Update on the Bardwell Nickel Sulphide Metallurgical Testwork Program

Highlights to Date Include:

- **The flowsheet has now been confirmed as a crush, two stage milling, conventional flotation and magnetic separation**
- **Strong correlation of nickel flotation metallurgy performance and both sulphur and magnetite head grades**
- **Locked cycle tests on 0.35% Ni head grade composite sample yields 59% Ni recovery producing**
    - **29% Ni and 10.5% MgO flotation concentrate (55% Ni recovery)**
    - **Additional 4% Ni recovered to a 55% Fe magnetite concentrate**
- **Magnetite concentrate of ~55% iron grade and containing 3 to 5% nickel recovery produced from two samples tested**
- **Bardwell zone samples are being selected and composited for future metallurgical performance testing based on nickel, sulphur and magnetite grades**

Aston Minerals Limited (**ASX:ASO**, '**Aston Minerals'** or 'the **Company'**) is pleased to provide an update on its nickel recovery metallurgical work program from its continued metallurgical flowsheet development program which commenced in Q3 2023.

The 2023/24 metallurgical test work program was led by Khalil Nasrallah (Corem) and Greg Lane (Ausenco), both of whom have previous experience on the Dumont and Crawford nickel projects. The Aston Minerals metallurgical program has been designed based on experience from nickel ore bodies with similar mineralogy and grade. Initial open circuit and locked cycle flotation and magnetic separation test work on a range of composite samples from Bardwell and B2 Zones has confirmed preliminary drivers of metallurgical performance and provides direction for sample selection and metallurgical test work on Bardwell deposit samples based on the recently reported resource update.

Managing Director, Russell Bradford, said *"The previous 6 month met program has provided invaluable information on mineralogy and the geo-metallurgical relationships of the Boomerang deposit. This has allowed us to plan and optimise our work for the next phase of testwork at Corem. The conventional sulphide flowsheet is now locked in and will be used for future metallurgical testing. The locked cycle test results shows a robust recovery is achievable at a high nickel concentrate grade. The future work on the Bardwell core will be executed on the back of a significant knowledge base and an understanding of nickel, sulphur and iron associations based on the samples tested."*

Figure 1: 3rd cleaner sulphide concentrate assaying 29.1% nickel

Background

The Company's announcement dated 26 February 2024 reported on a number of flowsheet improvements identified in the 2023 test work at Corem. These improved both the selectivity for nickel and the nickel recoveries when compared with the 2022 scoping testwork. A range of composite samples from the Bardwell and B2 areas were used to develop a strong correlation between nickel recovery and sulfur grade in the core (Figure 2).

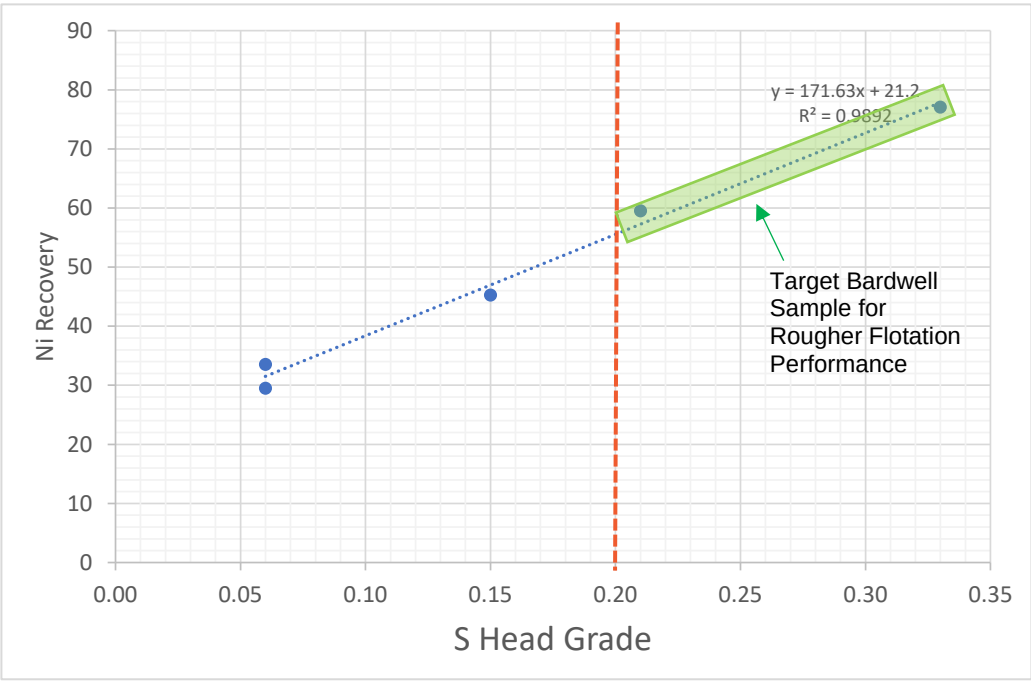

Figure 2: Flotation rougher Ni recovery as a function of S head grade

The recent 15 April 2024 resource update to 1,270 Mt at 0.27% Ni and 0.011% Co for 3.43 Mt contained nickel and 135 kt cobalt[1] has demonstrated that the Bardwell zone has large intersections of high grade sulphur with associated nickel grade and all of the reported indicated resource within the Boomerang is situated in the Bardwell zone.The Bardwell zone will be the main area of focus in the next phase of metallurgical flowsheet development. Figure 2 illustrates the 0.2% S cut-off used for sample selection in the next phase of work.

Metallurgical Testwork Update

The metallurgical process flowsheet (Figure 3) to produce a nickel sulphide concentrate has now been tested and confirmed. This flowsheet was used for recent locked cycle test work and will be used as the basis for future test work on Bardwell samples. The circuit was developed based on flotation work on samples from both B2 and Bardwell over the last 6 months. As announced on 26 February 2024, a significant improvement in the metallurgical nickel recovery has been demonstrated when using this flowsheet.

