# Northern Star and Saracen: A Compelling Combination

- Strategic merger-of-equals to create a Top-10 global gold miner operating exclusively in Tier-1 jurisdictions
- Highly accretive transaction, unlocking synergies of A\$1.5-2.0B

6 October 2020











## Cautionary note and disclaimer

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- (b) Saracen confirms that this presentation has been authorised for release to ASX by the board of directors of Saracen.

This presentation has been prepared in relation to the proposed merger between Northern Star and Saracen by way of scheme of arrangement under Part 5.1 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (Corporations Act), (Scheme). Under the Scheme, Northern Star would acquire 100% of the fully paid ordinary shares in Saracen in exchange for the issue of new, fully paid ordinary shares in Northern Star; subject to the terms and conditions described in the merger implementation deed entered into on or about the date of this presentation (Implementation Deed). A copy of the Implementation Deed is available on ASX.

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## Reserves, Resources & production targets

#### ASX Listing Rule 5.19 Ore reserves and mineral resources reporting (by Northern Star and by Saracen)

This presentation contains estimates of Northern Star's and Saracen's respective ore reserves and mineral resources, as well as estimates of Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Pty Ltd's (KCGM) ore reserves and mineral resources. Northern Star and Saracen are participants in the 50:50 incorporated joint venture that owns the assets and operations of KCGM (including the Super Pit). The information in this presentation that relates to the ore reserves and mineral resources of:

- (a) Northern Star has been extracted from the following: the ASX release by Northern Star entitled "Resources and Reserves, Production and Cost Guidance Update (ex-KCGM)" dated 13 August 2020, available at <a href="https://www.nsrltd.com">www.nsrltd.com</a> and <a href="https://www.nsrltd.com">www.asx.com</a> (Northern Star Announcement);
- (b) Saracen has been extracted from the following: the ASX release by Saracen entitled "Carosue Dam and Thunderbox only Reserves rise to 3.7Moz" dated 4 August 2020, available at <a href="www.saracen.com.au">www.saracen.com.au</a> and <a href="www.saracen.com.au">wwww.saracen.com.au</a> and <a href="www.sar
- (c) KCGM has been extracted from the following: Northern Star's and Saracen's joint ASX announcement entitled "KCGM Reserves, Resources and Guidance Update" dated 18 August 2020, available at <a href="https://www.nsrltd.com">www.nsrltd.com</a> and <a hre

For the purposes of ASX Listing Rule 5.19:

- (a) Northern Star confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the Northern Star Announcement and, in relation to the estimates of Northern Star's ore reserves and mineral resources, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the Northern Star Announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. Northern Star confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from that announcement.
- (b) Saracen confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the Saracen Announcement and, in relation to the estimates of Saracen's ore reserves and mineral resources, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the Saracen Announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. Saracen confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from that announcement.
- (c) Both Northern Star and Saracen confirm that they are not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the KCGM Announcement and, in relation to the estimates of KCGM's ore reserves and mineral resources, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the KCGM Announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. Saracen confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from that announcement.

#### **ASX Listing Rule 5.16 Disclosures**

The references to production targets in this presentation are (except where otherwise specified) in respect of the period to FY27.

Relevant assumptions made in relation to the Ore Reserves and indicated Mineral Resources underpinning the production targets are:

- Current operational capital and operating cost structures;
- Current operational mining and metallurgical performance;
- The gold price, exchange rate, dilution allowance and mining recovery rates are as set out in each prior public report referred to in the above ASX Listing Rule 5.19 disclosures;
- NST Kalgoorlie Operations assumes 408koz of Proved and 1,199koz of Probable Reserve in the production forecast, in addition to 463koz of Indicated Resource;
- NST Yandal Operations assumes 426koz of Proved and 2,199koz of Probable Reserves in the production forecast. No Resources are included in this forecast;
- NST Pogo Operation includes 4koz of Proved and 1,507koz of Probable Reserves in the production forecast. An additional 937koz of Indicated Resource is assumed in the forecast;
- SAR CDO forecast consists of 96koz of Proved Reserve and 1,619koz of Probable Reserve. No Resource is included in the forecast;
- SAR TBO forecast consists of 337koz of Proved Reserve and 793koz of Probable Reserve. No Resource is included in the forecast; and
- KCGM forecast consists of 650koz of Proved Reserve and 3,042koz of Probable Reserves. No Resource is included in the forecast.

For Competent Persons Statements (including disclosures in relation to the production targets in this presentation, for the purposes of ASX Listing Rule 5.23), refer to pages 39 and 40.

Authorised for release to the ASX by Bill Beament, Executive Chair (NST) and Raleigh Finlayson, Managing Director (SAR).

