

Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations : Adapting for outcomes

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Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations (GDC) Program

- \$4 million annually as part of the *Resourcing the Territory* program
- Supports discovery and development of resources across the NT
- Provides up to 50% of direct eligible program costs at capped amounts
- Open-file data within 6 months.

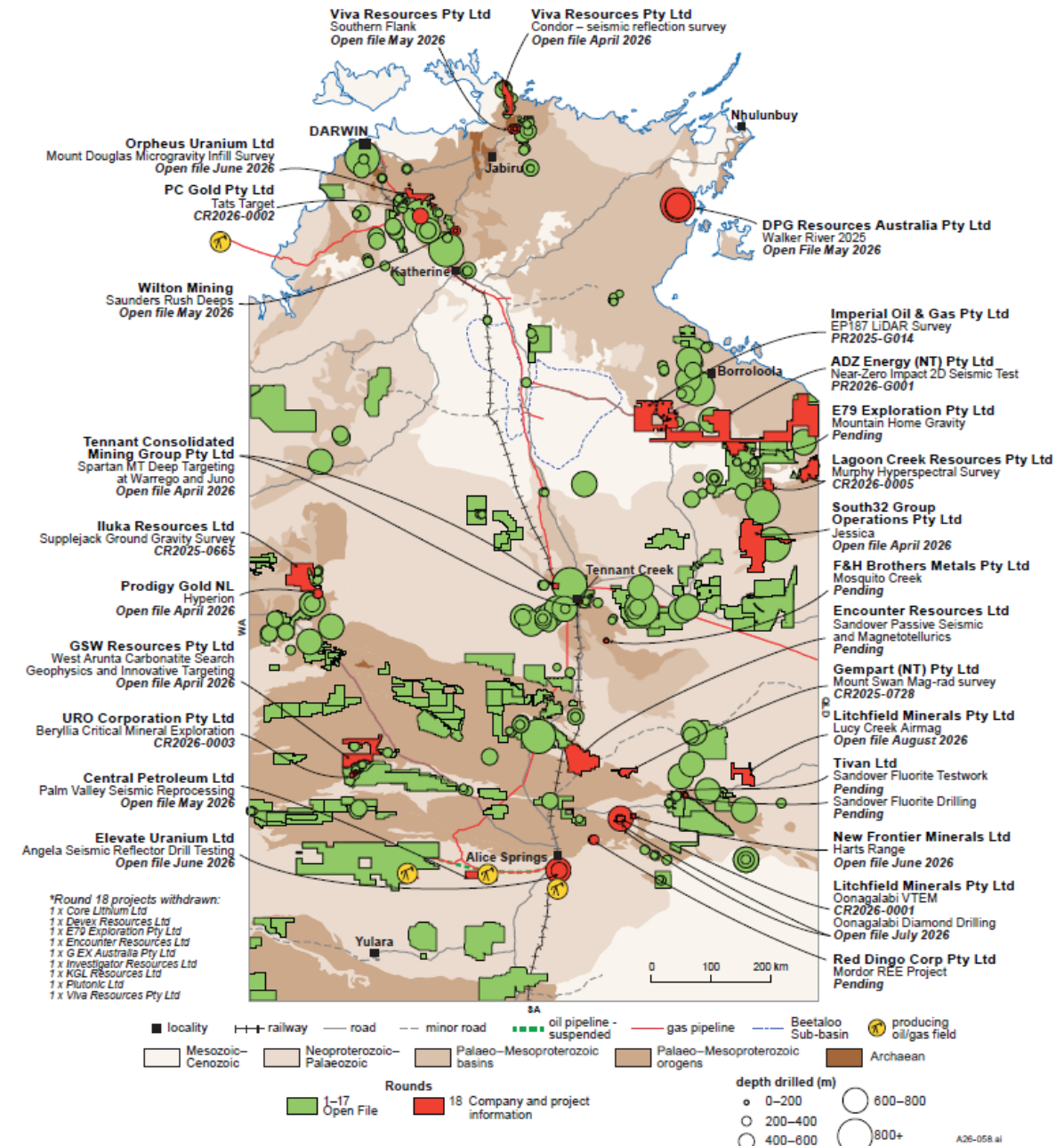


Figure 1. GDC projects rounds 1-18.

