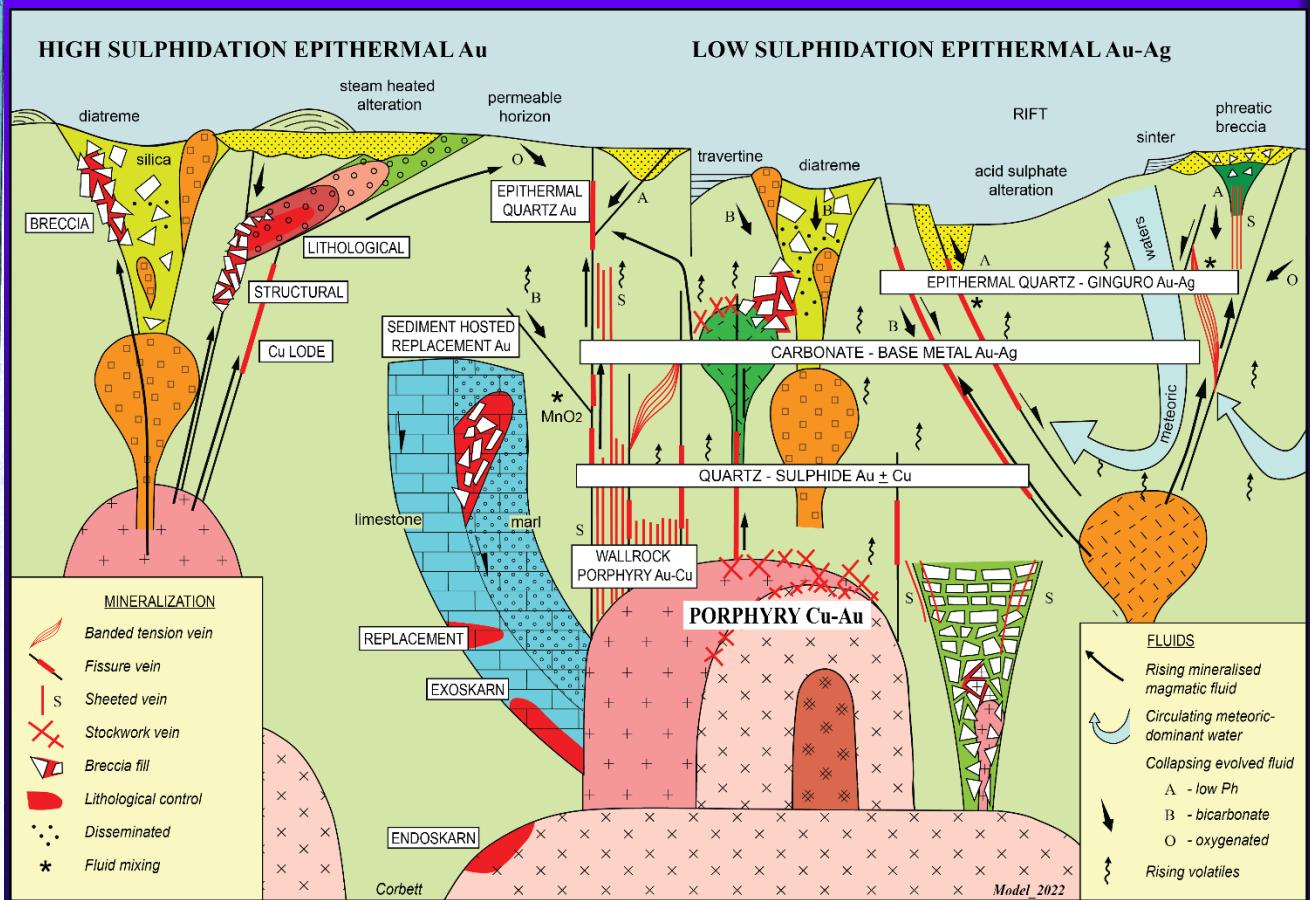
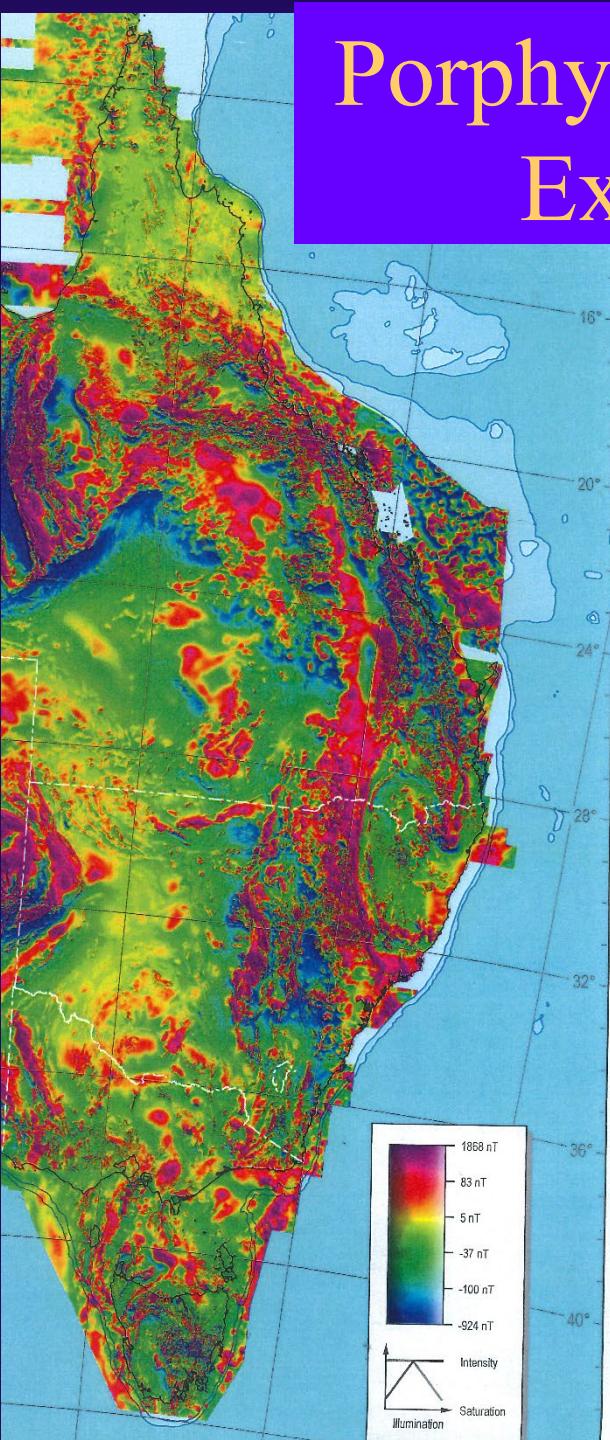


# Porphyry Cu-Au and Epithermal Au-Ag Exploration in the Tasmanides

Greg Corbett

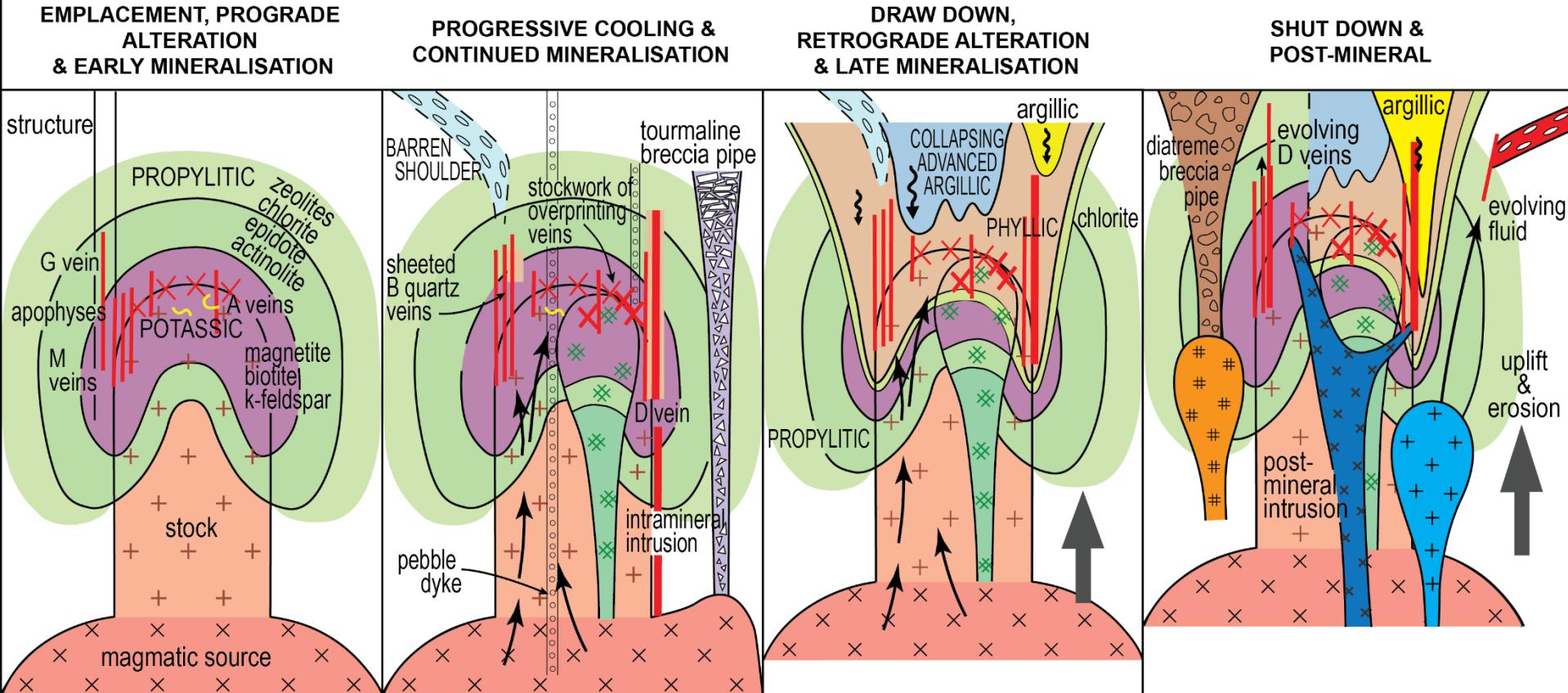
Mines and Wines 2022  
[www.corbettgeology.com](http://www.corbettgeology.com)



# STAGED PORPHYRY Cu-Au EVOLUTION

EARLY

LATE



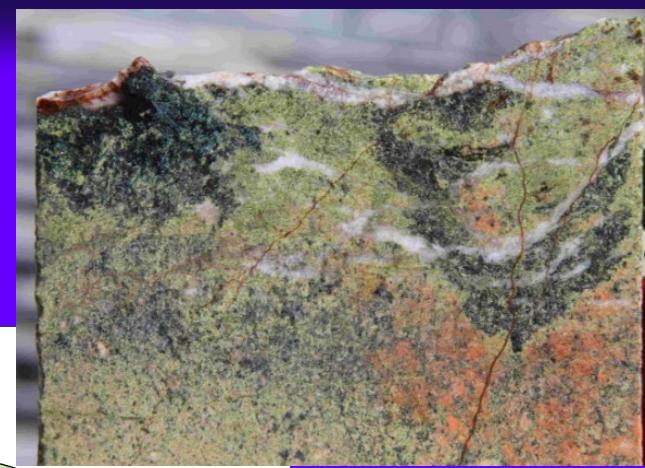
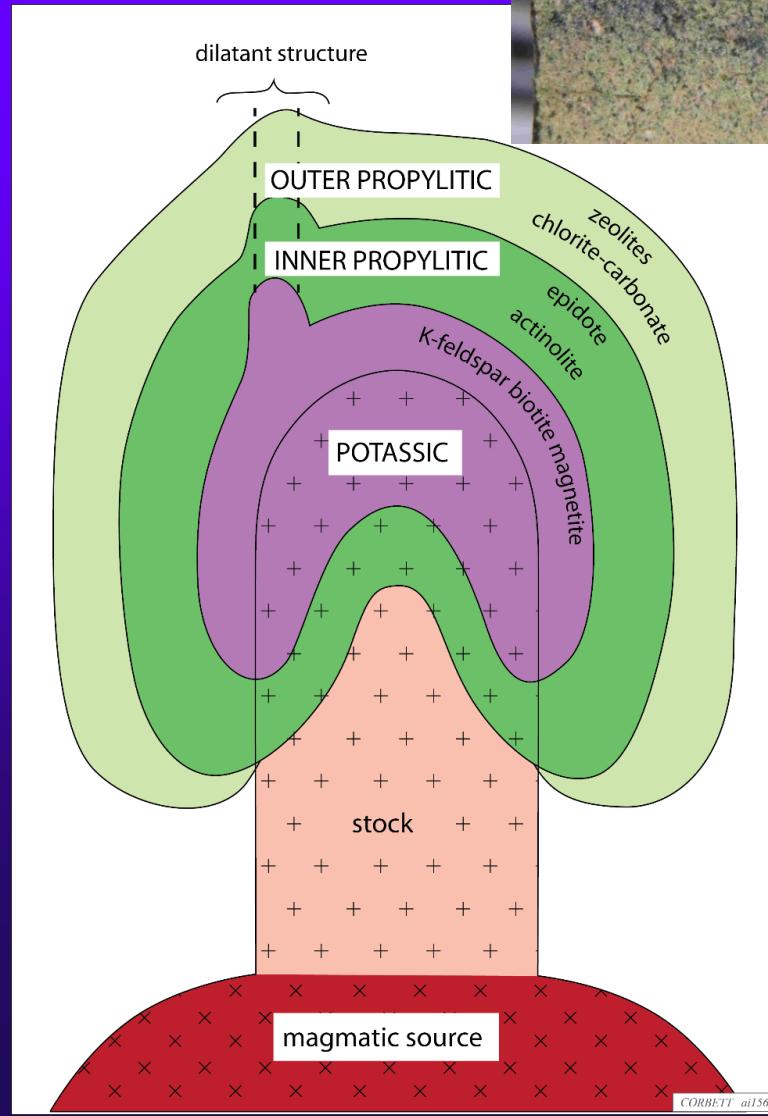
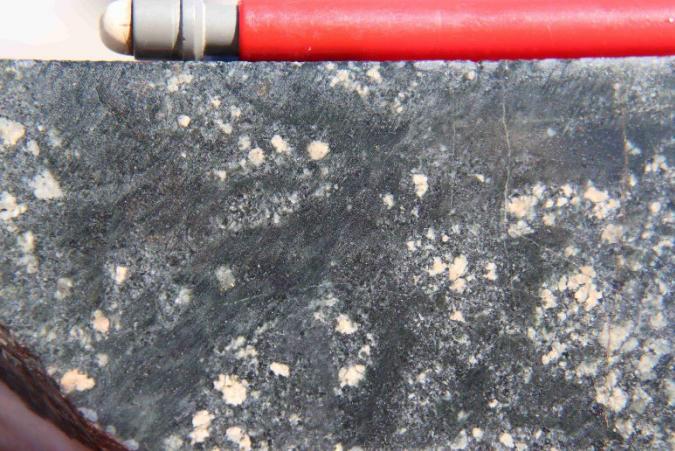
Zoned potassic to inner & outer propylitic alteration by heat transfer.  
Initiation of prograde A, M & G veins.  
Early mineralisation.

Exsolution of volatiles to form barren shoulders.  
Tourmaline breccia pipes.  
Metals from the magma source as B C & D veins  
Pebble dykes.  
Initiation of phyllitic alteration.

Draw down of low pH waters onto cooling apophysis & phyllitic-argillic alteration.  
Degassing of magma source at depth & late mineralisation.  
Collapsing advanced argillic contributes to lithocaps.

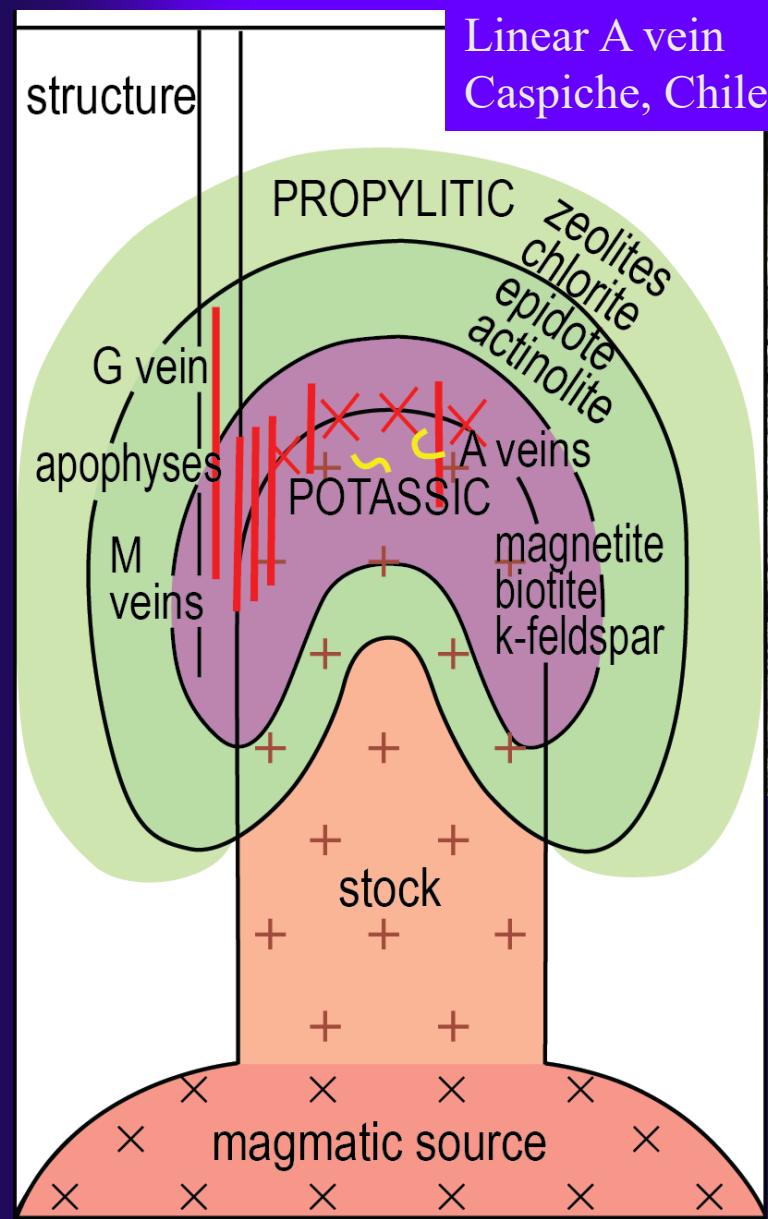
Uplift & erosion.  
Continued collapse of low pH and meteoric waters  
Evolution of alteration & mineralisation.  
Post-mineral intrusions & brecias stop out ore.  
Epithermal overprint.

