

ASX: AHK

Corporate Directory

Directors

Executive Chairman
Roger Jackson

Executive Director
Ben Emery

Non-Executive Director
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Projects

• Gunnawarra
Nickel-Cobalt

• Mt Jesse
Iron-Copper

• Sandy Mitchell
Rare Earths

• Pluton
Gold



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**1,500M PHASE 1 SANDY MITCHELL DRILL PROGRAM
COMPLETED WITH ASSAYS PENDING**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rare Earth and Heavy Mineral mineralization visible in every hole.
- Mineralization is more than twice the depth encountered historically; 144 holes completed for 1,505 metres, with average depth of 10.5 metres and sands intersected down to 18 metres.
- Grid drilling covers an area of 1.3 million square metres.
- Mineralization has been panned from material at surface to the bottom of the sand profile; there is no overburden evident across the project.
- Drill samples have been sent to a third-party laboratory for assaying with results expected July.
- Assay results from drilling and ongoing test work will form the basis of a Maiden Mineral Resource Estimate under the 2012 JORC code.
- Sandy Mitchell's Rare Earths are amenable to panning a concentrate indicating low-cost, fast start up, straightforward beneficiation by gravity processing.
- Follow up drilling will be targeted based on extension of the maiden resource.

Ark Mines Limited (ASX: AHK) ("Ark" or the "Company") is pleased to announce completion of its maiden, Phase 1 drill program to test for Rare Earths ("REE") and Heavy Minerals present across its 100%-owned 140km² 'Sandy Mitchell' project, located near Chillagoe, North Queensland (Figure 1).

Sandy Mitchell is unique compared to other Rare Earths projects with material hosted in fine sands, known as a Terrestrial Placer deposit, which are amenable to panning a concentrate demonstrating low-cost, fast start up, straightforward beneficiation by gravity processing. Hence, processing costs are anticipated to be significantly lower than hard rock and ionic clay hosted Rare Earths projects. Sandy Mitchell will also benefit from having considerable scale based on the current 140 km² of tenements held and contiguous sub blocks of over 138km² currently under application.

Ark is pleased to confirm that this first phase drill program has been completed safely with approximately 1,505 metres drilled in 144 holes with average depth of 10.5 metres (Figure 2). In some holes, sands were intersected down to 18 metres. Hole depths averaged twice the depth that was first anticipated which is highly encouraging in its own right. It gives the Company great confidence that the project is of much greater scale than first envisaged.

The air core holes were drilled at 120 by 60 metre spacing over the central Rare Earths zone as part of an assessment of Rare Earths and Heavy Mineral grade, with spacing opening up to 120 by 120 metres peripherally (Figure 2). Sampling of the sand was by 1 metre intervals for assay to inform a maiden resource, as well as for density measurements and to provide samples for metallurgical test work.

