

Experienced explorationists are the key to unlocking potential WA lithium projects

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ABSTRACT

In recent years there has been a rapid global transition to green energy as mining companies attempt to reduce carbon emissions and decarbonise their assets. The lithium industry has experienced strong economic growth since 2010, due to the increased demand for electric transportation and the need for static storage of renewable wind and solar energy sources. The presence of lithium in pegmatites has created opportunities for mining companies in Western Australia, however, these projects have tended to lack experienced explorationists during the exploration and development phases. It has generally very much been the case of “you don’t know, what you don’t know”.

Lithium companies in WA now have an opportunity to learn from the efforts of others during earlier and the current lithium booms to make strategic changes in their exploration techniques. There needs to be a rethink on the methodologies used by explorationists and the skill sets required to identify amenable orebodies including a focus on process mineralogy. Educating geologists about the need to differentiate between the collection of data and the generation of information, is the key to unlocking potential lithium deposits.