# Actinolite

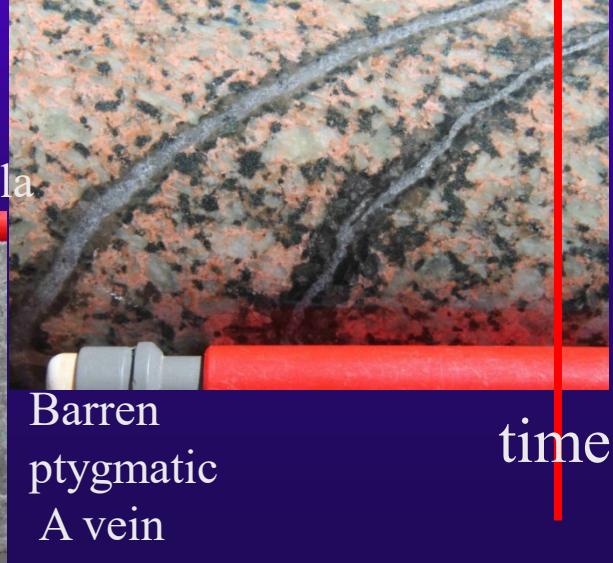


Ridgeway

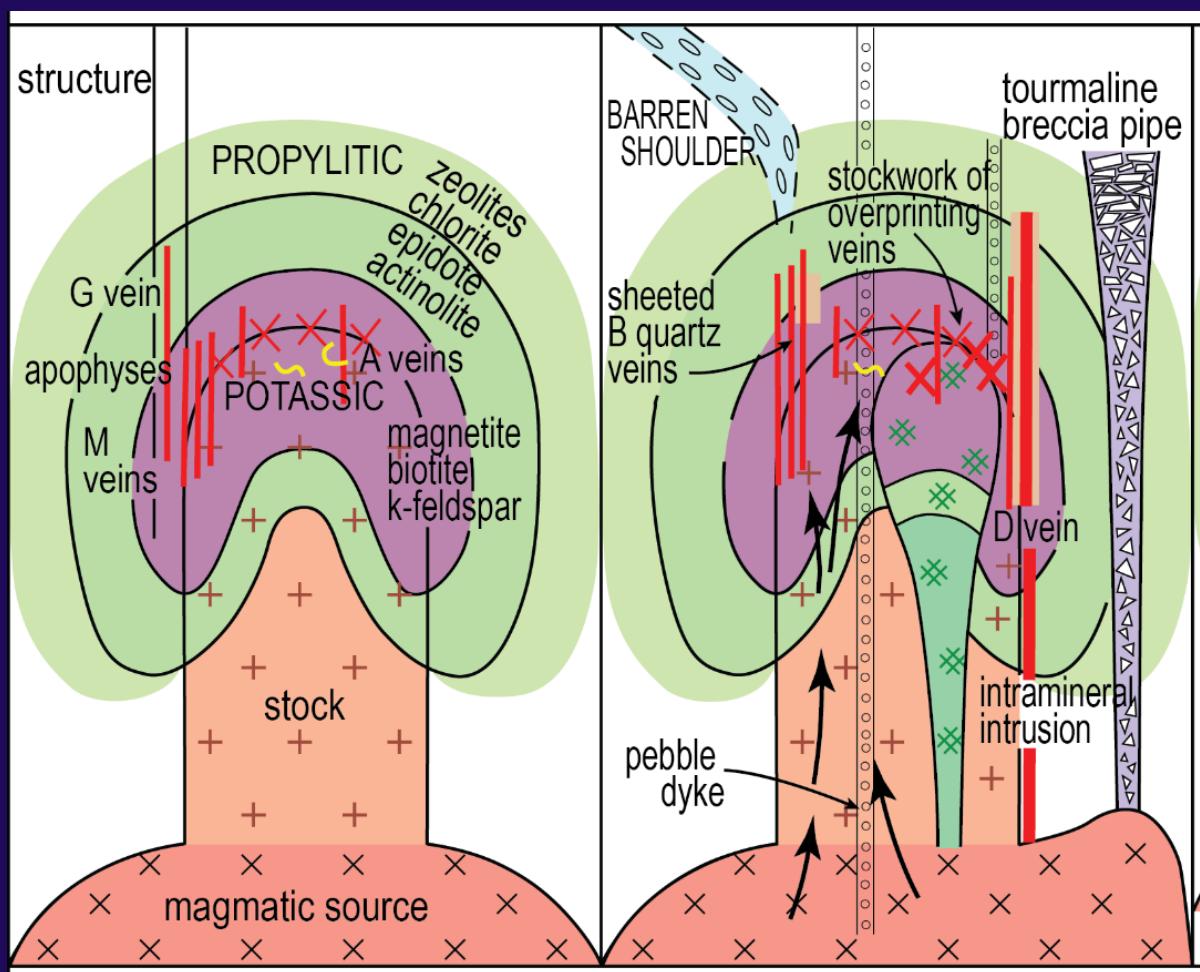
# Early quartz-sulphide veins



Linear A vein, Goonumbla



# M veins

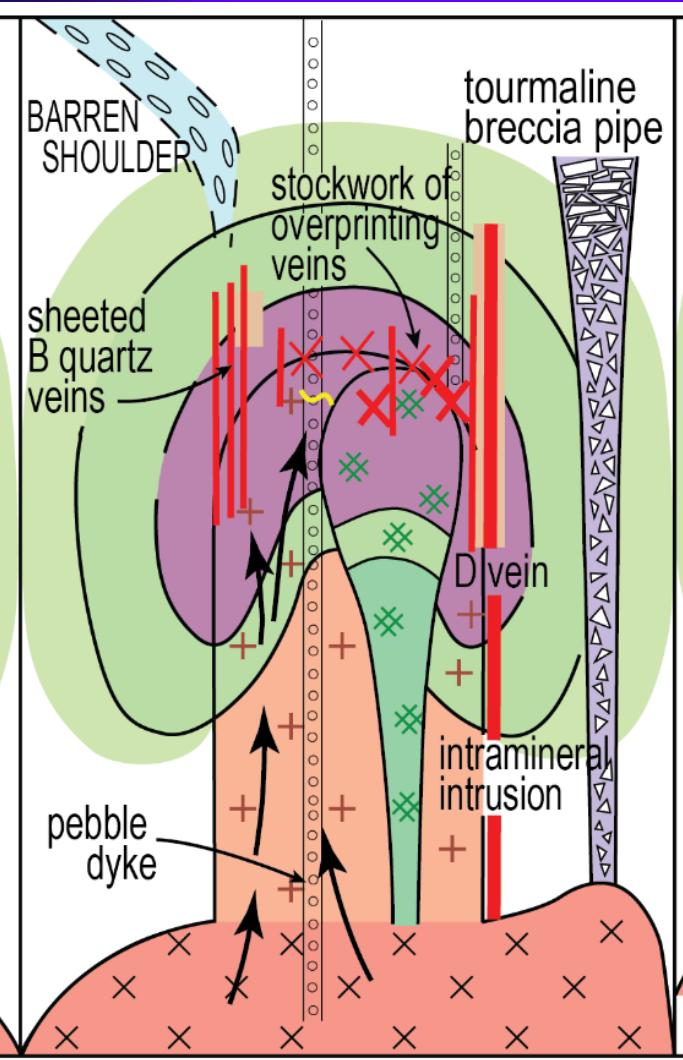


Barren M vein  
Wonogiri, Indonesia



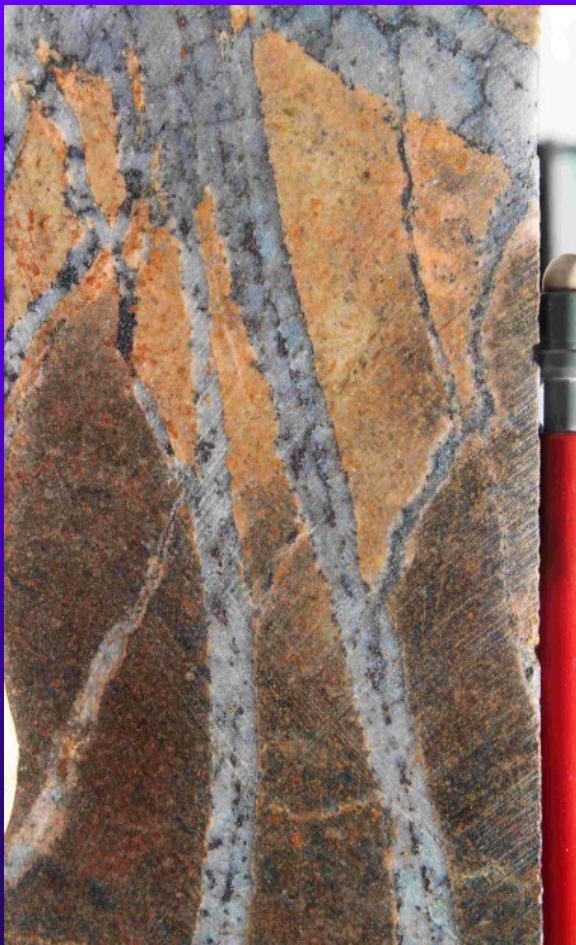
M vein  
Copper Hill

# B and C veins

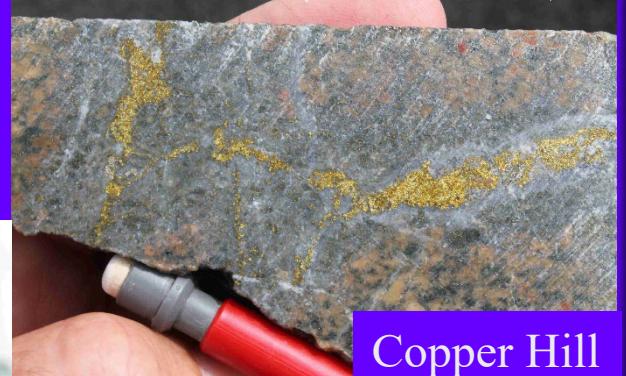


A M B time C D vein →

B veins  
Goonumbla



time C D vein →



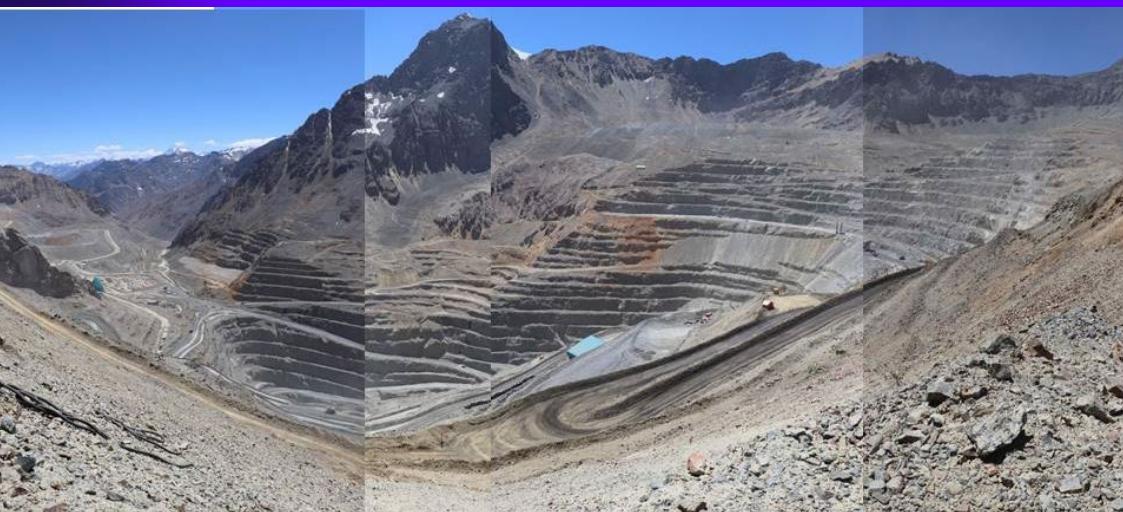
Copper Hill



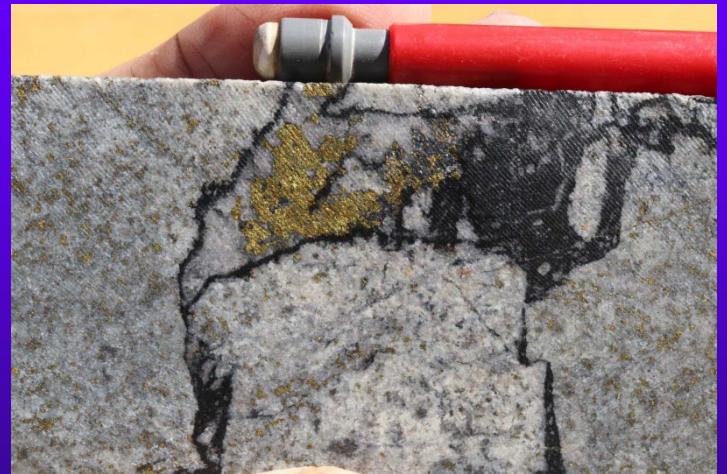
C veins Grasberg, Indonesia



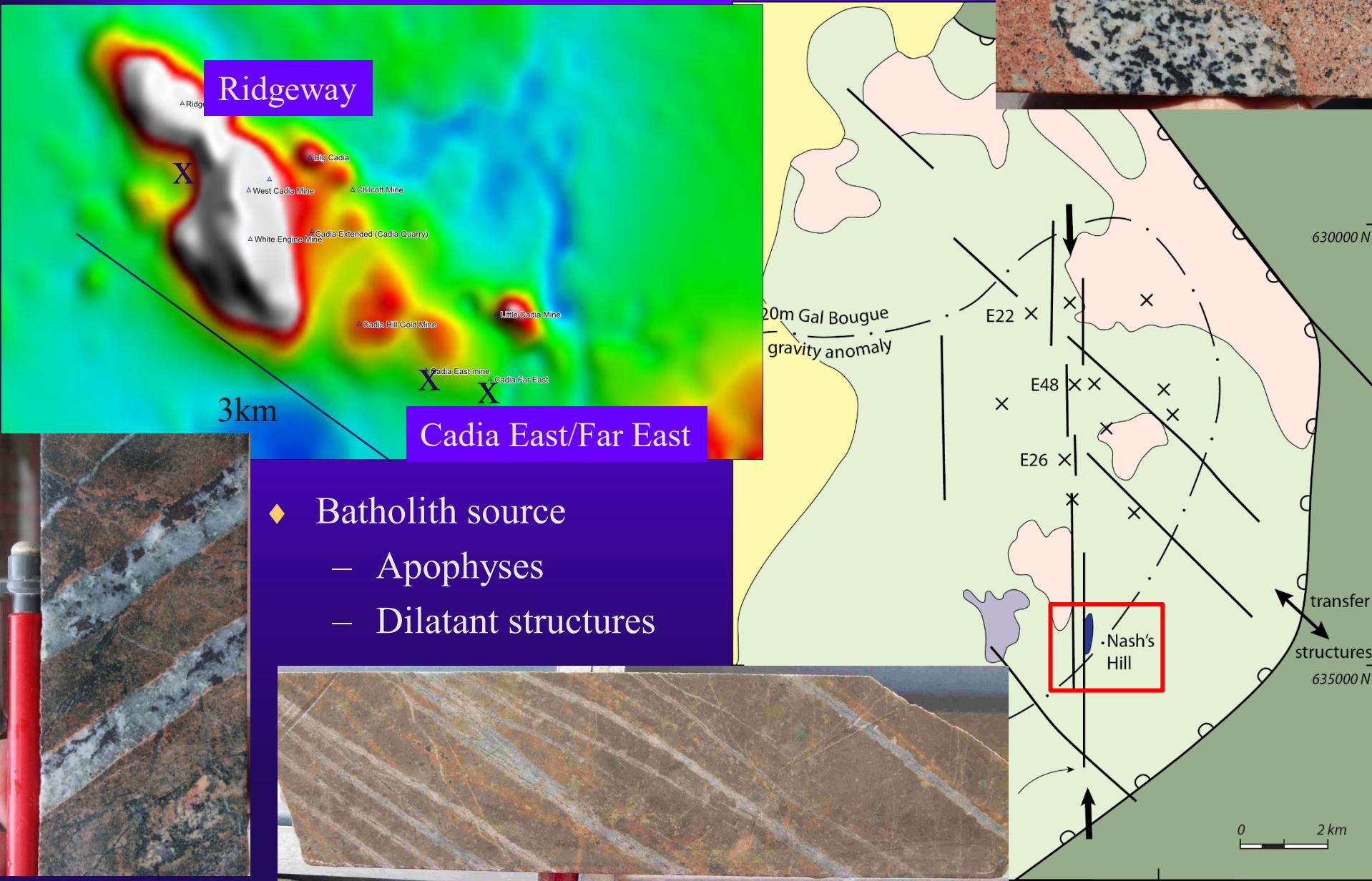
# Cu-tourmaline breccias – Rio Blanco-Los Bronces, Chile



Combined:  
24 Bt @ 0.66-0.7% Cu



# Magmatic sources



# D veins

## STAGED PORPHYRY Cu-Au EVOLUTION

EARLY

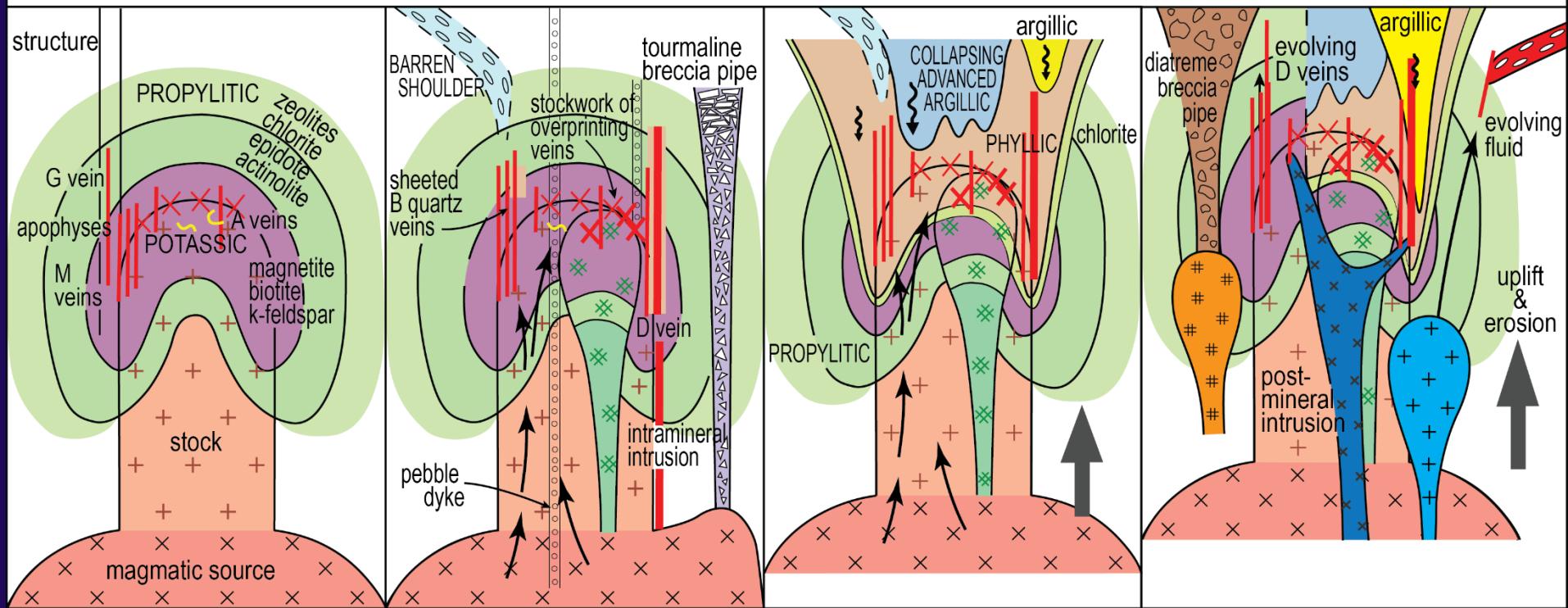
LATE

EMPLACEMENT, PROGRADE  
ALTERATION  
& EARLY MINERALISATION

PROGRESSIVE COOLING &  
CONTINUED MINERALISATION

DRAW DOWN,  
RETROGRADE ALTERATION  
& LATE MINERALISATION

SHUT DOWN &  
POST-MINERAL



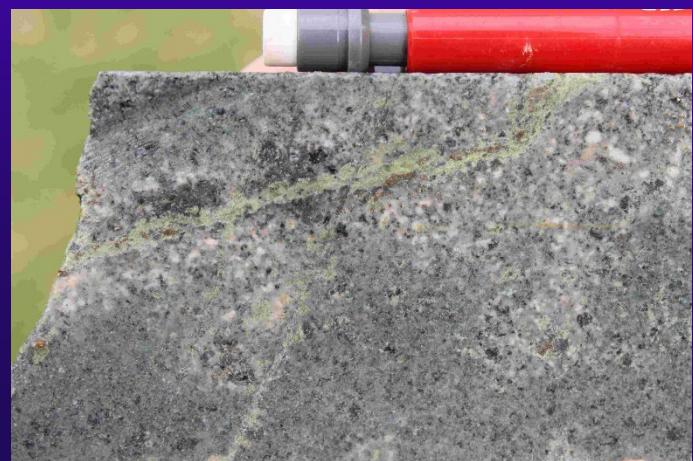
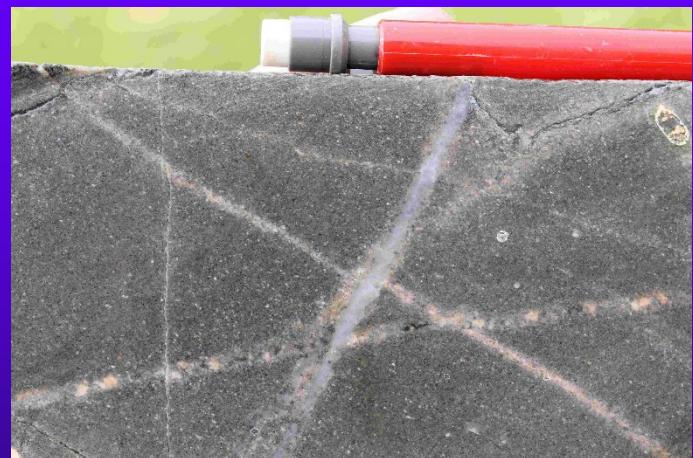
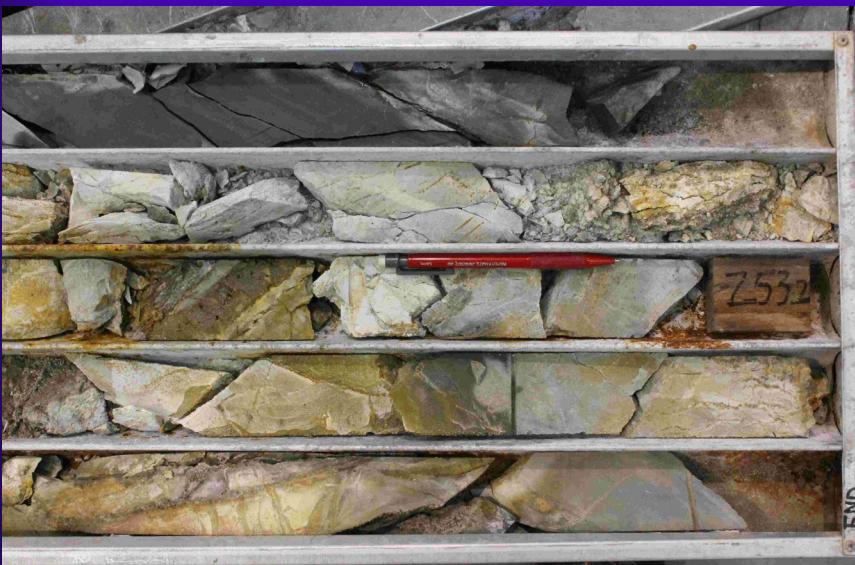
Zoned potassiac to inner & outer propylitic alteration by heat transfer.  
Initiation of prograde A, M & G veins.  
Early mineralisation.

