#### Mines and Wines 2015

# The Anatomy of the Mallee Bull

# Recent exploration and research, and a great new discovery

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# Introduction

**Mines & Wines 2013:** Mallee Bull discovery, mineralisation and exploration

**Since then:** maiden resource estimate and resource model, new geophysics, additional drilling and a new discovery, on-going research into deposit and its regional relationships

Today:

- 1. brief outline of Mallee Bull
- 2. NEW: resource estimate and recent exploration
- 3. NEW: on-going research

# Mallee Bull

Stratabound, "Cobar-style" polymetallic deposit

Cu-Zn-Pb-Ag-Au with significant Co, Sb, Bi and Sn

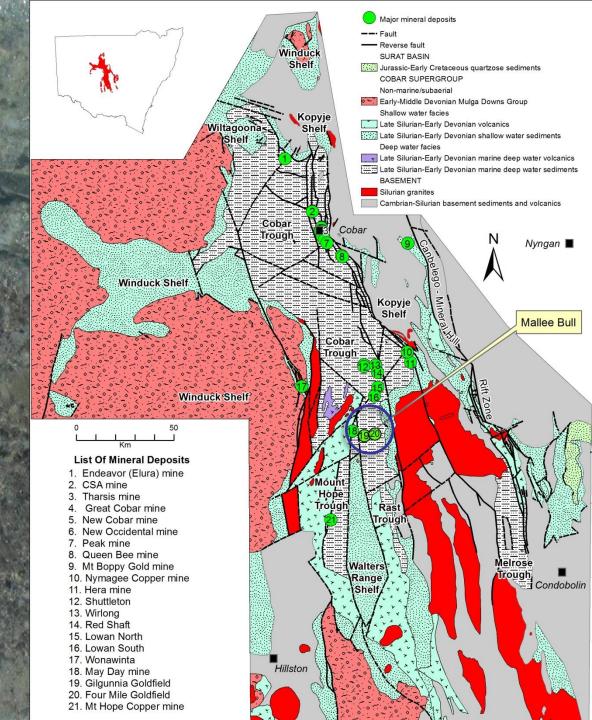
Lithological control dominant, but situated in a significant structural setting of regional-scale faults and folding

# Mallee Bull Location

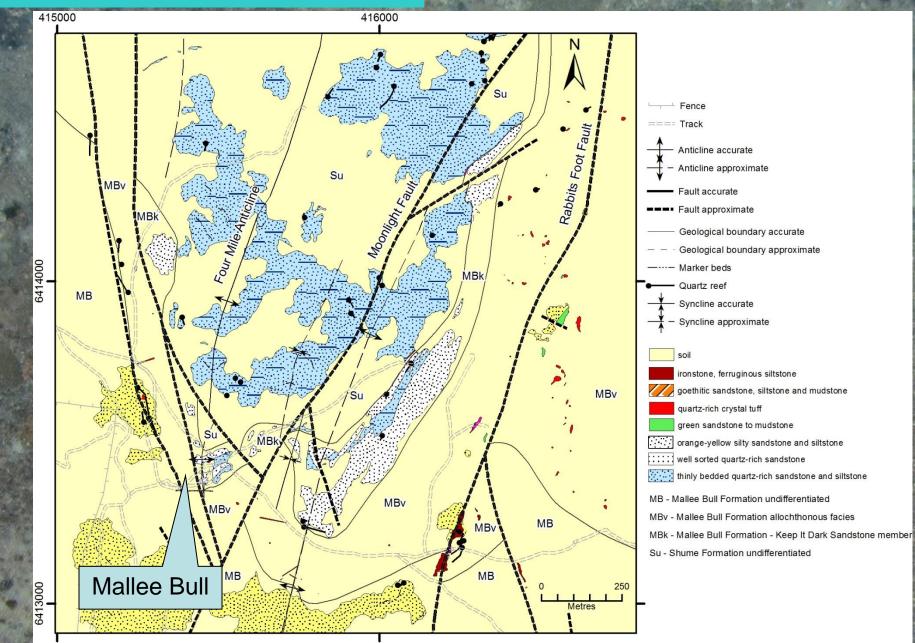


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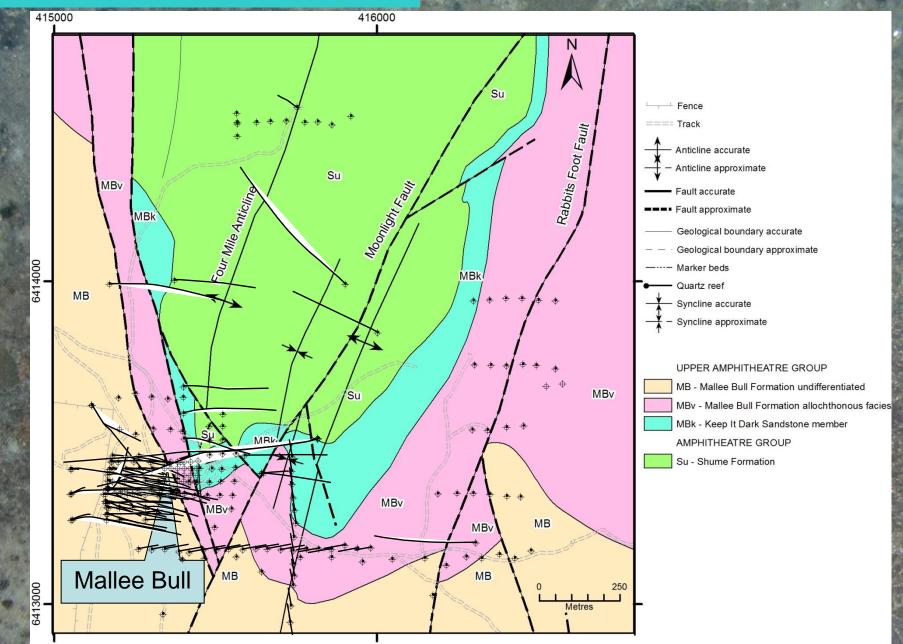
# **Cobar Basin**