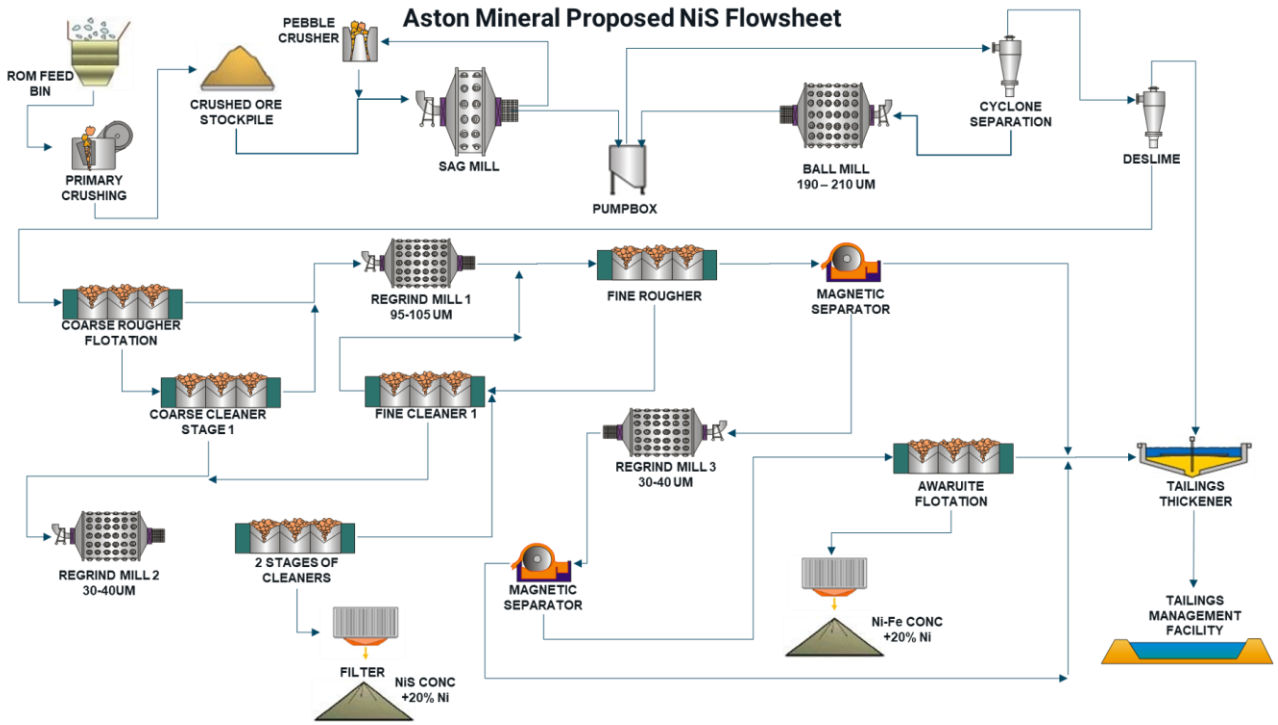

Figure 3: Simplified metallurgical flowsheet

A preliminary locked cycle flotation test (**LCT**) was conducted on a high grade Bardwell composited sample. The results are summarised in Table 1.

[1] ASX Announcement 15 April 2024: Indicated Mineral Resource of 231 Mt at 0.27% Ni, 0.011% Co (0.30% NiEq); Inferred Mineral Resource of 1,039 Mt at 0.27% Ni, 0.011% Co (0.30% NiEq). Nickel Equivalent (NiEq) - the recovered value of additional metals on a nickel content basis added to the nickel content: NiEq (%) = Ni (%) + Co (ppm) * 0.000251

Table 1 – Summary of Locked Cycle Test Work

Parameter	Units	Value
Ni head grade	%	0.35
S head grade	%	0.27
Float conc Ni grade	%	29.1
Float conc MgO grade	%	10.5
Float conc Ni recovery	%	54.8
Mag conc Ni recovery	%	4.0
Mag conc Fe grade	%	56
Total Ni recovery	%	58.8

Bardwell Sample Selection

The recent resource update increased the Indicated Resource in the Bardwell zone by 44% compared to the maiden resource reported in February 2023. This improvement in Indicated Resource has clearly positioned Bardwell as the key focus for future mining and pit studies and sampling for future metallurgical test work.

A review of the geology and preliminary geo-metallurgical modelling of the Bardwell deposit has resulted in the development of a drill core metallurgical sampling plan. Drill core from the recent drilling program of 10 holes (1,784m) in Bardwell will be sampled to obtain material for further metallurgical test work.

Approximately 30% of all the core sampled has sulphur grades above 0.2% which will be used for the metallurgical testwork. Approximately 3.3 tonne of mostly ½ HQ core will be submitted to Corem. The samples will be based on discrete intervals from each drill hole with each sample targeting consistent Ni and S head grade across the interval.

The program includes 39 discrete samples across 6 sample grade classes:

Priority 1 (high sulfur)

- Class 1 > 0.2% S and >0.25% Ni < 0.30%
- Class 2 > 0.2% S and >0.30% Ni <0.35%
- Class 3 > 0.2% S and >0.35% Ni

Priority 2 (lower sulfur)

- Class 4 > 0.15% S and > 0.25% Ni
- Class 5 < 0.15% S and > 0.25% Ni
- Class 6 < 0.15% S and < 0.25% Ni

Priority 2 work will focus on core with lower S grades that potentially have higher proportions of heazlewoodite and awaruite.

Drill Hole and Core Sample Location Examples by Sample Class

The plan and section diagrams show examples of how samples have been selected. Large intersections of high grade sulphur and nickel are found running through the Bardwell zone from near surface . The sampling and test work will be used to assess the Ni recovery across the Bardwell zone.