Exsolution of volatiles to form barren shoulders.  
Tourmaline breccia pipes.  
Metals from the magma source as B C & D veins  
Pebble dykes.  
Initiation of phyllitic alteration.

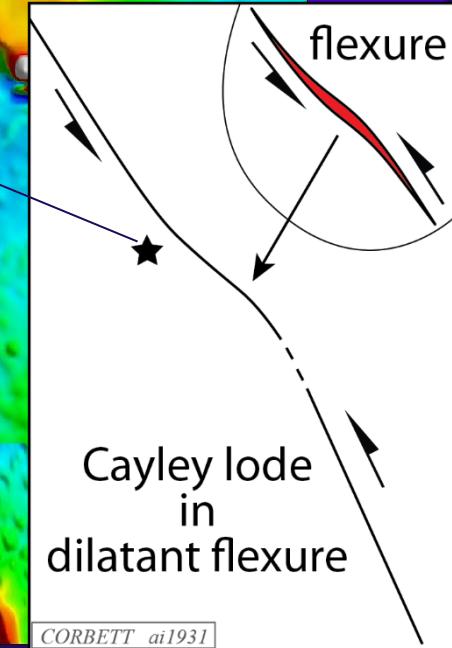
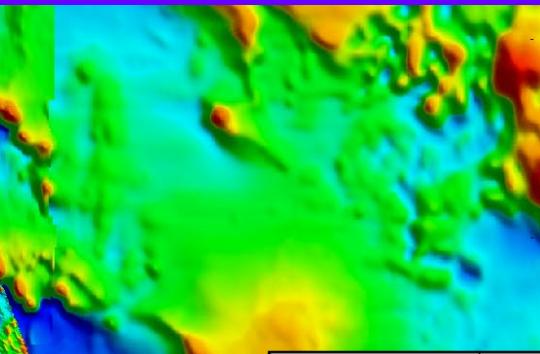
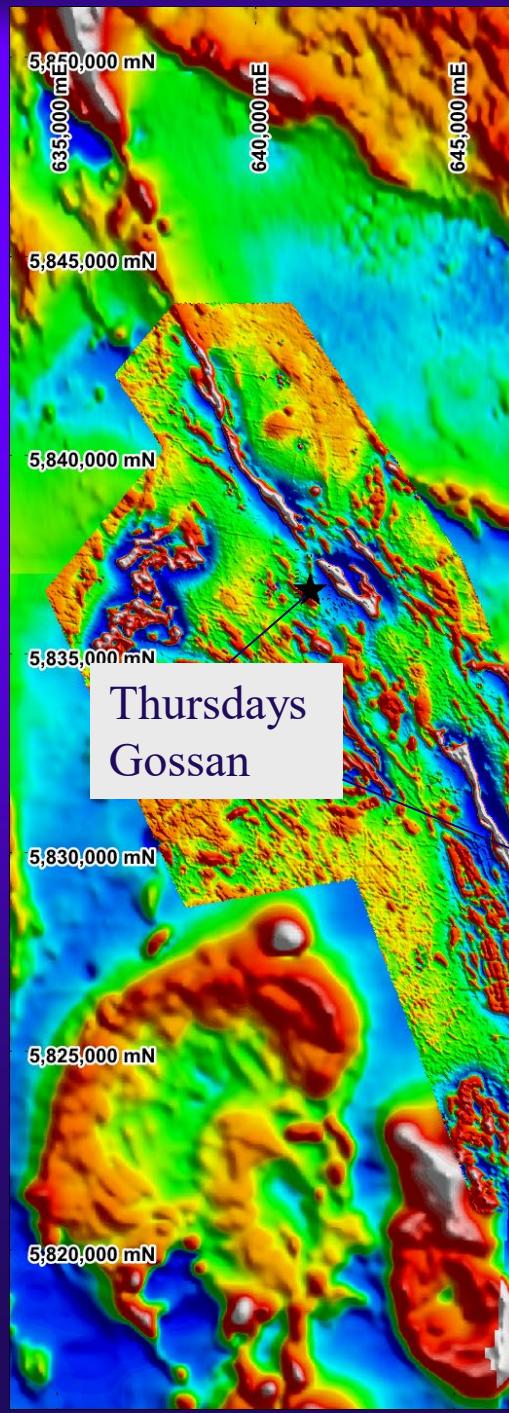
Draw down of low pH waters onto cooling apophyses & phyllitic-argillic alteration.  
Degassing of magma source at depth & late mineralisation.  
Collapsing advanced argillic contributes to lithocaps.

Uplift & erosion.  
Continued collapse of low pH and meteoric waters  
Evolution of alteration & mineralisation.  
Post-mineral intrusions & breccias  
Stopes out ore.  
Epithermal overprint.

# Stavely 2012 for the Geological Survey of Victoria

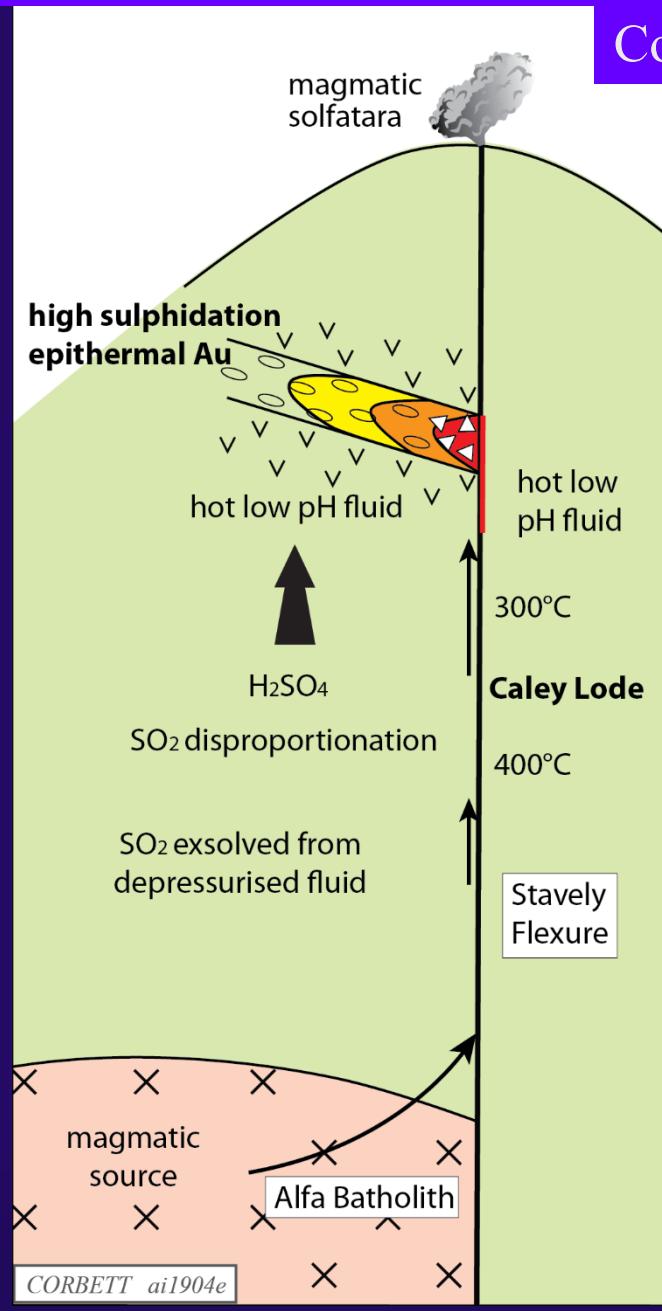


# Thursdays Gossan Stavely Flexure & Cayley Lode Stavely, Vic

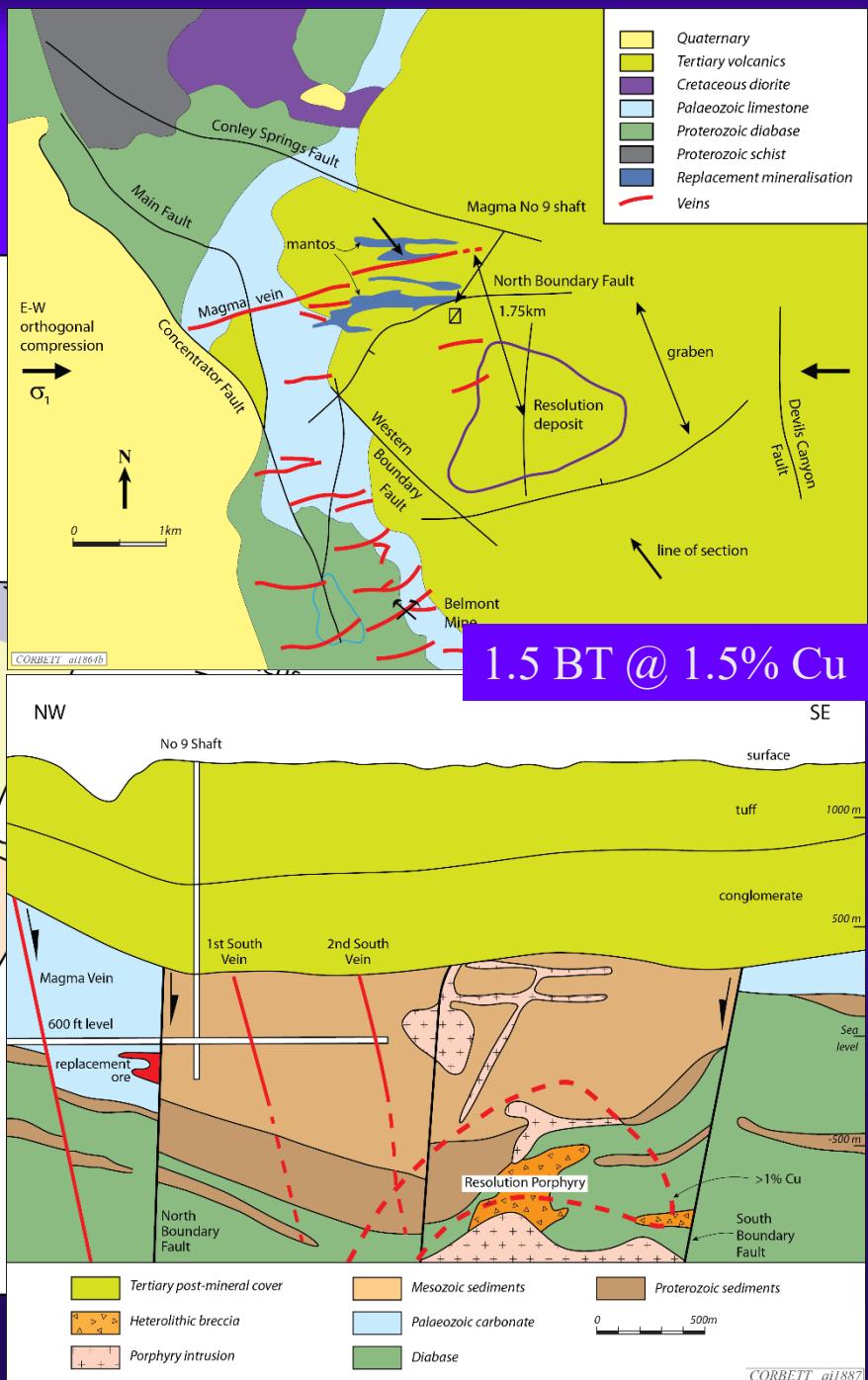
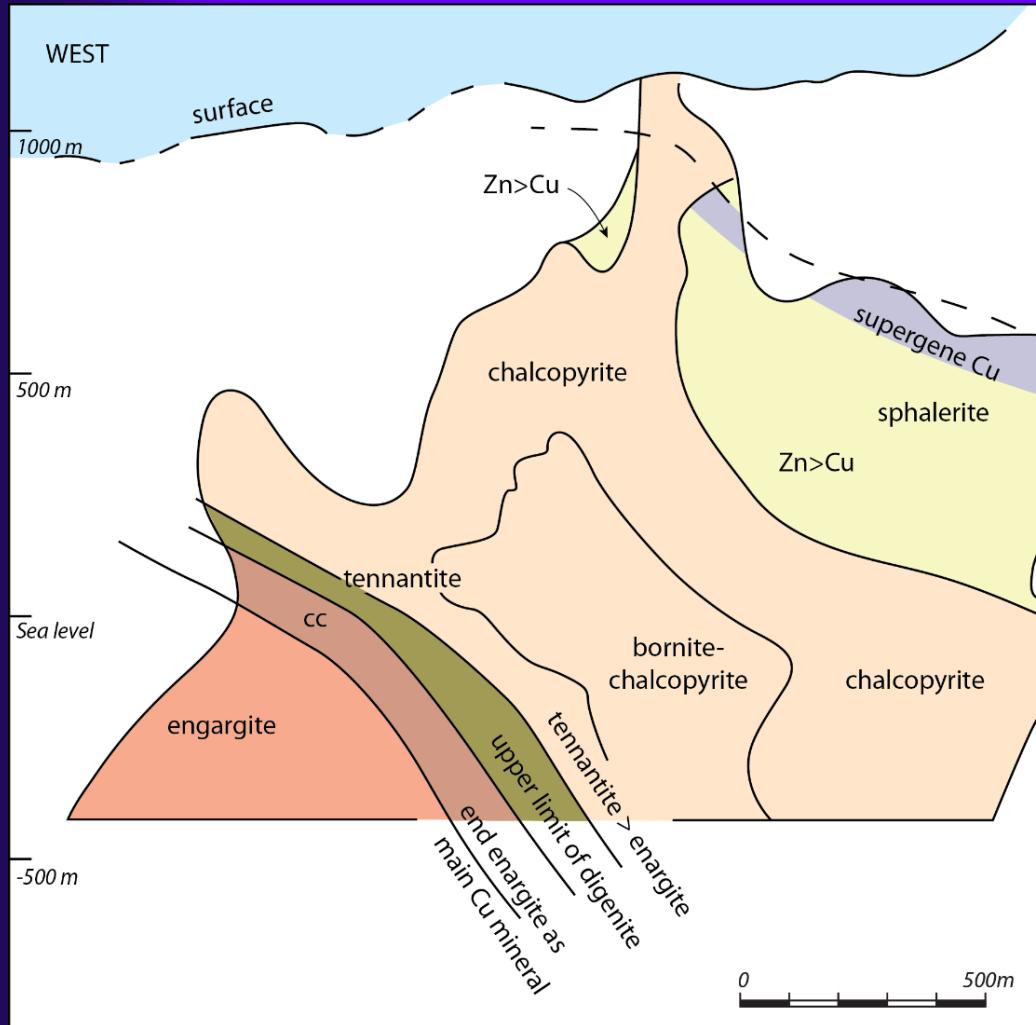


# Fluid evolution - Cayley Lode

enargite



# Magma vein – Resolution porphyry



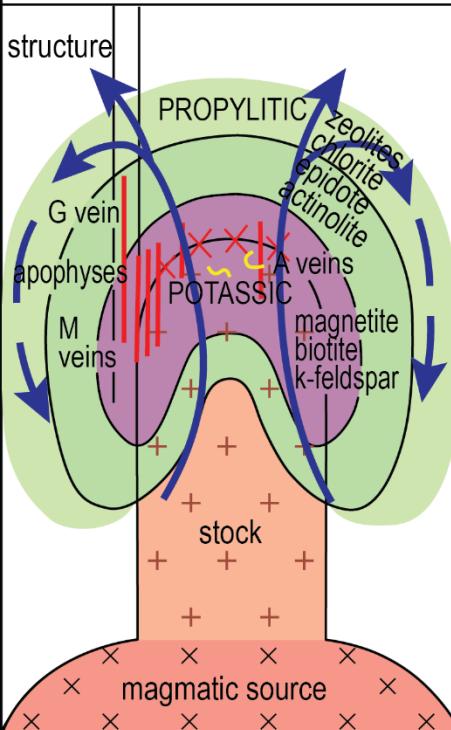
Production of 1.3 M t Cu mined at 4.9%

# Phyllitic alteration

## STAGED PORPHYRY Cu-Au EVOLUTION

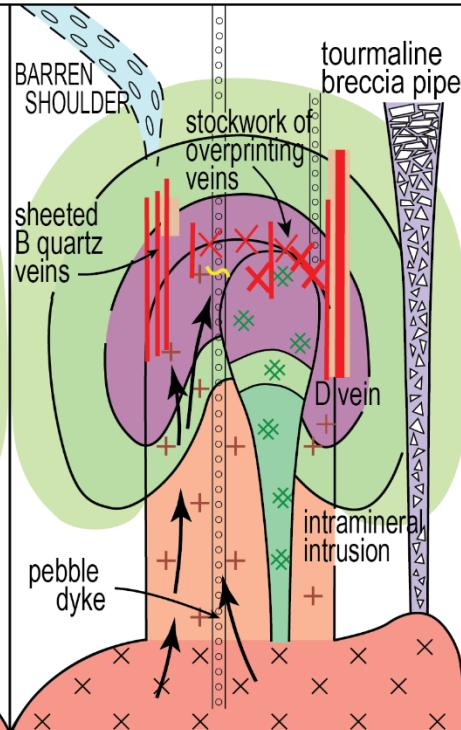
EARLY

EMPLACEMENT, PROGRADE  
ALTERATION  
& EARLY MINERALISATION



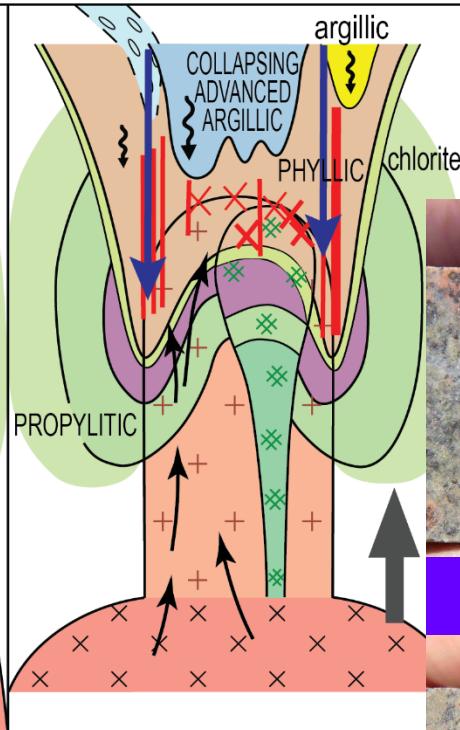
Zoned potassic to inner & outer propylitic alteration by heat transfer.  
Initiation of prograde A, M & G veins.  
Early mineralisation.

PROGRESSIVE COOLING &  
CONTINUED MINERALISATION



Exsolution of volatiles to form barren shoulders.  
Tourmaline breccia pipes.  
Metals from the magma source as B C & D veins  
Pebble dykes.  
Initiation of phyllitic alteration.

