

Increase to Gold Royalty Rates in Burkina Faso

Unhedged gold mining company West African Resources Limited ('West African' or the 'Company', ASX: WAF) advises that following consultation with the country's gold mining industry, the government of Burkina Faso has increased royalty rates for gold producers.

Overview

On 27 October 2023 the President of the Burkina Faso Government signed a decree increasing royalties on gold production. The change to the royalty regime follows a period of constructive engagement between the government, the gold mining companies, and the stakeholders in Burkina Faso's gold mining industry including local suppliers, contractors and banks. The changes bring Burkina Faso's royalty rates into line with other jurisdictions in the West African region, and reflect the higher gold prices currently received by unhedged gold producers. Royalties are capped at 7% for gold prices over US\$2000 per ounce. The new and historic Burkina Faso royalty rates are tabled below.

New Gold Royalty Rates			Previous Rates		
Price Range US\$/oz		Royalty	Price Range US\$/oz		Royalty
From	To	Rate	From	To	Rate
0	< 1000	3%	0	< 1000	3%
1000	< 1300	4%	1000	< 1300	4%
1300	< 1500	5%	> 1300		5%
1500	< 1700	6%			
1700	< 2000	6.5%			
>2000		7%			

The new royalty rates take effect in November 2023 and are expected to increase WAF's 2023 AISC by approximately US\$6 to US\$8 per ounce at current gold prices. WAF maintains 2023 production and cost guidance of 210,000 to 230,000 ounces of gold at AISC of less than US\$1175 per ounce.

WAF does not expect the royalty changes to impact the debt funding of our 7.7 Moz Kiaka gold project, given the bank funding model uses conservative gold price assumptions in the range of US\$1,700/oz over the period of the loan. WAF expects to make the first drawdown under the loan facility by the end of 2023. Kiaka construction remains on time and on budget with first gold schedule for H2 2025.

West African Executive Chairman Richard Hyde commented:

"The new royalty rates follow extensive consultation between mining companies and the Ministry of Mines for Burkina Faso. The rates are capped at 7% over US\$2,000 per ounce, which results in a modest \$6 to \$8 increase per ounce in WAF's 2023 AISC per ounce at current gold prices.

"WAF remains on-track for 2023 guidance of 210,000 to 230,000 ounces of gold at an AISC of less than US\$1,175/oz."

“West African is on track to become a +400,000 ounce per annum gold producer with the development of our second gold mine at Kiaka. Our unhedged 10-year production outlook estimates production of more than 200,000 ounces of gold per annum in 2023 and 2024, and more than 400,000 ounces of gold per annum from 2025 to 2032.”

This announcement was authorised for release by Mr Richard Hyde, Executive Chairman and CEO.

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Competent Person's Statement

Information in this announcement that relates to exploration results is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Richard Hyde, a director and employee of the Company. Mr Hyde is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and a member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Hyde has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and types of deposits under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person (or "CP") as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Hyde has reviewed the contents of this announcement and consents to the inclusion in this announcement of all technical statements based on his information in the form and context in which they appear.

Information in this announcement that relates to mineral resources (excluding M1 South Deeps) is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Brian Wolfe, an independent consultant specialising in mineral resource estimation, evaluation, and exploration. Mr Wolfe is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Wolfe has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person (or "CP") as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Wolfe has reviewed the contents of this announcement and consents to the inclusion in this announcement of all technical statements based on his information in the form and context in which they appear.

Information in this announcement that relates to mineral resources for the M1 South Deeps is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Neil Silvio, an employee and Resource Geologist of the Company. Mr Silvio is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Silvio has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person (or "CP") as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Silvio has reviewed the contents of this announcement and consents to the inclusion in this announcement of all technical statements based on his information in the form and context in which they appear.

Information in this announcement that relates to open pit ore reserves is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Stuart Cruickshanks, a fulltime employee of the Company. Mr Cruickshanks is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Cruickshanks has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person (or "CP") as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Cruickshanks has reviewed the contents of this announcement and consents to the inclusion in this announcement of all technical statements based on his information in the form and context in which they appear.

Information in this announcement that relates to underground ore reserves is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Andrew Fox, a specialist mining consultant. Mr Fox is a Member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Fox has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person (or "CP") as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Fox has reviewed the contents of this announcement and consents to the inclusion in this announcement of all technical statements based on his information in the form and context in which they appear.