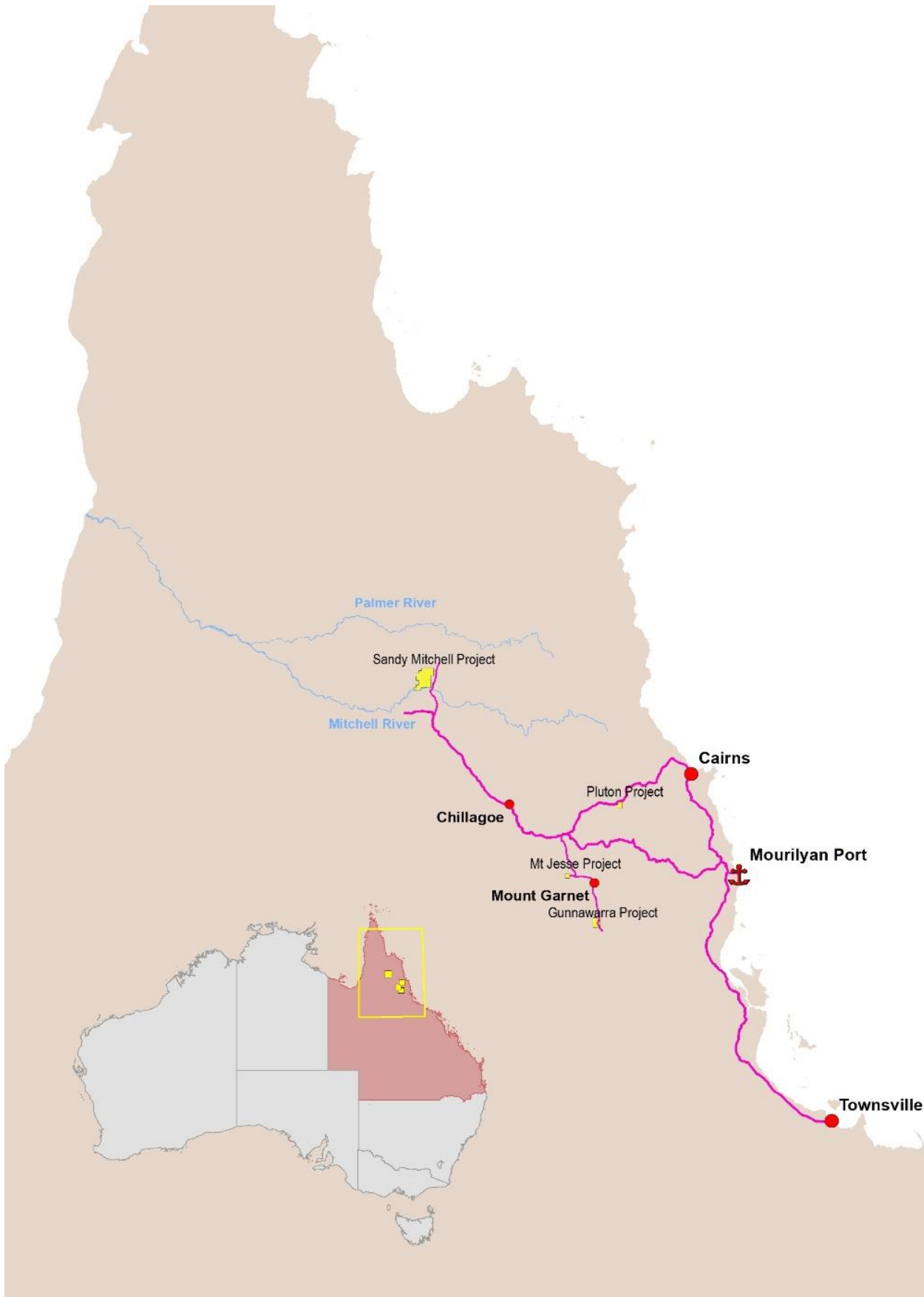


Figure 1: Location of the Sandy Mitchell Project, near Chillagoe, Nth QLD.

Drilling focused on the general area where in 2010, the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security focused its activities as well as in new areas previously not drilled, all of which are prospective for Rare Earths and Heavy Minerals. Ark is pleased to have completed this important phase of works and now awaits assay results. The next phase of drilling will be planned around extension of the maiden resource generated from phase 1 results.

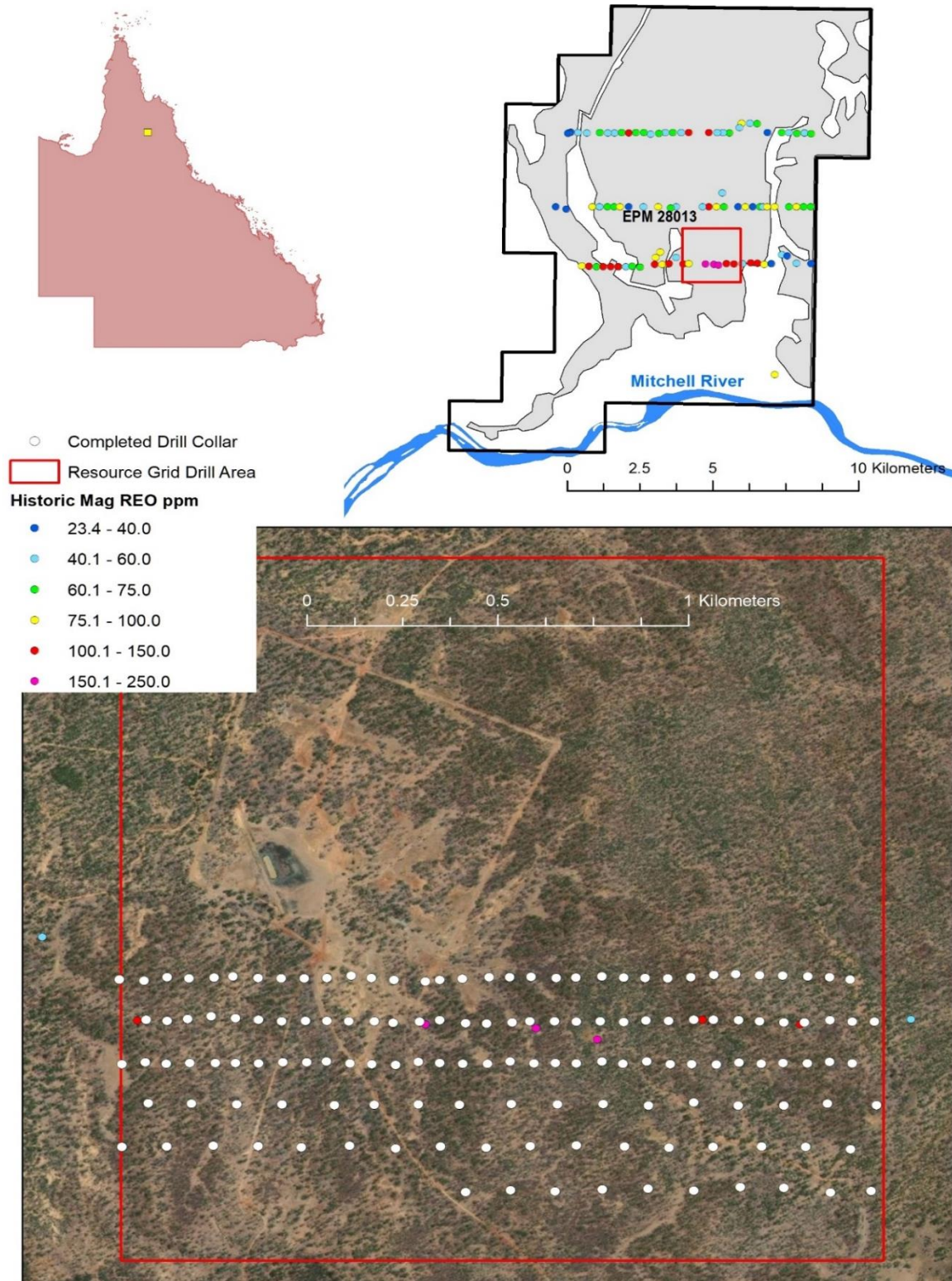


Figure 2: 144 completed drill collars at Ark's Sandy Mitchell Project, covering 1.3 km². Northern portion drilled at 60 x 120 m and southern periphery drilled at 120 x 120 m, to refusal for an average depth of 10.5 m.

MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

Executive Director; Ben Emery said: *“This maiden drill program has delivered well beyond our expectations and we remain committed and confident to the project and rapidly scaling up exploration and project development works. The average depth of the deposit looks to be more than double what we expected from the historical work. The sand carries heavy minerals from surface to the end of hole, where it sits on basement rocks. The geological team are very happy with what they are seeing from the drilled material while sampling is undertaken at every metre drilled. At over 140km² with an additional 138km² of sub blocks under application adjoining the project, and the extended depth of sands, Sandy Mitchell has massive potential and likely considerable scale. We look forward to reporting first assays very soon, reporting on other activities that are advancing the project before we move to the next stage of exploration.”*

FURTHER INFORMATION

Released through: Ben Jarvis, Six Degrees Investor Relations, +61 413 150 448 and authorised for release by the Board of Ark Mines Ltd.