DRAW DOWN,  
RETROGRADE ALTERATION  
& LATE MINERALISATION



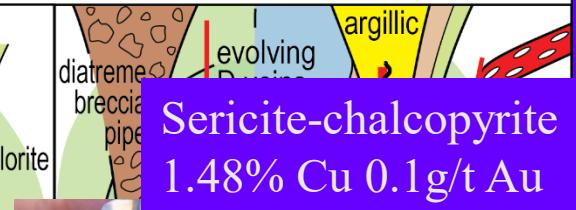
Draw down of low pH waters or cooling apophysis & phyllitic-argillic alteration.  
Degassing of magma source at

**Sericite-bornite**  
1.17% Cu 0.17g/t Au

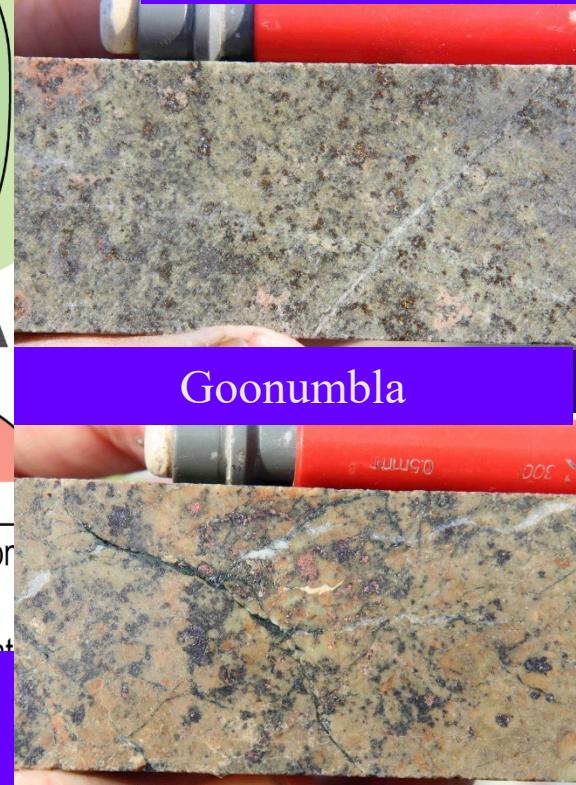
LATE

SHUT DOWN &  
POST-MINERAL

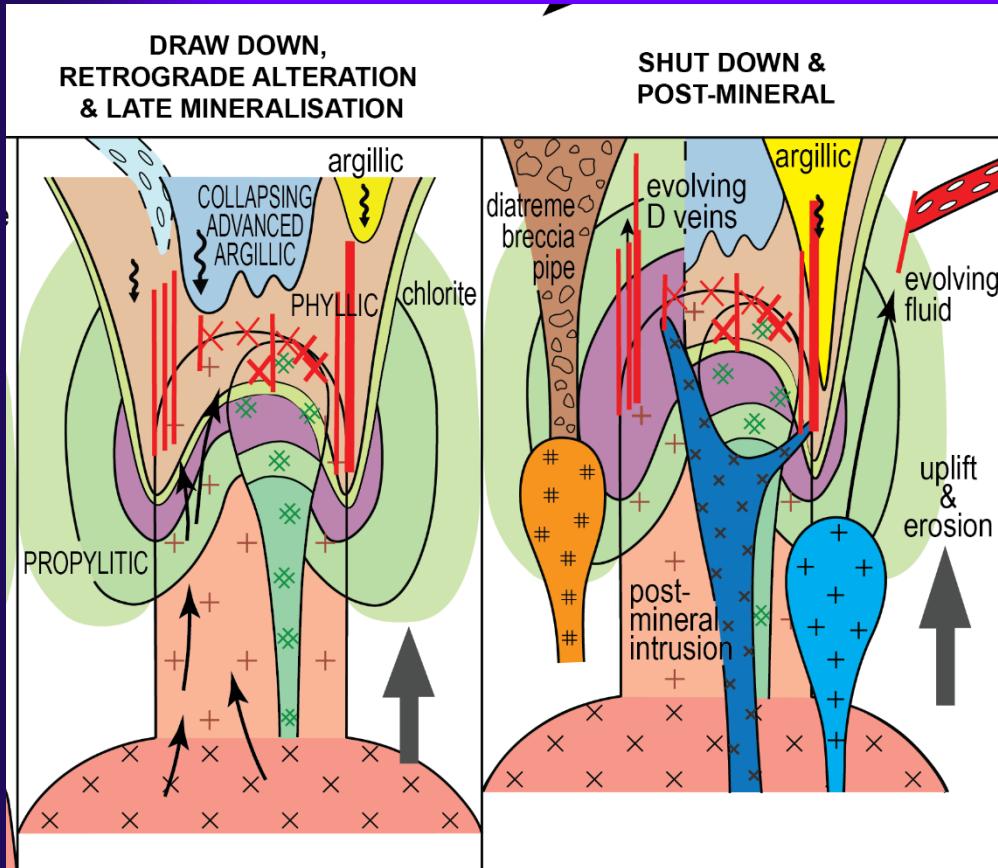
Sericite-chalcopyrite  
1.48% Cu 0.1g/t Au



Goonumbla



# Entry of additional meteoric waters and clay alteration



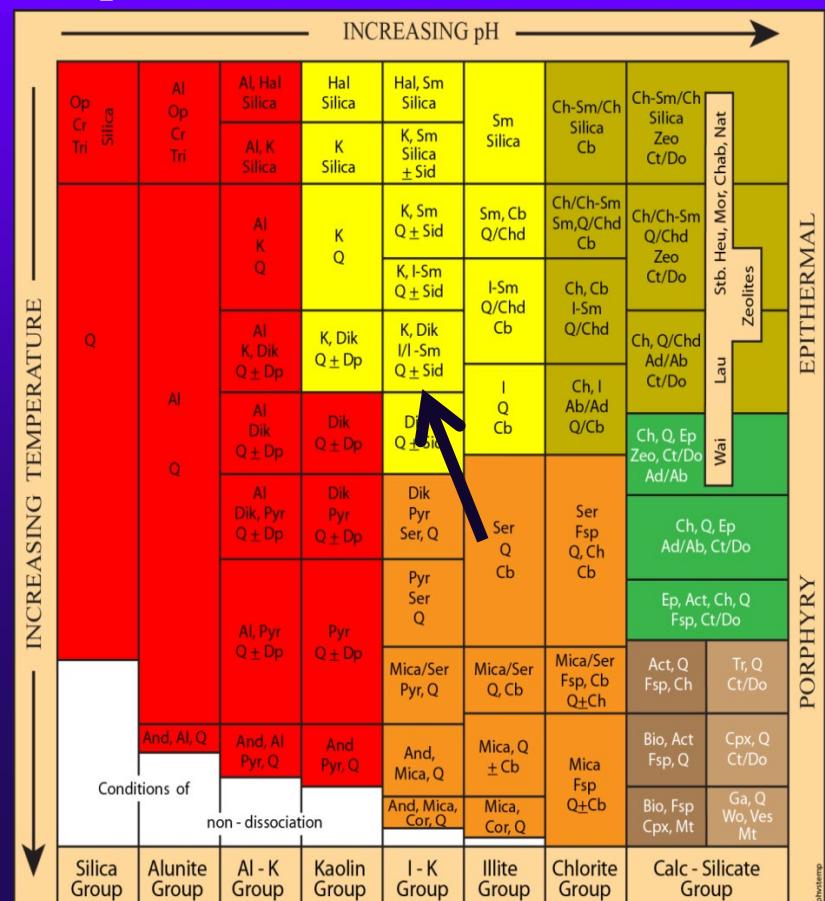
Draw down of low pH waters onto cooling apophysis & phyllitic-argillic alteration.  
Degassing of magma source at depth & late mineralisation.  
Collapsing advanced argillic contributes to lithocaps.

Uplift & erosion.  
Continued collapse of low pH and meteoric waters  
Evolution of alteration & mineralisation.  
Post-mineral intrusions & breccias stop out ore.  
Epithermal overprint.

CORBETT ai1854c



Didipio sericite-illite kaolinite chlorite

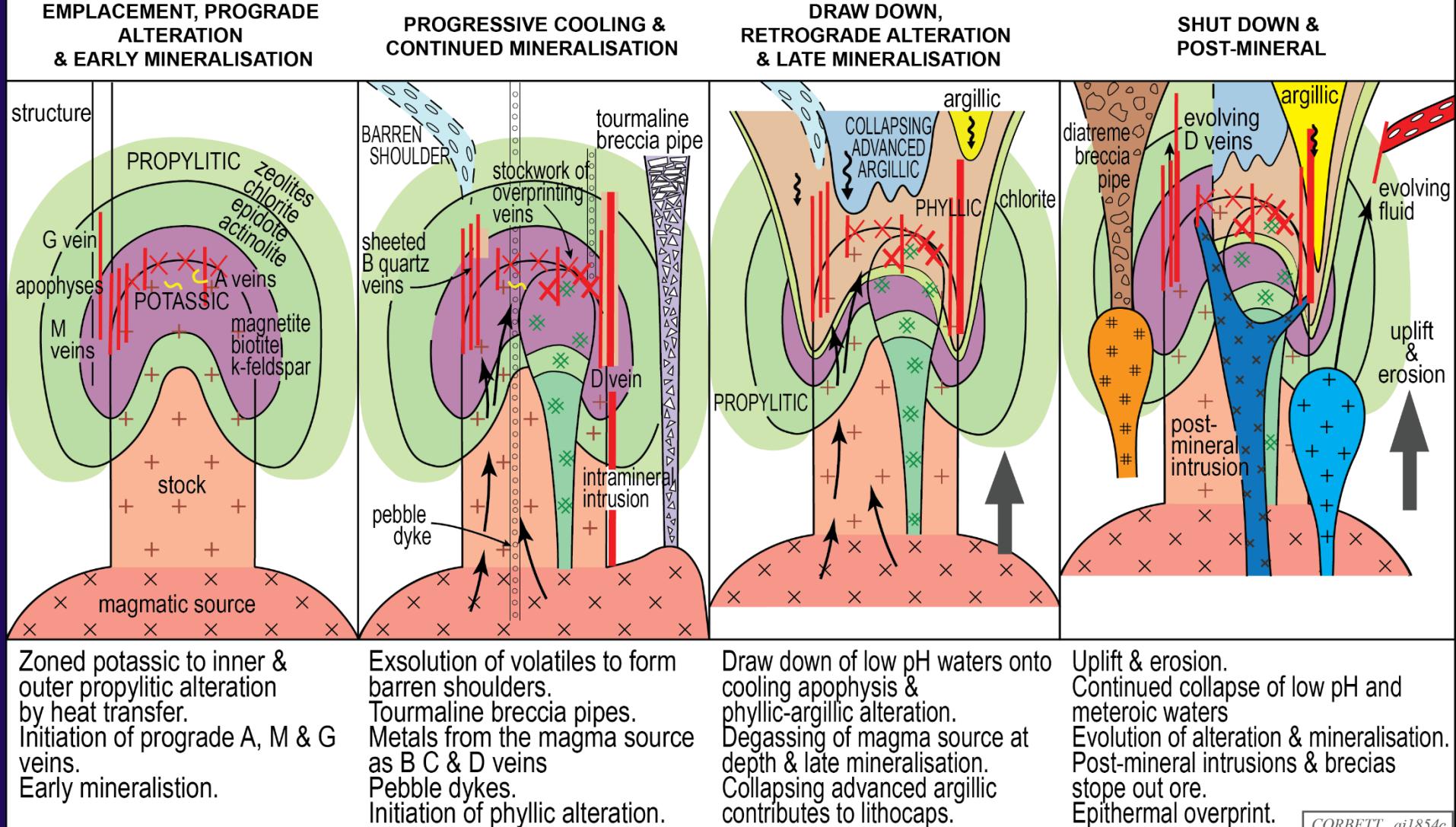


# Lithocaps

## STAGED PORPHYRY Cu-Au EVOLUTION

EARLY

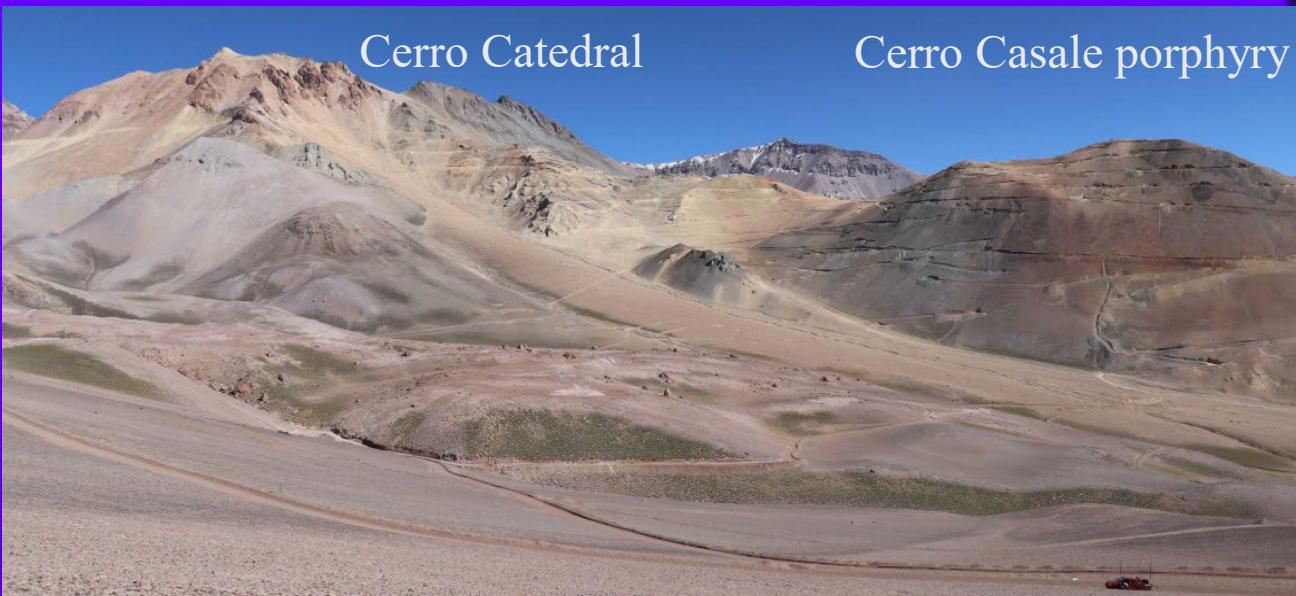
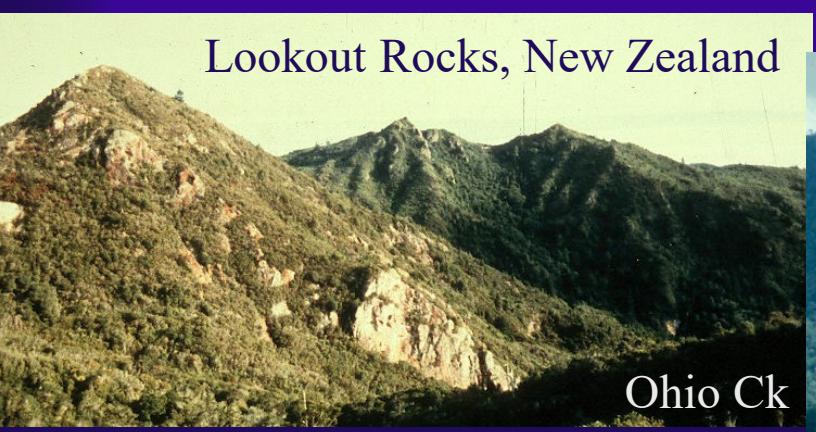
LATE



# Barren shoulders of zoned advanced argillic alteration



Nash's Hill, Goonumbla



Cerro Catedral  
structures



Ekwai Debom  
Frieda river, PNG

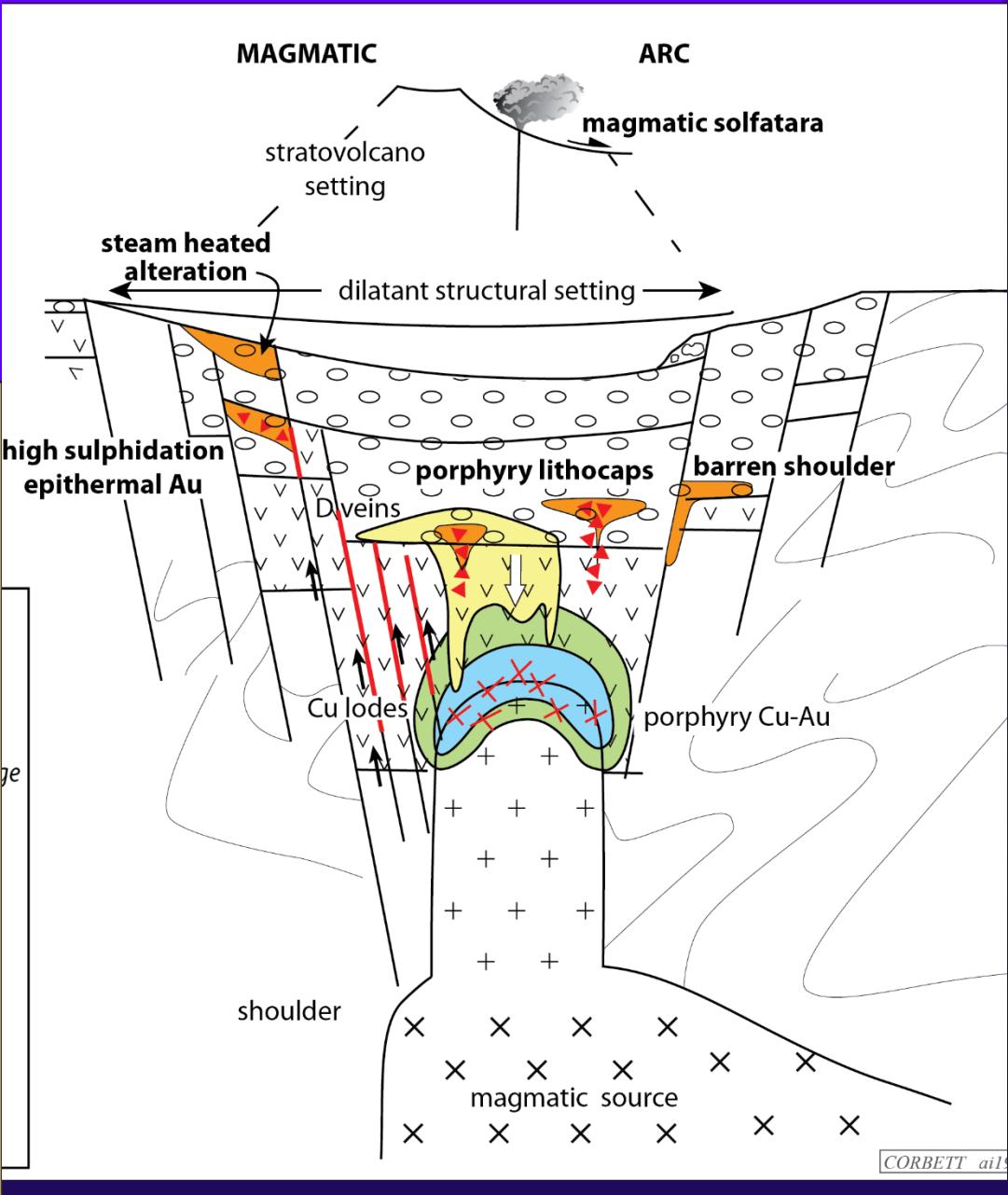
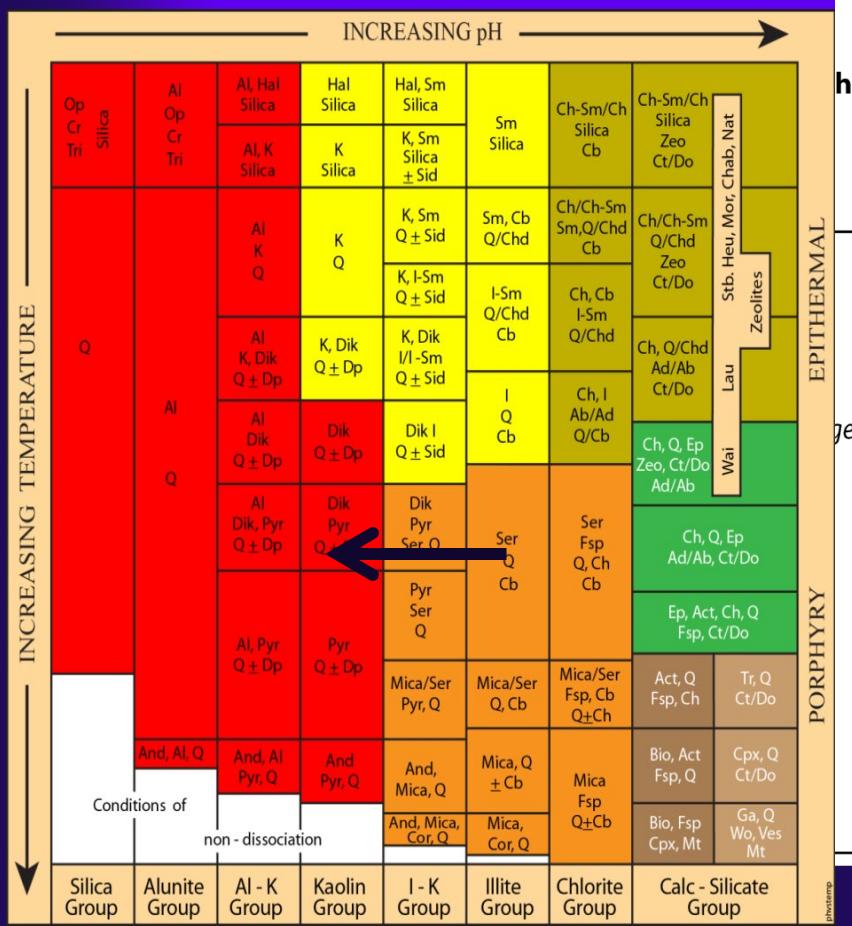


