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## Santana eyes September for scoping study

Gavin Evans - Tue, 6 Jun 2023

Santana Minerals says it expects to complete a scoping study for its Bendigo-Ophir project by the end of September.

The firm has drilled almost 18,000 metres as part of a programme of infill drilling to firm up its February mineral resource estimate for the area of 2.9 million ounces of gold.

That estimate of inferred and indicated resource covers four deposits in the Rise and Shine shear zone, with about 2.6 million ounces at Rise and Shine. The other deposits are Come in Time, Shreks and Shreks East.

The firm told the ASX on Friday that the latest assay results from the drilling programme show the continuity of the mineralisation in the southern part of the Rise and Shine deposit.

The assays from seven drillholes include MDD142 – the more southerly of the series. It showed an aggregate of 28 metres at 4.6 grams of gold per tonne at depths between 133 metres and 185 metres. Gold was visible at 162m, 167m and 169m.

On a grams by metre basis the hole delivered 134 gold metal units.

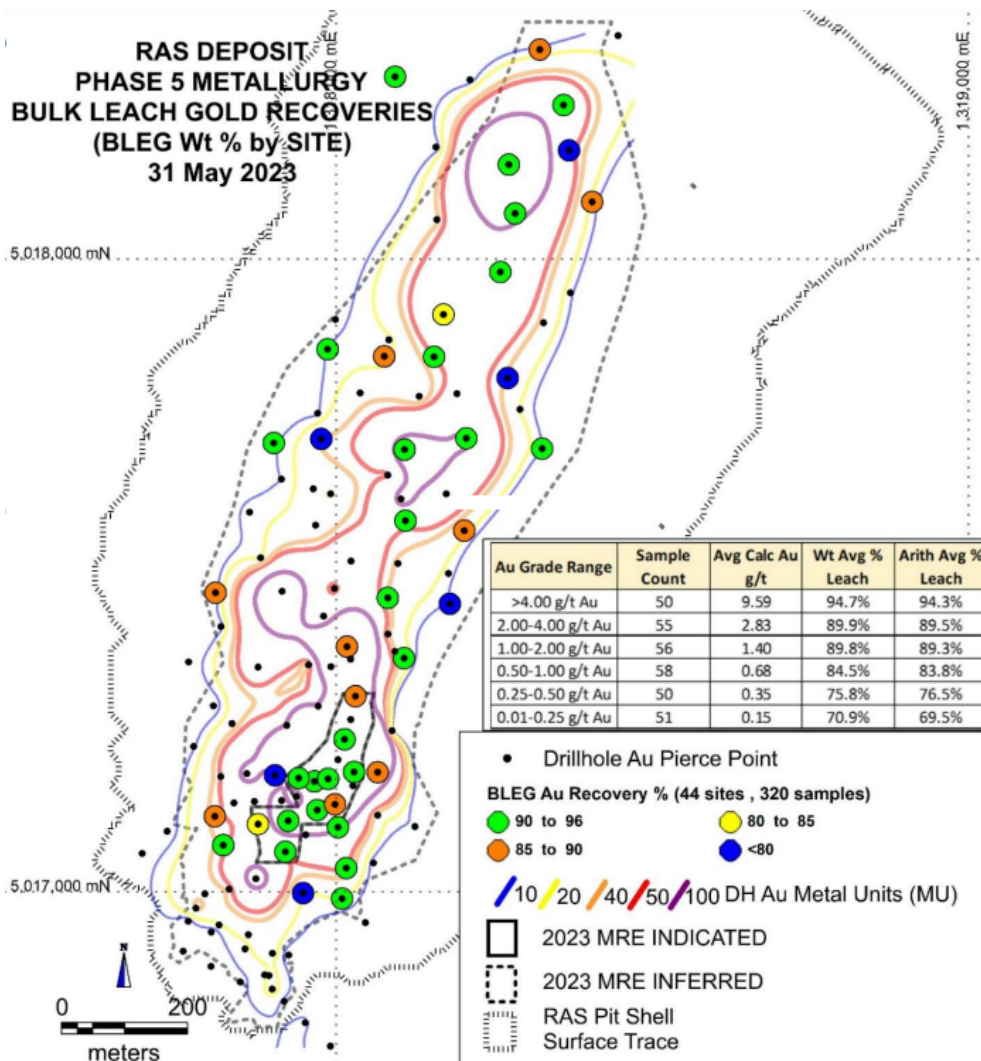
### Scoping study

“The assays from MDD142 suggests an extension of the high-grade zone to the south and upper section of the Rise and Shine deposit and represents an increase in grade of ore that would likely be processed early in the mine life,” says Damian Spring, the firm’s NZ general manager.

“Alongside the recent positive metallurgical testing reporting high recoveries of gold, these results provide strong confidence the project is tracking well towards a positive scoping study which is expected in the September quarter this year.”

In April, the company published gravity-leach test work on 10 composite samples from six drill holes. Gold recovery ranged from 48.4 per cent for the lowest grade sample to 99.3 per cent for the highest.

Santana also published interim results of bulk leach extractable gold testing on the first 90 of 320 samples. That indicated recoveries ranging from 86.8 per cent to 95.1 per cent.



The company last week reported the balance of those results. It says that at gold grades above 0.5g/t, the weighted average recovery ranges from 84.5 per cent to 94.7 per cent.

The company says further testing is underway to understand the department of the gold in the BLEG samples. It plans to use aqua regia gold extraction on 51 residue samples. It will also test the impact of grind size on gold cyanide recovery on 10 BLEG samples.

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