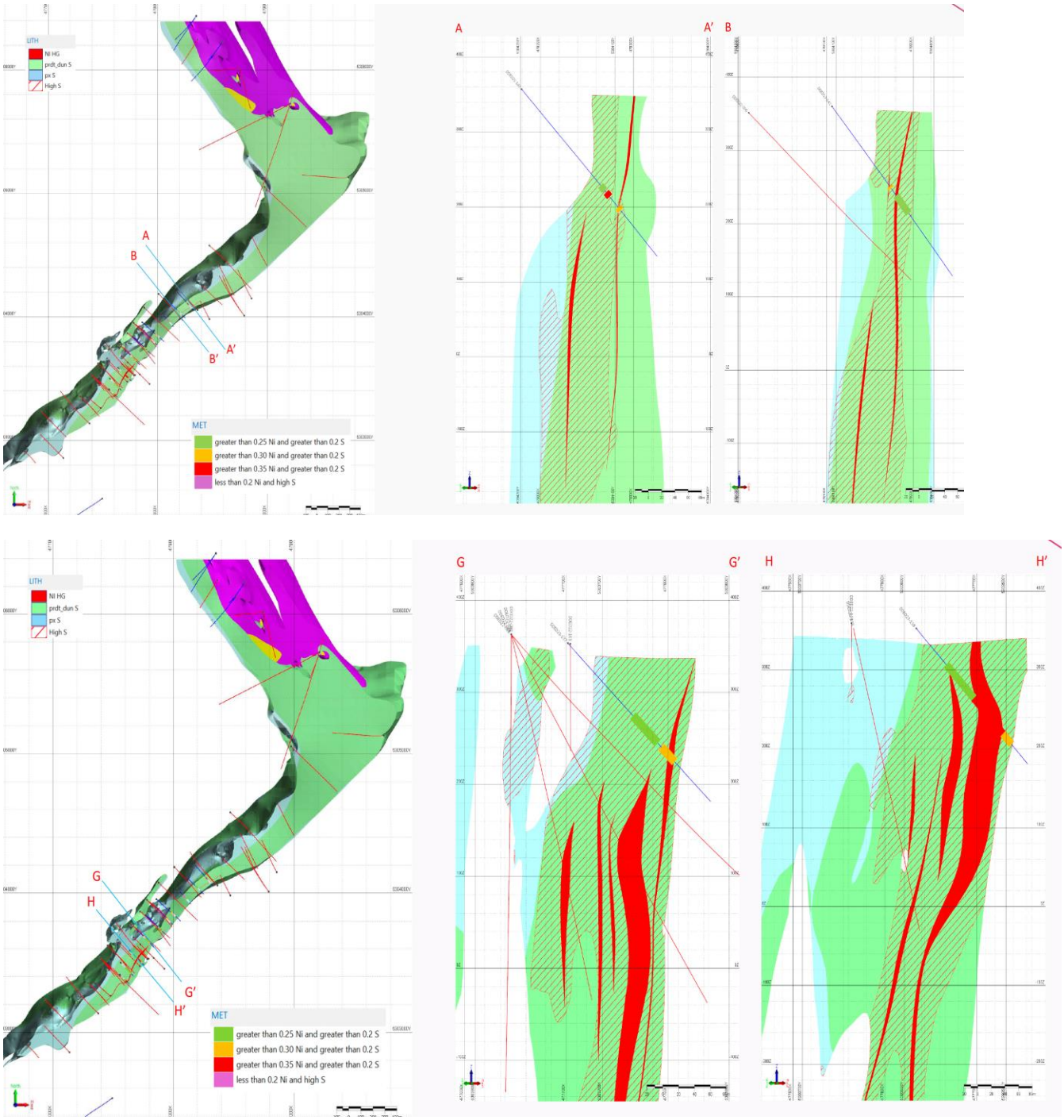

Figure 4: Drill hole and core sample locations by sample class

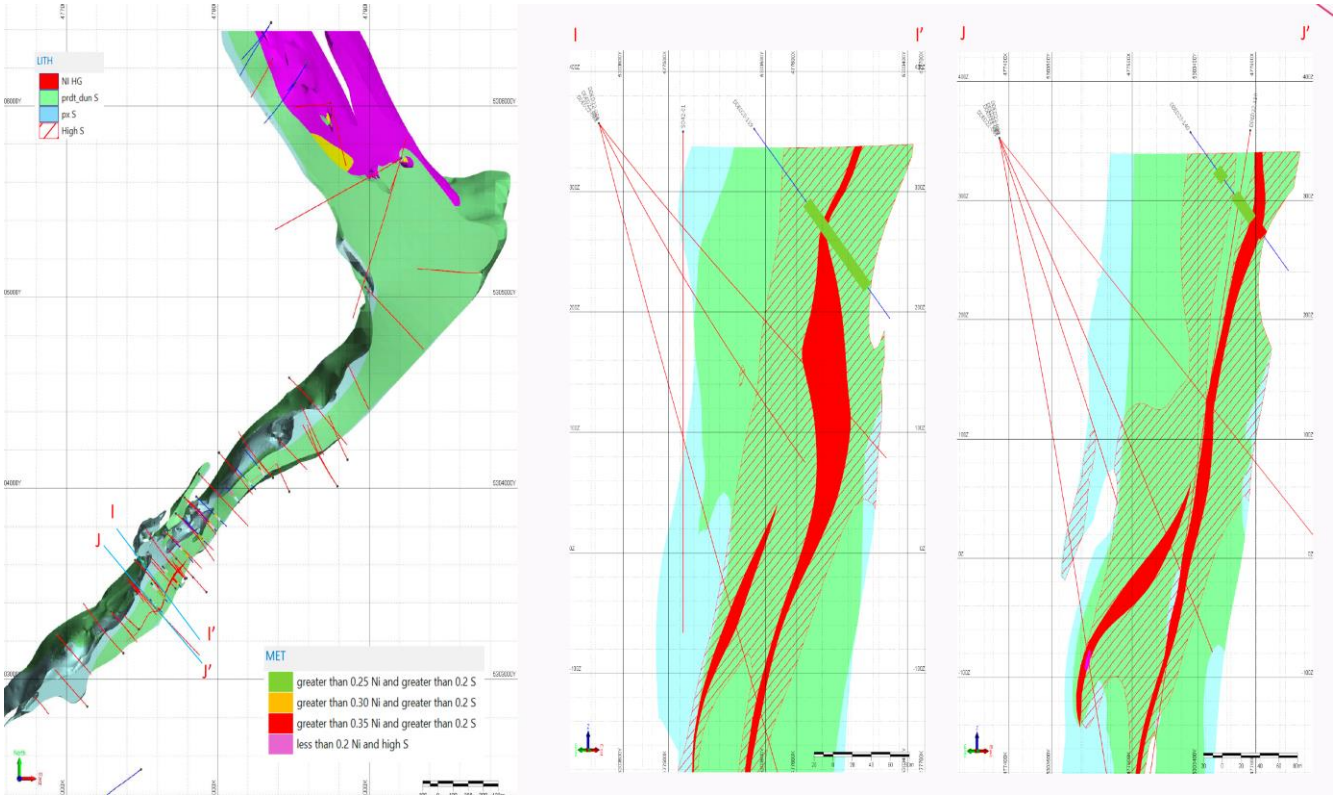

Figure 4 (continued): Drill hole and core sample locations by sample class

Forward Plan

Aston Minerals will now focus on the following:

- The metallurgy for a province enabling project targeting drill core from medium to high grade zones of the Bardwell area. All core from the Bardwell short hole drilling will be used for evaluation and inputs for the mining pits.
- Assessment of the variability in metal recovery to both nickel sulfide flotation and magnetite concentrates.
- Assessment of opportunities to improve metallurgical performance through reagent optimisation, residence time and potential recovery of nickel from the fine deslime steam.
- Mineralogy of feed, concentrate and tail from each flotation test
- Satmagan measurments of core from the Bardwell zone to understand magnetite relationship with flotation performance
- Finalising the scope of work for the commencement of a scoping study.

For more information, please contact:

Tania Barreto
Investor Relations
tania@astonminerals.com

Russell Bradford
Managing Director
russell@astonminerals.com

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

About Aston Minerals

Aston Minerals is an ASX listed nickel and gold developer currently focused on feasibility development work on the 100% owned Edleston Boomerang Nickel-Cobalt Sulphide System and its Edleston Gold deposit, both located about 60 km south of the City of Timmins, Ontario, Canada. As one of the largest nickel sulphide deposits globally, Aston Minerals is focused on supplying nickel into various markets.

About Ausenco

Ausenco is a global company redefining what's possible. The team is based across 26 offices in 15 countries delivering services worldwide. Combining technical expertise with a 30-year track record, Ausenco delivers innovative, value-add consulting studies, project delivery, asset operations and maintenance solutions to the minerals and metals and industrial sectors. www.ausenco.com

Competent Person's Statements

The information in this announcement that relates to the Exploration Results for Edleston Project is based on information compiled and fairly represented by Mr Robert Jewson, who is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and Non-Executive Director of Aston Minerals Limited. Mr Jewson has sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration, and to the activity which he has undertaken, to qualify as a Competent Person 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 