Horse-Ivaal porphyry

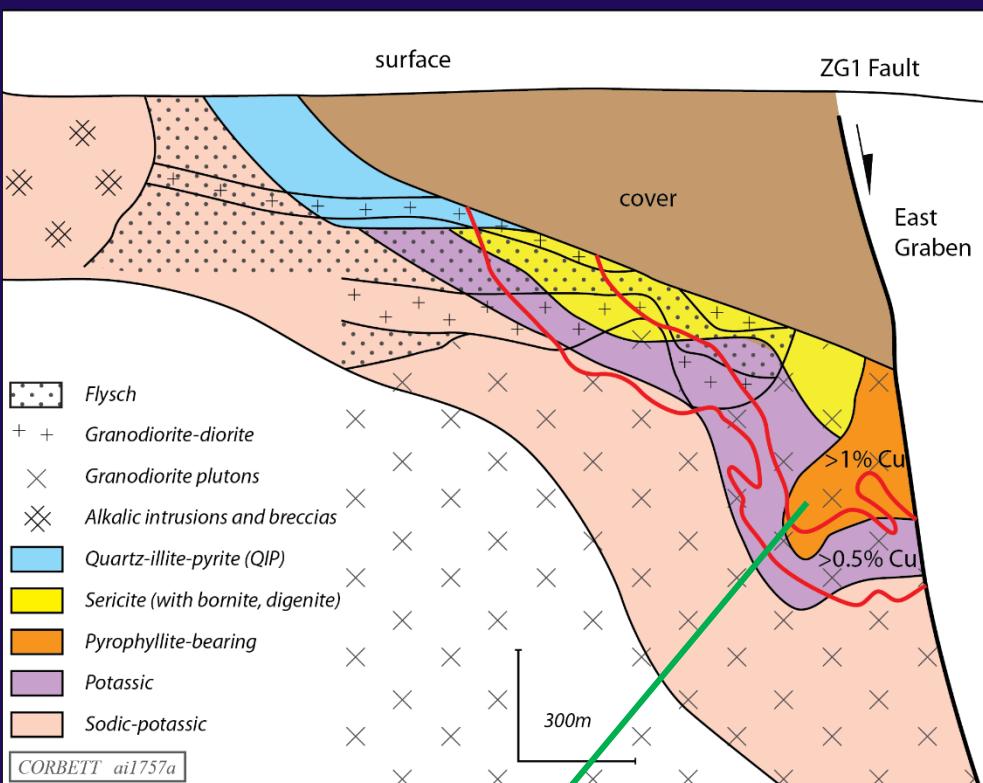
# Porphyry-related lithocaps

## AAA within phyllitic alteration

From Corbett and Leach, 1998



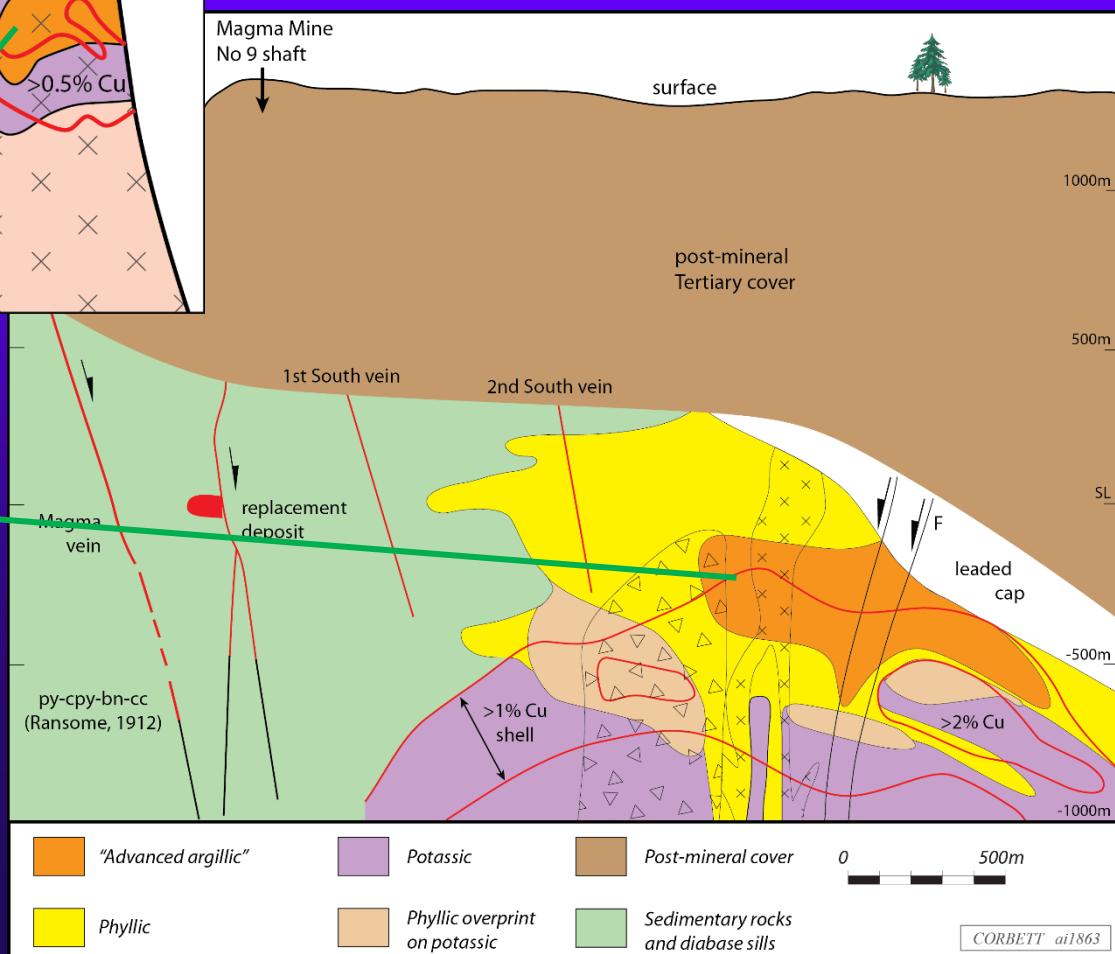
# Porphyry lithocap advanced argillic alteration



Pebble, Alaska

“advanced argillic”  
enclosed by sericite  
overprints potassic

Resolution,  
Arizona



# Best porphyry deposits are polyphasal



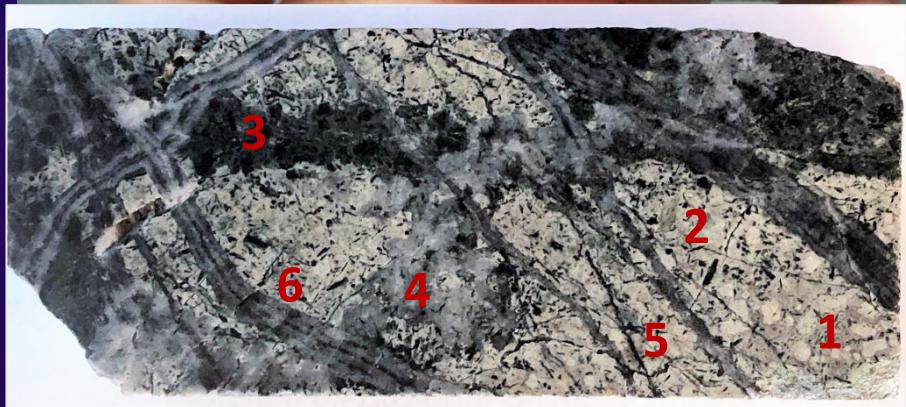
Contact  
Namosi  
Fiji

4 vein events  
Ridgeway



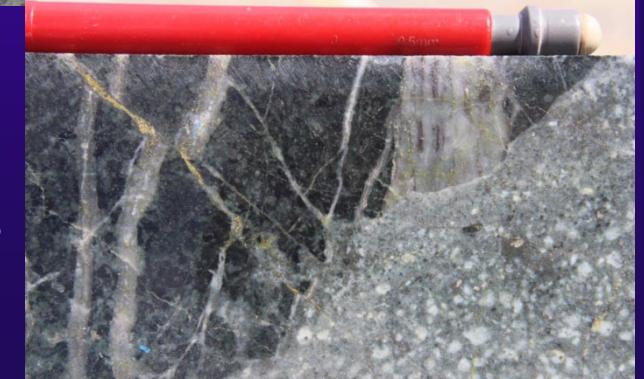
6 events  
Stavely

Residual quartz  
vein clasts La  
Arena, Peru



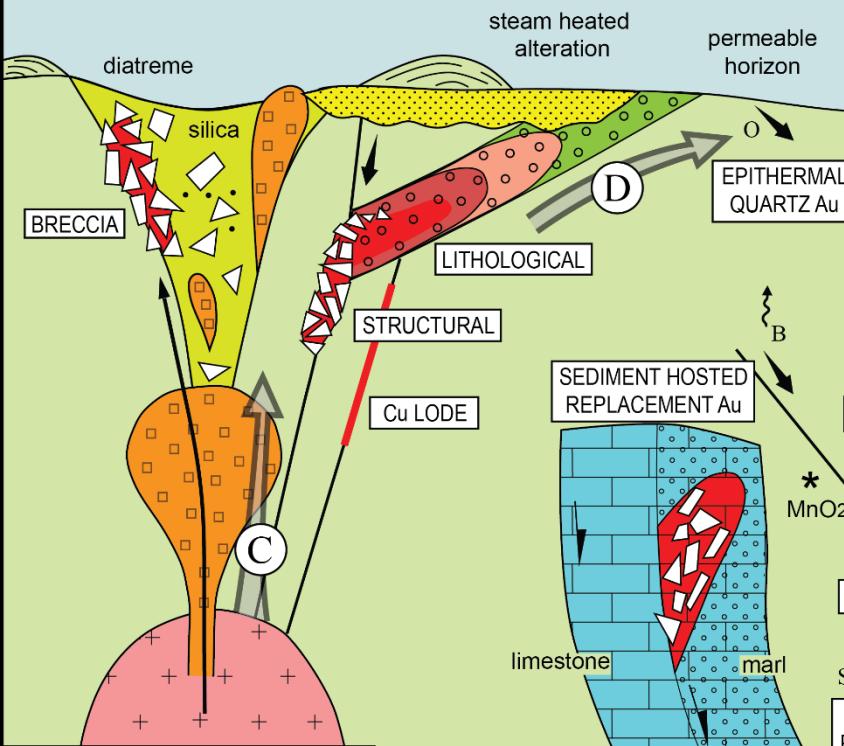
Konak  
Turkey

Post-mineral  
intrusion, Marsden  
'wipe out porphyry'

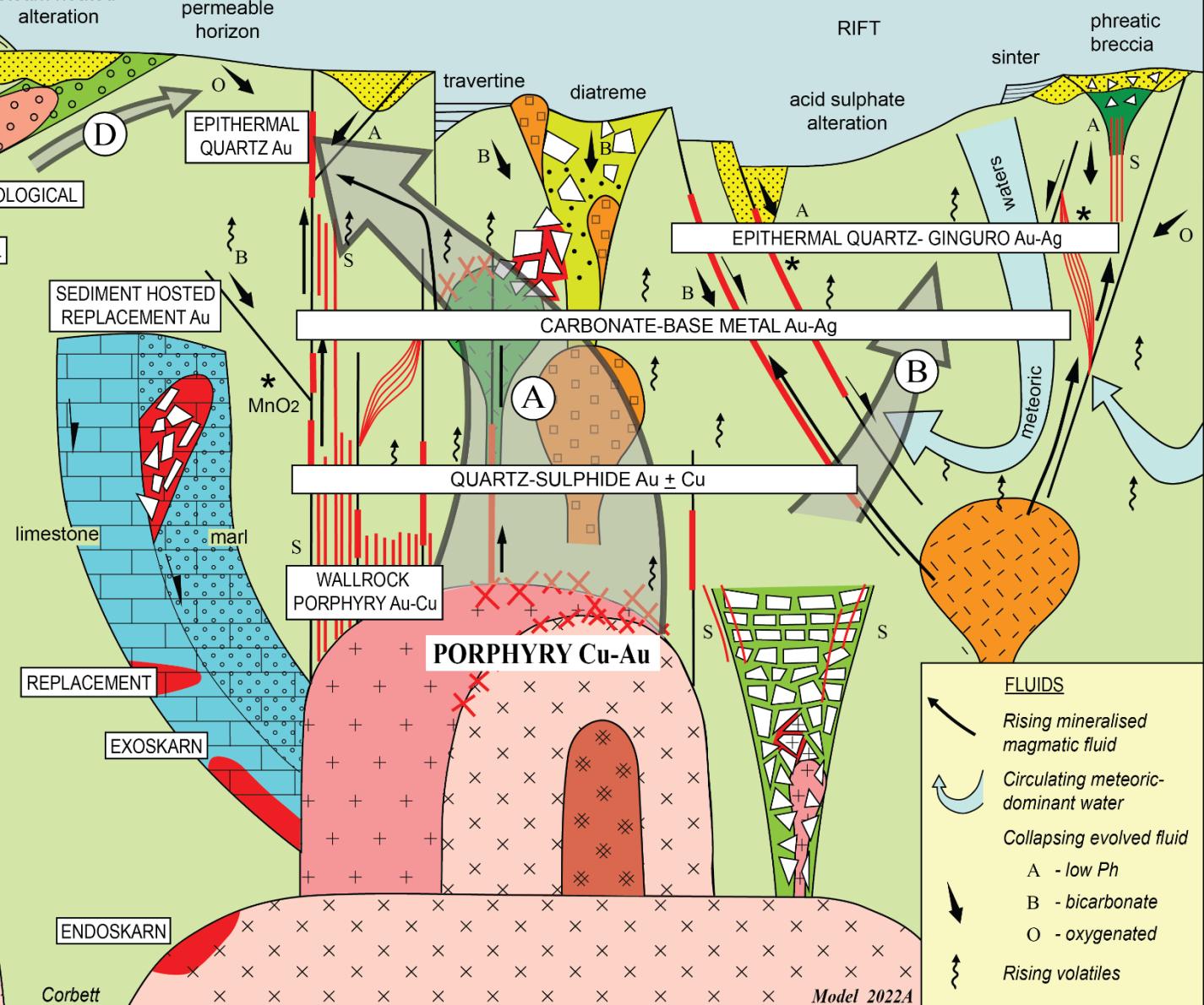


# Low sulphidation epithermal Au-Ag

## HIGH SULPHIDATION EPITHERMAL Au



## LOW SULPHIDATION EPITHERMAL Au-Ag



### MINERALIZATION

- Banded tension vein
- Fissure vein
- Sheeted vein
- Stockwork vein
- Breccia fill
- Lithological control
- Disseminated
- \* Fluid mixing

### FLUIDS

- Rising mineralised magmatic fluid
- Circulating meteoric-dominant water
- Collapsing evolved fluid
  - A - low Ph
  - B - bicarbonate
  - O - oxygenated
- Rising volatiles

# Quartz-sulphide Au ± Cu



SHALLOW  
Lihir Is. 13g/t

Adelong



Nolans in the  
Ravenswood

Mt Wright

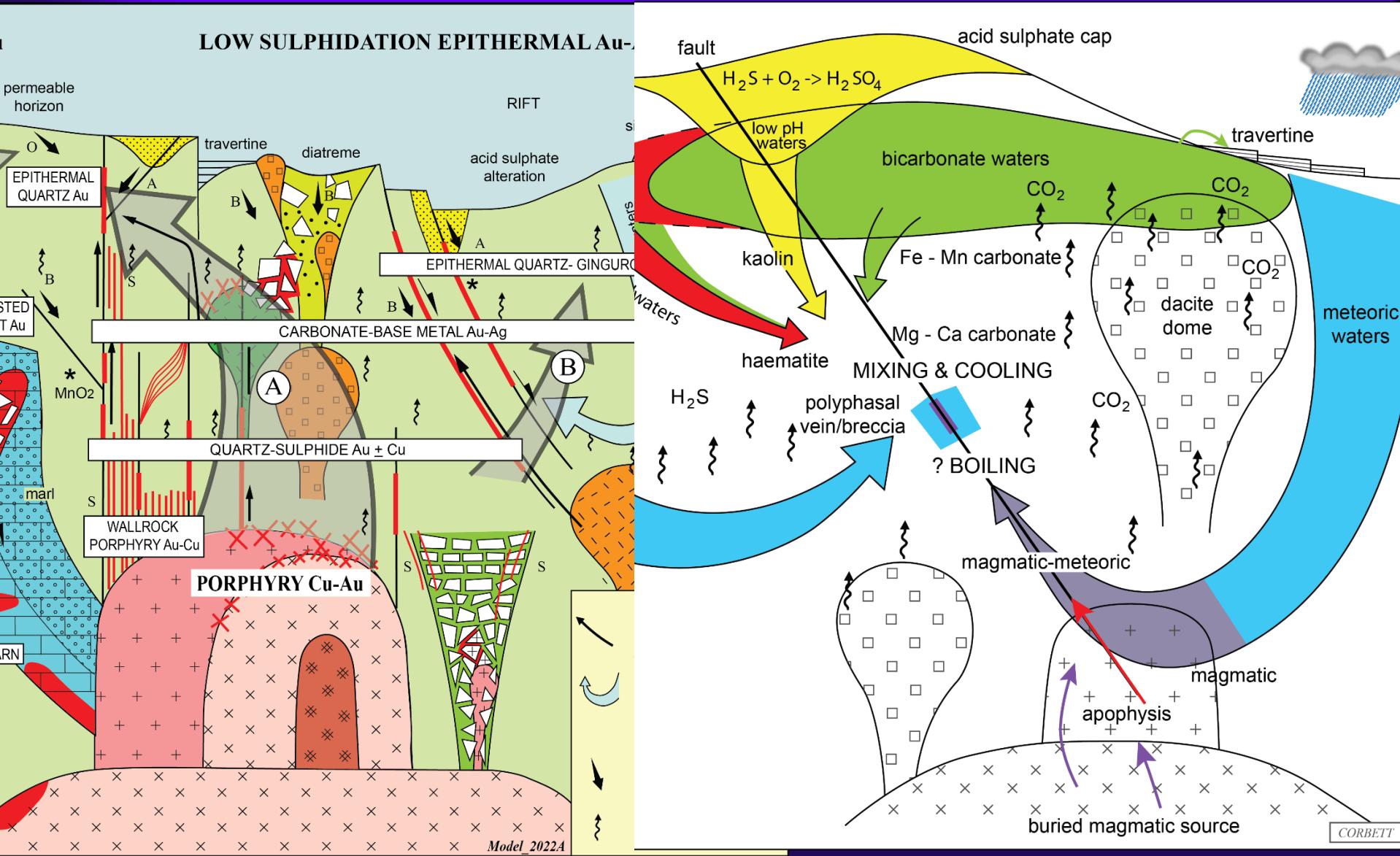


Mt Rawdon

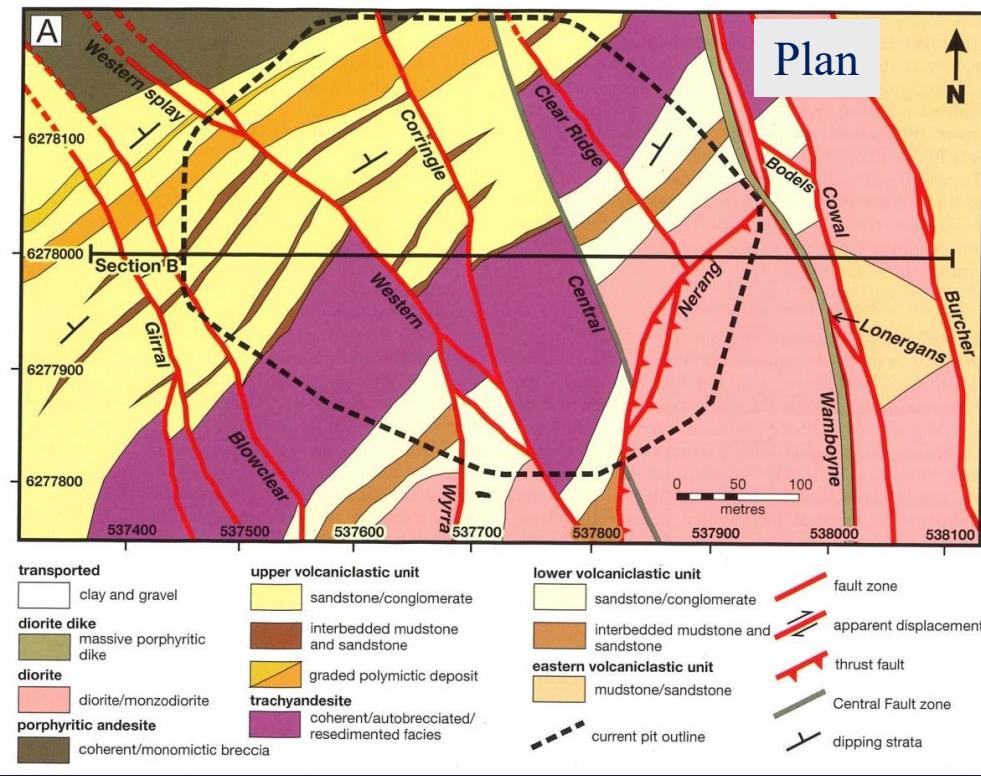
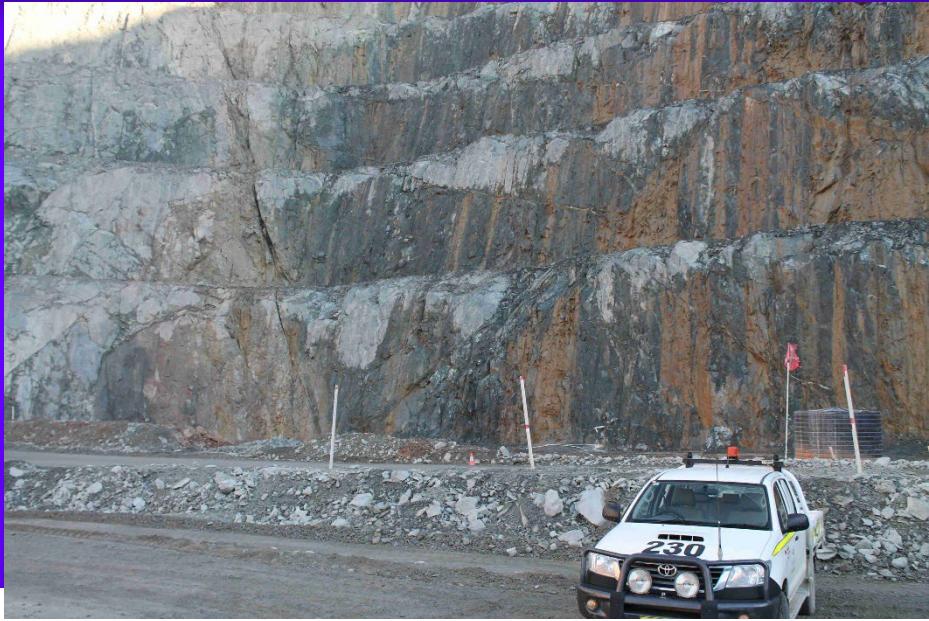
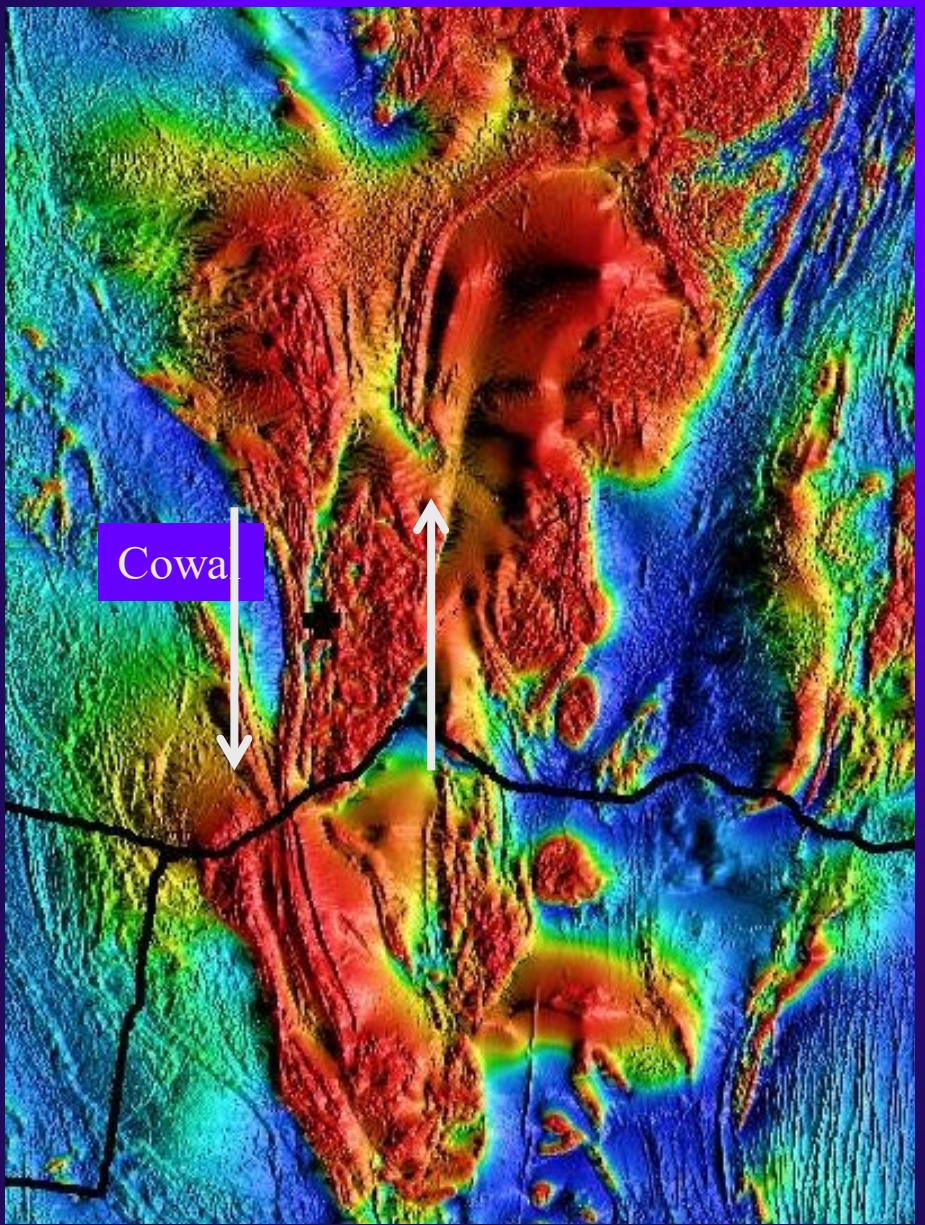
DEEP  
Bilimoia/Kora



