

West Alford copper one big system

Nick PERRY
JOURNALIST

MINERAL exploration company Adelaide Resources has discovered the various sections of copper it has found near Alford are all connected as part of one large zone.

"Our findings so far are part of a very, very large mineralised system," managing director Chris Drown said.

"Within that very broad zone of copper, gold, molybdenum, lead and other minerals, there are four zones that have better grades of copper."

Mr Drown is hopeful the four zones with good percentages of copper can be used for a future mineral resource estimate — a clear statement outlining just how much copper there is in the area.

Rex Minerals released its first mineral resource estimate for Hillside, near Ardrossan, in 2010.

To show how much copper was at Hillside, Rex drilled to about 600 metres deep, whereas Adelaide has drilled holes about 130 metres to date.

"Our four zones remain open at depth and we have every confidence if we drill deeper we will find mineralisation at depth as well," Mr Drown said.

"We want to release a resource estimate as quickly as we can because it is a real milestone in the development of a mining project.

"But we need to get deeper drilling done so we can confirm the mineralisation exists at depth."

Drilling is on hold as farmers start seeding, although Adelaide still has a couple of staff members soil testing near Alford.



■ FINDING COPPER... Adelaide Resources' Kate Pearce with the company's Field Portable XRF machine, which takes non-invasive samples of mineralisation below the ground.

Sampling with the Field Portable XRF

ADELAIDE Resources is leading the way amongst exploration companies by using a Field Portable XRF machine and the results could benefit farmers whose cropped paddocks are being sampled.

The machine takes a reading of mineralisation

below the ground, so the company knows where it is worthwhile drilling.

It minimally disrupts the farmer's soil and the results can help landowners with their cropping programs.

"It shows 32 elements under the soil and we are happy to share our results

with farmers because some elements we look at, such as phosphorus, can benefit them with their practices," Kate Pearce, from Adelaide Resources, said.

"We are visitors here and want to make sure we have a good relationship with landholders."