



7 April 2022

Joint Media release

## HANCOCK ENTERS MT BEVAN IRON ORE JOINT VENTURE

Legacy Iron Ore Ltd ASX: LCY (Legacy Iron) and Hawthorn Resources Limited ASX: HAW (Hawthorn) are delighted to announce that all relevant agreements for the earn-in of Hancock Magnetite Holdings Pty Ltd (Hancock) into the Mt Bevan iron ore project (Project) have now been executed. The execution follows a comprehensive due diligence process undertaken by Hancock.

Historically, the Project was a joint venture between Legacy Iron (60% interest) and Hawthorn (40% interest) situated 250km north of Kalgoorlie and 100km west of Leonora in the Central Yilgarn region of Western Australia.

The details of the agreement were originally outlined in the ASX announcement of 15 November 2021 and the final agreement comprises:

- Hancock having exclusive right to earn-in to the Mt Bevan iron ore project and form a new joint venture agreement
- Hancock funding the Pre-feasibility Study (PFS)
- Hancock appointing Atlas Iron Pty Ltd (Atlas) as the manager of the new Joint Venture
- Legacy Iron and Hawthorn retaining all non-iron ore rights.

Under the executed agreement, Hancock will make an initial investment of \$9m for a 30% interest in the Project (Initial Investment) with \$8m cash being paid to Legacy Iron (\$4.8m) and Hawthorn (\$3.2m) and the remaining \$1m to be available as working capital for the new Joint Venture. The cash payment will increase the cash reserves of both Legacy Iron and Hawthorn.

Upon completion of the Initial Investment, Hancock will hold a 30% interest in the Project with Legacy Iron and Hawthorn holding 42% and 28% respectively.

Earn-in occurs with Hancock increasing its interest in the Project by a further 21% through the funding of a completed PFS. After the earn-in, Hancock will hold 51%, Legacy will hold 29.4% and Hawthorn will hold 19.6% of the Project.

Thereafter, and subject to favourable outcomes, work programs will be undertaken with the intention of further advancing the Project to a Bankable Feasibility Study.

Legacy Iron CEO Rakesh Gupta commented *"The signing of this agreement is a significant step in the development of the Mt Bevan project as it moves further towards commercialisation. We welcome Hancock Magnetite Holdings into the project and look forward to working with them and leveraging their expertise in the area of iron ore and the development of this project."*

Hawthorn Managing Director Mark Kerr commented *"The Mt Bevan project has a favourable orebody geometry indicating it should be amenable to low-cost open pit mining, with potential for a high-quality magnetite concentrate with low impurities, and potential for a premium priced product as magnetite demand increases to meet the growing demand for cleaner steel-making. Hawthorn*

*Resources is delighted to welcome Hancock and Atlas into this next exciting chapter of the Mt Bevan venture.”*

Rakesh Gupta

CEO

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Mark G Kerr

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This announcement has been approved for release by the respective Boards.

## **About Hancock**

Built on a long history of pioneering, exploring and investing in Australia, Hancock Prospecting Group is an independent, privately owned Australian company group that has a proud history with the Pilbara region and the iron ore sector, and is one of the longest continuous owners of cattle stations in Australia. Our executive chairman, Mrs Gina Rinehart, founded both national agriculture and related industries day, November 21, and national mining and related industries day, November 22, which recognise these critical industries and the many related industries that depend upon them. The Hancock group is the most successful private group in Australia.

Hancock Magnetite Holdings Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of HPPL.

## **About Atlas Iron**

Atlas is an Australian iron ore company, mining and exporting direct-shipped iron ore from its Mt Webber, Sanjiv Ridge (named after Atlas CEO Sanjiv Manchanda) and Miralga mines in the northern Pilbara region of West Australia. Atlas Iron has a portfolio of exploration and development projects which now includes two magnetite projects. **About Legacy**

Legacy Iron Ore Limited is a vibrant Perth-based Australian exploration company, focussed on the development of iron ore, gold and base metal deposits.

With a mission to increase shareholder wealth through capital growth, Legacy has a commitment to discovering viable mineral deposits and developing them into profitable mining operations.

Legacy now has the backing of major shareholder NMDC Limited (A Government of India Enterprise). NMDC is India's single largest iron ore producer, presently producing about 35 million tonnes of iron ore from 4 fully mechanized mines.

## **About Hawthorn**

Hawthorn Resources Limited is a listed, diversified gold and base metals explorer with strategic tenement holdings in Western Australia. We have a partnership with a group of Chinese Investors through Feng Hua Mining Investment Holding (HK) Limited (36% shareholding), including Feng Hua Advanced Technology (HK) Ltd, Guangdong Rising Asset Management Co., Ltd, Guangdong Corporation of Geology and Minerals and Lite Smooth Investment Limited. Mr Chris Corrigan, a former director, also has a declared substantial shareholding interest of 16% (Refer ASX release of 17 June 2020).

Hawthorn has a 70% interest in the Anglo-Saxon underground gold project at Pinjin in the South Laverton Tectonic Zone (SLTZ) ,140kms NE of Kalgoorlie and approximately 70 kms to the north of Apollo's Lake Rebecca gold project. The current underground hosts an indicated and inferred MRE of 796,000 tonnes at 6.1 g/t Au for 157,000 ozs (Refer ASX release of 20 October 2020: Mineral Resource Update).