

ASX Announcement 17 July 2020

# **June 2020 Quarterly Activities Report**

# Shareholders approve acquisition of highly prospective copper-gold project in Victoria

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Battery Minerals shareholders approve acquisition of 100% of Gippsland Prospecting, the owner of a copper-gold project next to Stavely in Victoria
- Battery Minerals continues to pursue project finance options for the Montepuez graphite project
- Cash on hand of \$3.95M at 30 June 2020

Battery Minerals Limited (ASX: BAT) ("Battery Minerals" or "the Company") is pleased to report on its June 2020 Quarter, during which the Company diversified its asset base with shareholders approving an agreement to acquire a highly prospective copper-gold project in Victoria.

#### **GIPPSLAND, VICTORIA**

# Agreement to acquire a controlling interest in Gippsland Prospecting

On 2 March 2020 and 16 March 2020, Battery Minerals announced that it had signed two binding agreements to acquire 100% of Gippsland Prospecting Pty Ltd ("Gippsland Prospecting), which has the sole right to apply for a highly-prospective exploration licence immediately adjacent to Stavely Minerals (ASX:SVY) Thursday's Gossan copper-gold project in Victoria.

Battery Minerals has agreed to spend a minimum of \$1.5 million on exploration and evaluation on Block 4 in the first 12 months after completion of the transaction.

Known as Block 4, the tenement covers 809sqkm and hosts the historic Moyston gold mine, which produced 75,000oz at 22g/t Au. The exploration licence is also just 7km from the rich Stawell gold mine, which has produced 5Moz of gold. Gippsland Prospecting won the Victorian Government tender, which gave it the sole right to apply for the exploration licence.

Battery Minerals will pay the shareholders of Gippsland Prospecting \$500,000 in aggregate and issue them 439,363,850 shares for 100% of Gippsland Prospecting. Block 4 will be renamed E67801 on grant of the exploration licence. The completion of the acquisition is subject to the grant of the exploration licence - E67801.

On 13 May 2020, Battery Minerals shareholders approved the issue of the 439,363,850 shares to the vendors subject to the grant of the exploration licence - E67801.

Block 4 is considered highly prospective for shear zone-hosted Orogenic gold deposits such as Stawell, as well as volcanic-hosted base metals mineralisation and large-scale Cadia Ridgeway-type porphyry copper mineralisation, within the well-defined Stavely volcanic belt.

The adjoining Stavely tenement hosts the Thursday's Gossan porphyry copper-gold discovery...

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(see Stavely ASX release "AGM Presentation release dated 29 November 2019 and Stavely ASX release dated 25 February 2020). Stavely has reported high-grade copper intersections and stated that the mineralisation remains open along strike and down dip.

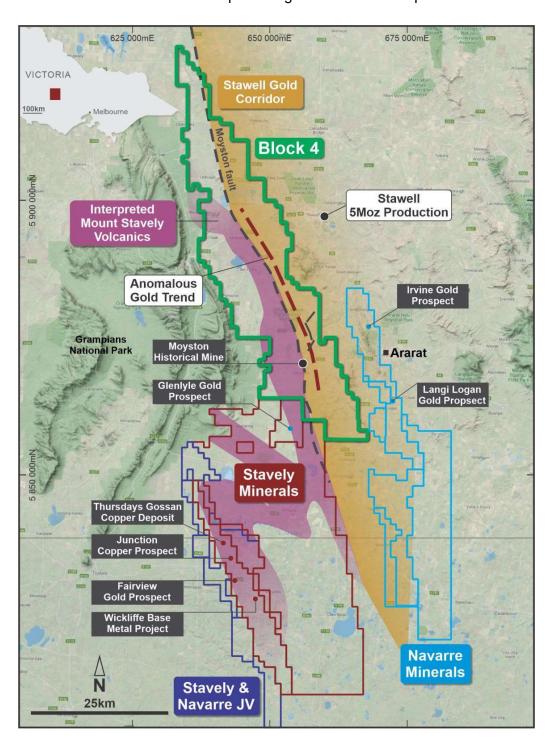


Figure 5 - Location of Block 4 adjacent to Stawell historic mine and Stavely tenure showing locations of key regional prospects and deposits

For further information and competent person sign-offs, please see Battery Minerals announcements dated 2 March 2020 and 16 March 2020.