# Mallee Bull Deposit

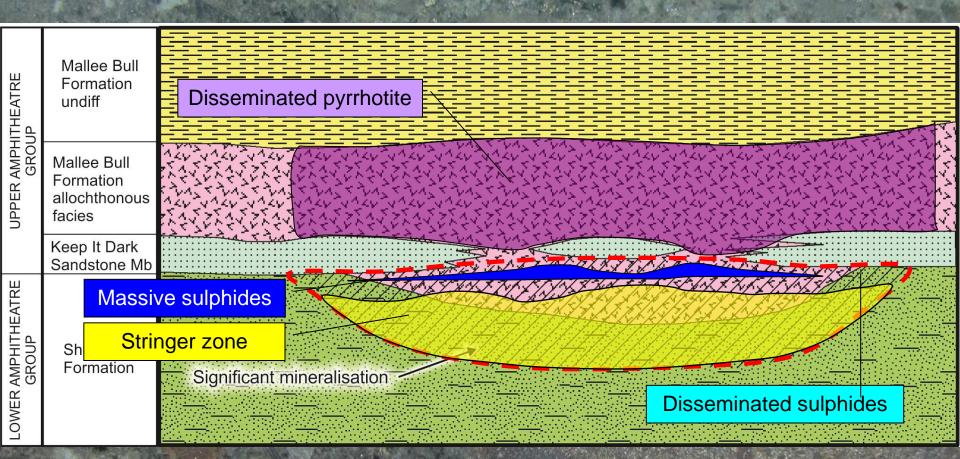


# Mallee Bull Deposit

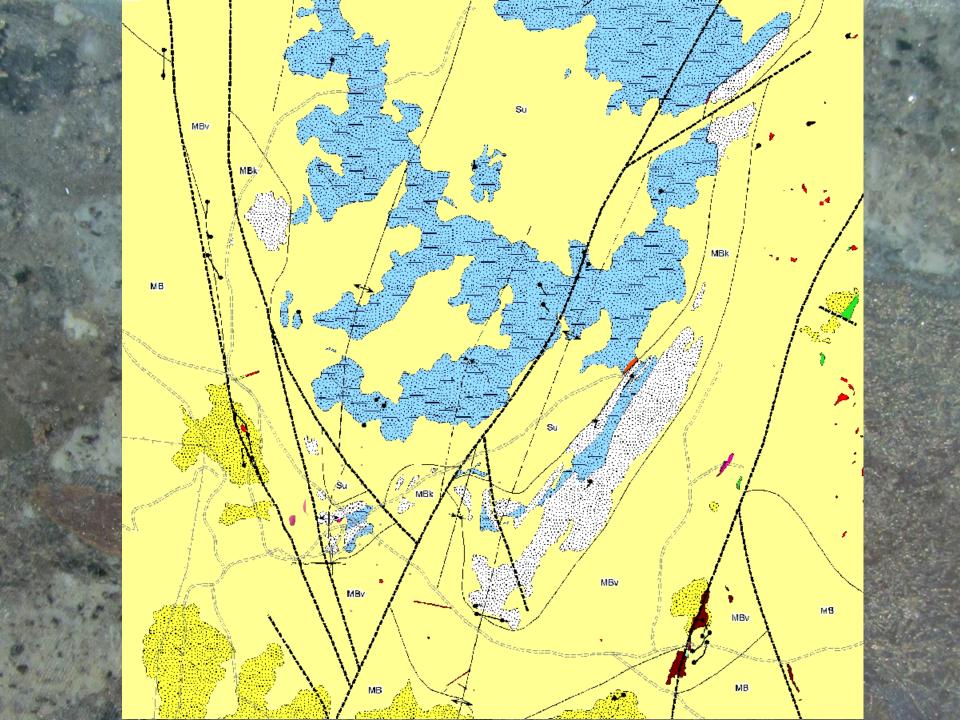


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# Mallee Bull Deposit – Local Stratigraphy



#### **Idealised section looking east-west**



#### Viewed north

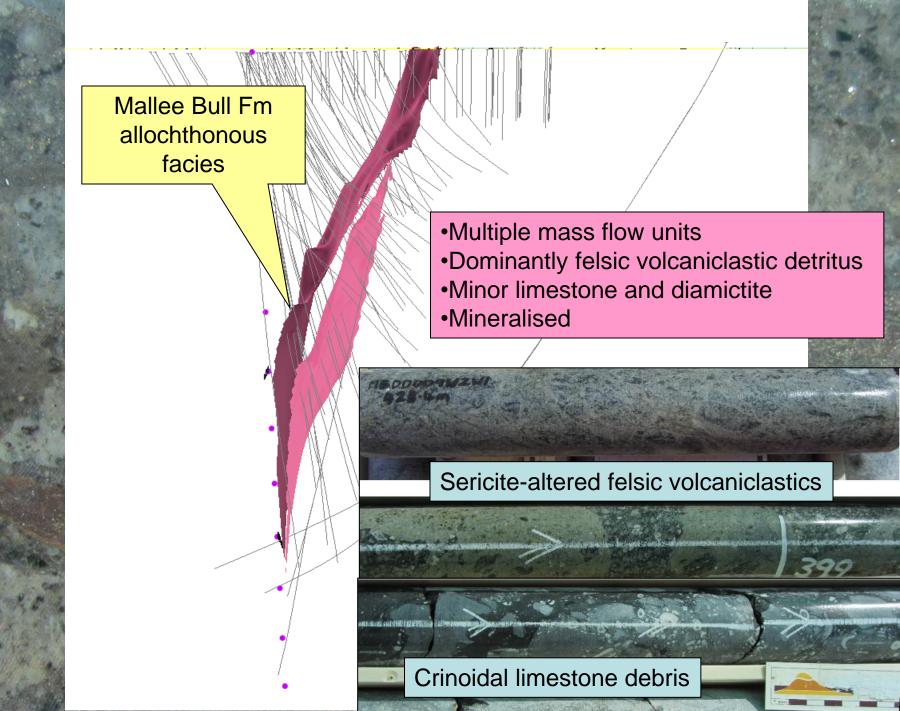
Upper Amphitheatre Gp Mallee Bull Fm

Mainly thinly
bedded turbidites
Unmineralised

#### **Shume Formation**

•Coarse, graded quartz sandstones to laminated mudstones

•Mineralised at base of Mallee Bull



Keep It Dark Sandstone member

.