Project Categories

Co-fund for 50% of direct costs capped at:

- Single deep greenfields diamond hole **up to \$200,000**, multi hole diamond drilling **up to \$150,000** and non-diamond drilling **up to \$100,000**
- Brownfields diamond drilling **up to \$150,000**
- Regional-scale geophysics **up to \$150,000**
- Innovative targeting or reprocessing of reflection seismic **up to \$100,000**
- Re-analysis of existing sample sets **up to \$50,000**, or early stage mineral characterisation and test work, particularly for critical minerals **up to \$100,000**.

Apply now for Round 19 applications through GRANTSNT until **5pm ACST Wednesday 22 April 2026**.

Program Objectives

- Shares risk to test concepts that close critical geological knowledge gaps
- Generates substantial high-value open file geoscience data
- Builds a Territory-wide drillcore collection
- Unlocks significant additional investment in exploration
- Tests new ideas and techniques
- Supports the whole exploration lifecycle.



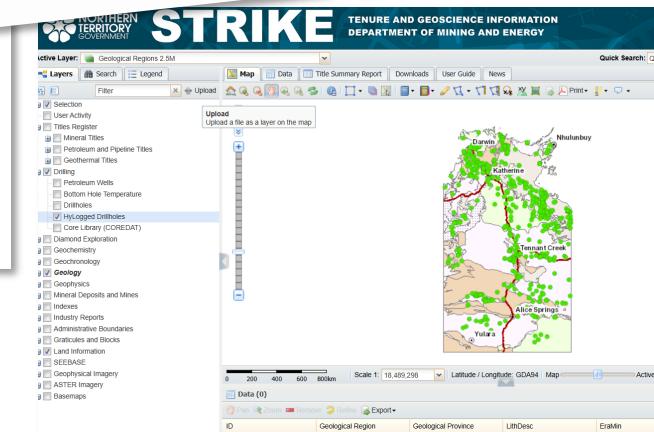
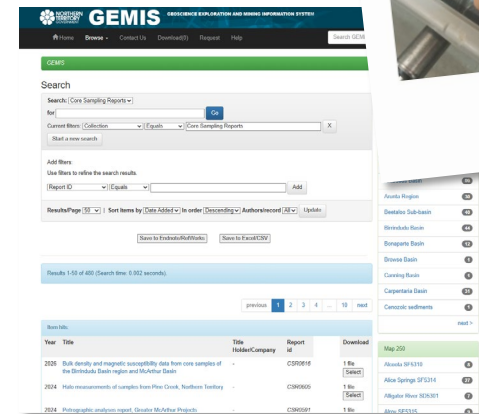
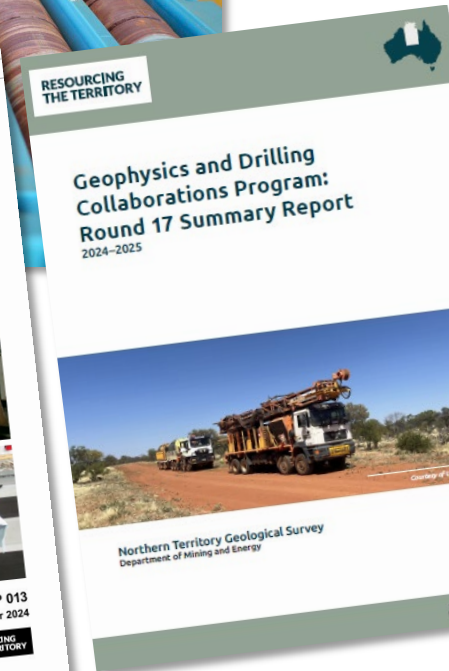
Evolved over time

- Continuously funded since 2008
- Expanded from greenfields diamond drilling and regional-scale geophysics
- Now includes greenfields non-diamond drilling, brownfields diamond drilling, innovative, untested camp- and prospect-scale geophysics for target generation, reprocessing of reflection seismic, and early stage metallurgical testwork, ore characterisation and re-analysis of existing samples
- Supports key high-value activities across the exploration lifecycle
- Undergoes continual improvement process.



Adding Value

- Huge amount of new open file geoscience
 - 201 projects funded (Rounds 1–17)
 - 112 drill programs for 534 drillholes (~96,000 m)
 - 89 geophysics programs
- Core library access for industry/research
- HyLogger and additional datasets
- Annual summary reports
- Hands-on workshops at AGES 2026.