Jewson consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on this information in the form and context in which it appears. The assay results were first reported to the ASX under listing rule 5.7 on 3 December 2021, 19 January 2022, 7 February 2022, 18 March 2022, 6 April 2022, 28 September 2022 and 22 November 2022, and were included in the maiden resource announced on 21 February 2023.

The mineral resource estimates in this announcement were reported by the Company in accordance with listing rule 5.8 for resource on 15 April 2024. The Company confirms it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the previous announcement and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the previous announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed.

Appendix 1: Table of Drill Holes, Intervals and Assay Grades for Composite Samples

Hole Id	From	To	Length	Ni%	S%	Composite
DDED21-057	141.96	143.5	1.54	0.36	0.27	
DDED21-057	143.5	145	1.5	0.37	0.24	
DDED21-076	218.5	219.51	1.01	0.50	1.10	
DDED21-076	219.51	220.5	0.99	0.45	0.86	
DDED22-086	304.05	304.93	0.88	0.33	0.21	
DDED22-086	304.93	306.02	1.09	0.34	0.22	
DDED22-096	388.5	389.5	1	0.54	0.49	
DDED22-096	389.5	390.5	1	0.54	0.49	
DDED22-112	352	353	1	0.32	0.24	
DDED22-112	353	354.5	1.5	0.33	0.26	
DDED22-114	159.5	160.5	1	0.40	0.30	
DDED22-114	160.5	161.5	1	0.38	0.29	
DDED22-120	336	337	1	0.36	0.27	
DDED22-120	337	338	1	0.31	0.22	
DDED21-073	453.65	454.75	1.1	0.33	0.21	**1**
DDED21-073	454.75	455.86	1.11	0.70	0.42	
DDED21-073	455.86	456.91	1.05	0.43	0.26	
DDED22-082	330.05	331	0.95	0.30	0.33	
DDED22-082	331	332.06	1.06	0.42	0.83	
DDED22-091	255.97	257	1.03	0.57	0.49	
DDED22-091	257	257.65	0.65	0.49	0.43	
DDED22-094	208	209	1	0.34	0.37	
DDED22-094	209	210	1	0.35	0.32	
DDED22-104	328.5	329.5	1	0.69	0.44	
DDED22-104	329.5	329.9	0.4	0.65	0.42	
DDED22-113	285	286	1	0.31	0.21	
DDED22-113	286	286.61	0.61	0.31	0.21	
DDED22-116	131	132	1	0.39	0.30	
DDED22-116	132	133	1	0.31	0.24	
DDED22-083	361.45	362.5	1.05	0.27	0.21	
DDED22-083	362.5	363.5	1	0.26	0.20	
DDED22-092	154	155.47	1.47	0.25	0.23	
DDED22-092	155.47	157	1.53	0.24	0.23	
DDED22-097	226.5	227.5	1	0.23	0.26	
DDED22-097	227.5	228.5	1	0.24	0.24	
DDED22-102	295.5	296.5	1	0.27	0.21	
DDED22-102	296.5	297.5	1	0.27	0.20	
DDED22-108	228.5	229.5	1	0.30	0.20	**2**
DDED22-108	229.5	230.5	1	0.30	0.22	
DDED22-113	232	233	1	0.29	0.20	
DDED22-113	233	234	1	0.28	0.20	
DDED22-120	333	334	1	0.26	0.22	
DDED22-120	334	335	1	0.29	0.25	
DDED22-107	232.5	233.5	1	0.26	0.22	
DDED22-107	233.5	234.5	1	0.27	0.23	
DDED22-107	234.5	235.19	0.69	0.27	0.25	

