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## Rare earth mine one step closer

By Kendall Jackson

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It's hoped within the next five years a rare earth mine will be fully operational at Aileron station, about 135 kilometres north of Alice Springs. The mine site, called Nolan's Bore, already has an 18.6 million tonne deposit of rare earth, but Arafura Resources hopes further drilling over the next few months will find more of the rare element.

Rare earth is the key ingredient for many of today's latest technologies and is used in computer screens, rechargeable batteries and environmentally friendly hybrid vehicles.

Arafura Resources managing director Alistair Stephens said while the company's exceptionally pleased with the size of the Nolan's Bore deposit, it's hopeful it will target further resource in the area. "We're also running a feasibility study for the technical aspects of the recovery of the products from Nolan's Bore," he said. "That process will continue after this drill program with an outlook for the technical and commercialisation of the products".

**In this report:** Arafura Resources managing director Alistair Stephens.

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