

14 March 2023

Metallurgical recovery tests to commence on Arunta West high-grade clay hosted REE samples

Highlights:

- Metallurgical testwork will soon start on 20 Arunta West samples collected from the four high-grade clay-hosted REE drill intervals reported late last month¹.
- The pulverised drill sample material from the original lab assay work is being sent to ANSTO Minerals in Sydney for testing to determine the recoverability of REE from the clay host material collected from the 4 discovery holes intersecting the Bitter Springs sediments.
- The 20 samples are scheduled to arrive at the ANSTO facility this week with the REE recovery results available at the end of March.

Norwest Minerals Limited (“Norwest” or “the Company”) (ASX: NWM) is pleased to announce metallurgical testing of the high-grade clay hosted REE drill samples from Arunta West will soon commence. The pulverised drill samples remaining from the original lab assay analysis are being prepared for delivery to ANSTO Minerals in Sydney who will analyse the REE recovery levels from the clay host. The samples will be selected from the four discovery holes reported last month from which all returned REE intervals grading above 1,000 ppm TREO from the Bitter Springs sediments. The REE zone is near surface, flat lying and geologically consistent with ionic adsorption clay (IAC) hosted REE which supply over 80% of all heavy REE and a significant portion of light REE globally.

Metallurgical recovery testwork to determine REE recovery from clay host

Sample material is being retrieved from the pulverized residues remaining from the lab assay work undertaken on the December 2022, 3-metre composite drill samples. The REE assays from the drilling were reported late last month. Drilling across the Mount Webb Granite – Bitter Springs sediment contact intersected strong clay hosted REE exclusively in the sediments, with four holes reporting shallow intersections in the saprolite zone grading above 1,000 ppm TREO.

The pulverised drill sample material from the high-grade TREO intersections is being sent to ANSTO Minerals in Sydney for testing to determine the recoverability of REE from the clay host material. The results are expected near the end of this month.

¹ ASX: NWM – Announcement 22 February 2023, ‘Maiden REE drilling program intersects multiple near surface +1000ppm TREO values’