# Low sulphidation carbonate-base metal Au deposits



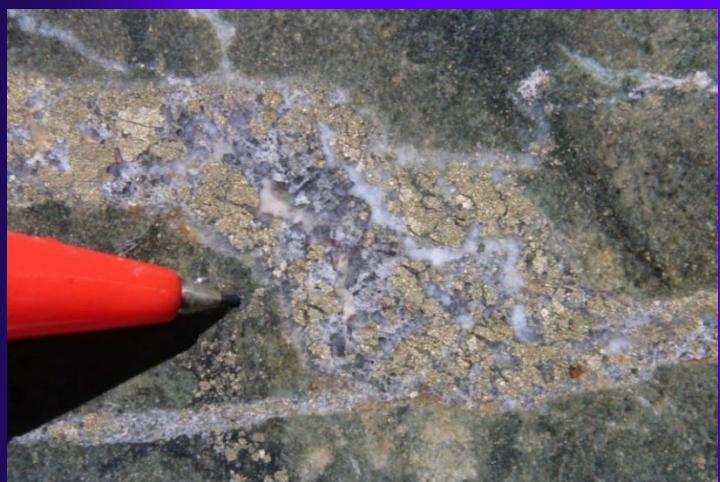
# Cowal, Australia



# Cowal Londonderry Carbonate-base metal Au



14 g/t Au



3.44 g/t Au



16.2 g/t Au



0.56 g/t Au

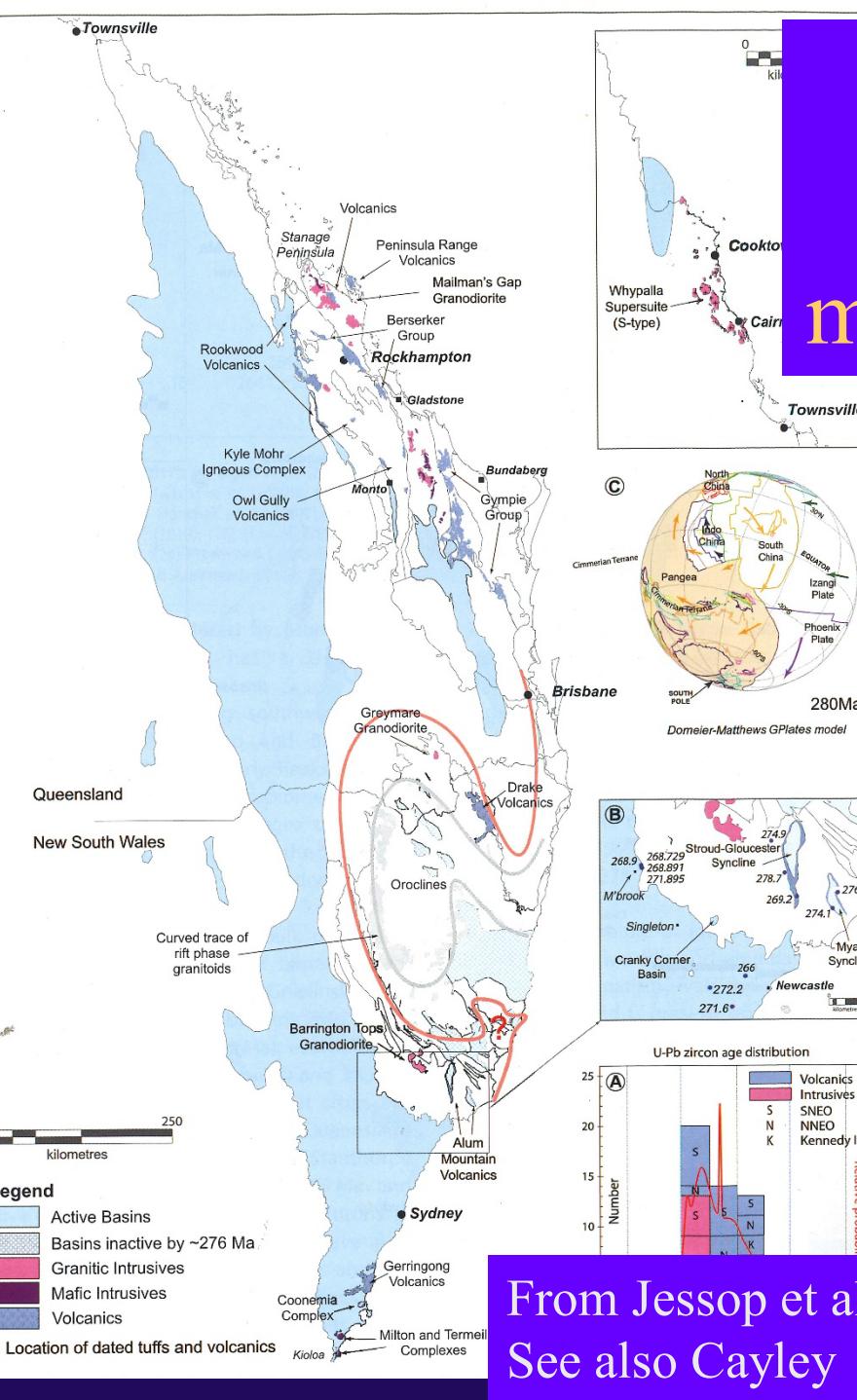


50 g/t Au

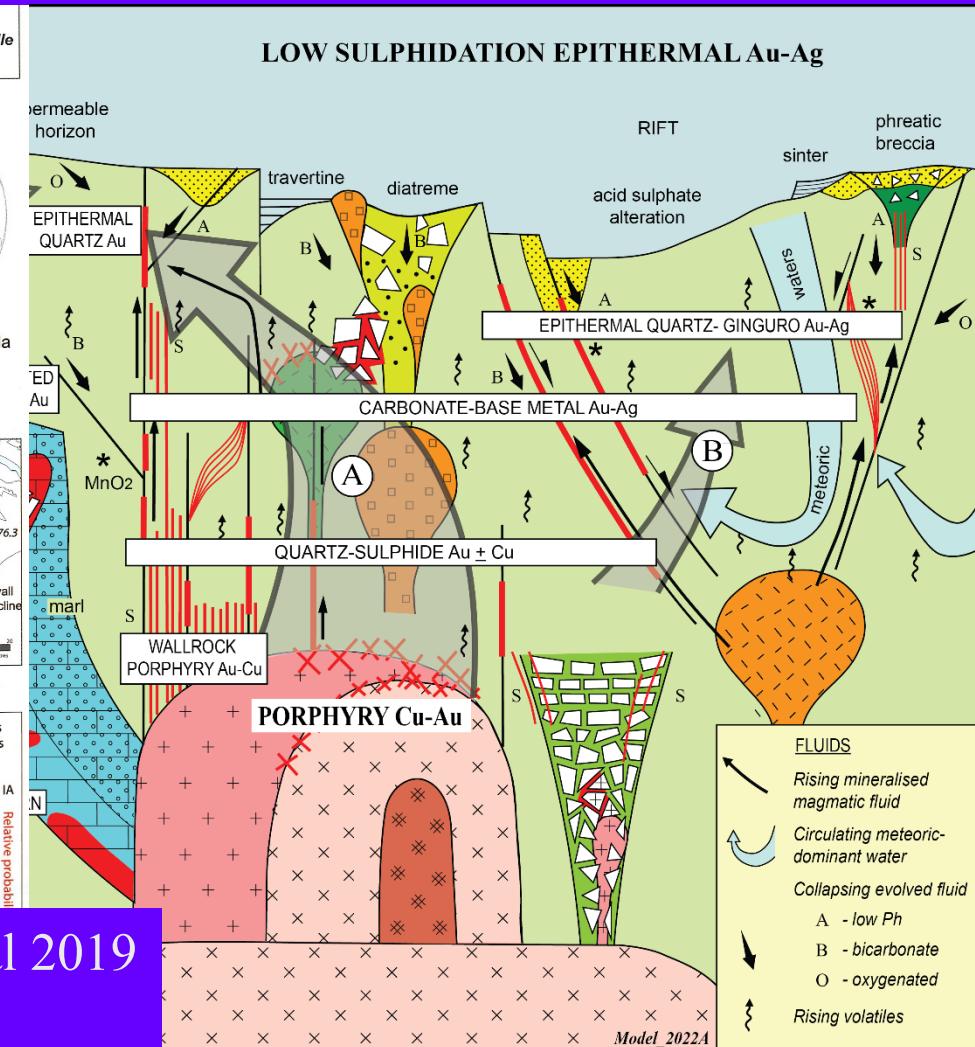


0.86 g/t Au

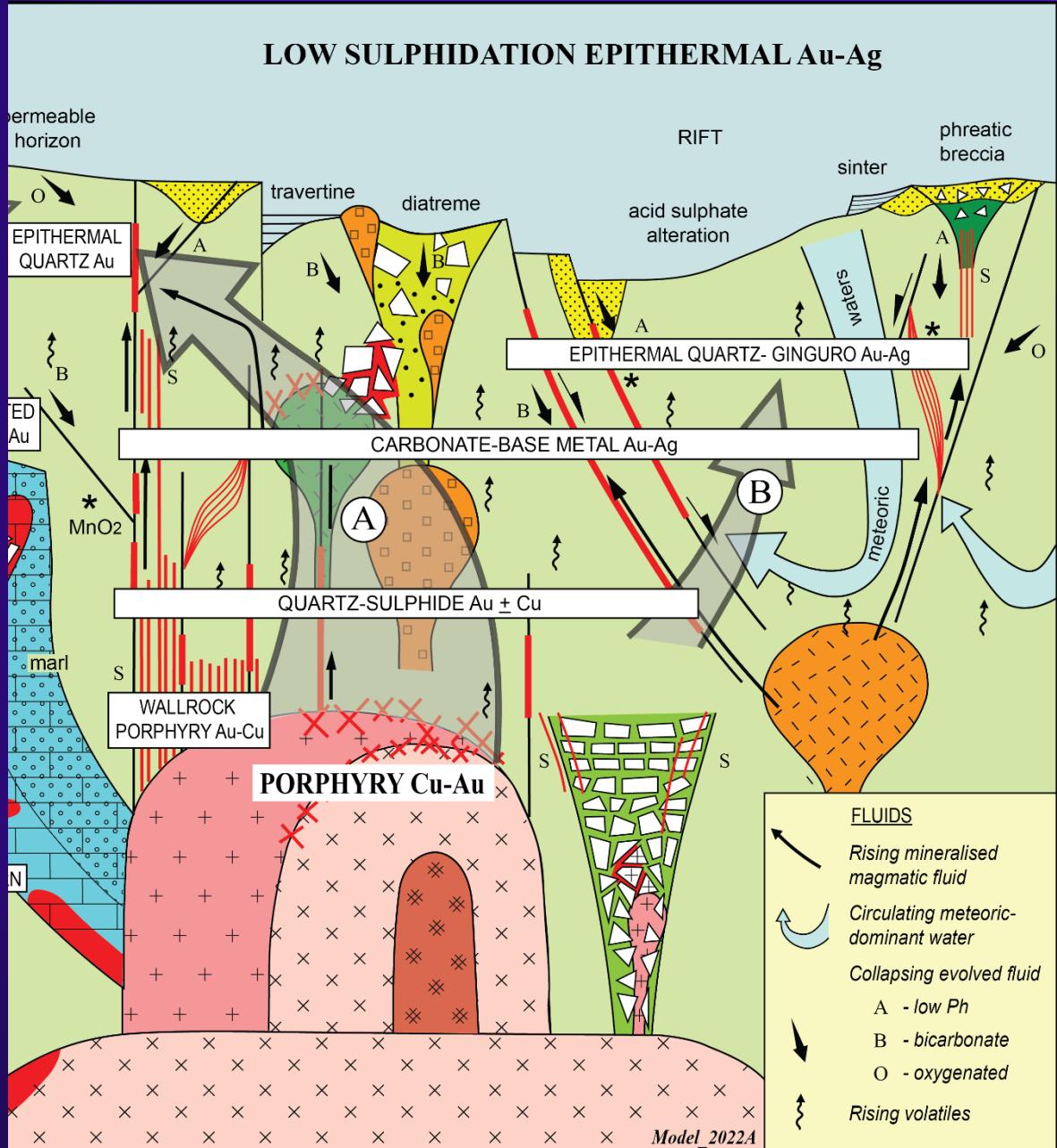
# Toolloom and Drake Change form typical magmatic arc to extension



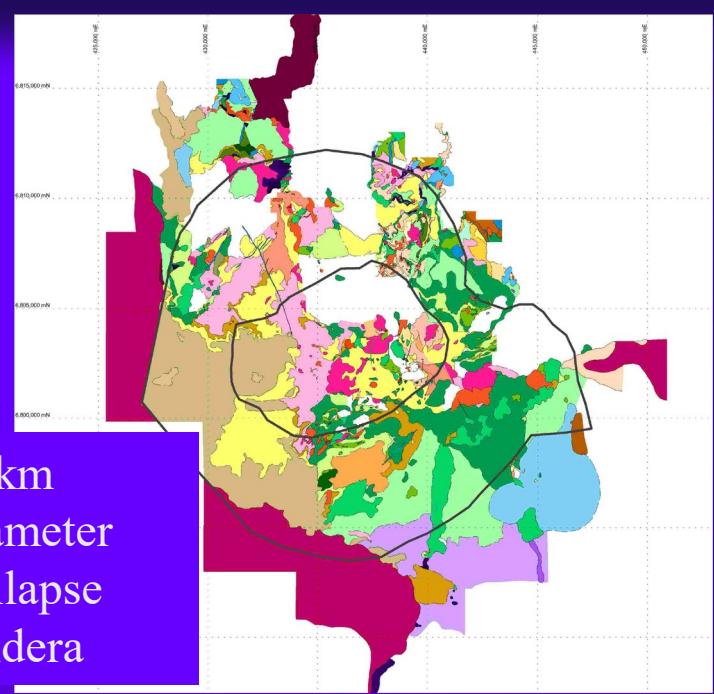
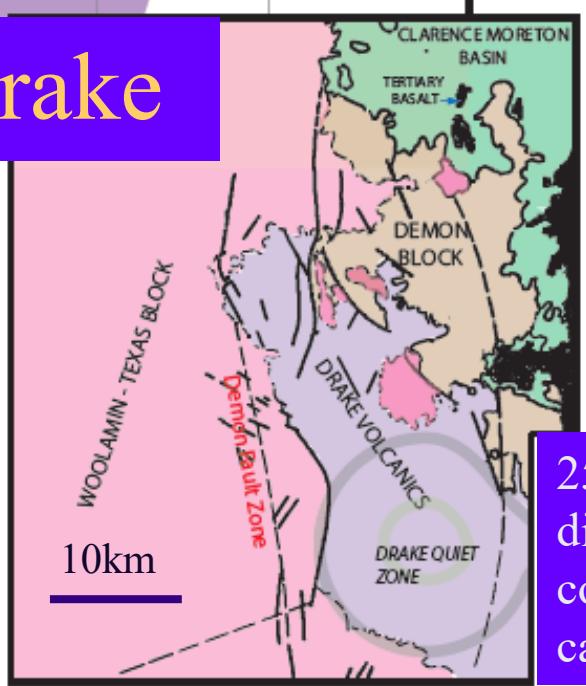
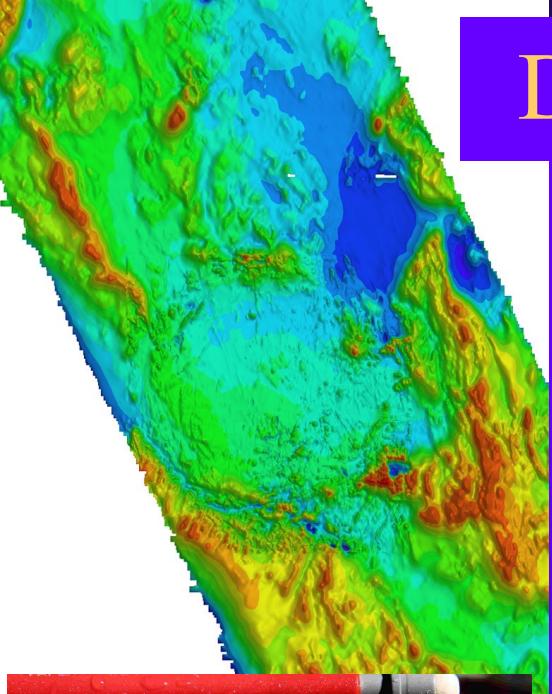
From Jessop et al 2019  
See also Cayley



# Tooloom - magmatic arc trend



# Drake



25km  
diameter  
collapse  
caldera



bedding plane shear



felsic  
dome



lode



99.7g/t Au, 3.17% Cu  
231g/t Ag

# Carbonate-base metal Ag-Au (polymetallic Ag-Au)



Comstock, Nevada  
(Mckay Museum,  
Reno)



