Executive Summary

Crown Minerals of the Ministry of Economic Development in conjunction with GNS, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Ltd, has recognised the necessity of energising investment in the exploration industry to ensure continuity of the development of New Zealand’s mineral resources. This CD is a response to that need, and comprises major compilation of geoscientific data, examining the potential for new discoveries of epithermal gold mineralisation. This CD is a companion compilation to mesothermal gold prospectivity study completed in 2002. The epithermal CD and included report details untenanted (unpegged) prospective areas, some with historical gold workings, as well as new and under-prospected geological domains where potential for similar mineralisation exists. New Zealand already hosts an operating world class epithermal goldmine (global resource greater than 5 million ounces). The modelling study indicates significant potential for the discovery of new gold deposits. The compilation:

- Publishes significant new geological knowledge via maps and reports.
- Delivers digital and GIS datasets providing the most up to date and comprehensive geoscientific information on epithermal gold mineralisation available on a national scale.
- Provides complementary cultural and geographic information in GIS format detailing current tenement, land use, national parks and infrastructure to allow effective spatial interrogation of the data.
- Details regional scale prospectivity for epithermal gold mineralisation using spatial pattern recognition techniques in GIS.

Favourable and mostly under-explored prospective epithermal gold areas in the Taupo Volcanic Zone.

red = high prospectivity, cyan = mod, blue = low