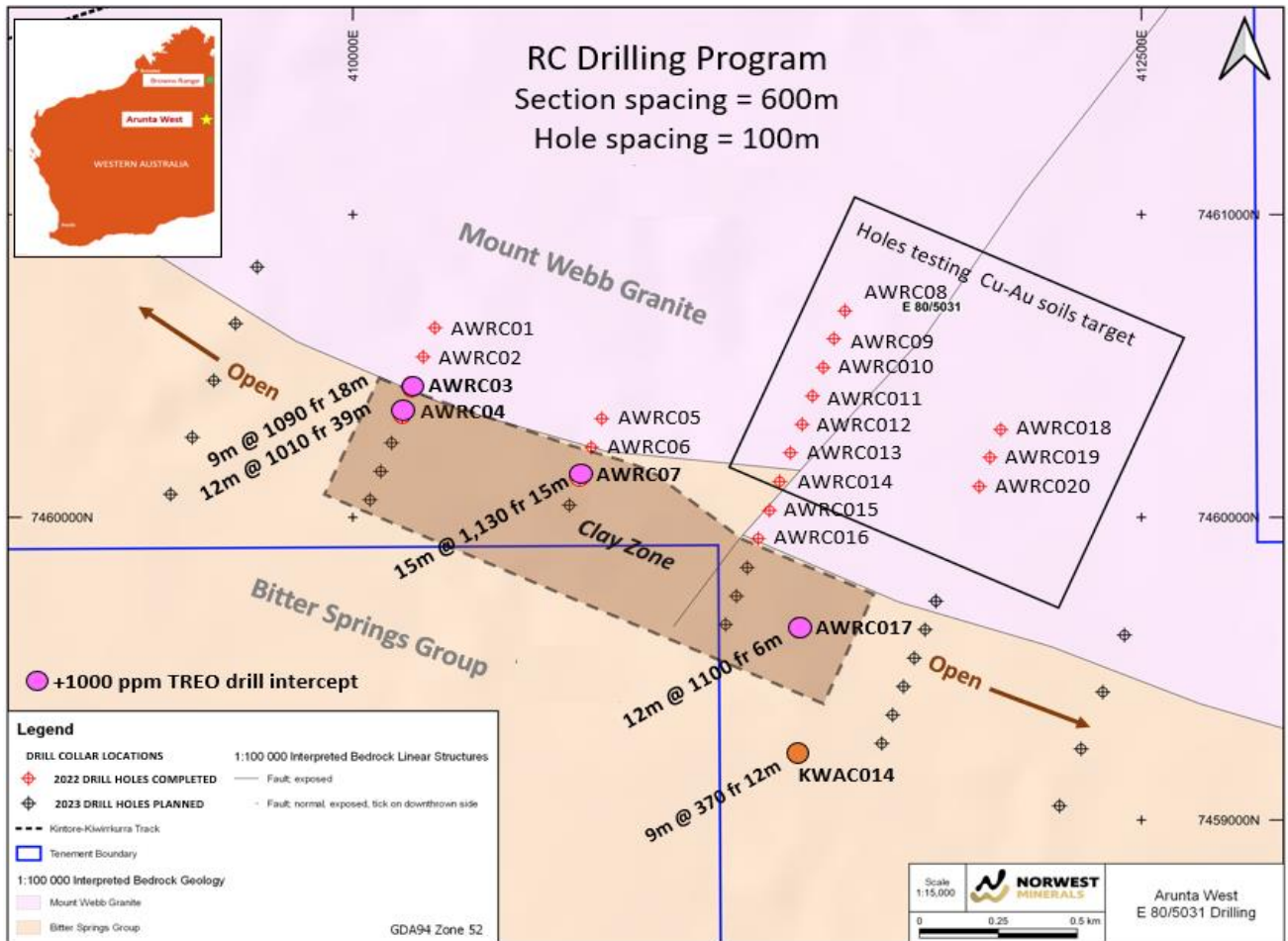
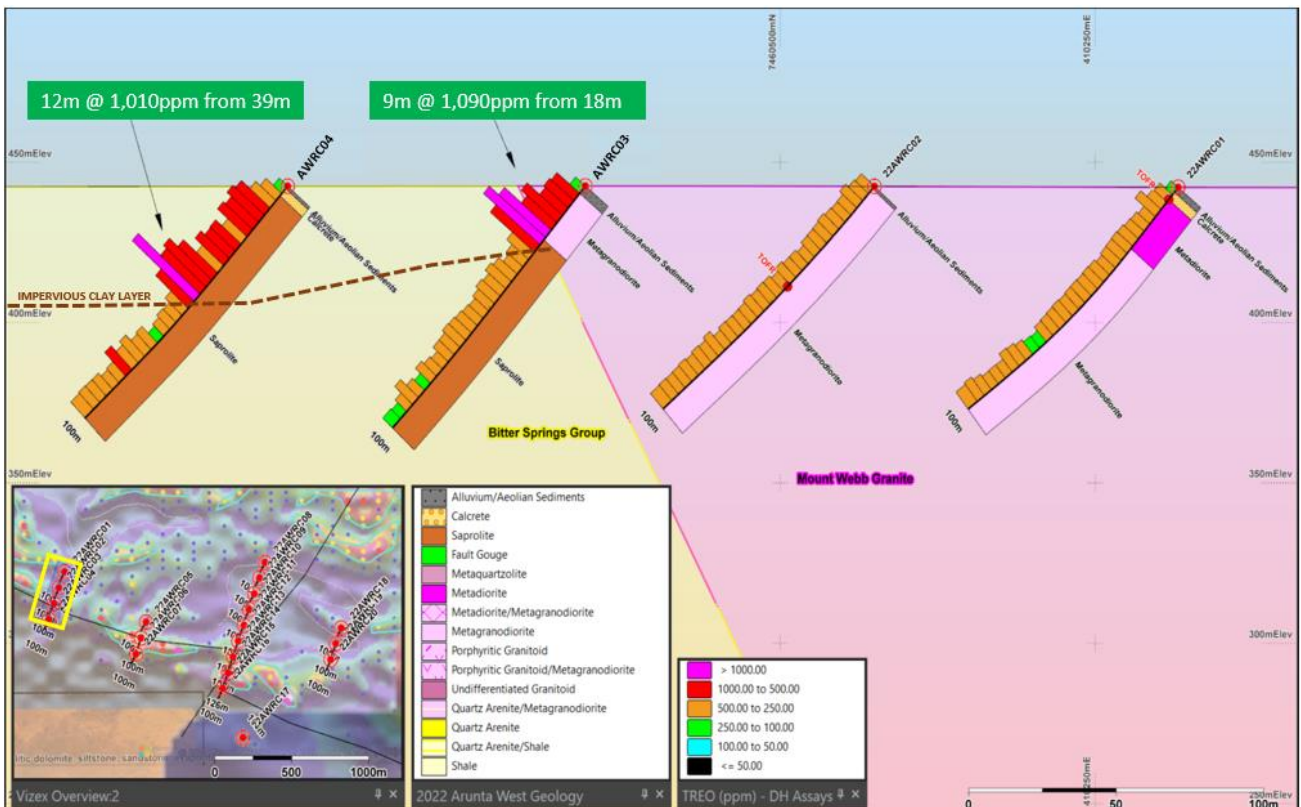