<sup>\*</sup> All currency conversions in this document unless otherwise stated, were converted at a spot conversion rate of AUD/USD of \$0.70.





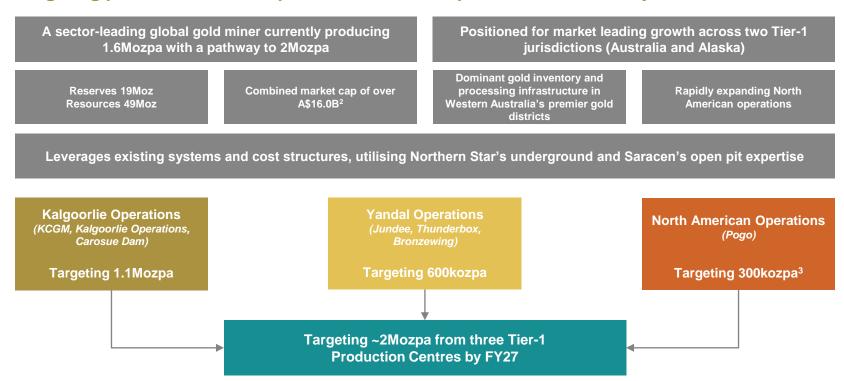






## A platform for growth and superior returns

### Targeting production of 2Mozpa from three Tier-1 production centres by FY27<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1.</sup> Refer to page 3 of this presentation in relation to Ore Reserve and Mineral Resource estimates, and production targets, for Northern Star and Saracen.

<sup>2.</sup> Market capitalisation based on the last undisturbed share price of NST of A\$13.82 per share and the pro-forma NST ordinary shares on issue of 1,158M post implementation of the scheme. 3. Targeting 300kozpa by FY23





## Transaction overview

### A compelling merger-of-equals with unique strategic merit and strong value-drivers

Transaction structure	<ul> <li>Merger of Northern Star and Saracen, to be effected via a Saracen scheme of arrangement (Scheme) under which Northern Star will acquire 100% of the fully paid ordinary shares in Saracen</li> <li>Unanimously recommended by the Saracen Board, subject to no superior proposal emerging for Saracen and the Independent Expert concluding that the merger is in the best interests of Saracen shareholders</li> <li>Unanimously endorsed and supported by the Northern Star Board subject to no superior proposal emerging</li> <li>Reciprocal exclusivity arrangements (including 'no shop', 'no talk' and ' no due diligence' restrictions), customary exclusivity arrangements in favour of Northern Star (including a matching right regime), and reciprocal break fees apply</li> </ul>
Consideration	<ul> <li>Saracen shareholders to receive 0.3763 new fully paid ordinary shares in Northern Star for each Saracen share held</li> </ul>
and relative shareholding	• Post-completion of the Scheme, Saracen shareholders will own ~36.0% of the merged group while Northern Star shareholders will own ~64.0%
Board and senior management	<ul> <li>Merged group to continue as Northern Star Resources, based in Perth and trading on the ASX</li> <li>The Board will comprise 5 directors from Northern Star and 4 directors from Saracen</li> <li>Bill Beament to be Executive Chair of the merged group through transitional period, then Non-Executive Chair from 1 July 2021; Raleigh</li> </ul>
	Finlayson to be Managing Director; remaining management roles ensure the expertise is retained from both companies     Transaction is subject to approval by Saracen shareholders and the Supreme Court of WA, and other customary conditions
Key conditions	<ul> <li>Scheme booklet expected to be dispatched to Saracen shareholders ~December 2020</li> <li>Saracen scheme meeting: ~January 2021</li> </ul>
and indicative timing	Transaction completion: ~February 2021
	<ul> <li>Saracen shareholders will also be paid a special, fully franked dividend of A3.8¢ per Saracen share (subject to the Scheme becoming effective and receipt of banking consents)</li> </ul>





## Transaction rationale

A highly accretive transaction, creating a Top-10 global gold producer with high-margin assets located exclusively in Tier-1 jurisdictions<sup>1</sup>