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| www.linkedin.com/company/ark-mines-limited/

ABOUT ARK MINES LIMITED

Ark Mines is an ASX listed Australian mineral exploration company focused on developing its 100% owned projects located in the prolific Mt Garnet and Greenvale mineral fields of Northern Queensland. The Company's exploration portfolio consists of four high quality projects covering 200km² of tenure that are prospective for copper, iron ore, nickel-cobalt, porphyry gold and rare earths:

Gunnawarra Nickel-Cobalt Project

- Comprised of 11 sub-blocks covering 36km²
- Borders Australian Mines Limited Sconi project - the most advanced Cobalt-Nickel-Scandium project in Australia.
- Potential synergies with local processing facilities with export DSO Nickel/Cobalt partnership options.

Mt Jesse Copper-Iron Project

- Project covers a tenure area of 12.4km² located ~25km west of Mt Garnet.
- Centred on a copper rich magnetite skarn associated with porphyry style mineralization
- Three exposed historic iron formations.
- Potential for near term production via toll treat and potential to direct ship.

Pluton Porphyry Gold Project

- Located ~90km SW of Cairns near Mareeba, QLD covering 18km².
- Prospective for gold and associated base metals (Ag, Cu, Mo).
- Porphyry outcrop discovered during initial field inspection coincides with regional scale geophysical interpretation.

Sandy Mitchell Rare Earth and heavy Mineral Project

- Ark has recently Acquired the 147km² EPM 28013 'Sandy Mitchell' – an advanced Rare Earths Project in North Queensland with additional 138km² of sub blocks under application
- Very high historical TREO grades* including high grade pan concentrates of:
 - 18.4% TREO
 - 17.4% TREO
 - 15.8% TREO
 - 15.3% TREO
 - 12.3% TREO
 - 9.4% TREO
 - 4.7% TREO
 - 3.3% TREO
- Project contains all critical Light Rare Earths as well as Heavy Rare Earths including dysprosium (Dy), terbium (Tb), holmium (Ho), erbium (Er), thulium (Tm) ytterbium (Yb), yttrium (Y) and excluding only Lutetium
- Up to 25% of the TREO is Nd and Pr (magnet metals)
- Rare Earths at 'Sandy Mitchell' are amenable to panning a concentrate; Planned low-cost, fast start up, straightforward beneficiation by gravity processing

RELIANCE ON HISTORIC DATA

All sample data reported in this release, as disclosed in the body of the release, in the tables in the Appendix and in the JORC table is based on data compiled by the Competent Person from other sources and quoted in their original context. These sources have been referenced in the text and the original Competent Persons statements may be found with the relevant documents. Some of this information is publicly available but has not been reported in accordance with the provisions of the JORC Code and a completed Table 1 of the JORC Code and Competent Persons statement is attached to this Release. Whilst every effort has been made to validate and check the data, these results should be considered in the context in which they appear and are subject to field verification by the Company.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

The panned concentration samples were taken by Stuart Foster. And the reported assay results supplied to MKY Resources Ltd and Delminco Pty Ltd (2007 to 2009). Stuart Foster, the previous owner of the tenement has supplied a hard copy of the panned concentrate results to Ark. Mr Foster has also supplied a statement pertaining to the sampling procedures undertaken. There is however some information which is not available, and cannot be included in the Table 1. Sample results were sent to SGS Townsville for assaying the assay technique is yet to be determined and the assay receipts have not been sited. It is possible that following further evaluation and/or exploration work that the confidence in the prior exploration results may be reduced when reported under the JORC Code 2012. However, nothing has come to the attention of Ark that causes it to question the accuracy or reliability of S Fosters exploration results. The Company however has not independently validated the former explorer's exploration results and therefore is not to be regarded as reporting, adopting or endorsing those results.

COMPETENT PERSONS STATEMENT

The Information in this report that relates to exploration results, mineral resources or ore reserves is based on information compiled by Mr Roger Jackson, who is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Jackson is a shareholder and director of the Company. Mr Jackson has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposits under consideration and to the activity that he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 edition of the 'Australian Code for Reporting Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves' (the JORC Code). Mr Jackson consents to the inclusion of this information in the form and context in which it appears in this report. Mr Jackson confirms information in this market announcement is an accurate representation of the available data for the exploration areas being acquired.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS AND IMPORTANT NOTICE

This report contains forecasts, projections and forward-looking information. Although the Company believes that its expectations, estimates and forecast outcomes are based on reasonable assumptions it can give no assurance that these will be achieved. Expectations and estimates and projections and information provided by the Company are not a guarantee of future performance and involve unknown risks and uncertainties, many of which are out of Vertex Minerals' control.

Actual results and developments will almost certainly differ materially from those expressed or implied. Vertex Minerals has not audited or investigated the accuracy or completeness of the information, statements and opinions contained in this announcement. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable laws, Ark Mines makes no representation and can give no assurance, guarantee or warranty, express or implied, as to, and takes no responsibility and assumes no liability for the authenticity, validity, accuracy, suitability or completeness of, or any errors in or omission from, any information, statement or opinion contained in this report and without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing, the achievement or accuracy of any forecasts, projections or other forward looking information contained or referred to in this report.

Investors should make and rely upon their own enquiries before deciding to acquire or deal in the Company's securities.

Appendix A: JORC Code, 2012 Edition – Table 1

Section 1 Sampling Techniques and Data

(Criteria in this section apply to all succeeding sections.)