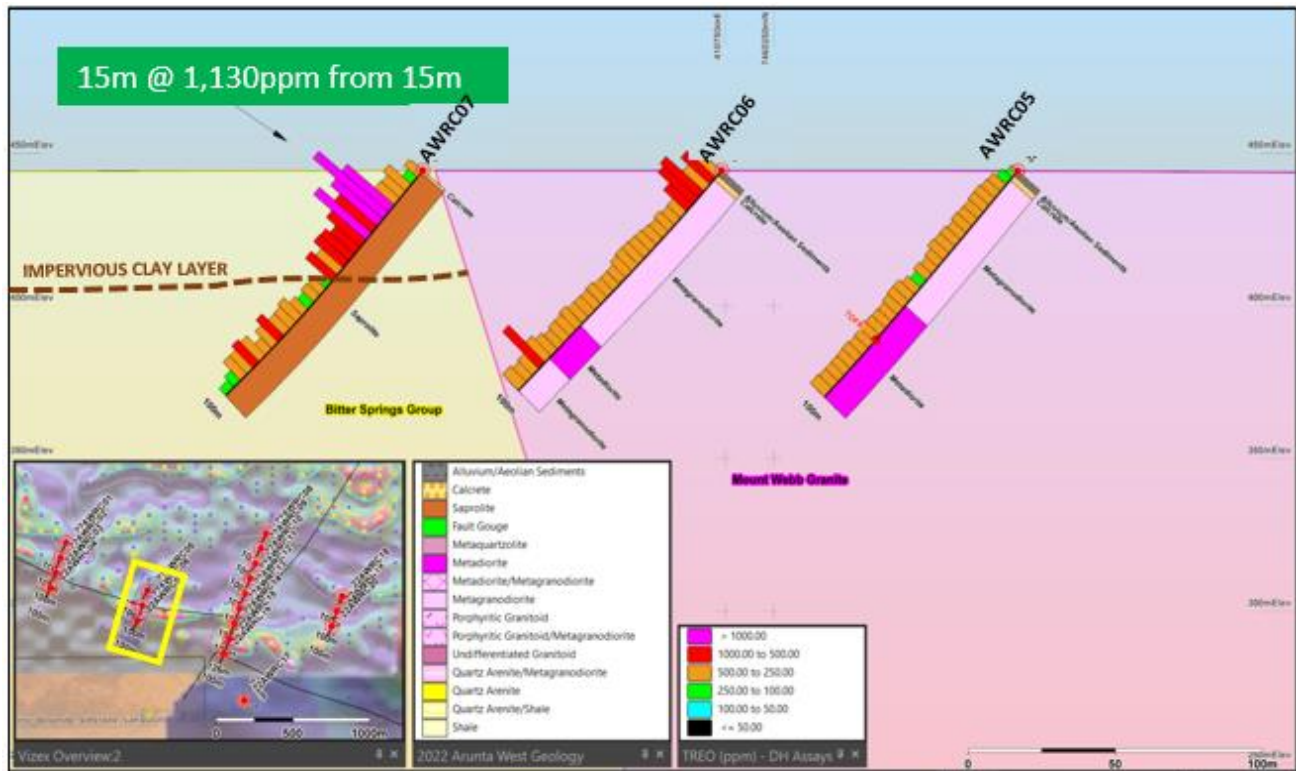