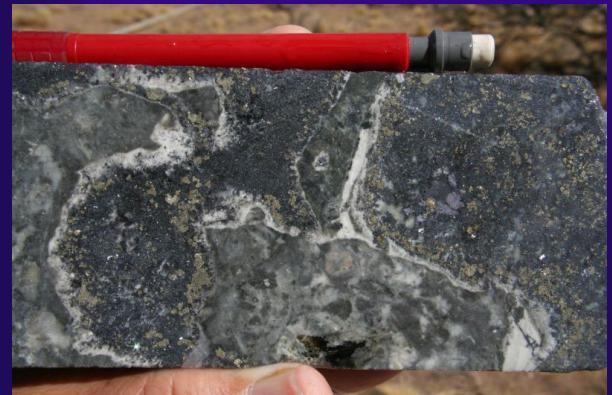
Arcata, Peru



Caylloma Peru,  
30,000ppm Ag



Palmarejo, Mexico

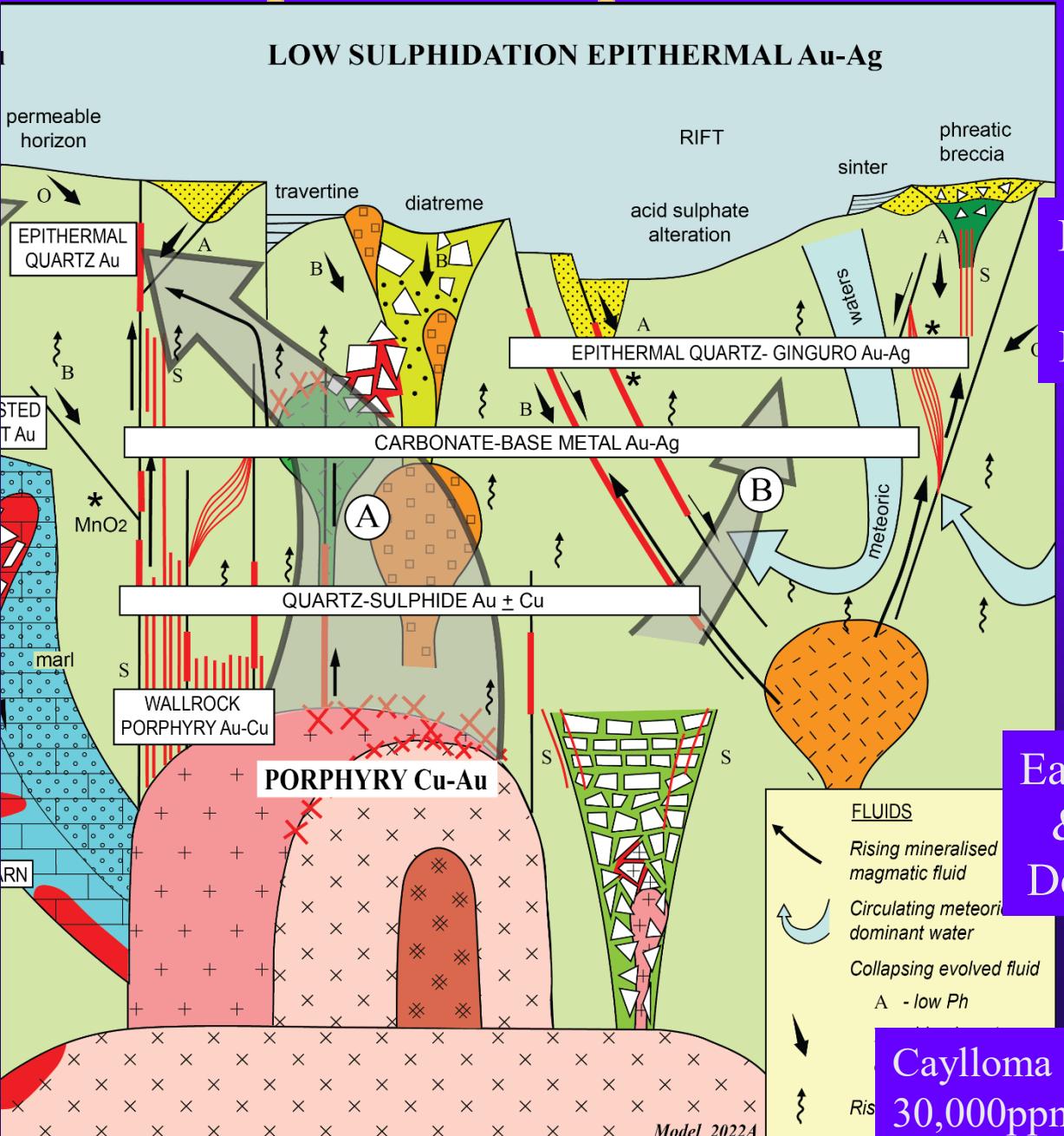


Cerro Moro Argentina  
68.44 g/t Au, 6157 g/t Ag  
with kaolin



Cerro Negro  
Argentina

# Low sulphidation epithermal Au-Ag

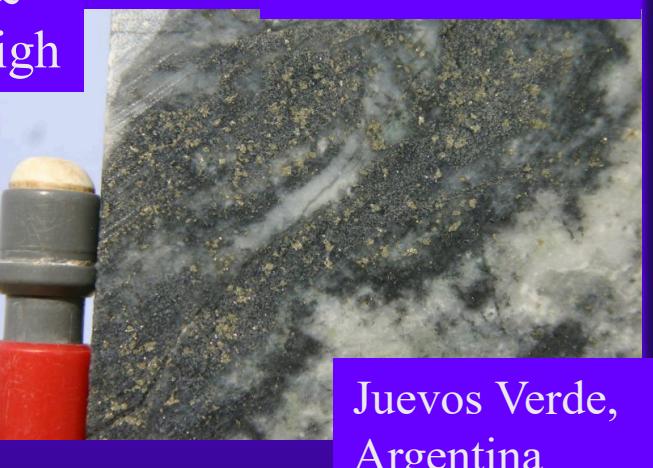


Late & High



Golden Cross NZ

Early & Deep



Juevos Verde, Argentina

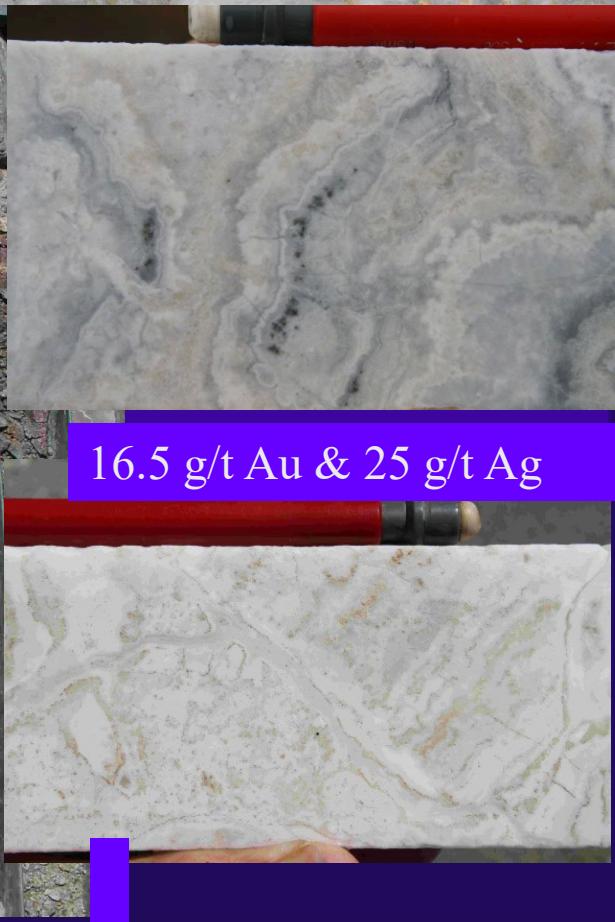
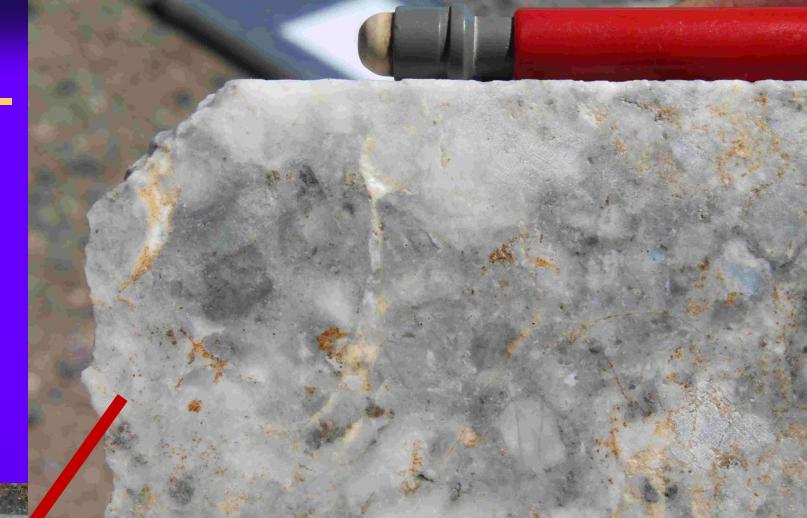
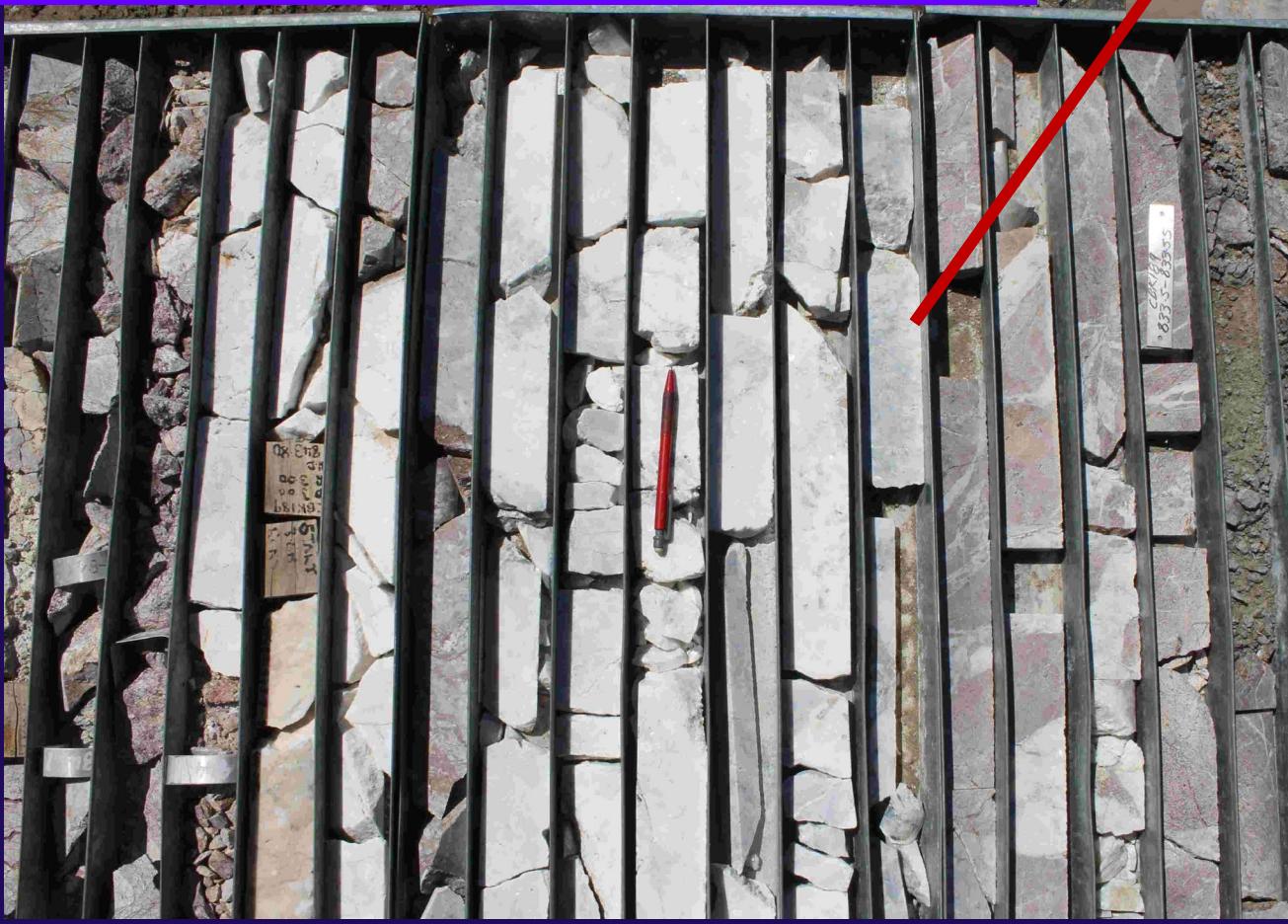
Caylloma Peru,  
30,000ppm Ag



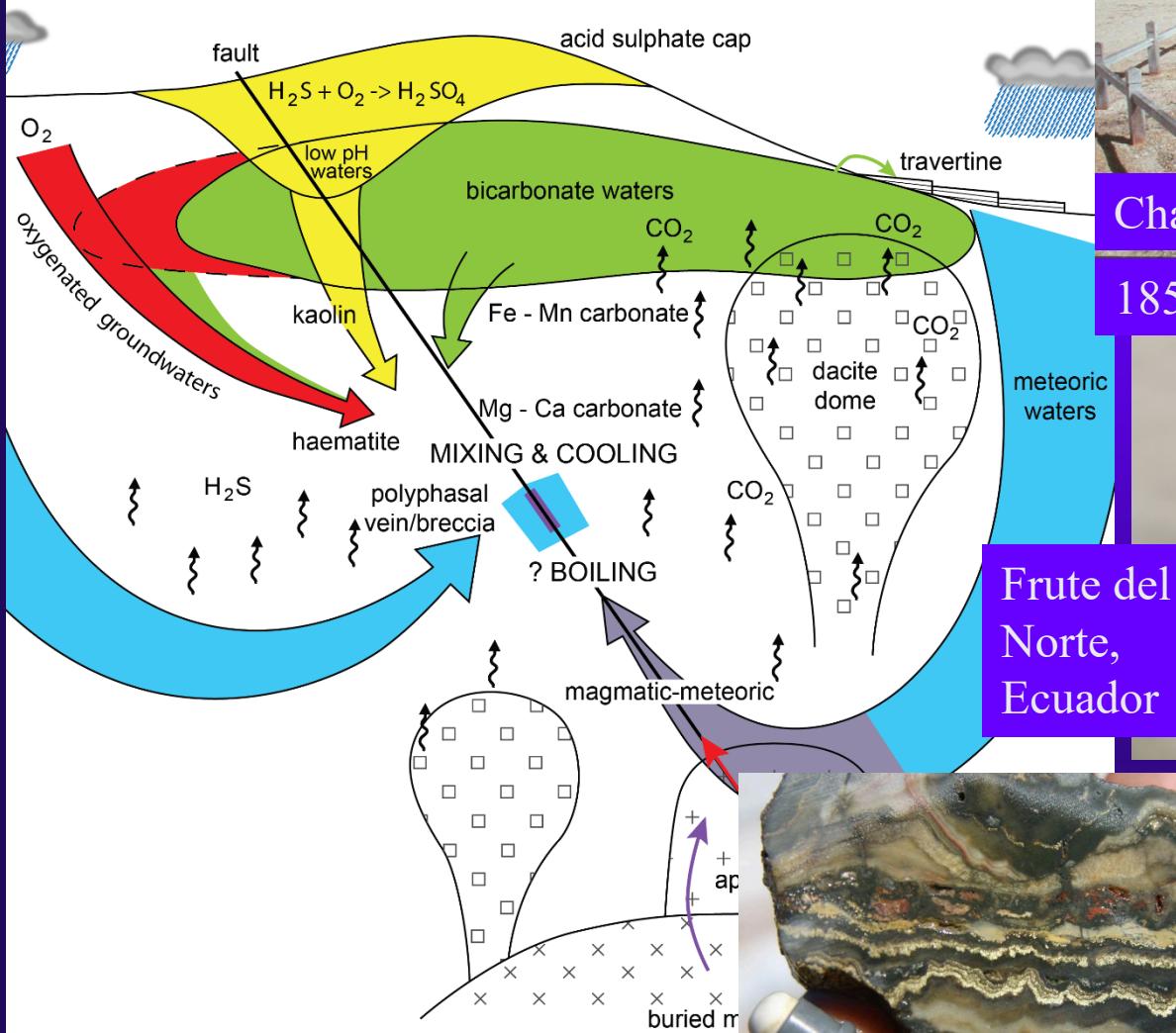
# Low sulphidation chalcedony-ginguro Au-Ag, Cracow

Kilkenny Vein, Cracow Gold mine Australia.

Au in sulphide with kaolin DDH VBK189  
837m, 62.9g/t Au & 19.8g/t Ag



# Mixing with low pH acid sulphate waters



543 ppm Au (Pope et al., 2005)



Champagne Pool

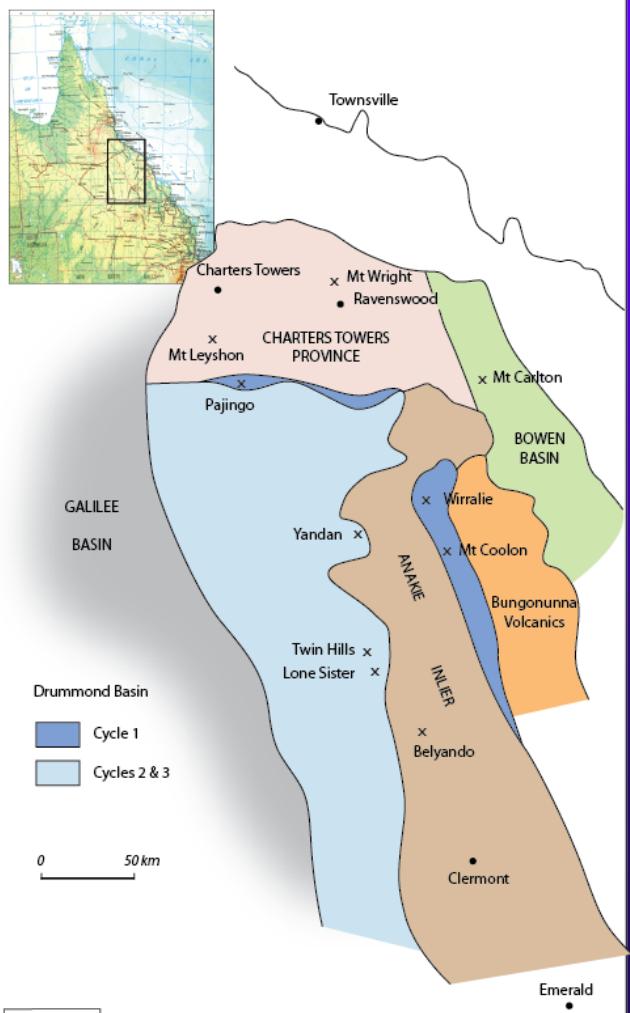
185.5 g/t Au & 214 g/t Ag

Frute  
del  
Norte,  
Ecuador

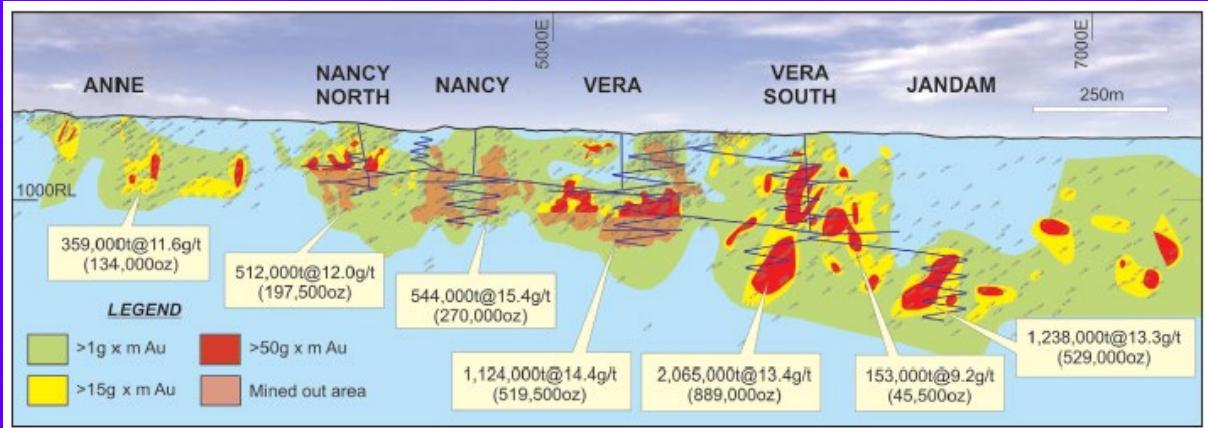


“85% of Au with pyrite-kaolin”