Forward Looking Information

This news release contains "forward-looking information" within the meaning of applicable Australian securities legislation, including information relating to West African's future financial or operating performance that may be deemed "forward looking". All statements in this news release, other than statements of historical fact, that address events or developments that WAF expects to occur, are "forward-looking statements". Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and are generally, but not always, identified by the words "expects", "does not expect", "plans", "anticipates", "does not anticipate", "believes", "intends", "estimates", "projects", "potential", "scheduled", "forecast", "budget" and similar expressions, or that events or conditions "will", "would", "may", "could", "should" or "might" occur. All such forward-looking statements are based on the opinions and estimates of the relevant management as of the date such statements are made and are subject to important risk factors and uncertainties, many of which are beyond WAF's ability to control or predict. Forward-looking statements are necessarily based on estimates and assumptions that are inherently subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

In the case of WAF, these facts include their anticipated operations in future periods, the expected enhancement to project economics following optimisation studies, planned exploration and development of its properties including project development proposed to commence in H1 2023 with a 36 month construction schedule, and plans related to its business and other matters that may occur in the future, including the availability of future funding for the development of the project. This information relates to analyses and other information that is based on expectations of future performance and planned work programs. Statements concerning mineral

resource and ore reserve estimates may also be deemed to constitute forward-looking information to the extent that they involve estimates of the mineralisation that will be encountered if a mineral property is developed.

As well, all of the results of the feasibility study constitute forward-looking information, including estimates of internal rates of return, net present value, future production, estimates of cash cost, assumed long term price for gold, proposed mining plans and methods, mine life estimates, cashflow forecasts, metal recoveries, and estimates of capital and operating costs. Furthermore, with respect to this specific forward-looking information concerning the development of the Kiaka Gold Project, the Company has based its assumptions and analysis on certain factors that are inherently uncertain. Uncertainties include among others:

1. the adequacy of infrastructure;
2. unforeseen changes in geological characteristics;
3. metallurgical characteristics of the mineralization;
4. the price of gold;
5. the availability of equipment and facilities necessary to complete development and commence operations;
6. the cost of consumables and mining and processing equipment;
7. unforeseen technological and engineering problems;
8. accidents or acts of sabotage or terrorism;
9. currency fluctuations;
10. changes in laws or regulations;
11. the availability and productivity of skilled labour;
12. the regulation of the mining industry by various governmental agencies; and
13. political factors.

This release also contains references to estimates of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. The estimation of Mineral Resources is inherently uncertain and involves subjective judgments about many relevant factors. Mineral Resources that are not Ore Reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. The accuracy of any such estimates is a function of the quantity and quality of available data, and of the assumptions made and judgments used in engineering and geological interpretation (including estimated future production from the project, the anticipated tonnages and grades that will be mined and the estimated level of recovery that will be realized), which may prove to be unreliable and depend, to a certain extent, upon the analysis of drilling results and statistical inferences that may ultimately prove to be inaccurate. Mineral Resource estimates may have to be re-estimated based on:

1. fluctuations in gold price;
2. results of drilling;
3. metallurgical testing and other studies;
4. proposed mining operations, including dilution;
5. the evaluation of mine plans subsequent to the date of any estimates; and
6. the possible failure to receive, or changes in, required permits, approvals and licenses.

Ore Reserves are also disclosed in this release. Ore Reserves are those portions of Mineral Resources that have demonstrated economic viability after taking into account all mining factors. Ore Reserves may, in the future, cease to be a Mineral Reserve if economic viability can no longer be demonstrated because of, among other things, adverse changes in commodity prices, changes in law or regulation or changes to mine plans.

Forward-looking information is subject to a variety of known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which could cause actual events or results to differ from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking information, including, without limitation: exploration hazards and risks; risks related to exploration and development of natural resource properties; uncertainty in WAF's ability to obtain funding; gold price fluctuations; recent market events and conditions; risks related to the uncertainty of mineral resource calculations and the inclusion of inferred mineral resources in economic estimation; risks related to governmental regulations; risks related to obtaining necessary licenses and permits; risks related to their business being subject to environmental laws and regulations; risks related to their mineral properties being subject to prior unregistered agreements, transfers, or claims and other defects in title; risks relating to competition from larger companies with greater financial and technical resources; risks relating to the inability to meet financial obligations under agreements to which they are a party; ability to recruit and retain qualified personnel; and risks related to their directors and officers becoming associated with other natural resource companies which may give rise to conflicts of interests. This list is not exhaustive of the factors that may affect WAF's forward-looking information. Should one or more of these risks and uncertainties materialise, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described in the forward-looking information.

WAF's forward-looking information is based on the reasonable beliefs, expectations and opinions of their respective management on the date the statements are made and WAF does not assume any obligation to update forward looking information if circumstances or management's beliefs, expectations or opinions change, except as required by law. For the reasons set forth above, investors should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information. For a complete discussion with respect to WAF, please refer to WAF's financial statements and other filings all of which are filed on the ASX at www.asx.com.au and the Company's website www.westafricanresources.com.