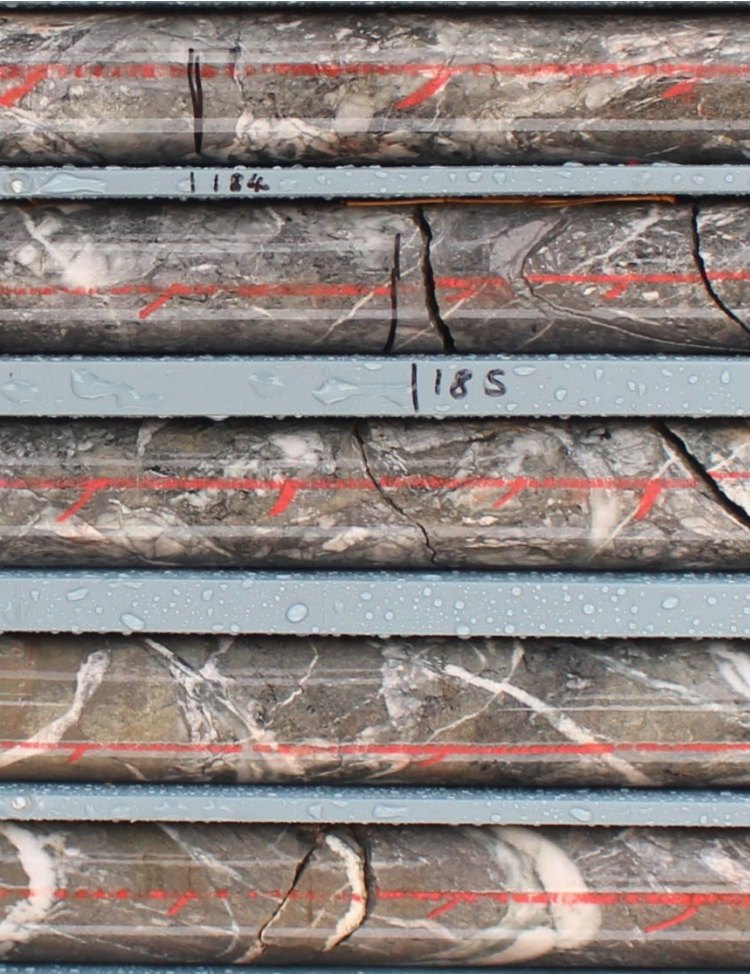


Round 19 Enhancements

- Allocated funding increased up to \$4 million annually
- Expanded eligible costs to include geological analyses
- Mineral characterisation and test work funding increased to **\$100 000**
- Territory Supplier Incentive increased to **\$15,000**
- Payment schedule now provides **up to 80% of the eligible awarded funding** after completion of fieldwork, with remaining paid out on submission of final deliverables
- More flexibility to complete fieldwork
- Final deliverables **3 months after fieldwork completion or 1 June 2027**, whichever is earlier.



Tips for high-scoring applications



- Strong technical proposals, the geological model being tested and what value will be added to geological understanding of the area, or clear problem and how it will be solved
- High-quality visuals, such as maps and cross-sections, are critical
- Realistic timelines
- Status of land access, approvals, surveys, clearances & certificates
- Technical and financial capability.

Tips for high-quality images

- Map with geology and proposed drill collars
- Plans include existing drilling, type, depth and HoleID, proposed drilling, scale bar and any relevant geochem or geophysical anomalies
- Sections include all existing and proposed drill traces, geological model/interp or geophysical model/target
- For brownfields programs, sections will include resource wireframes, geological wireframes, resource/block model or pit outline, appropriate slice
- Long sections or schematics can be useful for brownfields programs.