1212



-

Massive quartz sandstoneLocal thin laminated sectionsMarks top of major mineralisation

2

T#3

+ARCOD 00 23

# Mallee Bull Deposit – Host Rock Petrography

Clastic sedimentary rocks include quartz (-lithic) sandstone and siltstone, mudstone, and felsic (dacitic) volcaniclastics (crystal-vitric tuff, epiclastics).

Penetrative deformation, 1-2 foliations, syn-tectonic veining and hydrothermal breccia. Metamorphosed to biotite grade.

Alteration contemporaneous with deformation and metamorphism.

Two major types of alteration: chloritisation – mainly affecting clastic sedimentary rocks, and sericitisation – affecting clastic sedimentary and volcaniclastic rocks. Local intense silicification.

Alteration minerals: Fe-rich and Mg chlorite, quartz, sericite, minor pyrrhotite, carbonate, albite, stilpnomelane, biotite, magnetite.

Inferred hydrothermal mobility of silica (Mg, Ca, Na, K) and addition of S, Fe, base metals, As, Sb, Ag and  $CO_2$ .

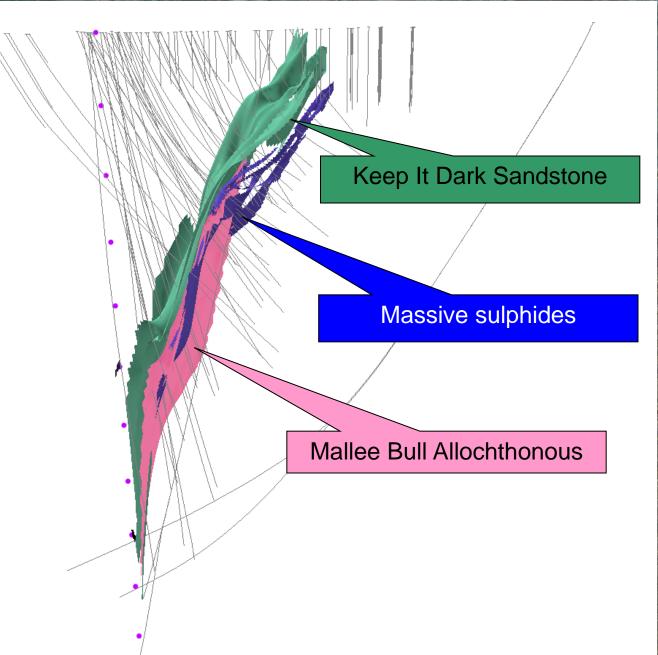
Sulphides occur in massive to disseminated form, in stringer veins and hydrothermal breccia infillings.

Structural control evident, with alignment of sulphides on foliation and syn-tectonic vein and breccia infillings.

Textures include replacement of host rocks, infill, and syntectonic recrystallisation and localised mobility of ductile sulphides.

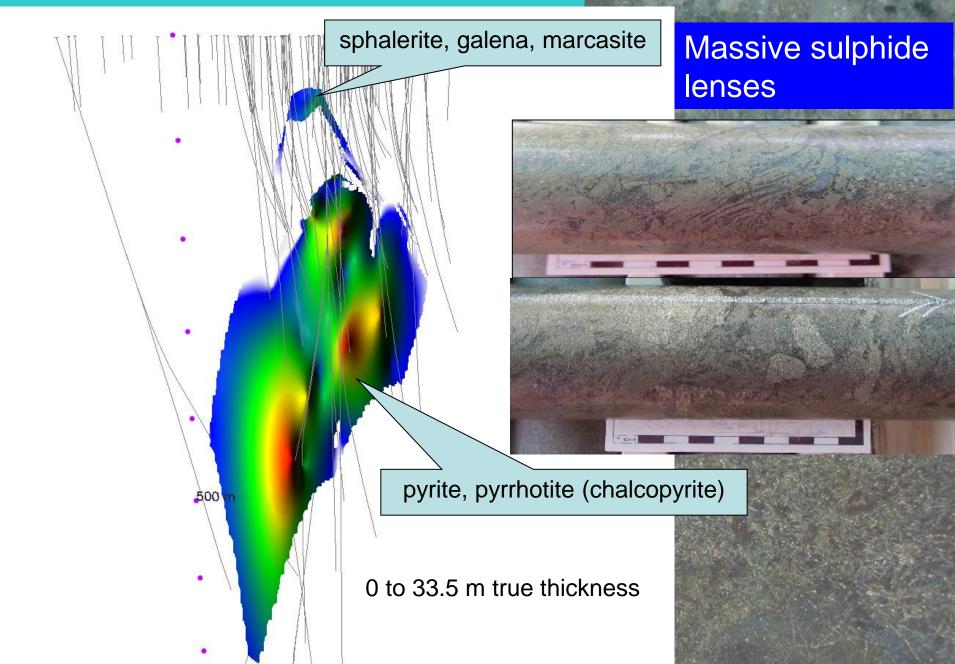
No evidence for syngenetic or diagenetic base metal sulphides.

