

20 November 2023

## 2023 AGM CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The 2022/23 year was yet another challenging one for companies operating in the innovative end of industry. Continuing geopolitical uncertainties festered a "risk adverse" mentality in industrial equity markets while rising interest rates drained surplus investable capital in a predictable fashion.

Inflation ran away from many central banks that were tardy in anticipating the return of supply constraints and their impact on prices throughout the economy. It has not been a good time for stock market investors with share prices falling as funds were redeployed elsewhere. Yet, real businesses continue to grow.

Notwithstanding the backdrop, First Graphene made steady progress through the financial year as it reaffirmed itself as a world leader in the manufacture and commercialisation of graphene, the wonder nanomaterial of the future. Among our significant progress was the completion of a world first commercial scale graphene trial with Breedon Group in the UK, with other industrial-scale programs commencing soon through other global companies in this sector. We continue to undertake more detailed test work to optimise trial outcomes, working closely with companies as part of the qualification process. Success on this front will be a game-changer for First Graphene, with many other cement companies around the world watching closely for corroboration of carbon emission reductions achieved from the use of graphene.

There are a number of other product lines in testing and design stages, any one of which could lead to profitability in the foreseeable future. Interestingly, we are experiencing more enquiries from companies that have undertaken their own research on the benefits of using graphene and have approached us because of our reputation for high product quality and application knowhow. They still have to do their test work on our specific graphene products and go through a period of product qualification with the benefit of our expertise, but the trend is positive. Graphene continues to be an important nanomaterial of the future. Our objective is to bring the future forward, closer to today.

In the meantime, we continue to sell PureGRAPH® to a range of consistent customers with annual sales exceeding the AUD\$1 million mark for the first time. We continue to expect strong sales growth across a range of product lines.

Everyone wants results yesterday, but that is unrealistic. Developing new technology is just the start of it. The next step is commercialisation by developing a growing customer base. That is where First Graphene currently finds itself. We know we have a game-changing, superior product; we just have to get it out the door and into an expanding the marketplace, generated by reputation and expertise. The ball is already rolling, taking us along a growth curve that I foresee will go on for many decades.

Last week the Company embarked on a Share Purchase Plan (SPP) to raise up to \$5m at 6.4¢. This is the first time that we have gone back to shareholders for funds since the beginning of COVID. Rather than undertake a heavily discounted placement to the general market, as many companies do, the directors thought that existing shareholders should get the benefit of the discount. This is an opportune time to apply for more shares knowing that your company is making great strides in the commercialisation of PureGRAPH®. Coincidently, it seems to be corresponding with a return of confidence in the stock market. We commenced the SPP and look forward to utilising the funds in an efficient fashion as we close in on the cement opportunity.



The Board and I are grateful for the continued support of First Graphene shareholders, and we appreciate your patience. We are confident that it will be well rewarded.

Thank you.

Warwick Grigor Chairman of the Board First Graphene Limited

## **About First Graphene Ltd (ASX: FGR)**

First Graphene Limited is focused on the development of advanced materials to help industry improve. The Company is a leading supplier of graphitic materials and product formulations with a specific commercial focus on large, high-growth global markets including cement and concrete; composites and plastics; coatings, adhesives, silicones and elastomers (CASE); and energy storage applications.

One of the key outcomes these advanced materials offer is the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, whether directly through a reduction in output of these harmful greenhouse gases or lower energy usage requirements in manufacturing, or indirectly due to enhanced performance characteristics and extending the usable life of products.

First Graphene has a robust manufacturing platform based on captive and abundant supply of high-purity raw materials, and readily scalable technologies to meet growing market demand. As well as being the world's leading supplier of its own high performance PureGRAPH® graphene product range, the Company works with multiple industry partners around the world as a supplier of graphitic materials and partner to research, develop, test and facilitate the commercial marketing of a wide range of sector-specific chemical solutions.

First Graphene Ltd is publicly listed in Australia (ASX:FGR) and has a primary manufacturing base in Henderson, near Perth, WA. The company is incorporated in the UK as First Graphene (UK) Ltd and is a Tier 1 partner at the Graphene Engineering and Innovation Centre (GEIC), Manchester, UK, where it has a strong marketing and R&D capability.