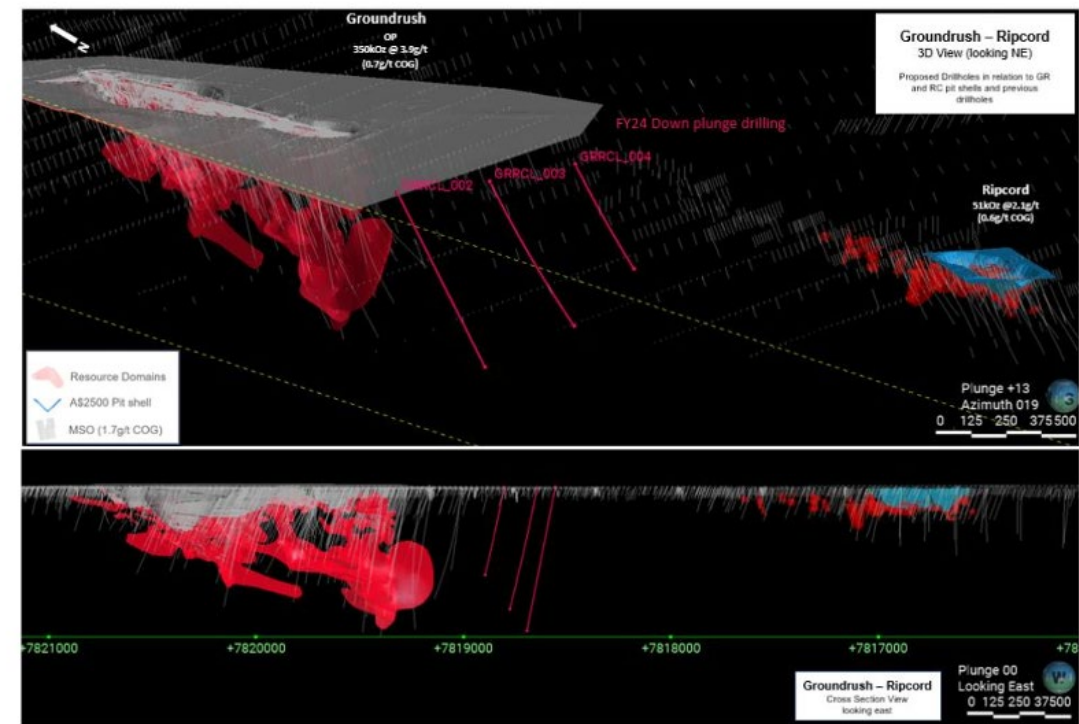


Figure 6: Resource domains of Groundrush and Ripcord deposits with the proposed drill traces

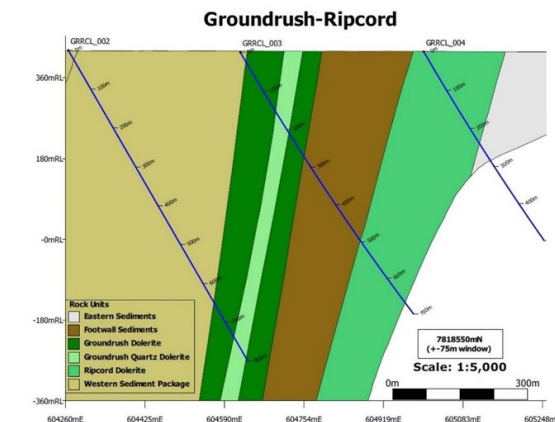


Figure 7: Cross section of the planned drillhole traces with the expected rock units to be intersected

A picture tells a thousand words

FAQ & Important Reminders

- Applicants need to be tenement holders in NT
- Cash contribution needed, no in-kind contributions
- Successful and non-successful applicants notified by early June 2026
- Successful recipients can only commence the co-funded activities after successful projects have been announced
- Contracts need to be fully executed before the co-funded activities commence
- New contract templates have been developed across NT Government to align standard terms and conditions for grant funding
- Half core for the entire length of the drillcore must be submitted and comply with core submission requirements. All sampling must come from the recipients half
- For multi hole brownfields diamond programs, and RC and non diamond drilling programs, all co-funded holes and samples must be offered. However, NTGS may only choose representative samples to be submitted to the Core Facilities
- All analyses proposed need to be completed and submitted by the final submission date to be reimbursed
- Data must be supplied in formats following Guideline 7
- Large data can be supplied through our FTP site
- Core held in the NTGS core facilities are not eligible under the re-analyses program
- GDC guidelines and Advice for successful applicants are designed to be used through the funding cycle.

Contact us

RESOURCING
THE TERRITORY



Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations Program
GUIDELINES

Round 19
2026-2027



Northern Territory Geological Survey
Department of Mining and Energy

GDC enquires

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