 Combined portfolio of high quality assets concentrated in three logical production centres exclusively in Tier-1 jurisdictions Logical combination of Consolidates KCGM, the iconic "Golden Mile", under single ownership for the first time in its +125-year history highly complementary Pogo provides a platform for growth targeting 300kozpa<sup>2</sup> in North America utilising combined world-class skill sets assets Common shareholdings of >50% consolidated into one company Clear trajectory towards 2Mozpa gold production, with production set to grow by +30% in the next 3 years **Sector-leading growth**  Combined free cash flow generation, balance sheet and asset base enables growth options to be optimised potential on all metrics Significant exploration opportunities across the portfolio, further unlocked by dominant processing infrastructure · Combination of industry-leading management with an outstanding track record of delivering strong returns Right skill-set to drive · Aligned company cultures with complementary operational, technical and financial skill-sets value creation ~A\$200 million of combined equity ownership amongst Board and management teams • Transaction unlocks A\$1.5-2.0B NPV in pre-tax synergies<sup>3</sup> expected to be delivered over the next 10 years via geographic, Significant synergies operational and strategic synergies unique to this merger · Opportunity to further enhance market-leading ESG credentials across the combined asset base Top-10 global gold miner, exclusively in Tier-1 jurisdictions Increased scale and Long-life producer with over 19Moz in Reserves and 49Moz in Resources

Low risk diversified business with the scale, liquidity and quality of cash flows attractive to both gold and generalist investors

1. Refer to page 3 of this presentation in relation to Ore Reserve and Mineral Resource estimates, and production targets, for Northern Star and Saracen.

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### Transaction rationale

## 1 Logical combination of highly complementary assets<sup>1</sup>

- Logical, accretive M&A A unique and significant opportunity to combine complementary assets and management teams
- Transaction creates a Top-10 global gold miner, with three large-scale Tier-1 production centres
- Secures an unrivalled position in the long life, world-class geological district of Kalgoorlie:
  - 1.1Mozpa production centre through the logical combination of KCGM, Northern Star's Kalgoorlie Operations and Saracen's Carosue Dam
  - Consolidates ownership of KCGM and respective Kalgoorlie district operations into one company for the first time in its history
- Consolidates North-Eastern Goldfields assets, creating a 600kozpa production centre with the addition of Saracen's Thunderbox to Northern Star's Yandal Operations (Jundee and Bronzewing) leveraging combined infrastructure and ore sources
- Establishes 300kozpa<sup>2</sup> North American production centre in a high grade, relatively new gold district in Alaska
- Common shareholdings of >50% consolidated into one company

<sup>1.</sup> Refer to page 3 of this presentation in relation to production targets for Northern Star and Saracen.





# Complementary portfolio of assets

### 1 High-quality, long-life assets located exclusively in Tier-1 locations<sup>1</sup>

### **Kalgoorlie Operations**

A	KCGM (100%)	
	Reserves	9.7Moz (1.3g/t)
	Resources	19.1Moz (1.6g/t)
	FY21 Production	440-480koz
	FY21 AISC	A\$1,470-1,570/oz

### **Yandal Operations**

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### **North American Operations**

F	Pogo	
	Reserves	1.5Moz (8.0g/t)
	Resources	6.7Moz (9.8g/t)
	FY21 Production	180-220koz
	FY21 AISC	US\$1,200-1,400/oz

Kalgoorlie (ex KCGM)	
Reserves	1.6Moz (3.4g/t)
Resources	6.8Moz (3.2g/t)
FY21 Production	270-300koz
FY21 AISC	A\$1,650-1,750/oz

c)	Carosue Dam	
	Reserves	2.0Moz (1.9g/t)
	Resources	4.5Moz (2.0g/t)
	FY21 Production	240-250koz
	FY21 AISC	A\$1,300-1,400/oz

E	Thunderbox	
	Reserves	1.7Moz (1.6g/t)
	Resources	3.3Moz (1.8g/t)
	FY21 Production	140-150koz
	FY21 AISC	A\$1,000-1,100/oz









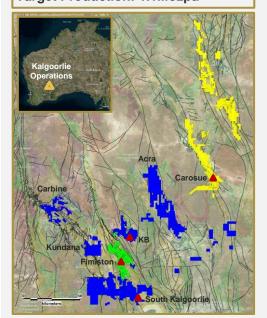
# Three large-scale production centres<sup>1</sup>