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Sampling techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature and quality of sampling (eg cut channels, random chips, or specific specialised industry standard measurement tools appropriate to the minerals under investigation, such as down hole gamma sondes, or handheld XRF instruments, etc). These examples should not be taken as limiting the broad meaning of sampling. • Include reference to measures taken to ensure sample representivity and the appropriate calibration of any measurement tools or systems used. • Aspects of the determination of mineralisation that are Material to the Public Report. • In cases where 'industry standard' work has been done this would be relatively simple (eg 'reverse circulation drilling was used to obtain 1 m samples from which 3 kg was pulverised to produce a 30 g charge for fire assay'). In other cases, more explanation may be required, such as where there is coarse gold that has inherent sampling problems. Unusual commodities or mineralisation types (eg submarine nodules) may warrant disclosure of detailed information. 	<p>Sand Sample taken by hand digging with a geo pick and a small spade. The sample was approximately 1kg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil/sand sample were panned to yield a heavy mineral concentrate. The panned residual material was placed in calico sample bag and sent to Southern Gold Coast Laboratories for assaying. <p>Data taken from W. Scott and Partners EPM18308 2014 Annual Report CR075376</p> <p>Augur Sampling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auger programme, using 6m auger • Total soils were collected by hand from the collar to give a composite sample of 5m or depth of refusal, • Sample was split by 25/75 riffle splitter to yield a 3 to 4 kg aliquot per hole <p>Data provided by Stuart Foster and pertaining to the panned concentration samples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stream and soil samples were panned to yield a heavy mineral concentrate. The panned residual material was placed in calico sample bags and sent to SGS for assaying. <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples were taken as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percussion chips and fines as found. • 1m composites by air core drilling using 100mm bit diameter. • Samples were split via 12.5:87.5 riffle splitter and collected in pre-numbered calico bags for assay, resulting in approx., 2kg samples with bulk remainder conserved in plastic bags.
Drilling techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill type (eg core, reverse circulation, open-hole hammer, rotary air blast, auger, Bangka, sonic, etc) and details (eg core diameter, triple or standard tube, depth of diamond tails, face-sampling bit or other type, whether core is oriented and if so, by what method, etc). 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augur Drilling • 6-inch diameter • 5m depth • Vertical hole

		<p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No drilling undertaken <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples were taken as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1m composites by air core drilling using 100mm bit diameter. Drilled to refusal. All holes were vertical
Drill sample recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method of recording and assessing core and chip sample recoveries and results assessed. Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples. Whether a relationship exists between sample recovery and grade and whether sample bias may have occurred due to preferential loss/gain of fine/coarse material. 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recoveries were not recorded. Relationships between sample recovery and grade could not be determined without original sample weight data, however the CP does not believe a material relationship exists given it was Augur sampling. Short hole auger soil sampling is not known to cause significant material fractionation as might be expected with RAB or RC techniques. <p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No drilling undertaken <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recoveries were volumetrically estimated for each sample based on maximum sample volume from the 100mm bit diameter on a 1 metre interval in homogenous fine sand material.
Logging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether core and chip samples have been geologically and geotechnically logged to a level of detail to support appropriate Mineral Resource estimation, mining studies and metallurgical studies. Whether logging is qualitative or quantitative in nature. Core (or costean, channel, etc) photography. The total length and percentage of the relevant intersections logged. 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samples were not logged Total Counts per second were taken <p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not logged <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 1m intervals were geologically logged for lithology qualitative and quantitative parameters.
Sub-sampling techniques and sample preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken. If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split, etc and whether sampled wet or dry. For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samples were composited over the full length of the Augur depth. Total soils were collected progressively by hand from the collar to give a composite sample of 5m or depth of refusal,

	<p><i>preparation technique.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quality control procedures adopted for all sub-sampling stages to maximise representivity of samples.</i> • <i>Measures taken to ensure that the sampling is representative of the in-situ material collected, including for instance results for field duplicate/second-half sampling.</i> • <i>Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample was split by 25/75 riffle splitter to yield a 3 to 4 kg aliquot per hole. • The samples size is appropriate to the grain size of the material sampled: Sand to very fine sand. <p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No compositing undertaken • The sample size would be appropriate to the grain size of the material sampled. Sand to very fine sand. <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samples were split via 12.5:87.5 riffle splitter and collected in pre-numbered calico bags for assay, • resulting in approx., 2kg samples with bulk remainder conserved in plastic bags. • Given the grainsize of approx. 100 to 120 µm, this sample size is more than adequate. • Field duplicates were taken by 50:50 riffle splitter at a rate of 1 in 40.
<p>Quality of assay data and laboratory tests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total.</i> • <i>For geophysical tools, spectrometers, handheld XRF instruments, etc, the parameters used in determining the analysis including instrument make and model, reading times, calibrations factors applied and their derivation, etc.</i> • <i>Nature of quality control procedures adopted (eg standards, blanks, duplicates, external laboratory checks) and whether acceptable levels of accuracy (ie lack of bias) and precision have been established.</i> 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill samples were sent to SGS Laboratories Townsville. • Aliquots were collected from the splitter in calico sample bags and submitted to SGS Townsville for assay by ICP-OES • Duplicate samples were produced at a rate of 1 in 13 and assayed. • Twin auger holes were drilled at a rate of 1 in 100 with sample and assay as per other holes. • The laboratory procedure was SGS ICP95A for major elements and IMS41Q for REE. <p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The samples were sent to SGS Laboratories Townsville. • The laboratory procedure was SGS ICP95A for major elements and IMS41Q for REE. • Duplicate samples were taken Refer to the panned concentrate table. • Panned Concentrates from Sand sample in May

