



Uranium explorers employ local people

Uranium SA has started hiring local workers for its drilling projects in and around the Mullaquana project.

Company chief executive officer Russell Bluck said at least four local workers will be hired over a period of time.

He said uranium exploration was not a large scale operation but wherever possible locals will be employed.

"Because we are not a large employer, we look for locals to help with mechanical and plant operating jobs," Mr Bluck said.

"Other skilled people are from Adelaide who work on a rotational basis."

While explaining the progress

of exploration works at Mullaquana, Mr Bluck said 180 drills have been made so far and at least 100 more would be done by July.

He said hydro geology tests were also being carried out to understand the environment better.

"We have various aquifers in the area and have been taking water samples to check the water quality," Mr Bluck said.

"Water in the top part is acidic while much lower is salty - three times that of natural sea water.

"The tests are telling us more about the environment and will help us in exploration works."

The company has also set up a

container freezer at the site to store the samples.

Mr Bluck said it was difficult to store the water-saturated sand for testing and lab works, which was being carried out in Adelaide.

He said freezing it helped with the storage and quality was also better.

Mr Bluck said it would take a few years before all the details and exploration works are ironed out and actual mining begins.

He thanked the local community and land owners for their support during the exploration works.



Riggers busy working at the drilling site were: (from left) Christian Cackburn, Jon Scott and Doug Marks of Thompson Drilling.