#### Massive and semi-massive sulphide lenses

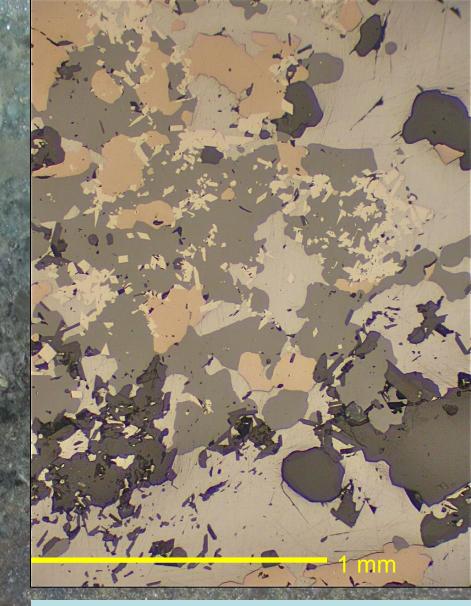


## Massive and semi-massive sulphide lenses





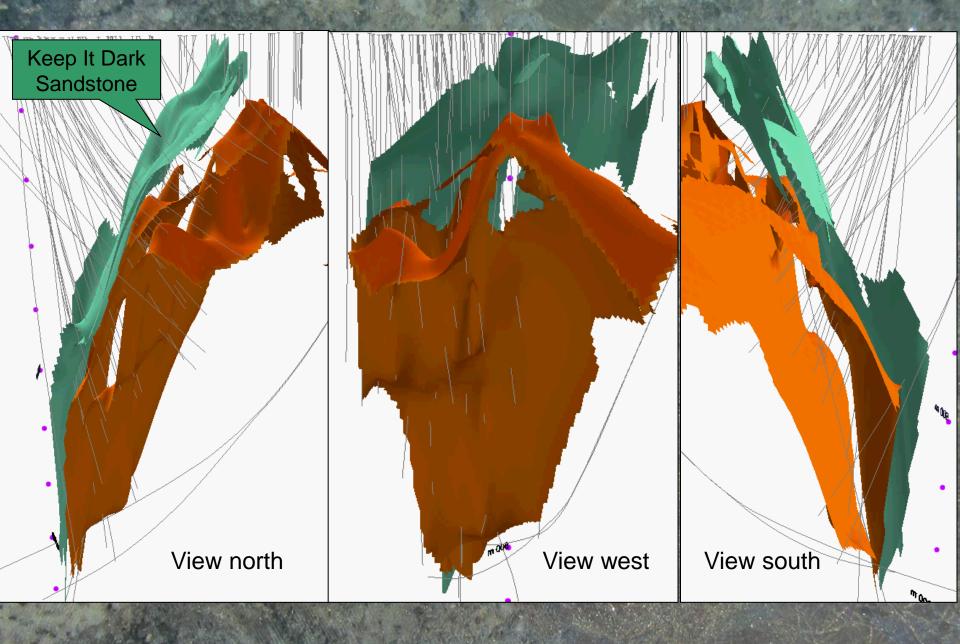
Massive sulphides: sphalerite, pyrrhotite and galena, locally abundant pyrite, chalcopyrite, arsenopyrite, traces of boulangerite, tetrahedrite, bismuth, bismuthinite.



Massive recrystallised sulphides with abundant galena, sphalerite and pyrrhotite, and minor arsenopyrite

## Stringer zone mineralisation

## Stringer zone



# Viewed east

THOLE

WBDD00

500

R00 m

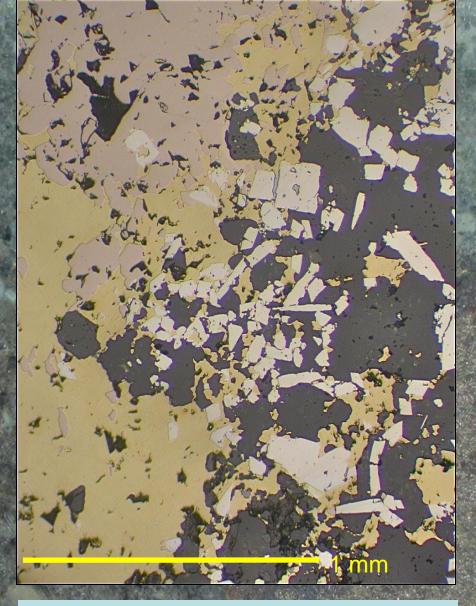
#### Stringer zone

TRAY 41

Stringer and breccia-hosted sulphides: pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite and locally common sphalerite, galena, pyrite, arsenopyrite, traces of boulangerite, 2 forms of cassiterite, bismuth, bismuthinite, magnetite, rare gold.

stringer veins locally remobilised

0 to 145 m true width, but strongly mineralised intervals less than that



Stringer zone sulphides with abundant chalcopyrite and pyrrhotite, and disseminated arsenopyrite, minor pyrite

#### **Disseminated**

- strongest from base of Keep It Dark Sandstone within allochthonous rocks
- clast-replacement and intergranular textures common
- sphalerite, pyrrhotite and galena, locally abundant pyrite, chalcopyrite, arsenopyrite, traces of boulangerite, tetrahedrite, bismuth, bismuthinite.

Backdrop image shows mass flow gravel with intergrapular and clast-

Backdrop image shows mass flow gravel with intergranular and clastreplacement sulphides. Field of view ~6cm

## Mallee Bull Deposit – Recent Exploration

2013 – 2014 additional 15.5 km diamond and RAB drilling intercepted strong Cu mineralisation at depth and extended mineralised zone to >800 m below surface