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The samples were sent to Southern Gold Coast Laboratories Sample was tested by XRF <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total count was measured on all 1m samples and duplicates using a SAIC Exploranium GR-110G scintillometer. Measurements were taken as total count/second on 10 second accumulations. Backgrounds were taken twice per measuring day by averaging 100 x 19 second accumulations.
<p>Verification of sampling and assaying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The verification of significant intersections by either independent or alternative company personnel. The use of twinned holes. Documentation of primary data, data entry procedures, data verification, data storage (physical and electronic) protocols. Discuss any adjustment to assay data. 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work was undertaken by others. There is no way of verifying the sampling or the data other than observation of its spatial relationships and internal consistency. Assay data yielding elemental concentrations for rare earths (REE) within the sample are converted to their stoichiometric oxides (REO) in a calculation performed within the database using the conversion factors in the table below. Rare Earth oxide is the industry accepted form for reporting rare earths. The following calculations have been used for reporting throughout this report; <p>TREO = La2O3 + CeO2 = Pr6O11 + Nd2O3 + Sm2O3 + Eu2O3 + Gd2O3 + Tb4O7 + Dy2O3 + Ho2O3 + Er2O3 + Tm2O3 + Yb2O3 + Lu2O3+ Y2O3</p> <p>CREO = Nd2O3 + Eu2O3 + Tb4O7 + Dy2O3 + Yb2O3</p> <p>LREO = La2O3 + CeO2 = Pr6O11</p> <p>HREO = Sm2O3 + Eu2O3 + Gd2O3 + Tb4O7 + Dy2O3 + Ho2O3 + Er2O3 + Tm2O3 + Yb2O3 + Lu2O3+ Y2O3</p> <p>ND/Pr = Nd2O3 + Pr6O11</p> <p>TREO – Ce = TREO – CeO2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> %NdPr + NdPr/TREO

		<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Element Name</th> <th>Element Oxide</th> <th>Oxide Factor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Ce</td><td>CeO2</td><td>1.2284</td></tr> <tr><td>Dy</td><td>Dy2O3</td><td>1.1477</td></tr> <tr><td>Er</td><td>Er2O3</td><td>1.1435</td></tr> <tr><td>Eu</td><td>Eu2O3</td><td>1.1579</td></tr> <tr><td>Gd</td><td>Gd2O3</td><td>1.1526</td></tr> <tr><td>Ho</td><td>Ho2O3</td><td>1.1455</td></tr> <tr><td>La</td><td>La2O3</td><td>1.1728</td></tr> <tr><td>Lu</td><td>Lu2O3</td><td>1.1371</td></tr> <tr><td>Nd</td><td>Nd2O3</td><td>1.1664</td></tr> <tr><td>Pr</td><td>Pr6O11</td><td>1.2081</td></tr> <tr><td>Sc</td><td>Sc2O3</td><td>1.5338</td></tr> <tr><td>Sm</td><td>Sm2O3</td><td>1.1596</td></tr> <tr><td>Tb</td><td>Tb4O7</td><td>1.1762</td></tr> <tr><td>Th</td><td>ThO2</td><td>1.1379</td></tr> <tr><td>Tm</td><td>Tm2O3</td><td>1.1421</td></tr> <tr><td>U</td><td>U3O8</td><td>1.1793</td></tr> <tr><td>Y</td><td>Y2O3</td><td>1.2699</td></tr> <tr><td>Yb</td><td>Yb2O3</td><td>1.1387</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work was undertaken by others. • There is no way of verifying the sampling or the data other than observation of its spatial relationships and internal consistency. <p>Panned May Sand Sample Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work was undertaken by Ark Directors and Arks Consultants. <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twin testing was carried out at a rate of approx 10% by metres. • All primary data is tabulated in electronic access database with offsite backup after validation of data entry via Datamine software both visually and algorithmically. 	Element Name	Element Oxide	Oxide Factor	Ce	CeO2	1.2284	Dy	Dy2O3	1.1477	Er	Er2O3	1.1435	Eu	Eu2O3	1.1579	Gd	Gd2O3	1.1526	Ho	Ho2O3	1.1455	La	La2O3	1.1728	Lu	Lu2O3	1.1371	Nd	Nd2O3	1.1664	Pr	Pr6O11	1.2081	Sc	Sc2O3	1.5338	Sm	Sm2O3	1.1596	Tb	Tb4O7	1.1762	Th	ThO2	1.1379	Tm	Tm2O3	1.1421	U	U3O8	1.1793	Y	Y2O3	1.2699	Yb	Yb2O3	1.1387
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<p>Location of data points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy and quality of surveys used to locate drill holes (collar and down-hole surveys), trenches, mine workings and other locations used in Mineral Resource estimation. • Specification of the grid system used. • Quality and adequacy of topographic control. 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All collar coordinates were located with hand held GPS with an accuracy of $\pm 5\text{m}$. • All coordinates were converted from WGS84 UTM z 54, to MGA94 z 54 by the GPS. • Current topographic control is by AGSO DEM derived 10m contours which are of greater accuracy than the $\pm 50\text{m}$ available from hand held GPS. This is sufficient for the current stage of pre-resource exploration. <p>Panned Concentrates and May Sand Sample</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All collar coordinates were located with hand held GPS with an accuracy of $\pm 5\text{m}$. • All coordinates were converted from WGS84 UTM z 54, to MGA94 z 54 by the GPS. • Current topographic control is by AGSO DEM derived 10m contours which are of greater accuracy than the $\pm 50\text{m}$ available from hand held GPS. This is sufficient for the current stage of pre-resource exploration. <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current collar pickup is by hand held GPS with accuracy of $\pm 5\text{m}$ in x and y coupled with AGSO DEM z. • Grid used is MGA2020 zone 54 • Follow up by survey using RTKdGPS at 20mm accuracy is planned.
<p>Data spacing and distribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results. • Whether the data spacing and distribution is sufficient to establish the degree of geological and grade continuity appropriate for the Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve estimation procedure(s) and classifications applied. • Whether sample compositing has been applied. 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augur drilling was undertaken over three E-W fences of auger holes approximately each 9 km long • Hole spacings at approximately 250 metres. • Samples were composited at the sampling stage. • These factors result in some data gaps that require infill. • Variography to determine appropriateness of grade continuity for resource estimation has not yet been carried out but the current spacing is not expected to support resource estimation. • No resource or reserve is reported.

