing eight samples >500ppb gold. A first pass program comprising 1,500m of drilling has been designed with access clearances now in place.

## **Snobs Line**

Three historic underground gold mines, located ~1.5km southwest of Dargues Reef, are known as the Snob's line. Historical records document over 10,000oz of gold being recovered at grades ranging from 7.0g/t to 120.0g/t between 1870 and 1910. Historic reports indicate that all the mines were in Dargues style mineralisation when mining ended. This line of workings has never previously been drill tested and represents a very exciting opportunity for Cortona to add resource ounces to the Majors Creek gold inventory.

## **Exeter Farm**

Exeter Farm is a geochemical and geophysical prospect ~2km north of Dargues Reef. Cortona's first round of drilling intersected **19m @ 5.6g/t** gold from 47m down hole at the *Tory Boy* prospect. Broad zones of lower level gold were also encountered at *Archer*. The nature of mineralisation is very similar to that observed at Dargues Reef. Cortona plans to drill along strike and beneath these earlier successes.

## **Copper Ridge**

Wide-spaced drilling at Copper Ridge last year intersected broad zones of pyrite mineralisation with anomalous gold values that did not explain the high gold values in rock chips and a number of high soils values. Further advances in understanding the controls on mineralisation at Dargues have enabled Cortona to focus the drilling on structural intersections at the northern end of the prospect.

## **Summary**

The Company is now entering an exciting stage of exploration drilling at Majors Creek. A significant amount of drilling to date at Dargues Reef has defined a 6.2g/t gold resource that the Company believes will underpin a future gold mining business in the area. The resource is being assessed for its mining potential.

The prospects being drilled represent a range of target types, including geophysical and geochemical anomalies, previous targets requiring follow up drilling, and first pass drilling around historical workings. The program will also be the first test of a target generated from the IP survey which was recently reprocessed by Cortona.

Given the inert nature of the country rock, and the significant amount of sulphide observed at Dargues Reef, newly identified targets such as that at Tulloch represent stand-out opportunities to test the validity of IP as an exploration tool. Any success would have significant positive implications for the Company's future exploration across the region.

Cortona is in discussions with its assay labs in order to expedite results, and hopes to be able to provide a steady news flow updating the Market of its progress.

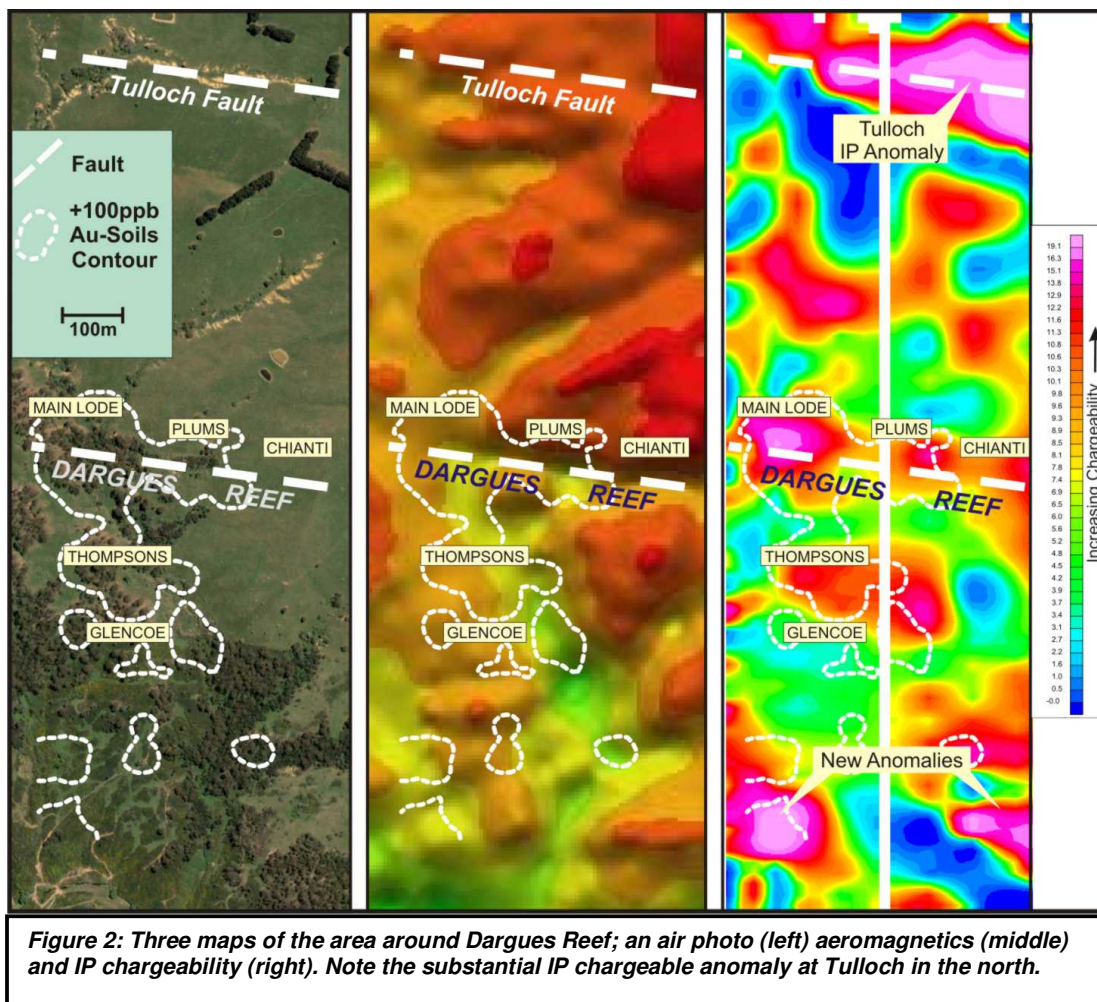
"The Company is entering a very exciting new discovery phase, with a substantial commitment to drilling across a range of targets as well as in-fill and resource extension drilling to continue to progress our flagship gold resource asset at Dargues Reef," commented Cortona's Managing Director, Peter van der Borgh.