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# GRAPHITE PROJECTS, MOZAMBIQUE

#### **COVID 19 UPDATE**

The Company has implemented a range of measures to combat the risks associated with COVID-19. These measures are in addition to the travel restrictions and the requirement for 14-day isolation periods throughout our countries of interest.

#### **Montepuez Site**

Staffing of the Montepuez site has been reduced to local operational personnel, in line with the Mozambican Government's social distancing, isolation and travel restrictions.

In the interest of reducing the influx of foreign personnel into the project site in the district of Montepuez, the Company decided to reduce its expatriate staff presence on site. This effectively reduces risk to local populations from the import of COVID19 from South Africa and Australia. Furthermore, in compliance with the Australian Government's travel advisory, Battery Minerals personnel are not travelling to Mozambique for the purposes of work. The travel restrictions and reduced presence on site will not affect business continuity.

The Company will continue to monitor the situation during Q3 and will make changes as required to align with national legislation and support the health and safety of the Company's staff and local communities.

#### MONTEPUEZ GRAPHITE PROJECT

# **Mining Agreement**

While the grant of a Mining Agreement is not a condition precedent to production, exports and cashflows, the execution of a Mining Agreement provides the Company with additional rights that enable investing companies like Battery Minerals to obtain absolute clarity around the application of the legal framework to the project. The Mining Agreement also formalises a project's fiscal stability rights into a contractually binding document and provides an agreed dispute resolution process.

During the June 2020 Quarter, Battery Minerals continued to progress government engagement in relation to the Mining Agreement. As previously advised, the Company does not expect a material variation in project economics to result from the Mining Agreement.

# **DUAT**

The Company reached another significant milestone the June 2020 Quarter with the approval of the Montepuez project's land use permit, referred to as a DUAT (Direito do Uso e Aproveitamento da Terra). The permit covers the entire Montepuez project license area and is valid for a period of twenty-three years. Legislation in Mozambique prevents citizens or companies from buying or selling land, however a DUAT enables the company to mortgage and sell the infrastructures on the license and provide the extension of land use and access securities for investors in the project subject to approval by Government.

# **Community Investment**

As previously advised, the Company works closely with local Government and community leaders on specific community initiatives including local employment and training, supporting medical and educational facilities and services such as schooling and clinic infrastructures and increasing access to safe water. Once the Company achieves project finance for the Montepuez project and commences development and then production, the Company will company will company achieves are company will company achieves and commences development and then production, the Company will company will company achieves are constant.

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further expand its planned long term locally supported and government endorsed community initiatives.

# **BALAMA CENTRAL GRAPHITE PROJECT - Mining Licence Submitted**

As previously reported, Battery Minerals' mining concession application for its Balama Central graphite project was submitted to Government in late June 2019 for its review and consideration. The application reduced the footprint of the exploration license to minimise the impact on local communities. The license reclassified as 10031C (formerly 4118L) is 1543 Ha. Approval is expected in the second half of 2020.

The environmental impact assessment (EIA) for 10031C has been completed and no significant environmental or social threats have been indicated. The application for the environmental license was submitted in December 2019.

#### **CORPORATE**

At the Company's annual general meeting in May 2020, Battery Minerals shareholders approved the acquisition of 100% of Gippsland Prospecting, the owner of a copper-gold project next to Stavely in Victoria. The completion of this acquisition is subject to the Victorian Government granting the tenement secured by Gippsland Prospecting under a tender process in 2018/2019.

On 16 July 2020, ASX granted the Company a waiver from Listing Rule 14.7 subject to certain conditions (see ASX announcement dated 16 July 2020 for full details). This waiver will enable the Company to issue the consideration securities under the acquisition of Gippsland Prospecting Pty Ltd approved by shareholders at the Company's general meeting held on 13 May 2020 (Meeting), later than 13 August 2020. The waiver requires the Company to issue the consideration securities within five business days of the receipt of Victorian State Government approval that EL06871 has been granted and in any event, no later than 13 November 2020.