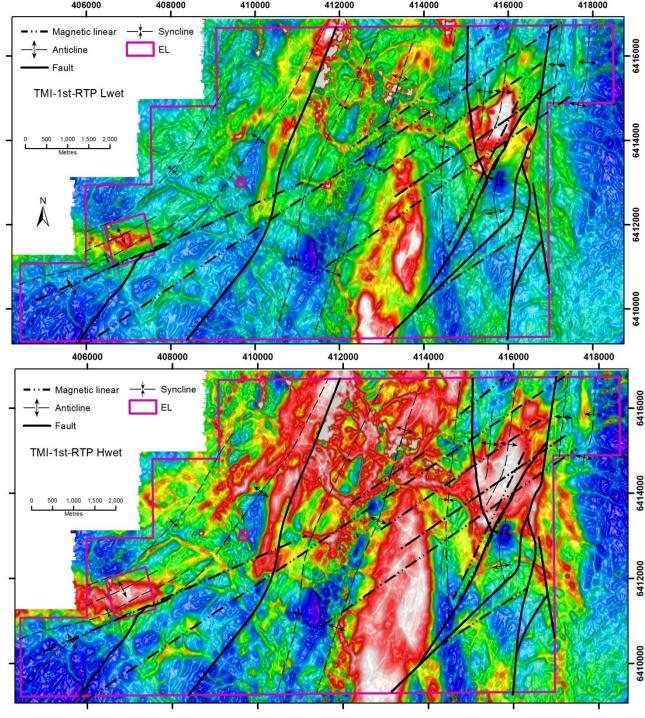
#### High resolution aeromagnetic survey – 50 m line spacing

#### Orion 3D DC-IP-MT survey

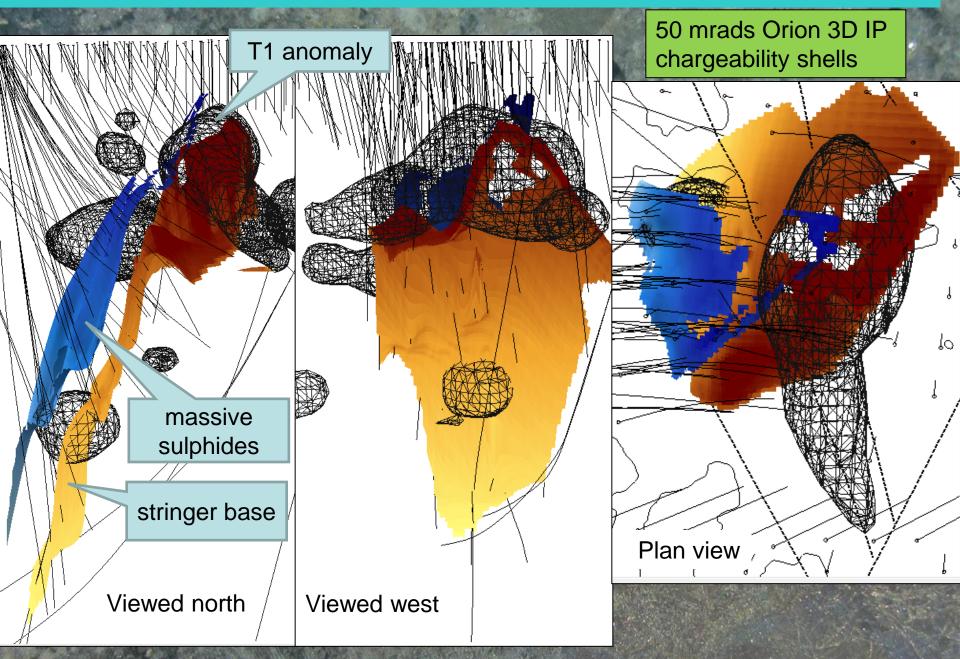
DC (direct current), IP (induced polarisation) and MT (magnetotellurics) data acquired in multiple directions

# Mallee Bull Deposit – Recent Exploration



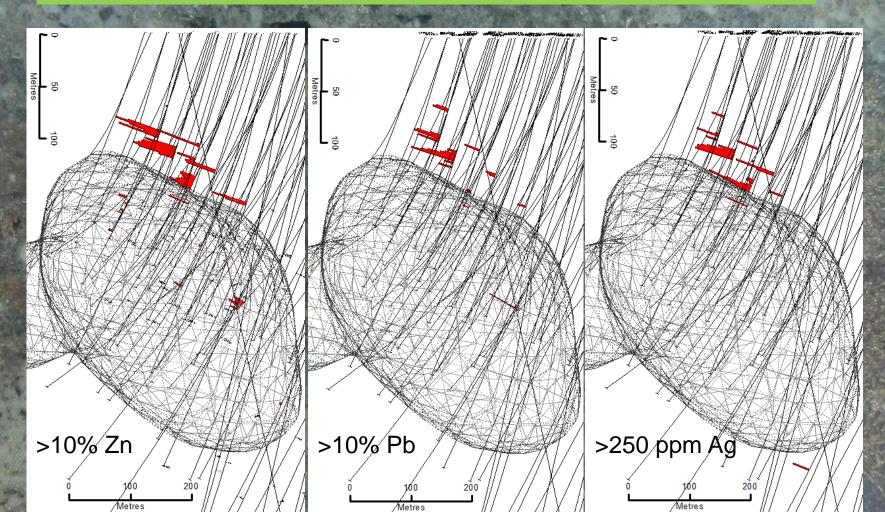


# Mallee Bull Deposit – Recent Exploration – T1 Anomaly



# Mallee Bull Deposit – Recent Exploration – T1 Anomaly

A 45 hole RC drilling program identified significant Zn-Pb-Ag-Au in massive sulphide, disseminated and stringer zones within the T1 anomaly



# Mallee Bull Deposit – Recent Exploration – T1 Anomaly

Hole No	From (m)	Width (m)	Zn	Pb	Ag (g/t)	Au (g/t)
MBRC018	106	10	15.8%	7.6%	322	1.28
MBRC021	95	6	10.3%	4.98%	159	0.76
MBRC024	83	12	20.30%	14.81%	308	1.59
		Including 7	31.44%	19.37%	440	2.53
MBRC028	71	7	21.39%	12.74%	203	0.58
		Including 5	29.54%	17.52%	280	0.80

# Mallee Bull Deposit – Resource Modelling

A program of resource evaluation commenced in early 2014, involving validation of all drilling data, and producing mineralisation models from assay and empirical data

The resource model excluded Pb and Zn, focusing on Cu-Ag-Au

The model identified 3 high grade resource zones:

# Mallee Bull Deposit – Resource Domains

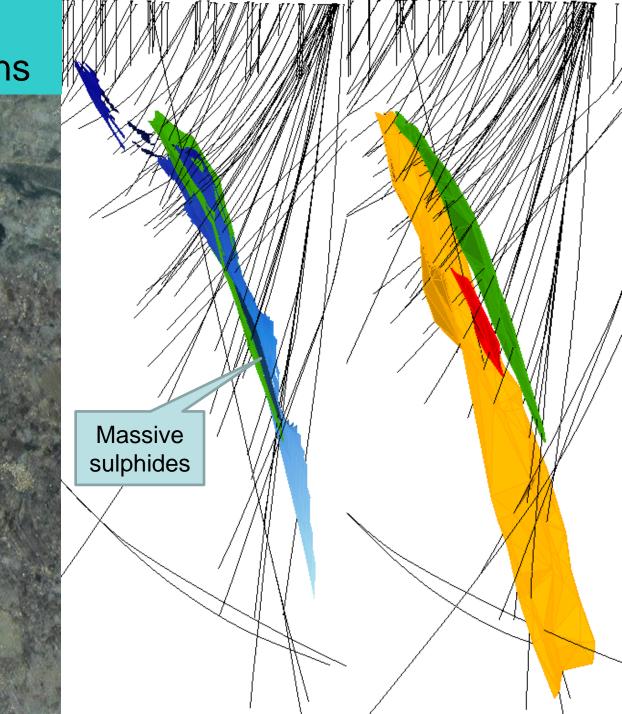


Maiden resource estimate released May 2014

1% Cu equivalent cutoff (Cu+Ag+Au) 620 Kt indicated <u>3300 Kt inferred</u> 3920 Kt total

Details in Abstract volume

# Mallee Bull Deposit – Resource Domains



## Mallee Bull Deposit – Resource Modelling

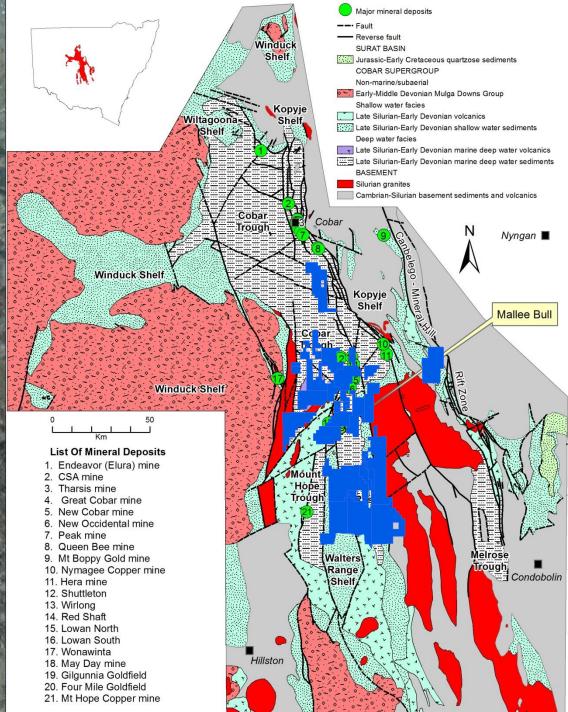
Scoping study initiated after resource estimate

Scoping study demonstrated the need to increase resource size to make Mallee Bull viable

Subsequent focus on locating extensions to Mallee Bull and discovering new, local deposits to increase overall resource

# Peel's Holdings ELs and ELAs





# Mallee Bull Deposit – Regional Analogies

#### Significant Mallee Bull characteristics provide model:

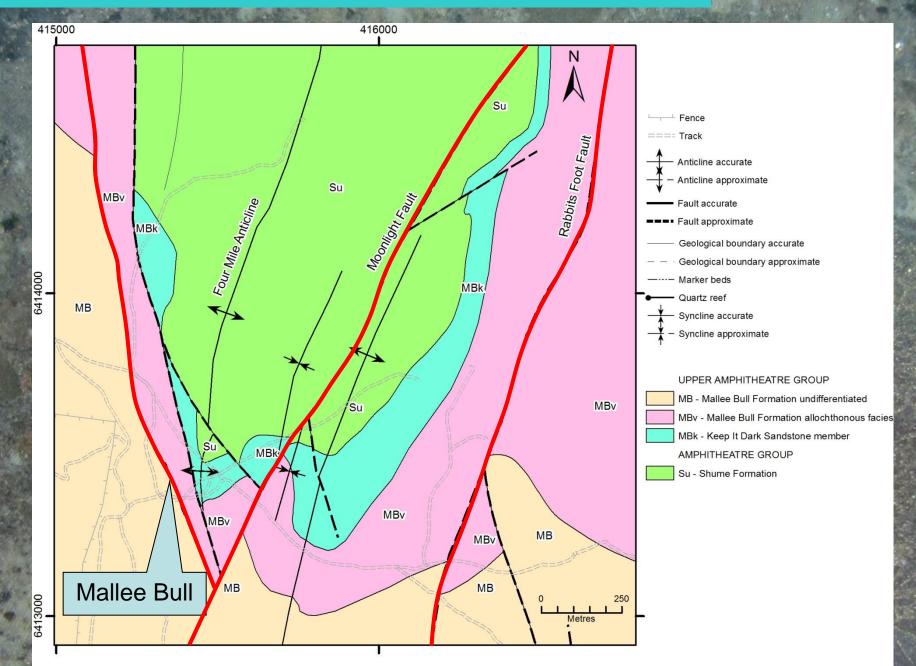
Very close to intimate spatial association with sandy or gravelly, allochthonous volcaniclastics – an aquifer for mineralising fluids

Close spatial association with a regional-scale fault - hundreds of metres distant – a fluid conduit