		<p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samples were taken randomly in areas with a high radiometric reading. • No resource or reserve is reported. <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data spacing is 60m x 120m in high density areas and 120m x 120m in low density areas. • This is considered sufficient to provide appropriate geological and grade continuity for generation of a maiden resource. Variographic validation is planned. • Samples have not been composited.
<p>Orientation of data in relation to geological structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Whether the orientation of sampling achieves unbiased sampling of possible structures and the extent to which this is known, considering the deposit type.</i> • <i>If the relationship between the drilling orientation and the orientation of key mineralised structures is considered to have introduced a sampling bias, this should be assessed and reported if material.</i> 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill holes were drilled vertically which is appropriate for horizontal regolith profile. • Any sampling bias resultant from the orientation of drilling and possible structural offsets of mineralisation is considered to be minimal. • The fence of augur holes running east west cross the North south alluvial patterns. • The orientation of the drilling is considered appropriate for testing the lateral and vertical extent of mineralisation without any bias. <p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sampling is random • There is no relationship of sampling to mineralisation orientation <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling was vertical. This is optimal given the orientation of unconsolidated fluvial sediments in horizontal to sub horizontal layers. • No bias by drill orientation relative to geological orientation has been introduced.

<p>Sample security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The measures taken to ensure sample security.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samples were farmed on the remote site with batches transported and delivered to SGS by company personnel. <p>2023 air core unconsolidated sediment samples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samples were collected from the drill rig as drilled and transported by company personnel to secure locked storage in Chillagoe pending trucking to lab.
<p>Audits or reviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The results of any audits or reviews of sampling techniques and data.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data was audited in mid Feb 2023 by independent geologists of Empirical Earth Science. The data was found to be acceptable for the current stage of exploration with recommendation that the original assay returns and laboratory QAQC be sourced from the previous owner or SGS Townsville.

Section 2 Reporting of Exploration Results

(Criteria listed in the preceding section also apply to this section.)

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Mineral tenement and land tenure status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type, reference name/number, location and ownership including agreements or material issues with third parties such as joint ventures, partnerships, overriding royalties, native title interests, historical sites, wilderness or national park and environmental settings. The security of the tenure held at the time of reporting along with any known impediments to obtaining a licence to operate in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPM 28013 Sandy Mitchell is 100% owned by Ark Mines Limited. It was purchased on the 23rd of February 2023. This tenement was formally EPM18308 There are no third-party agreements No known issues impeding on the security of the tenure of Ark Mines ability to operate in the area exist.
Exploration done by other parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgment and appraisal of exploration by other parties. 	<p>A number of companies and individuals have explored the area for gold and base metals and for heavy minerals. The summaries presented below are from the IRTM source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATP 597M was granted to Laskan Minerals Pty Ltd in 1969 over the Reid Creek area, north of the Mitchell River. From assays of rock chip and stream sediment samples, it was concluded that there was little chance of economic mineralisation occurring in the Authority. Although good monazite grades were obtained, the samples were from creeks with little available wash. Good concentrations of monazite and ilmenite were present in large areas of sandy, alluvial sheet wash in the Reid's Creek area. It was believed that there was a potential for economic exploitation if the monazite concentrations occurred in a large enough volume of sandy material. No further work was reported. In 1970, Altarama Search Pty Ltd was granted ATP 833M over the Mitchell River in the Reid Creek, Sandy Creek and Mount Mulgrave Homestead area. Four hundred stream sediment samples, at an average density of 1.25 samples/km², were collected for assay. Copper and lead contents were low. Half of the zinc results were considered to be possibly anomalous. A two-population distribution was obtained for zinc, with a standard threshold of about 15 ppm. It was suggested that the two population distributions represented normal background ranges present in different strata. No other work was carried out.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATP 2580M was granted to Tacam Pty Ltd over Sandy Creek and its tributaries. Stream sediment samples averaged 0.18% monazite (0.01 to 0.45%), 0.07% rutile (0.15% in terraces), and 0.06% zircon (0.14% in terraces). The area had low economic potential and the Authority was abandoned in August 1981. • The principals involved in Tacam Pty Ltd combined with Metcalfe Holdings Pty Ltd in 1986 to take up 4 Authorities to Prospect - 4400,4401,4402 and 4403 centred on Mt Mulgrave, Arkara Creek, Sandy Creek and the Kennedy River respectively. The investigations were for the possibility of locating large-scale heavy minerals in association with major drainages and lower slope eluvial deposits associated with Cretaceous weathering as indicated in previous investigations. EPM 4400, 4401, 4402 and 4403 • Barron and O’Toole focused on Mt Mulgrave for Ilmenite, rutile, REE, Monzonite, Zircon, and Gold. Tenement EPM 4400 consisted of 96 sub-blocks centred on Mount Mulgrave (7665, 7765), EPM 4401 consisted of 97 sub-blocks centred on Arkara Creek (7665), EPM 4402 consisted of 100 sub-blocks centred on Sandy Creek (7665) and EPM 4403 consisted of 86 sub-blocks centred on Kennedy River (7666, 7766) were granted to P.T.C. Barron, A. O’Toole and Metcalfe Holdings Pty Ltd on 22 September 1986 to explore for heavy minerals and precious metals. After three years of exploration the EPMs were surrendered on 22 August 1989. • Tenement EPM 10185 consisted of 157 sub-blocks was granted to Palmer Gold Pty Ltd on 25 October 1994 for an initial 2-year period. The exploration permit was renewed for a further 3 years on 25 October 1996 and surrendered on 3 October 2001. <p>The tenement was situated 200km west of Cooktown.</p> <p><u>Rationale</u></p> <p>Significant gold-silver, tin and base metal deposits are known from the Georgetown and southern Dargalong Inliers to the south of EPM 10185 (e.g. Etheridge, Croydon and Oaks goldfields), from the Hodgkinson Province to the east (e.g. Palmer, Hodgkinson, Russell River, Starcke, Jordon Ck, Mareeba and Mount Peter goldfields, and Herberton-Mt Garnet tinfield), and the Coen Inlier to the north (e.g. Alice River & Potallah goldfields). However, other than brief reference to sub-economic alluvial gold occurrences near the junction of the Palmer and Mitchell Rivers, and in the</p>
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		<p>Staaten, Lynd and Walsh Rivers (Culpeper 1993), no precious or base metal deposits are known to occur within rocks of the Yambo Inlier.</p> <p>Application for the area was made after structural interpretation of the region showed prospectivity for gold occurrence. Base metal anomalies delineated from previous exploration were also targeted for follow-up work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2007 exploration activity was carried out by BHP Billiton Minerals Pty Ltd under an extremely large area (2,850 sub-blocks) of the Coen Yambo area from 2005 to 2007. EPM's 14438 and 14445 covered the majority of the Yambo Inlier. BHP targeted Ni sulphide and PGM and carried out AEM surveying, field mapping and sampling and drilling. The AEM targets were found to be related to sedimentary lithological units or obvious shear zones. • In 2007 - 2009 - MTY Resources Ltd undertook bulk sampling program along with a Panned Concentrate sampling program as reported in this report. • In 2012 Waverley Nominees undertook an Augur sampling program as set out in this report
<p>Geology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Deposit type, geological setting and style of mineralisation.</i> 	<p>The tenement covers portion of the southern extent of the Yambo Inlier, one of the several Proterozoic inliers to the west of the Palmerville Fault System. Rocks of the Yambo Inlier covered by the tenement comprise those of the middle Proterozoic Yambo Metamorphic Group of mainly amphibolites and gneisses ranging in age from ~1690 Ma to ~1585 Ma. These rocks have been intruded by Silurian-Devonian granites of the Lukinville Suite which form an integral part of the Cape York Batholith. Within the tenement they form a belt roughly 10 km wide trending NNW.</p> <p>Extensive intrusions of Carboniferous-Permian dolerites occur throughout the Inlier, with only a few occurrences within the tenement.</p> <p>The tenement is largely gold deficient except for the gold reporting to sediments within the Palmer River. Recent Governmental radiometric surveys have highlighted areas of anomalous radiometric emission within the Yambo Inlier. The project tenements cover the majority of the anomalous radiometric areas.</p> <p>There are many stream systems within the Mulgrave/Sandy Mitchell tenements and they contain concentrations of rare earth minerals. These minerals have been derived from the now denuded remnant Jurassic-Cretaceous sandstone-pebble conglomerates</p>