The funding process for the Montepuez graphite project, which is being led by ThirdWay Africa, is continuing with various interested parties progressing their due diligence process via the project's dataroom. Key funding development activities, including site visits, have been postponed until after COVID-19 travel and isolation restrictions have been lifted.

As at 30 June 2020, the Company had cash and liquid assets of \$3.95M (see Quarterly Cashflow Report). The Company continues to reduce cash expenditure wherever possible to help ensure it maximises its ability to secure project finance for its Montepuez graphite project over the coming year and meet its funding obligations under the acquisition of Gippsland Prospecting.

# **ASX Additional Information**

- 1. ASX Listing Rule 5.3.1: Exploration & Evaluation Expenditure during the Quarter was \$7,000. Full details of exploration activity during the June 2020 Quarter are in this report.
- 2. ASX Listing Rule 5.3.2: There were no substantive mining production and development activities during the Quarter.
- 3. ASX Listing Rule 5.3.5: Payments to related parties of the Company and their associates during the Quarter: \$28,000 The Company advises that this relates to non-executive



director's fees and executive directors' salaries only. Please see Remuneration Report in the Annual Report for further details on Directors' remuneration.

# **Background Information on Battery Minerals**

In addition to the Gippsland Prospecting acquisition, Battery Minerals Limited ("Battery Minerals") is an ASX listed Australian company with two world-class graphite deposits in Mozambique, being Montepuez and Balama Central. Battery Minerals has produced high quality graphite flake concentrate at multiple laboratories. Subject to completing project financing, Battery Minerals intends to commence graphite flake concentrate production from its Montepuez Graphite Project at a rate of 50,000tpa at an average flake concentrate grade of 96% TGC. The Company has previously disclosed the combined Mozambique Graphite projects have potential to produce in excess of 150,000tpa of high-quality flake graphite.

While continuing to pursue cost effective financing options for the graphite projects, the Company has identified the complimentary battery mineral exploration project at Gippsland in Western Victoria. The Gippsland Project is host to significant strike length of the Stavely Volcanics, the Moyston shear and the Miga Arc, all considered prospective for base metals and gold in the region. Battery Minerals will continue to actively pursue discoveries in these areas.

# Authorised by the Board for release to ASX.

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#### **Battery Minerals' Competent Person's Statement**

Battery Minerals confirms that all the material assumptions underpinning the production targets for its Montepuez and Balama Central graphite projects and any of the forecast financial information derived from these production targets, in the 4 and 12 December 2018 ASX announcements, on these projects continue to apply at the date of release of this presentation and have not materially changed. Battery Minerals confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the 4 and 12 December 2018 announcements continue to apply and have not materially changed.

Any references to Ore Reserve and Mineral Resource estimates should be read in conjunction with the competent person statements included in the ASX announcements referenced in this report as well as Battery Minerals' other periodic and continuous disclosure announcements lodged with the ASX, which are available on the Battery Minerals' website. For Mineral Resources - See announcement dated 16<sup>th</sup> July and 18th October 2018 for full details and Competent Persons sign-off. For Ore Reserves - See announcements dated 4 and 12 December 2018 for full details and Competent Persons sign-off.

The information in this report that relates to Battery Minerals' Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is a compilation of previously published data for which Competent Persons consents were obtained. Their consents remain in place for subsequent releases by Battery Minerals of the same information in the same form and context, until the consent is withdrawn or replaced by a subsequent report and accompanying consent.