Hole Id	From	To	Length	Ni%	S%	Composite
DDED22-107	235.19	236	0.81	0.26	0.21	
DDED22-107	236	237	1	0.26	0.21	
DDED22-107	237	238.5	1.5	0.26	0.21	
DDED22-113	357.5	358.5	1	0.27	0.29	
DDED22-113	358.5	359.5	1	0.22	0.21	
DDED22-113	359.5	360.5	1	0.23	0.28	
DDED22-113	360.5	361.5	1	0.26	0.26	
DDED22-116	118.5	119.5	1	0.29	0.20	
DDED22-116	119.5	120.52	1.02	0.30	0.21	
DDED22-116	120.52	121.5	0.98	0.29	0.21	
DDED22-120	315	316	1	0.28	0.20	
DDED22-120	316	317	1	0.29	0.21	
DDED21-057	316	317.36	1.36	0.23	0.18	
DDED21-057	317.36	318.39	1.03	0.24	0.17	
DDED22-092	169	170.5	1.5	0.22	0.19	
DDED22-092	170.5	172	1.5	0.24	0.19	
DDED22-098	500.5	501.5	1	0.27	0.14	
DDED22-098	501.5	502.5	1	0.24	0.12	
DDED22-108	115.5	116.5	1	0.22	0.13	
DDED22-108	116.5	117.5	1	0.24	0.15	
DDED22-110	274	275	1	0.27	0.12	
DDED22-110	275	276	1	0.28	0.13	
DDED22-114	30	31	1	0.24	0.13	
DDED22-114	31	32	1	0.23	0.14	
DDED22-116	161	162	1	0.24	0.10	
DDED22-116	162	163	1	0.27	0.13	
DDED21-070	342	343.54	1.54	0.25	0.11	
DDED21-070	343.54	345	1.46	0.26	0.10	
DDED21-073	483.05	484.08	1.03	0.27	0.12	**3**
DDED21-073	484.08	484.99	0.91	0.28	0.13	
DDED22-096	78.5	79.5	1	0.24	0.16	
DDED22-096	79.5	80.5	1	0.24	0.15	
DDED22-104	409.5	410.5	1	0.29	0.17	
DDED22-104	410.5	411.5	1	0.28	0.16	
DDED22-113	162	163	1	0.27	0.10	
DDED22-113	163	164	1	0.29	0.11	
DDED22-115	364	365	1	0.29	0.10	
DDED22-115	365	366	1	0.29	0.10	
DDED22-120	305	306	1	0.22	0.15	
DDED22-120	306	307	1	0.23	0.15	
DDED21-065	429.54	431	1.46	0.22	0.11	
DDED21-065	431	432.48	1.48	0.23	0.12	
DDED21-072	385.45	386.5	1.05	0.25	0.11	
DDED21-072	386.5	387.5	1	0.25	0.11	
DDED21-072	387.5	388.5	1	0.27	0.12	
DDED21-075	161.97	163.42	1.45	0.24	0.10	

Hole Id	From	To	Length	Ni%	S%	Composite
DDED21-075	163.42	164.99	1.57	0.26	0.10	
DDED22-079	342.06	343.03	0.97	0.24	0.12	
DDED22-079	343.03	344.08	1.05	0.29	0.12	
DDED22-079	344.08	345.06	0.98	0.28	0.12	
DDED22-105	308.5	309.5	1	0.24	0.10	
DDED22-105	309.5	310.5	1	0.25	0.11	
DDED22-107	221.5	222.5	1	0.28	0.12	
DDED22-107	222.5	223.5	1	0.27	0.12	
DDED22-107	223.5	224.5	1	0.27	0.13	
DDED22-080	463	464	1	0.24	0.17	
DDED22-080	465	466	1	0.24	0.19	
DDED22-080	466	467	1	0.23	0.18	
DDED22-093	302	303	1	0.25	0.19	
DDED22-093	303	304	1	0.24	0.19	
DDED22-093	304	305	1	0.23	0.18	
DDED22-094	185	186	1	0.21	0.16	
DDED22-094	186	187	1	0.22	0.18	
DDED22-094	187	188	1	0.22	0.17	
DDED22-117	30	31	1	0.22	0.12	
DDED22-117	31	32	1	0.22	0.13	
DDED22-117	32	33	1	0.21	0.11	
DDED22-119	246.5	247.5	1	0.25	0.10	
DDED22-119	247.5	248.5	1	0.23	0.10	
DDED22-119	248.5	249.5	1	0.24	0.10	
DDED21-070	503.05	504.06	1.01	0.24	0.15	
DDED21-070	504.06	505.05	0.99	0.25	0.16	
DDED21-070	505.05	505.96	0.91	0.24	0.15	
DDED22-086	275.5	277	1.5	0.23	0.14	
DDED22-086	277	278.5	1.5	0.27	0.16	
DDED22-089	377.5	378.5	1	0.24	0.11	
DDED22-089	378.5	379.5	1	0.26	0.12	
DDED22-089	379.5	380.5	1	0.26	0.12	
DDED22-089	559	560	1	0.26	0.10	
DDED22-089	560	561	1	0.27	0.10	
DDED22-089	561	562	1	0.28	0.11	
DDED22-113	282	283	1	0.27	0.18	
DDED22-113	283	284	1	0.28	0.18	
DDED22-113	284	285	1	0.30	0.19	
DDED22-121	83	83.5	0.5	0.21	0.13	
DDED22-121	83.5	84	0.5	0.20	0.12	
DDED22-121	84	85	1	0.21	0.13	
DDED21-065	233.05	234.08	1.03	0.25	0.14	
DDED21-065	234.08	235	0.92	0.28	0.16	
DDED21-065	235	236.03	1.03	0.25	0.15	
DDED21-072	124	124.99	0.99	0.24	0.11	
DDED21-072	124.99	125.99	1	0.24	0.11	