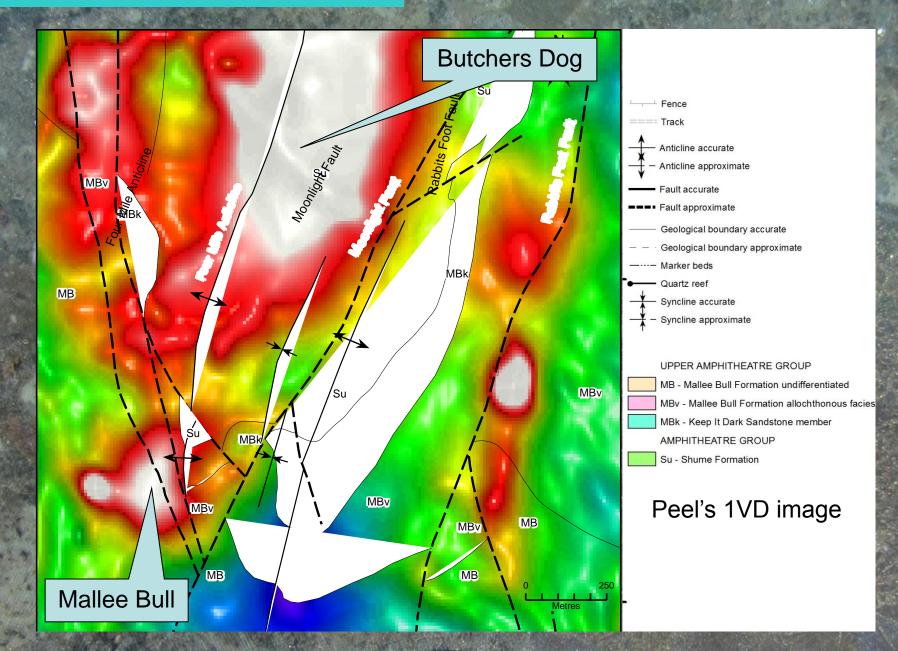
A structural or lithological trap to focus mineralisation – essential to prevent diffusion throughout aquifer strata

An anticline to provide a pressure gradient leading to a trap site

# Mallee Bull Deposit – Regional Analogies



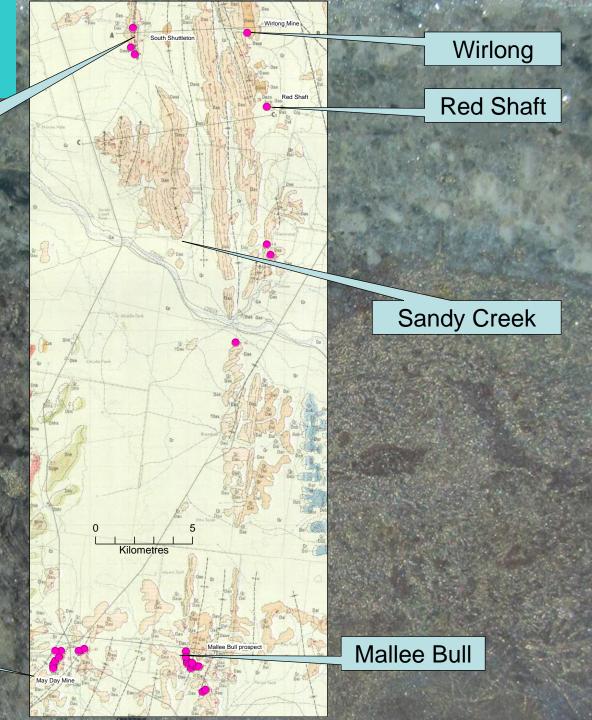
# Mallee Bull Deposit



# Mallee Bull Deposit Regional Analogies

Shuttleton

Mayday



# Mallee Bull Deposit – Regional Analogies

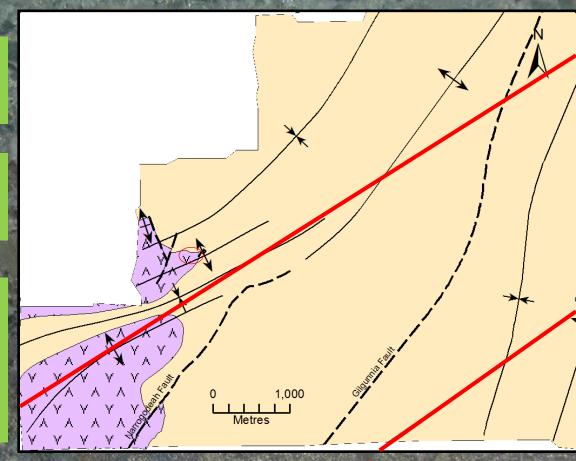
Mayday mine

# Identical stratigraphic position to Mallee Bull

Hosted by coarse, pebbly volcaniclastics

Adjacent to regionalscale structural corridor and a regional change in fold plunge direction

On anticlinal flank



# Mallee Bull Deposit – Regional Analogies

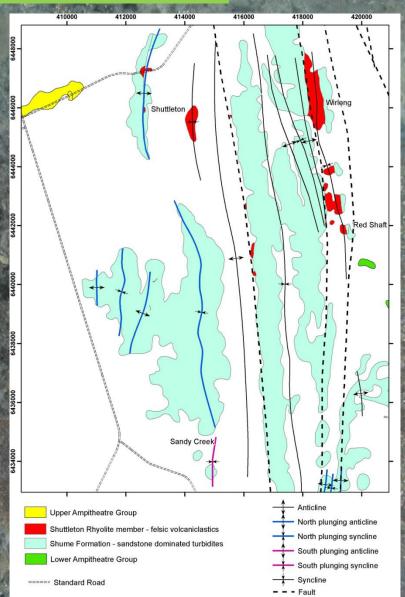
Wirlong-Red Shaft-Shuttleton-Sandy Creek

Most in identical stratigraphic position to Mallee Bull. Sandy Creek beneath Shume Fm

Hosted by coarse volcaniclastics and adjacent turbidites

Adjacent to regional-scale or major local faults

# Sandy Creek at site of change in regional-scale fold plunge



## Mallee Bull Deposit – Recent Research - Geochemistry

Enrichment in mineralisation: Cu, Pb, Zn, Ag, As, Au, Bi, Sb, Sn and Co

Element distribution reflects subtle and variable zonation, with overall vertical Pb-Zn-Ag rich top and Cu-rich at depth

