

Mediaportal Report

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Centralian Advocate, 21/03/08, General News, Page 1
By: Christopher O'leary

Clip Ref: **00034835708**

228 words

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Centre mining mecca in just 5 years

Christopher O'Leary

CENTRAL Australia has the potential to become a mining mecca within five years.

That was the view of director of the Northern Territory Geological Survey Ian Scrimgeour, who said new mapping and geological sampling was developing national and international interest in the Territory.

And on current data he could see at least four mines being created in Central Australia before 2013.

They would be Thor Mining's molybdenum and tungsten mine on the Plenty Highway, Olympia Resources' Garnet Sands project at

Hart Range, Arafura Resources' Nolans Bore project at Aileron and Energy Metals' tenement over the Bigryli uranium deposit west of Yundumu.

He said: "They are basically doing feasibility studies there.

"We're hopeful a number of new deposits are starting up or at least discovered."

Speaking at the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar at the convention centre this week, Mr Scrimgeour said recent mapping and geochemical sampling showed significant nickel potential around the

This should encourage plenty of industry interest, he said.

Mr Scrimgeour said: "From the rocks we've sampled we've found a possibility of a high amount of nickel, so we believe the area is a good place to explore.

"Mithril Resources is already exploring there."

Department of Minerals and Energy executive director Richard Sellers said the number of exploration licences had jumped in the past three years, with 1000 granted in the past 12 months.

Ref: 34835708