Hole Id	From	To	Length	Ni%	S%	Composite
DDED21-072	125.99	127	1.01	0.24	0.13	
DDED22-078	168.5	169.92	1.42	0.28	0.11	
DDED22-078	169.92	171.5	1.58	0.28	0.11	
DDED22-078	171.5	173.05	1.55	0.28	0.11	
DDED22-079	221	222.42	1.42	0.25	0.10	
DDED22-079	222.42	224	1.58	0.26	0.12	
DDED22-113	270	271	1	0.26	0.16	
DDED22-113	271	272	1	0.28	0.17	
DDED22-113	272	273	1	0.28	0.17	
DDED22-091	366	366.98	0.98	0.24	0.09	
DDED22-091	387	388.09	1.09	0.23	0.09	
DDED22-103	173	174	1	0.23	0.08	
DDED22-103	174	175.46	1.46	0.24	0.08	
DDED22-106	39	40	1	0.25	0.09	
DDED22-106	40	41	1	0.25	0.09	
DDED22-106	41	42	1	0.25	0.08	
DDED22-110	36.5	37.5	1	0.27	0.07	
DDED22-110	37.5	38.5	1	0.26	0.06	
DDED22-110	264.5	265.5	1	0.26	0.09	
DDED22-110	265.5	266.62	1.12	0.26	0.09	
DDED22-116	41.5	42.5	1	0.24	0.07	
DDED22-116	42.5	43.5	1	0.25	0.06	
DDED22-119	266.5	267.5	1	0.21	0.08	
DDED22-119	267.5	268.5	1	0.20	0.08	
DDED21-070	360.02	361.5	1.48	0.27	0.09	
DDED21-070	361.5	363	1.5	0.27	0.09	
DDED22-089	451	453	2	0.26	0.04	
DDED22-089	453	455.25	2.25	0.25	0.03	**4**
DDED22-115	147.5	148.5	1	0.26	0.08	
DDED22-115	148.5	149.5	1	0.27	0.08	
DDED22-120	37.5	38.5	1	0.21	0.05	
DDED22-120	38.5	39.5	1	0.21	0.08	
DDED22-121	96.5	97.5	1	0.27	0.07	
DDED22-121	97.5	98.5	1	0.28	0.07	
DDED22-121	169	170	1	0.27	0.05	
DDED22-121	170	171	1	0.25	0.05	
DDED21-075	328.02	329.57	1.55	0.27	0.04	
DDED21-075	329.57	331.02	1.45	0.25	0.04	
DDED21-075	590.98	591.88	0.9	0.27	0.05	
DDED21-075	591.88	592.77	0.89	0.27	0.05	
DDED21-075	592.77	593.68	0.91	0.27	0.04	
DDED21-075	738.5	740	1.5	0.28	0.01	
DDED21-075	740	741.45	1.45	0.27	0.01	
DDED22-078	48	49.56	1.56	0.29	0.07	
DDED22-078	49.56	51.11	1.55	0.28	0.06	
DDED22-078	315.84	318.4	2.56	0.27	0.05	

Hole Id	From	To	Length	Ni%	S%	Composite
DDED22-095	180	181	1	0.26	0.02	
DDED22-095	181	182	1	0.26	0.02	
DDED22-095	368.5	369.5	1	0.25	0.01	
DDED22-095	369.5	370.5	1	0.29	0.02	
DDED21-069	223.97	225.57	1.6	0.23	0.05	
DDED21-069	225.57	227.01	1.44	0.23	0.05	
DDED21-072	151	152.06	1.06	0.22	0.04	
DDED21-072	152.06	153	0.94	0.24	0.05	
DDED21-072	153	153.98	0.98	0.24	0.04	
DDED21-072	350.53	352	1.47	0.25	0.05	
DDED21-072	352	353.5	1.5	0.27	0.06	
DDED22-079	539	540.03	1.03	0.29	0.01	
DDED22-079	540.03	541	0.97	0.28	0.01	
DDED22-099	435	436	1	0.28	0.01	
DDED22-099	436	437	1	0.28	0.01	
DDED22-105	242.5	243.5	1	0.29	0.08	
DDED22-105	243.5	244.5	1	0.27	0.07	
DDED22-092	186.99	188.01	1.02	0.15	0.06	
DDED22-092	188.01	188.87	0.86	0.14	0.01	
DDED22-094	224	225	1	0.11	0.07	
DDED22-094	225	225.73	0.73	0.11	0.03	
DDED22-101	432.5	433.5	1	0.18	0.03	
DDED22-101	433.5	434.5	1	0.13	0.02	
DDED22-103	133	134	1	0.14	0.04	
DDED22-103	134	135	1	0.16	0.05	
DDED22-104	176	177	1	0.15	0.08	
DDED22-104	177	178	1	0.16	0.09	
DDED22-110	600.21	601.5	1.29	0.15	0.06	
DDED22-110	601.5	602.5	1	0.12	0.05	
DDED22-111	68	69.5	1.5	0.12	0.03	
DDED22-111	69.5	71	1.5	0.11	0.03	**5**
DDED21-065	91	92.5	1.5	0.13	0.09	
DDED21-065	92.5	94.11	1.61	0.13	0.07	
DDED21-075	208.91	209.99	1.08	0.14	0.05	
DDED21-075	209.99	210.89	0.9	0.18	0.07	
DDED22-089	314.5	315.5	1	0.15	0.07	
DDED22-089	315.5	316.5	1	0.14	0.07	
DDED22-095	651	652	1	0.15	0.06	
DDED22-095	652	653	1	0.13	0.05	
DDED22-099	316.5	318	1.5	0.18	0.03	
DDED22-099	318	319.5	1.5	0.19	0.04	
DDED22-107	361	362	1	0.11	0.03	
DDED22-107	362	363	1	0.12	0.04	
DDED22-121	230	231	1	0.16	0.08	
DDED22-121	231	232	1	0.15	0.08	

