

**24 April 2018**

# ASX Announcement

## Operational Update

### Highlights

- **Isabel Nickel Project**

*San Jorge Deposit*

- Negotiations with the Solomon Islands Government, albeit protracted, have now reached the final stage.  
With all legal protocols defined by the Government in place, Axiom Mining Limited ('the Company') is confident in the first instance a mining lease over San Jorge will be finalised in the second quarter of 2018.
- Environmental Impact Statement nearing finalisation, with the Solomon Islands Government expected to grant Development Consent shortly.
- 25 year Surface Access Agreement signed with landowners and Axiom.

*Kolosori Deposit*

- Prospecting Licence Application (PLA) pending approval.
- Negotiations with Solomon Islands Government currently underway and under Solomon Islands law, the company is protecting its rights to the development.

- **West Guadalcanal Project**

- Exploration yielding encouraging results through trenching and geological mapping.
- Drilling program currently under consideration.
- Increase in price of copper and gold has generated interest in this tenement.
- Cost effective exploration and potential drilling program; leveraging off current/already established operations.

- **Shareholder Briefing Sessions**

- Sydney: 10am, Monday, 30 April 2018, Level 2, 3 Spring Street
- Brisbane: 10am, Tuesday, 1 May 2018, Level 1, 320 Adelaide Street (*note change of date from 27 April to 1 May*)

Axiom CEO Mr Ryan Mount said, "The stage is set for Axiom to fulfil its objective of becoming a significant player in the nickel industry. Negotiations with the Solomon Islands Government for a mining lease over the San Jorge deposit have been finalised, with the final approval process due to occur shortly."

"The efforts made, to progress our application for mining, by officials of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Mines have been appreciated and we have been impressed with the recent display of professionalism by these two government departments."

## **Isabel Nickel Project**

### *San Jorge Deposit*

A number of negotiations and discussions have occurred, including matters pertaining to the legalities as to statutory processes. Meetings with the Minister for Mines and the Prime Minister have resulted in their consent for the approval of Axiom's Mining Lease Application (MLA), pending advice from the Attorney-General.

Subsequently, the Attorney-General formally advised the Solomon Islands Government that they can proceed with the final statutory process to approve Axiom's MLA.

A special meeting of the Minerals Board of the Ministry of Mines is expected to occur this month for final consideration of Axiom's MLA.

Axiom is confident of a successful outcome in the near term.

### *Land Access Agreement*

Landowners of the San Jorge deposit have provided Axiom with 25 years of exclusive access to the land pertaining to the prospecting licence and MLA via a Surface Access Agreement ('Agreement'). This Agreement culminates significant efforts by the Company to ensure landowners and local communities are provided structures to ensure fair, equitable and sustainable distribution of monetary and other benefits.

This Agreement is subject to The Mines and Minerals Act, with the Ministry of Mines presiding over the negotiations and also a signatory to the Agreement.

### *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*

The Ministry of Environment has completed its statutory process of holding public meetings for the consideration of Axiom's EIS.

Axiom's 570 page EIS was produced in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations in the Solomon Islands.

The EIS remains in draft form and is due to be finalised in consultation with the Ministry of Environment this quarter. Shortly thereafter, the formal grant of Development Consent is expected to be provided to Axiom.

### *Kolosori*

Axiom expects its application for a Prospecting Licence ('PLA') over this nickel deposit to be processed soon. It may be considered for approval at a current meeting of the Minerals Board (for consideration of the San Jorge MLA) or at the subsequent meeting of the Minerals Board.

The Company has asserted and reserved its rights to this project pertaining to its PLA.



*Location of San Jorge MLA and Kolosori PLA, Isabel Province, Solomon Islands*

## West Guadalcanal Project

This tenement is adjacent to known gold-silver deposits, including the Gold Ridge Mine. Axiom considers this project under-explored and highly prospective for Southwest Pacific style mineralisation, namely: gold-silver-basemetal epithermal; and copper-gold porphyry including skarn mineralisation.

Axiom has identified a number of targets lying within a 10km long base metal and gold corridor.