		<p>and quartz sandstones, with the greater volumes being associated with the breakdown of the Mesoproterozoic basement rocks. Isolated areas of high garnet concentrations are derived from irregular zones of highly garnetiferous dolerites and schists.</p>
<p>Drill hole Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of all information material to the understanding of the exploration results including a tabulation of the following information for all Material drill holes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ easting and northing of the drill hole collar ○ elevation or RL (Reduced Level – elevation above sea level in metres) of the drill hole collar ○ dip and azimuth of the hole ○ down hole length and interception depth ○ hole length. • If the exclusion of this information is justified on the basis that the information is not Material and this exclusion does not detract from the understanding of the report, the Competent Person should clearly explain why this is the case. 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Table in Appendix C. <p>Panned Concentrate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Table in Appendix B.
<p>Data aggregation methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In reporting Exploration Results, weighting averaging techniques, maximum and/or minimum grade truncations (eg cutting of high grades) and cut-off grades are usually Material and should be stated. • Where aggregate intercepts incorporate short lengths of high-grade results and longer lengths of low-grade results, the procedure used for such aggregation should be stated and some typical examples of such aggregations should be shown in detail. • The assumptions used for any reporting of metal equivalent values should be clearly stated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No high or Low-grade top/bottom-cut has been applied. • The total data set is reported in Appendix C • REE Equivalent TREO (total REE oxides) is reported as this is the industry standard for presentation of REE data. Stoichiometric calculation of REE oxide equivalents were performed in units of ppm, with TREO, LREO (light REE oxides), HREO (heavy REE Oxides), CREO (critical REE oxides) and Mag REO (magnet production REE oxides), as per Table 1 page 2 and 3, yielding these factors as concentrations and percentages of TREO concentration. <p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total data set is reported in Appendix B.
<p>Relationship between mineralisation widths and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These relationships are particularly important in the reporting of Exploration Results. 	<p>Augur Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All holes sample assays are based on sampling of the whole hole length.