The information in this Report that relates to Montepuez Mineral Resources is extracted from the ASX Announcement titled 'Group Resource Update' dated 18 October 2018, where the Statement of Estimates of Mineral Resources was compiled by Mr. com



Shaun Searle who is a Member of the AIG. Mr. Searle has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity that he has undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the JORC Code (2012). Mr Searle consented to the inclusion in that report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

#### **Important Notice**

This ASX Announcement does not constitute an offer to acquire or sell or a solicitation of an offer to sell or purchase any securities in any jurisdiction. In particular, this ASX Announcement does not constitute an offer, solicitation or sale to any U.S. person or in the United States or any state or jurisdiction in which such an offer, tender offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful. The securities referred to herein have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and neither such securities nor any interest or participation therein may not be offered, or sold, pledged or otherwise transferred, directly or indirectly, in the United States or to any U.S. person absent registration or an available exemption from, or a transaction not subject to, registration under the United States Securities Act of 1933.

#### **Forward Looking Statements**

Statements and material contained in this document, particularly those regarding possible or assumed future performance, resources or potential growth of Battery Minerals Limited, industry growth or other trend projections are, or may be, forward looking statements. Such statements relate to future events and expectations and, as such, involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Such forecasts and information are not a guarantee of future performance and involve unknown risk and uncertainties, as well as other factors, many of which are beyond the control of Battery Minerals Limited. Information in this presentation has already been reported to the ASX.

All references to future production and production & shipping targets and port access made in relation to Battery Minerals are subject to the completion of all necessary feasibility studies, permit applications, construction, financing arrangements, port access and execution of infrastructure-related agreements. Where such a reference is made, it should be read subject to this paragraph and in conjunction with further information about the Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves, as well as the relevant competent persons' statements.

#### Competent Person Declaration Gippsland Prospecting Pty Ltd

The information in this release that relates to Exploration Targets, Exploration Results, Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Alan Marlow, who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and is currently a director of Gippsland Prospecting Pty Ltd. Dr. Marlow 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 as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Dr Marlow consents to the inclusion in the release of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

Dr Marlow confirms that the historical exploration results set out in this announcement are an accurate representation of the available data and studies for the project owned by Gippsland Prospecting Pty Ltd.

#### Forward-Looking Statements

This announcement contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of securities laws of applicable jurisdictions. Forward-looking statements can generally be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as "may", "will", "expect", "intend", "plan", "estimate", "anticipate", "believe", "continue", "objectives", "outlook", "guidance" or other similar words, and include statements regarding certain plans, strategies and objectives of management and expected financial performance. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside the control of Gippsland Prospecting and any of its officers, employees, agents or associates. Actual results, performance or achievements may vary materially from any projections and forward-looking statements and the assumptions on which those statements are based. Exploration potential is conceptual in nature, there has been insufficient exploration to define a Mineral Resource and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in the determination of a Mineral Resource. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements and Gippsland Prospecting assumes no obligation to update such information



# Appendix 1: Tenement Summary - 30 June 2020 1

1. TENEMENTS HELD				
Tenement Reference	Location	Nature of interest	Interest at beginning of Quarter	Interest at end of Quarter
8770C	Mozambique	Mining Licence Granted	100%	100%
10031C	Mozambique	Mining Concession in Application	100%	100%
8555	Mozambique	Exploration License Granted	100%	100%
8609	Mozambique	Exploration License Granted	100%	100%

Note 1: The Balama Central graphite project mining concession application was lodged with government in late June 2019. The application process is expected to conclude in 2020.

Note 3: With respect to tenement's 8555 & 8609, an agreement was reached in December 2018 to dispose of these tenements. The agreement reached between BAT, its subsidiaries and Nedeel LLC, was for \$50,000 in cash and a 1% royalty (which may be sold for US\$1m up to the date of 730 days after the grant of a Mining Concession on either or both of the tenements). The change of ownership of these tenements is currently subject to the approval of the Mozambican Government.

**TENEMENTS** MINING DISPOSED: 5572 transfer approved by Government

and completed

3. BENEFICIAL PERCENTAGE INTERESTS HELD IN FARM-IN OR FARM-OUT **AGREEMENTS: Nil** 

4. BENEFICIAL PERCENTAGE INTERESTS HELD IN FARM-IN OR FARM-OUT AGREEMENTS **ACQUIRED OR DISPOSED: Nil**