Figure 1 – Map of clay hosted REE mineralisation in the Bitter Springs sediments (~400m width x ~1,600m length x ~45m depth). Also, locations of completed & planned RC drill holes.





Figures 2a & 2b – Cross sections showing TREO enrichment in 3m drill hole composites from the Bitter Springs sediments with higher tenor above an apparent impervious clay layer at ~400mRL and immediately south of the Mount Webb Granite containing ~350 ppm TREO in the fresh rock.

Significant project and cost advantages associated with ionic clay projects - Table 1

Stages and outcomes	Ionic Adsorption Clay – hosted REE	Hard Rock – hosted REE
Exploration drilling	High production, low cost via small rig drilling vertical holes in soft rock	High cost, high powered rig to penetrate deep hard rock targets
Mining	Low relative operating costs: Soft rock, no blasting, surface mining, low strip ratio, high production, simple rehabilitation	High relative operating costs: Hard rock, blasting, open pit, high strip ratios, lower production rates
Processing	No crushing or milling, simple plant, potential in-situ leach, low reagent consumption	Comminution, then beneficiation that often requires expensive (flotation) reagents to produce mineral concentrate.
Mine Product	Mixed high-grade rare earths precipitate, either oxide or carbonate (+90% TREO grade) for feedstock directly into Rare Earth separation plant, low La & Ce content	Mixed REE mineral concentrate (typically 20-40% TREO grade), high La & Ce content, requires substantial processing before suitable for feed to rare earth separation plant
Product Payability	70-80% payability as mixed Rare Earth oxide/carbonate/chloride	35-40% payability as a mineral concentrate
Processing - Environmental	Non-radioactive tailings Solution treatment and reagent recovery requirements (somewhat off-set by advantageous supporting infrastructure)	Tailings often radioactive (complex and costly disposal) Legacy tailing management
Processing - Refinery (Typically not on Mining site)	Simple acid solubilisation followed by conventional REE separation Complex recycling of reagents and water	High temperature mineral "cracking" using strong reagents to solubilise the refractory REE minerals Complex capital-intensive plant required

Entitlement Offer

Norwest reminds shareholders that it's one for four \$0.04 Entitlement Offer closes on Monday, 20 March 2023. The offer includes 1 FREE \$0.07 option (5-year) for every 2 New Shares issued.

This ASX announcement has been authorised for release by the Board of Norwest Minerals Limited.

For further information, visit www.norwestminerals.com.au or contact

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FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report includes forward-looking statements. These statements relate to the Company's expectations, beliefs, intentions or strategies regarding the future. These statements can be identified by the use of words like "will", "progress", "anticipate", "intend", "expect", "may", "seek", "towards", "enable" and similar words or expressions containing same.

The forward-looking statements reflect the Company's views and assumptions with respect to future events as of the date of this announcement and are subject to a variety of unpredictable risks, uncertainties, and other unknowns. Actual and future results and trends could differ materially from those set forth in such statements due to various factors, many of which are beyond our ability to control or predict. Given these uncertainties, no one should place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements attributable to the Company, or any of its affiliates or persons acting on its behalf. The Company does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Neither the Company nor any other person, gives any representation, warranty, assurance, nor will guarantee that the occurrence of the events expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement will actually occur. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Company and each of its advisors, affiliates, related bodies corporate, directors, officers, partners, employees and agents disclaim any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise.

COMPETENT PERSON'S STATEMENTS

Exploration

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results and Exploration Targets is based on and fairly represents information and supporting documentation prepared by Charles Schaus (CEO of Norwest Minerals Pty Ltd). Mr. Schaus is a member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and has sufficient experience of relevance to the styles of mineralisation and types of deposits under consideration, and to its activities undertaken to qualify as Competent Persons as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr. Schaus consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which they appear.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

Norwest has reported X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyser readings from 5 of the 29 RC holes drilled by First Quantum Minerals while exploring for copper in 2015. These 5 holes were not subject to multi-element assaying as the original in-field XRF reading did not register copper mineralisation. The XRF from the other 23 holes did show copper potential and were sent for multi-element assay analysis which included the suite of 15 REE. Note that XRF measurements only register 3 rare earth elements being Ce, La and Y due to the other 12 REE being below detection. The REE XRF readings presented in this announcement are preliminary in nature and should be considered as an indication of the expected order of magnitude of laboratory assay analysis.