Appendix 2: 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	Comments
Sampling techniques	· 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.	Corem received 469 half NQ/HQ Droll core samples with a weight totaling up to 1,689 kg (weighed and inventoried at Corem).
	· Include reference to measures taken to ensure sample representivity and the appropriate calibration of any measurement tools or systems used.	Core was cut into two equal halves with one submitted for analysis.
	· 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.	The sample intervals were composited in order to obtain a representative zone of mineralisation that approximated a range of nickel head grade of the overall mineralised interval and was submitted to Corem laboratories for grinding and flotation beneficiation studies. A primary grind to P80 100um was utilised prior to rougher flotation
Drilling techniques	· 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).	Standard tube NQ and HQ Diamond drilling was undertaken.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Comments
Drill sample recovery	· Method of recording and assessing core and chip sample recoveries and results assessed.	Field geologists measure core recoveries for every drill run completed. The core recovered is physically measured by tape measure and the length is recorded for every "run". Core recovery is calculated as a percentage recovery. Core recovery is logged and recorded into the database.
	· Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples.	Diamond drilling by nature collects relatively uncontaminated core samples. These are cleaned at the drill site to remove drilling fluids and cuttings to present clean core for logging and sampling.
	· 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.	There is no significant loss of material reported in the mineralised parts of the diamond core to date.
Logging	· 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.	Drill holes were logged for lithology, alteration, mineralisation, structure and weathering by a geologist. Data is then captured in a database appropriate for mineral resource estimation.
	· Whether logging is qualitative or quantitative in nature. Core (or costean, channel, etc) photography.	All cores are photographed in the core tray, with individual photographs taken of each tray both dry and wet. Logging conducted is both qualitative and quantitative.
	· The total length and percentage of the relevant intersections logged.	All drill holes were logged in full.
Sub-sampling techniques and sample preparation	· If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken.	Diamond drill core was cut in half. Half the core was submitted for analysis and the remaining half was stored securely for future reference and potentially further analysis if ever required.
	· If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split, etc and whether sampled wet or dry.	Only diamond core drilling completed.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Comments
	· For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample preparation technique.	Sample preparation by Corem used their standard preparation method. Samples were crushed to 80% passing 2mm at Corem, riffle split and milled 80% passing 100µm.
	· Quality control procedures adopted for all sub-sampling stages to maximise representivity of samples.	The type of analysis conducted is aiming to target specific grind sizes to determine the level of liberation of sulphides.
	· 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.	Triplicate analysis by Corem was conducted to assess the variability of the mineralisation based on the predicted head grade. The results of the individual samples were consistent.
	· Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled.	Sample sizes are considered appropriate to the mineralisation style and grain size of the material.
Quality of assay data and laboratory tests	· The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total.	Both four acid digest ICP total digestion and ICP two acid (aqua regia) partial digestion methods were utilised on all samples. This was aiming to determine an indicative proportion of sulphide versus silicate associated nickel on the basis of the partial digestion method being ineffective at liberating silicate hosted nickel mineralisation. The high degree of correlation indicated between the two results is indicative of a high proportion of sulphide associated mineralisation. ICP total digestion method involved analysis of a pulp by gently heating in a mixture of ultrapure HF/HNO3/HClO4 until dry and the residue dissolved in dilute ultrapure HNO3. ICP partial digestion method involved analysis of a pulp digested with 8:1 ultrapure HNO3:HCl for 1 hour at 95oC.
	· For geophysical tools, spectrometers, handheld XRF instruments, etc, the parameters used in determining the	An Olympus Vanta VMR pXRF in Geochem mode was utilised to assist with identification of nickel sulphide minerals. Readings were collected over 40 second intervals for all 3

