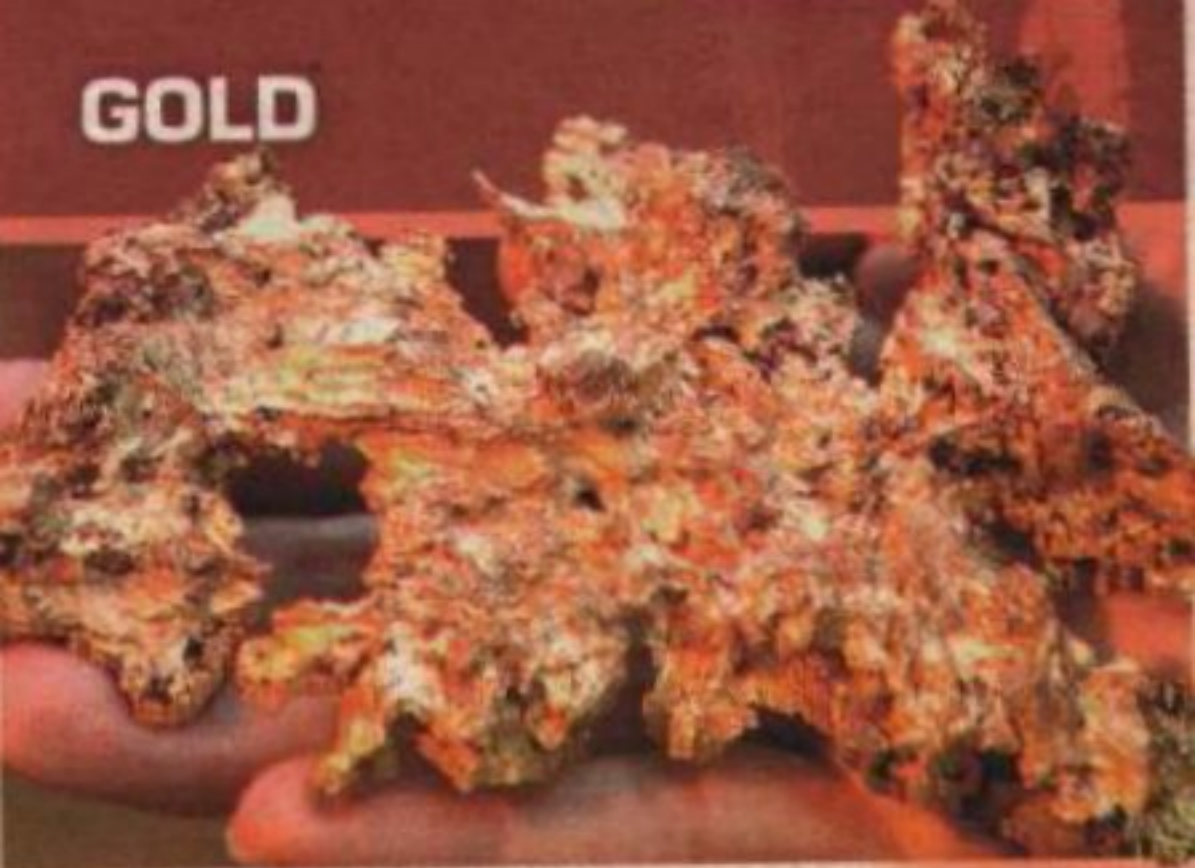


# GOLD



**W**A'S gold geology is fabulous, but one factor hitting exploration is that investment enthusiasm is stronger for uranium – a commodity still politically hamstrung.

Another is the lack of available top-quality drill rigs because many are assigned to long-term drilling for iron ore and nickel.

The best new gold hope is the huge Tropicana project that runs east of Laverton down past Kalgoorlie, and is a joint venture between Anglo-Gold Ashanti Ltd and Independence Group Ltd.

There are other new finds such as Echo Resources Ltd's Julius prospect in the Yandal greenstone belt, the province effectively opened up by mining engineer turned prospector Mark Creasy with the Bronzewing and Jundee deposits.

– ROSS LOUTHEAN