

Table A6. Fuzzy analysis for uranium prospectivity

| <i>Critical processes</i> | <i>Appendix figure number</i> | <i>Input predictors map</i> | <i>Fuzzy-membership value map weight</i> | <i>Confidence factor</i> | <i>Rationale for expert-knowledge based weight (fuzzy membership values)</i> | <i>Rationale for confidence factor</i> |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| <p>Surficial uranium deposits are classified as uranium concentrations in unconsolidated near-surface sediments or soils with secondary cementing minerals (e.g. calcite, dolomite). Surficial uranium deposits have formed during the Cenozoic by evaporation processes in fluvial to playa systems in arid to semi-arid climatic conditions (e.g. Langer Heinrich in Namibia, Yeelirrie in Western Australia). Surficial ores are formed from accumulations of carnotite ($K_2(UO_2)_2(VO_4)_2 \cdot 3(H_2O)$) within calcretized fluvial drainage channels. Uranium and potassium are derived by surficial and/or subsurface weathering and leaching/transport of uranium and potassium from uranium-rich granitic rocks by both surficial and underground water. Vanadium derives from mafic/ultramafic rocks in the trap regions.</p> | | | | | | |
| Predictor map for source | | | | | | |
| Appropriate sources of uranium are granite | | | | | | |
| | A70 | Distance to granitic rock of any age | | 8 | 8 Granites typically form good U source rocks | Granite units were extracted using spatial query from GSWA (2010) and buffered at 25 km |
| Predictor map for active pathways | | | | | | |
| <p>Uranium-potassium enriched oxidized groundwater is the main means of transportation. This enriched groundwater is brought to the surface by evaporation processes in fluvial (channel valley) to playa systems, in arid to semi-arid climatic conditions. In situations where groundwater is close to the surface, evaporation might cause the water to move up due to capillary action. Therefore, a predictor map for paleochannels was created as they are pathways for fluid flows.</p> | | | | | | |
| | A71 | Distance to paleochannels | | 9 | 7 Best spatial proxy for surficial uranium pathways. 3rd or higher order present drainage derived from SRTM used as proxy for paleochannel | Interpreted from SRTM with relatively low level of confidence. This predictor map was created by mapping distances (500 m on each side) of a 3rd (or higher) order present-day channel |
| Predictor maps for physical traps | | | | | | |
| These deposits correspond to epigenetic near-surface uranium concentrations. Valley calcrete and playa sediments provide a favourable environment for carnotite deposition. | | | | | | |
| | A72 | Distance to valley calcrete | | 8 | 8 Calcrete is made of large grains that can precipitate large amounts of K-U vanadate | Calcrete outcrops were mapped by querying GSWA (2010b) with a 100 m buffer |
| | A73 | Distance to playa sediments | | 7 | 8 Playa sediment is made of small grains that can precipitate reasonable amounts of K-U vanadate | Playa sediment outcrops were mapped by querying regolith data of GSWA (2010a) with a 100 m buffer |
| Predictor maps for chemical traps | | | | | | |
| Reduction-oxidation processes control both uranium precipitation and fixation by vanadium | | | | | | |
| | A74 | Vanadium content | | 8 | 6 Vanadium element is essential to precipitate carnotite ($K_2(UO_2)_2(VO_4)_2 \cdot 3(H_2O)$). | V values from GSWA state geochemistry (GSWA, 2010) and GA Ozchem (GA, 2007) datasets were transformed to standardized Z scores (Singer and Kouda, 2001) and interpolated. The Z scores at which studentized contrast maximized were used as the anomaly thresholds (see Cheng, 2007 for details). CF low because we have interpolated the data in the whole study and some values are not known. |
| | A54 | Distance to mafic and ultramafic rocks | | 8 | 8 Mafic and ultramafic rocks typically form good Va source rocks | Mafic and ultramafic units extracted using spatial query from GSWA (2010). 1km buffer |
| | A9 | Distance to dyke | | 8 | 8 Dykes typically form good Va source rocks | Dyke units were extracted using spatial query from GSWA (2010) and new interpreted datasets. 1km buffer |
| | A75 | Presence of volcanic units | | 7.5 | 8 Volcanics units typically form good V source rocks | Volcanic units extracted using spatial query from GSWA (2010b) |
| | A76 | U anomaly in surface alluvium/sand cover. U channel of radiometric data is the best predictor. | | 8 | 9 The uranium channel in the radiometric data was the best available predictor for surficial uranium content. This was used to make the uranium content map for surface alluvium and sand-cover | Interpolated from radiometric data (GSWA, 2010b) |
| | A77 | Uranium anomaly | | 8 | 6 High U anomaly from geochemistry is indicative of uranium mineralization | U values from the GSWA state geochemistry (GSWA, 2010a) and GA Ozchem (GA, 2007) datasets were transformed to standardized Z scores (Singer and Kouda, 2001) and interpolated. The Z scores at which studentized contrast maximized were used as the anomaly thresholds (see Cheng, 2007 for details). CF low because we have interpolated the data in the whole study and some values are not known. |