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Comments
	analysis including instrument make and model, reading times, calibrations factors applied and their derivation, etc.	beams. The instrument is calibrated according to the manufacturer's specifications and a calibration check is performed daily to confirm the unit is operating within expected parameters as well as a performance test against a certified reference material. The manufacturer's most recent certificate of calibration is dated July 28, 2021, with nickel performance calibrated from OREAS 74a and GBM 398-4 certified reference materials.
	· 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.	Internal laboratory QAQC samples are utilised by Corem laboratories for the purposes of the metallurgical testing.
Verification of sampling and assaying	· The verification of significant intersections by either independent or alternative company personnel.	Results were reviewed by the chief geologist, managing director and competent person.
	· The use of twinned holes.	None of the current holes being drilled are considered to be twin holes.
	· Documentation of primary data, data entry procedures, data verification, data storage (physical and electronic) protocols.	All data was recorded in field logging sheets, digitsed then imported into a validated database.
	· Discuss any adjustment to assay data.	No adjustments were performed to assay data.
Location of data points	· 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.	Drill collar locations were surveyed using a differential GPS.
	· Specification of the grid system used.	All collar locations are reported in NAD83- 17N grid system.
	· Quality and adequacy of topographic control.	Topographic control on collars was derived from a LIDAR survey completed across the Project. LIDAR is considered to be industry best practice for this stage of exploration.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Comments
Data spacing and distribution	· Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results.	Drilling at Bardwell has been completed on a nominal 100-200m along strike by 30-100m grid to date.
	· 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.	Drilling completed to date is of a sufficient spacing for inclusion in a mineral resource estimate.
	· Whether sample compositing has been applied.	Sample compositing has been applied. Results reported are length weighted averages.
Orientation of data in relation to geological structure	· Whether the orientation of sampling achieves unbiased sampling of possible structures and the extent to which this is known, considering the deposit type.	The spacing of drilling at Bardwell is sufficient and the degree of geological and grade continuity is understood to allow for mineral resource estimation to be conducted.
	· 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.	The drilling intercept reported is downhole. Further drilling is required to confirm the geometry of mineralisation.
Sample security	· The measures taken to ensure sample security.	Diamond drill core is transported from site by contractors to a secured core processing facility for logging and sampling. Samples are subsequently sent by a contractor to Corem metallurgical and assay laboratory.
Audits or reviews	· The results of any audits or reviews of sampling techniques and data.	No audits are documented to have occurred in relation to sampling techniques or data.

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	· *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 Edleston Project is 100% owned by a wholly owned subsidiary of Aston Minerals Ltd. A 2% net smelter return royalty applies across the Project. 1% of the net smelter return royalty can be purchased for $1,000,000 across the mining claims and 1% of the net smelter return royalty can be purchased for $1,000,000 across the Leased Claim.
	· *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.*	Open file verification has been conducted to confirm licenses are in full force.
Exploration done by other parties	· *Acknowledgment and appraisal of exploration by other parties.*	Exploration reported was completed by 55 North Mining Inc (Formerly SGX Resources Inc.). Activities completed include magnetic surveys, VLF/IP surveys, extensive diamond drilling.
Geology	· *Deposit type, geological setting and style of mineralisation.*	Regionally, Edleston appears to lie along the potential western extension of the Cadillac-Larder fault zone along which a number of major gold deposits are located. Geophysical and geological work has demonstrated that the Edleston Zone sits within the north limb of the host unit/horizon that stretches over 10 km to the east. This unit is broadly folded back toward the south and east immediately to the west of the deposit continuing under and near the contact with shallow sedimentary cover. The host rock is an altered and sheared ultramafic that exhibits

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
		extensive silicification and contains quartz-carbonate in veins, veinlets and fracture fill. A revised geological interpretation based on the information obtained from recent drilling and reprocessed magnetics coverages was undertaken. Through this process the extent and intense magnetic response of the Boomerang Target was recognised. Magnetic inversion modelling of the Boomerang Target was undertaken to further constrain the geometry and extent of the dunite/peridotite complex. It is interpreted that this dunite/peridotite body extends for a strike of 5km, is 500 to >1,500m wide and extends to depths of well over 500m. The exploration model applied to conduct targeting of this body is analogous to Dumont and Crawford Nickel-PGE-Cobalt Deposits. Nickel sulphide mineralisation at these deposits was formed through the serpentinisation of a dunite unit (rock composed of >90% olivine). Through the reaction of olivine with water, extensive magnetite is developed hence providing such a strong magnetic response and potentially allowing for a direct exploration targeting method to be applied. Through this process of serpentinisation nickel is liberated from olivine within

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
		a strongly reducing environment and the liberated nickel is partitioned into low sulphur nickel sulphide minerals.
Drill hole Information	· *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:* o *easting and northing of the drill hole collar* o *elevation or RL (Reduced Level – elevation above sea level in metres) of the drill hole collar* o *dip and azimuth of the hole* o *down hole length and interception depth* o *hole length.*	Drill hole locations are described in the body of the text, in the appendix and on related Figures.
	· *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.*	All information has been reported. At present no sampling or analysis has been completed.
Data aggregation methods	· *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.*	Length weighted averages are reported in the highlights and body of the announcement. A full listing of the individual intervals is reported in the body of the release above.
	· *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.*	Length weighted averages have been applied where necessary to calculate composite intervals. Calculations were performed in excel using the

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
		sumproduct function to calculate the length weighted average grades.
	· *The assumptions used for any reporting of metal equivalent values should be clearly stated.*	No metal equivalence are reported.
Relationship between mineralisation widths and intercept lengths	· *These relationships are particularly important in the reporting of Exploration Results.* · *If the geometry of the mineralisation with respect to the drill hole angle is known, its nature should be reported.* · *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').*	Intervals of alteration and mineralisation reported are apparent widths. Further drilling is required to understand the geometry of mineralisation and thus the true width of mineralisation.
Diagrams	· *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.*	Maps and plans were reported in the original announcements. A tabulation of the intercepts is included at Appendix 1.
Balanced reporting	· *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.*	All information has been reported.
Other substantive exploration data	· *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.*	All relevant exploration data has been reported in this announcement.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Further work	· *The nature and scale of planned further work (eg tests for lateral extensions or depth extensions or large-scale step-out drilling).*	Further exploratory drilling along the strike length of the Boomerang target is proposed to be undertaken. Further details on subsequent metallurgical testing to be undertaken is included in the body of this release.
	· *Diagrams clearly highlighting the areas of possible extensions, including the main geological interpretations and future drilling areas, provided this information is not commercially sensitive.*	Maps including the location of samples and prospects are included in the body of this release.