Sleeper



# Drummond Basin Au-Ag



## Twin Hills



## Wirralie

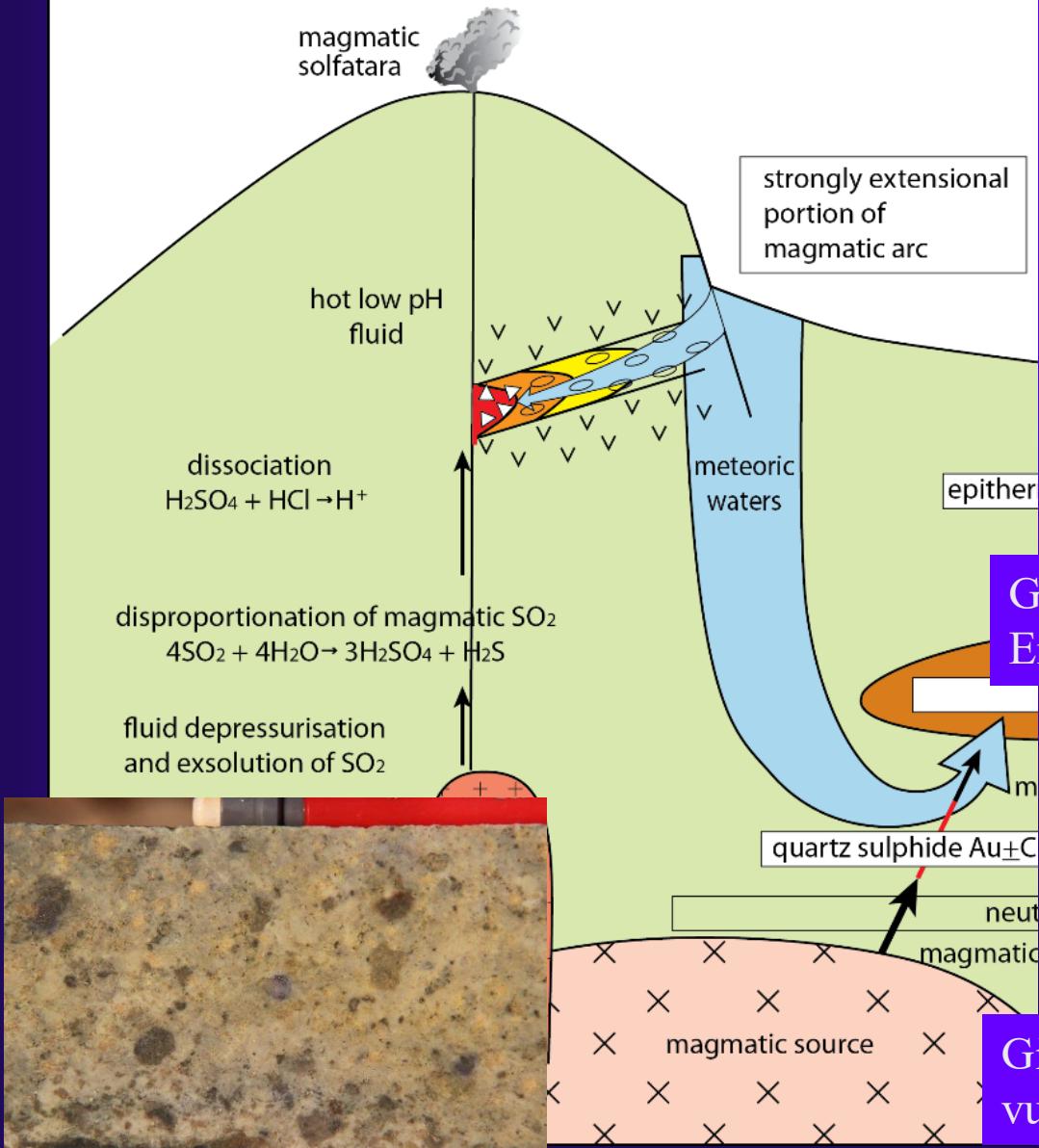


## Lone Sister

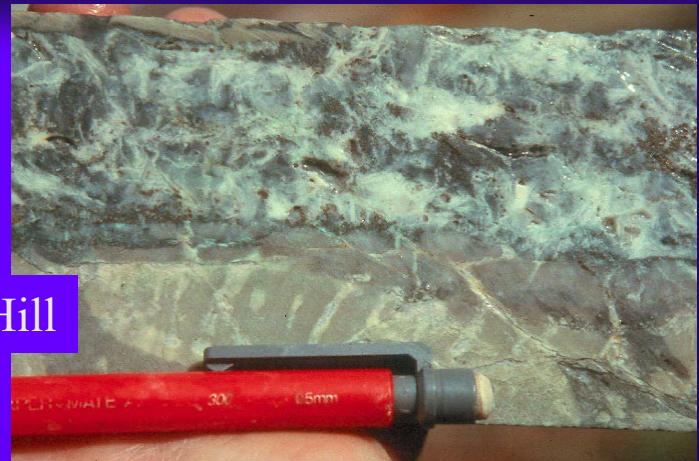


# High sulphidation epithermal Au

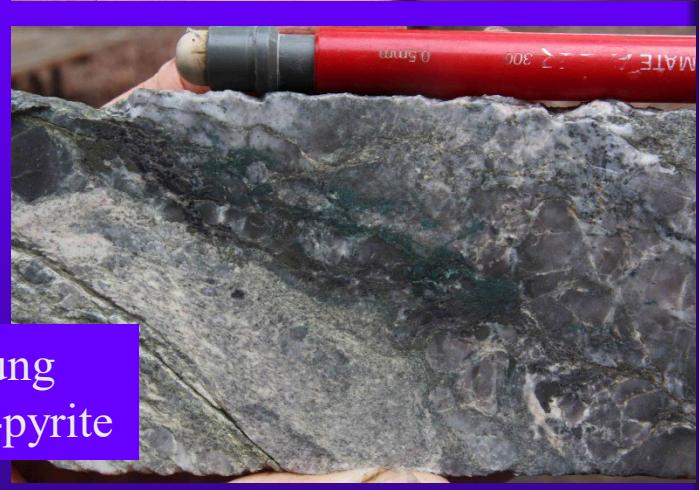
## HIGH SULPHIDATION EPITHERMAL



Peak Hill



Gidginbung  
Enargite-pyrite

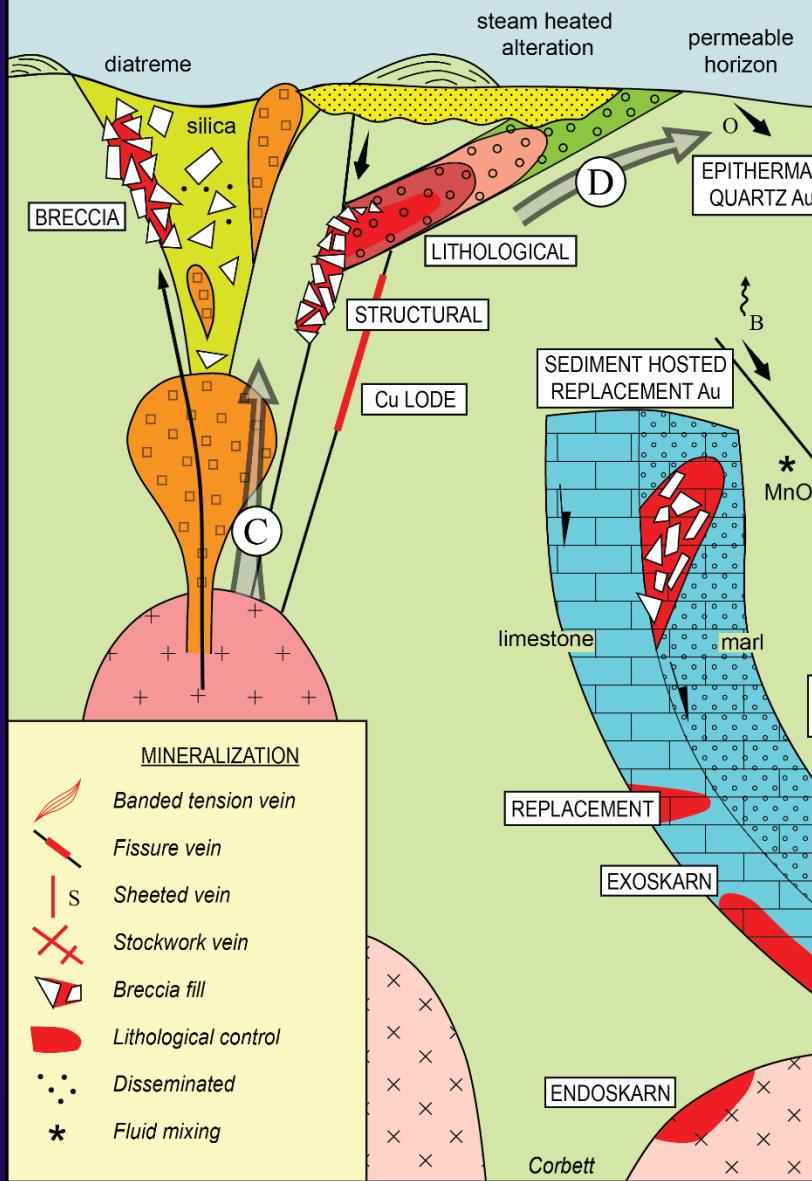


Gidginbung  
vugly silica

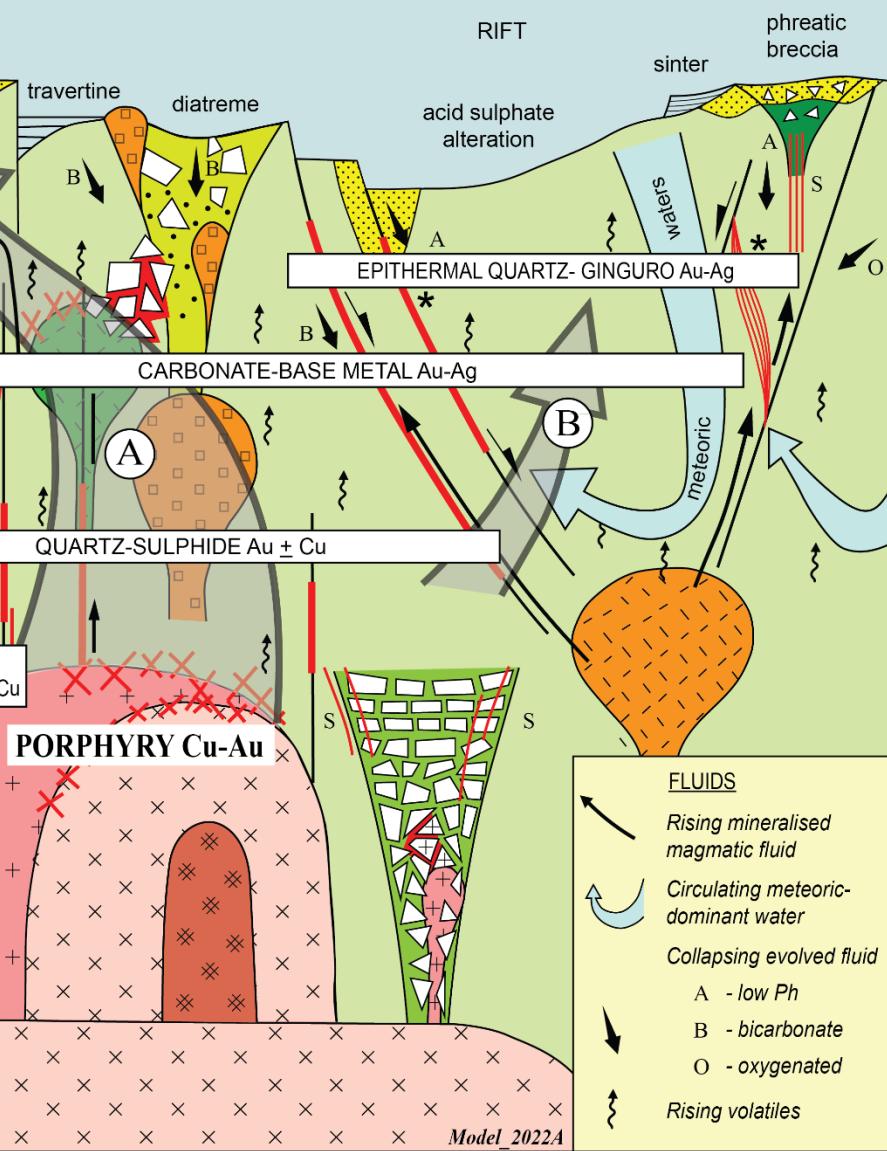


# High to lower fluid evolution

## HIGH SULPHIDATION EPITHERMAL Au



## LOW SULPHIDATION EPITHERMAL Au-Ag



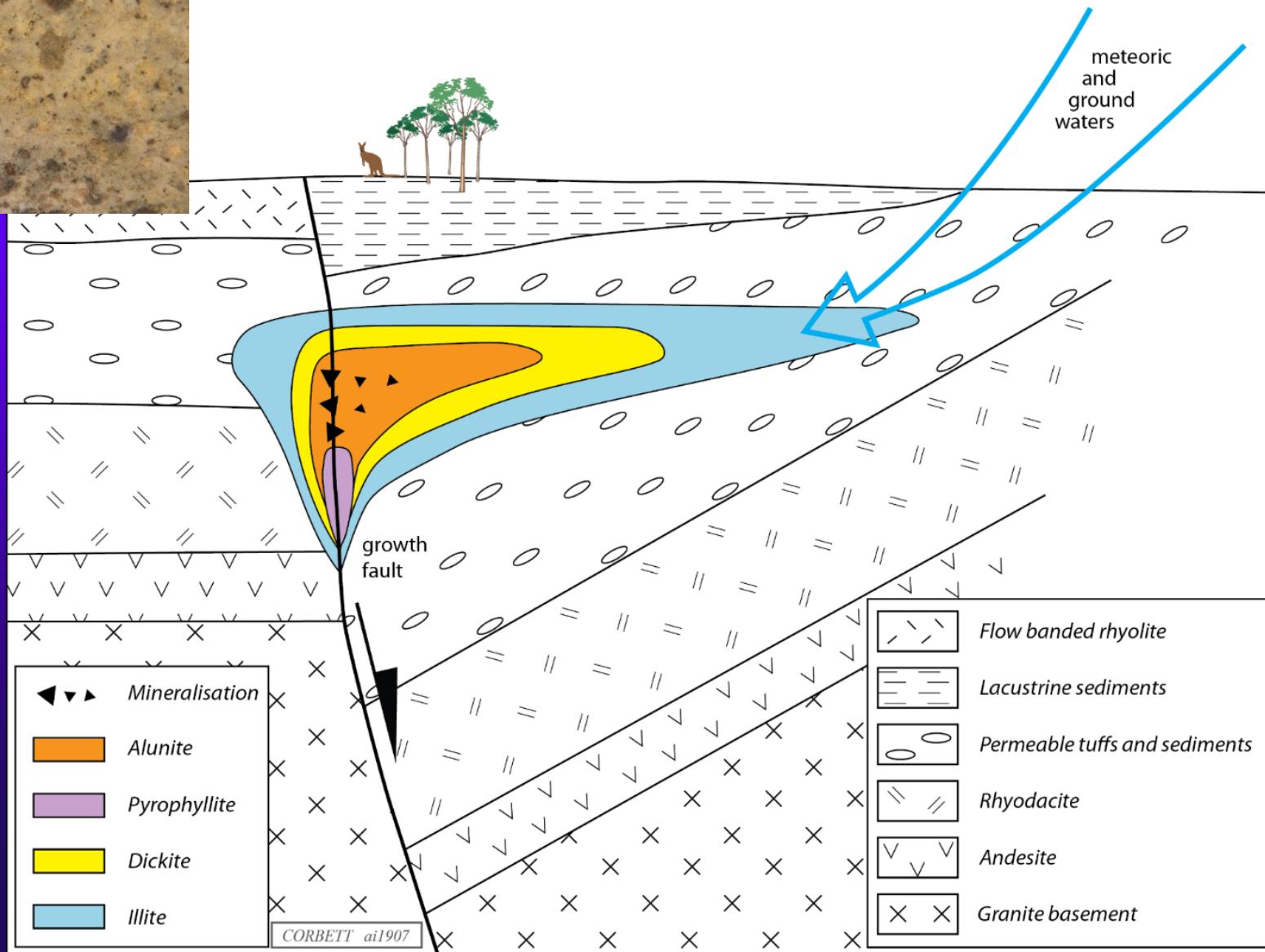
# Mt Carlton – Evolution to lower sulphidation



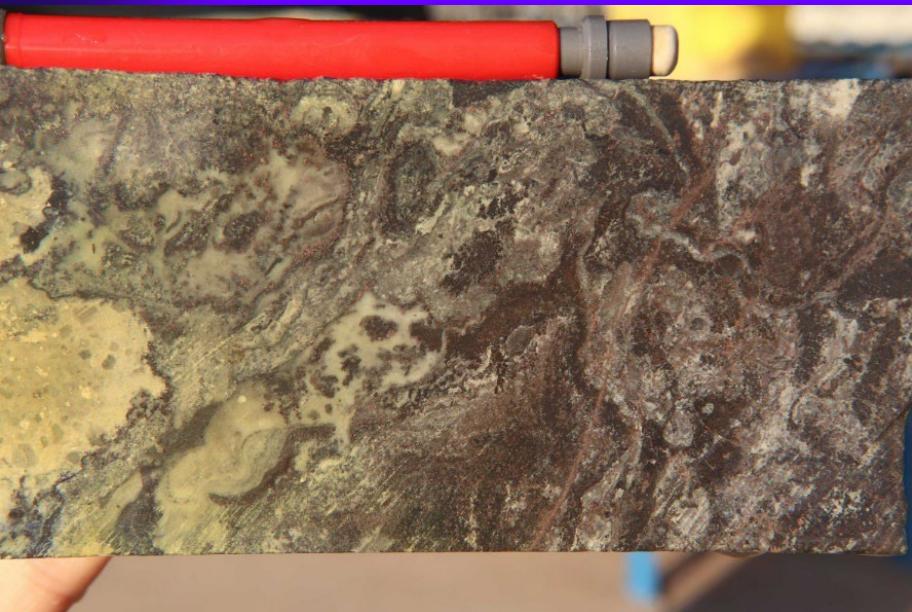
NB position of pyrophyllite

From Corbett, pers. observ.; Dugdale and Howard, 2017; Sahlström et al., 2018

A39



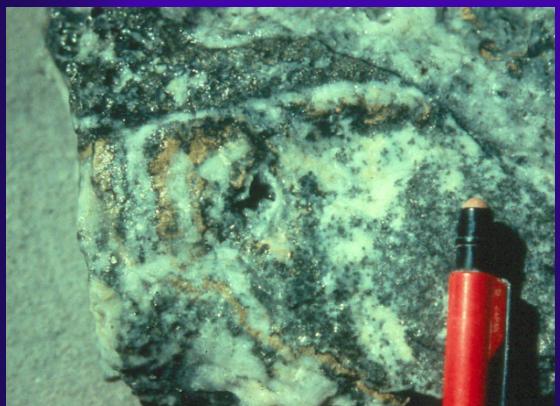
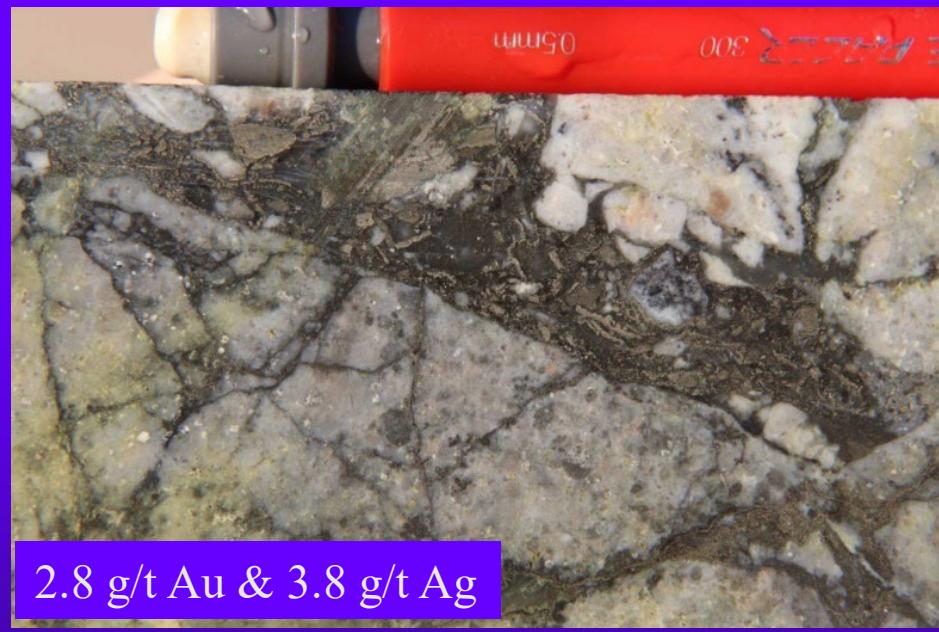
# Subsurface sedimentary structures – A39



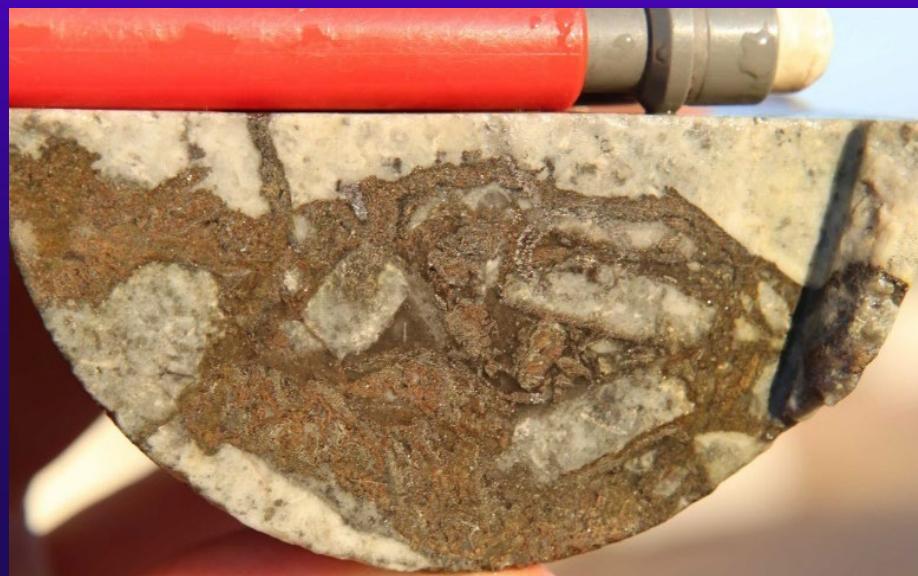
3237 g/t Ag



# Mt Carlton V2 DDH, HC8RCD484 – Transition from high to low sulphidation



Direct shipping ore  
El Indio, Chile



# Exploration implications

- ◆ Staged model for porphyry development
  - Explains overprinting events of alteration and mineralisation
  - Provides vectors towards blind mineralization
- ◆ Different styles of advanced argillic alteration display varying relationships to mineralization and uses as vectors
- ◆ High and low sulphidation no intermediate member
- ◆ For low sulphidation two fluid flow trends in magmatic arc and extensional such as back arc settings with varying mineralogy
- ◆ High sulphidation epithermal typically display low Au grades and difficult metallurgy BUT sometimes evolve to lower sulphidation with bonanza Au grades ....Zn

# Tambomayo, Peru – 23 March 2020