Following compilation of historical open-file data, a thorough review of Axiom's previous exploration and consideration of the growing market appetite for copper and gold opportunities, the Company has focused efforts on a prospect known as Humvee.

The Humvee mineralisation is hosted in hydrothermally altered tuffs, andesite porphyry and volcanic breccia.

Completion of early stage field exploration comprising geological mapping and sampling revealed a 300 m by 700 m mineralised zone, coincident with the wide geophysical (magnetics) and radiometric (potassium) anomalies. This area is now the current focus of exploration for this tenement.

The company has established a camp and exploration operations which include a significant amount of civil works for the upgrade and maintenance of access roads to some logistically challenging locations in the mountains of Guadalcanal Island.

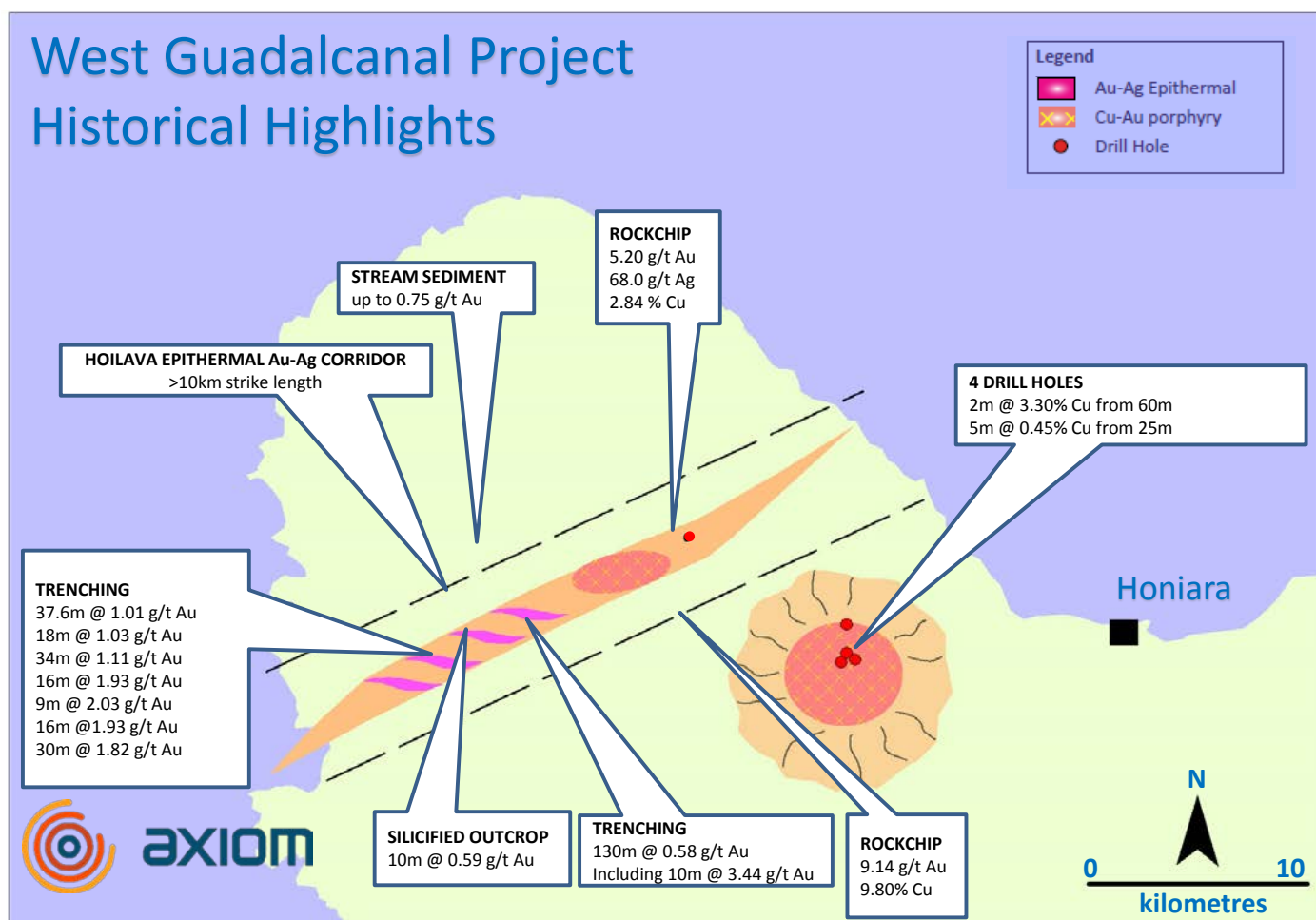
Axiom is conducting further exploration over other areas of the tenement with the objective of revealing the full extent of mineralisation, providing guidance for drill targets and exploring the extent of what Axiom believes to be a far larger mineralised system.