<p>intercept lengths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If the geometry of the mineralisation with respect to the drill hole angle is known, its nature should be reported.</i> • <i>If it is not known and only the down hole lengths are reported, there should be a clear statement to this effect (eg ‘down hole length, true width not known’).</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mineralisation is interpreted to be flat lying and drilling is vertical perpendicular to mineralisation. Any internal variations to REE distribution within the horizontal layering was not defined, therefore the true width is considered not known at the current stage of development. <p>Panned Concentrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not relevant to soil samples.
<p>Diagrams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appropriate maps and sections (with scales) and tabulations of intercepts should be included for any significant discovery being reported These should include, but not be limited to a plan view of drill hole collar locations and appropriate sectional views.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See plan image 1 and Figure 2.
<p>Balanced reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Where comprehensive reporting of all Exploration Results is not practicable, representative reporting of both low and high grades and/or widths should be practiced to avoid misleading reporting of Exploration Results.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results reported include all recovered assay, both low and high grade, for all holes. • See Appendix B and C for full data.
<p>Other substantive exploration data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Other exploration data, if meaningful and material, should be reported including (but not limited to): geological observations; geophysical survey results; geochemical survey results; bulk samples – size and method of treatment; metallurgical test results; bulk density, groundwater, geotechnical and rock characteristics; potential deleterious or contaminating substances.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All data material to this report that has been collected to date has been reported textually, graphically or both. • Absent material data includes, Drill collar RLs, bulk density, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures, water table height and geotechnical characteristics is absent from the historical data record recovered so far, and current data is still undergoing analysis. These data are not relevant to the current pre-resource drill data release.
<p>Further Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The nature and scale of planned further work.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ark plans to undertake further infill Augur drilling, further beneficiation test work, pilot plant test work. Resourcing and reserve studies.

Appendix B: Panned Concentrate Table

Sample ID	E MGA94z54	N MGA94z54	Samp Type	TREO ppm	LREO %	HREO %	CREO %	Mag Reo %	Sc ₂ O ₃ ppm	La ₂ O ₃ %	CeO ₂ %	Pr ₆ O ₁₁ ppm	Nd ₂ O ₃ %	Sm ₂ O ₃ ppm	Eu ₂ O ₃ ppm	Gd ₂ O ₃ ppm	Y ₂ O ₃ ppm	Tb ₂ O ₃ ppm	Dy ₂ O ₃ ppm	Ho ₂ O ₃ ppm	Er ₂ O ₃ ppm	Tm ₂ O ₃ ppm	Yb ₂ O ₃ ppm	Lu ₂ O ₃ ppm	Note	
430A	813624	8195067	Pan Con	153,969	95.4	4.6	23.7	25.9	225.5	3.26	7.10	8,288	2,9976	4,650	120.4		4,749	349.3	1,285	174.1	354.5	29.7	160.56			
443A	808124	8196989	Pan Con	94,180	95.5	4.5	23.1	25.3	220.9	2.05	4.34	5,014	1,7846	2,876	88.5		2,806	197.6	797	103.8	215.0	19.6	109.77			
443B	808125	8196989	Pan Con	17,554	91.1	8.9	25.5	24.3	309.8	0.35	0.76	887	0.3126	513	25.5		1,062	46.6	211	37.1	99.0	13.6	90.185		twin	
447A	807601	8195835	Pan Con	47,376	95.0	5.0	23.7	25.6	123.0	1.02	2.16	2,525	0.904	1,450	56.0		1,549	120.0	457	58.2	114.4	9.7	50.786			
450A	812239	8195625	Pan Con	174,126	95.9	4.1	23.0	25.6	171.8	3.75	8.11	9,351	3,3359	5,369	135.5		4,661	407.0	1,400	173.0	335.0	25.9	133.23			
450B	812239	8195625	Pan Con	17,929	90.6	9.4	26.1	24.6	300.6	0.35	0.77	904	0.3231	525	24.0		1,156	47.0	220	39.7	109.0	15.0	100.21		twin	
451	812274	8195859	Pan Con	184,777	95.8	4.2	23.1	25.6	199.4	3.99	8.59	9,895	3,5459	5,624	162.1		5,029	441.1	1,515	184.4	355.6	28.1	144.61			
452A	810407	8190286	Pan Con	158,691	95.8	4.2	22.7	25.2	170.3	3.48	7.37	8,518	2,9743	4,859	143.6		4,407	381.1	1,308	162.7	313.3	24.3	125.26			
452B	810407	8190286	Pan Con	30,334	93.8	6.2	24.4	25.3	233.1	0.63	1.36	1,583	0.5715	914	36.6		1,261	74.9	304	45.0	107.0	12.6	79.14		twin	
452A2	810408	8190286	Pan Con	123,058	95.7	4.3	22.8	24.7	135.0	2.73	5.72	5,932	2,3211	3,792	118.1		3,467	297.6	1,002	131.7	268.7	19.8	112.73		duplicate	
Note:																										
TREO:	Total REE Oxides = Sc ₂ O ₃ + La ₂ O ₃ + CeO ₂ + Pr ₆ O ₁₁ + Nd ₂ O ₃ + Sm ₂ O ₃ + Eu ₂ O ₃ + Gd ₂ O ₃ + Y ₂ O ₃ + Tb ₂ O ₃ + Dy ₂ O ₃ + Ho ₂ O ₃ + Er ₂ O ₃ + Tm ₂ O ₃ + Yb ₂ O ₃ + Lu ₂ O ₃ (includes Sc & Y)																									
	NB: Gd & Lu not assayed																									
LREO:	Light REE Oxides = Sc ₂ O ₃ + La ₂ O ₃ + CeO ₂ + Pr ₆ O ₁₁ + Nd ₂ O ₃ + Sm ₂ O ₃ + Eu ₂ O ₃ + Gd ₂ O ₃ (includes Sc)																									
	NB: Gd not assayed																									
HREO:	Total REE Oxides = Y ₂ O ₃ + Tb ₂ O ₃ + Dy ₂ O ₃ + Ho ₂ O ₃ + Er ₂ O ₃ + Tm ₂ O ₃ + Yb ₂ O ₃ + Lu ₂ O ₃ (includes Y)																									
	NB: Lu not assayed																									
CREO:	Critical REE Oxides = Nd ₂ O ₃ + Eu ₂ O ₃ + Y ₂ O ₃ + Tb ₂ O ₃ + Dy ₂ O ₃ (US Dept' Energy Definition)																									
Mag REO:	Magnet Production REE Oxides = Pr ₆ O ₁₁ + Nd ₂ O ₃ + Tb ₂ O ₃ + Dy ₂ O ₃																									