"A new discovery at one of these exciting targets has the potential to deliver a quantum increase in value for the Company, while further additions to the Dargues Reef resource will ensure that this quality asset continues to progress towards mining and development," he added.

Yours faithfully

**Peter van der Borgh**  
**Managing Director**

For personal use only



**Figure 2: Three maps of the area around Dargues Reef; an air photo (left) aeromagnetics (middle) and IP chargeability (right). Note the substantial IP chargeable anomaly at Tulloch in the north.**

For further information please contact:

**Peter van der Borgh (Managing Director) on +618 6380 1093**

**Nicholas Read (Read Corporate) on +618 9388 1474**

[admin@cortonaresources.com.au](mailto:admin@cortonaresources.com.au)

**-ENDS-**

**ABOUT CORTONA RESOURCES**

*Cortona is an emerging Australian gold company focused on the exploration and development of the Dargues Reef Gold deposit, part of its 100%-owned Majors Creek Project, located 60km east of Canberra in New South Wales.*

*Majors Creek was the largest historical alluvial goldfield in NSW, with historical production of 1.25 million ounces. The Dargues Reef underground mine was operated between 1870-91 and 1914-16 by numerous shafts to a maximum depth of 70 metres with initial mining of oxidised ore by open cut methods to depths of up to 10m.*

*Cortona is an energetic explorer, with aggressive exploration programs underway targeting an increase in the Indicated and Inferred Resource at Dargues Reef of 1.44Mt @ 6.2g/t for 286,000oz to underpin a long-term gold business.*

*The Company has a portfolio of gold and nickel projects in Western Australia and NSW.*

**Competent Persons:** Information in this report relating to Mineral Resources has been completed by Mr Aaron Green of Runge Ltd., who is a member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Green has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a 'competent person' under the 2004 Edition of the Australasian Code for reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (the JORC Code). Mr Green consents to the inclusion of the data in the form and context in which it appears. The contents of this report that relate to geology and historical exploration are based on information compiled by Mr Peter van der Borgh, who is a Professional Geologist and Fellow of the Geological Society. He has sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and types of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a 'Competent Person' as defined in the 2004 Edition of the JORC Code. Mr van der Borgh consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters compiled by him in the form and context in which they appear.

---

For personal use only