Civil works will now reduce and potentially conclude with the near ending of the wet season which has seen the exploration team maintain efficient output while dealing with tropical lows and the tail end of a number of cyclones affecting Guadalcanal this year. Plans are in place to connect the Humvee exploration area with Axiom's already established (2014) camp at Taho several kilometres away at the foot of the mountains, providing further efficiencies for exploration.

Results from more than 2,000 m of trenching is providing further confidence in Axiom's 2014 geological models and guidance for ongoing exploration of the area.

Axiom CEO Mr Ryan Mount said "While we proceeded through protracted negotiations for our Isabel Nickel Project licences, we swiftly reorganised our business, positioning ourselves to take advantage of this highly prospective copper and gold ground on Guadalcanal Island. We are very excited about the opportunity this presents us and to be able to advance this project efficiently by leveraging off our overheads, infrastructure, systems and personnel, parallel with the anticipated development of the Isabel Nickel Project."

Plans for drilling are underway to test targets identified from results to date.



*Highlights of some historical results from West Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands*

## Shareholder Briefing Sessions

For the past two years, Axiom has provided shareholders with an annual briefing presented by the Board and Management in two cities in Australia. These information sessions have been well received.

Axiom will again this year conduct shareholder briefing sessions in Sydney and Brisbane in 2018.

Details of these two events are below:

- Sydney: 10am, Monday, 30 April 2018, Level 2, 3 Spring Street
- Brisbane: 10am, Tuesday, 1 May 2018, Level 1, 320 Adelaide Street *(note change of date from 27 April to 1 May)*

## For enquiries, please contact:

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**ENDS**

## About Axiom Mining Limited

Axiom Mining Limited focuses on tapping into the resource potential within the mineral-rich Pacific Rim. Through dedication to forging strong bonds and relationships with the local communities and governments where we operate, Axiom Mining has built a diversified portfolio of exploration tenements in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes a majority interest in part of the Isabel Nickel Project in the Solomon Islands and highly prospective gold, silver and copper tenements in North Queensland, Australia. Axiom Mining is listed on the ASX.

For more information on Axiom Mining, please visit [www.axiom-mining.com](http://www.axiom-mining.com)

## Competent Person's Statement

The information in this announcement that relates to Exploration Results is based on information compiled by Mr Clinton Rivers who is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM). Mr Rivers has sufficient experience that is relevant to the styles of mineralisation and types of deposit under consideration and to the activity which is being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Rivers is Group Exploration Manager for Axiom Mining Limited and consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

## Disclaimer

Statements in this document that are forward-looking and involve numerous risk and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from expected results are based on the Company's current beliefs and assumptions regarding a large number of factors affecting its business, including litigation outcomes in the Solomon Islands Court of Appeal. There can be no assurance that (i) the Company has correctly measured or identified all of the factors affecting its business or their extent or likely impact; (ii) the publicly available information with respect to these factors on which the Company's analysis is based is complete or accurate; (iii) the Company's analysis is correct; or (iv) the Company's strategy, which is based in part on this analysis, will be successful.

The information in this ASX Announcement relating to exploration results for the West Guadalcanal Project is extracted from a release to the ASX on 11 February 2014 and 31 July 2015. Axiom is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information in the original market announcements and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning these exploration results continue to apply and have not materially changed.