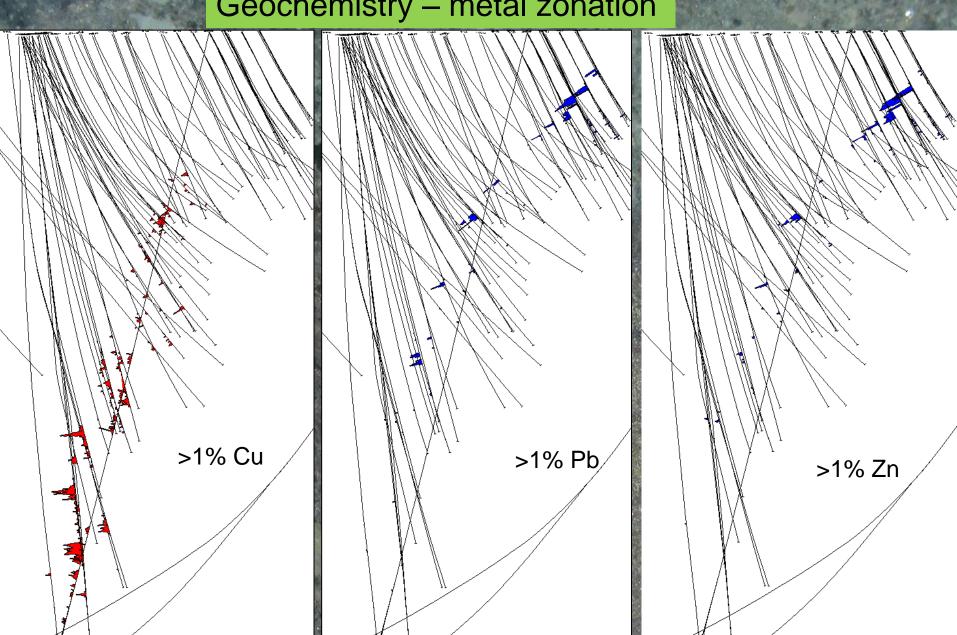
Strong +ve correlations between Cu-Ag, Bi-Co, Bi-Cu, Sb-Ag, Co-Au and Zn-Pb

Poor correlations between Cu-Pb, Cu-Zn. Au and As correlate poorly with all other metals

Strong enrichment of Fe and S, variable depletion of Na, K, Ba, Ca, Sr, Mg

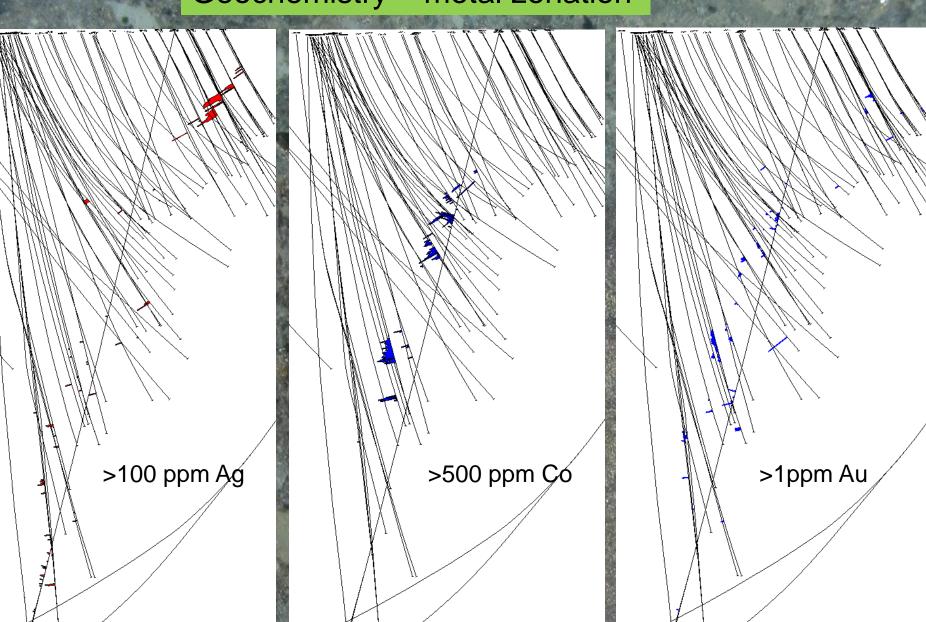
# Mallee Bull Deposit – Recent Research

Geochemistry – metal zonation



# Mallee Bull Deposit – Recent Research

Geochemistry – metal zonation



## Mallee Bull Deposit – Recent Research - Sedimentology

Mass flows mark break between post-rift, low energy Upper Amphitheatre Group and syn-rift, high energy Shume Formation turbidites.

Widespread mass flows in the southern basin are believed to have formed from a significant seismic event which modified basin geometry and ended Shume deposition.

Similar volcaniclastic-rich strata associated with turbidites at Wirlong, Red Shaft, Shuttleton and Mayday are also interpreted to be mass flows associated with this same event. Not submarine volcanic centres, so VMS deposits unlikely.

# Mallee Bull Deposit – Origin

Hand specimen and petrographic evidence demonstrates syntectonic emplacement of mineralisation with minor local remobilisation. Mineralisation emplaced during basin inversion with local metamorphic conditions attaining biotite grade.

S-isotope data (NSWGS) indicate basinal origin for fluids. Pb-isotope data (NSWGS) indicate a basement origin for Pb which is interpreted as reworked basement detritus within the basin.

Major, regional-scale faults transported mineralised basinal fluids which were intercepted by high porosity, permeable sandy and gravelly strata (allochthonous units)

Concentration beneath impermeable cap rock on flank of developing anticline (pressure gradient in aquifer)

# Mallee Bull Deposit – Origin

Mechanism for forcing precipitation of mineralisation yet to be examined as part of ongoing research



Watch this space...