**Kalgoorlie Operations** 

Reserves: 287Mt @ 1.4gpt for 13.3Moz

Resources: 516Mt @ 1.8gpt for 30.5Moz

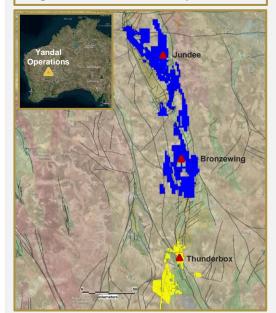
Target Production: 1.1Mozpa



### **Yandal Operations**

Reserves: 66Mt @ 2.2gpt for 4.6Moz Resources: 139Mt @ 2.3gpt for 10.2Moz

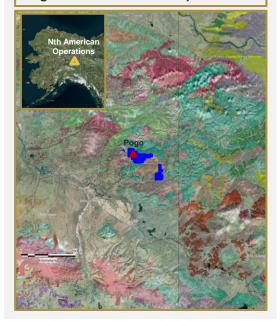
**Target Production: 600kozpa** 



### **North American Operations**

Reserves: 5.9Mt @ 8.0gpt for 1.5Moz Resources: 22Mt @ 9.8gpt for 6.7Moz

**Target Production: 300kozpa** 









KCGM Managed Tenure



SAR Managed Tenure



MergeCo Mill





## Three large-scale production centres

### Simplified business structure with three Tier-1 production centres<sup>1</sup>

### **Kalgoorlie Operations**



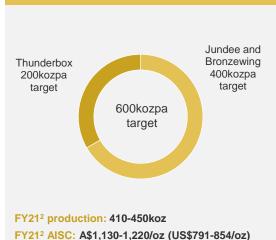
FY21<sup>2</sup> production: 950-1.030koz

FY21<sup>2</sup> AISC: A\$1,475-1,575/oz (US\$1,033-1,103/oz)

Reserves: 13.3Moz Resources: 30.5Moz

**Processing Capacity: 18.6Mtpa** 

### **Yandal Operations**



Reserves: 4.6Moz Resources: 10.2Moz

**Processing Capacity: 5.5Mtpa** 

### **North American Operations**



FY21<sup>2</sup> production: 180-220koz FY212 AISC: US\$1,200-1,400/oz

Reserves: 1.5Moz Resources: 6.7Moz

Processing Capacity: 1.3Mtpa (as at mid CY21)

### Targeting 2.0Mozpa production across the portfolio

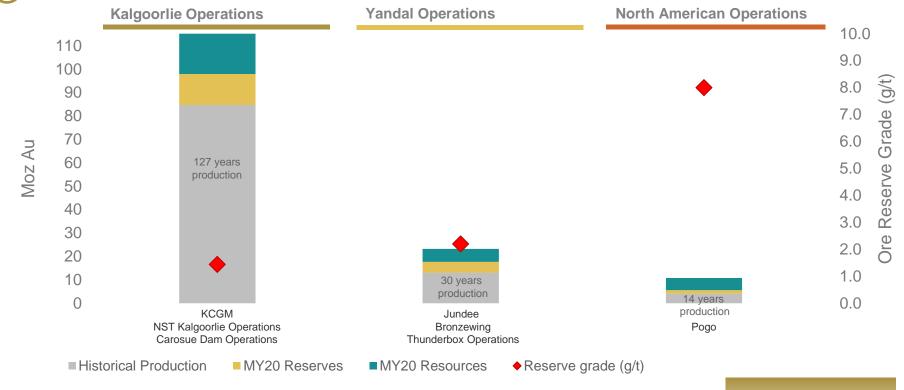
- 1. Refer to page 3 of this presentation in relation to Ore Reserve and Mineral Resource estimates, and production targets, for Northern Star and Saracen.
- 2. Represents FY21 guidance based on previously announced Northern Star and Saracen market disclosures





## Geological endowment - a major value driver

(1) Consolidation of world-class gold systems, exclusively in Tier-1 locations<sup>1</sup>







### One vision for KCGM

Consolidating ownership of KCGM for the first time will streamline operations, drive efficiencies and accelerate growth options

#### Benefits of 100% ownership

- Ensures a clear aligned vision for **KCGM**
- Removes duplicate management oversight, resulting in improved decision-making and accountability
- Combined group better positioned to optimise production and fund growth



#### KCGM growth opportunities

- Opportunity to accelerate development of Fimiston South Stage 2 open pit1
- Potential mill expansion to grow production utilising existing ore stockpiles
- Potential to accelerate the underground opportunities through increased exploration and development



### KCGM synergy potential

- Remove complexity and costs associated with operating as a joint venture
- Processing synergies, to be unlocked via optimisation of ore feed across merged portfolio
- Leverage skilled residential workforce and easier access to talent



1. Subject to regulatory approvals





### Transaction rationale

## 2 Sector-leading growth<sup>1</sup>, with superior financial returns<sup>2</sup>

- Clear trajectory towards 2Mozpa gold production, with production set to grow by +30% in the next 3 years<sup>3</sup>
- Growth capital intensity is one of the lowest in the global gold sector
- Combined entity will have a high margin asset base and highly competitive global AISC profile <A\$1,485/oz (US\$1,040/oz)<sup>4</sup>
- Strong combined free cash flow generation and balance sheet enables the substantial pipeline of existing growth options to be optimised
- Extensive growth and exploration opportunities across the portfolio:
  - 4,183km² consolidated land-holding across the world-class Kalgoorlie Goldfields district of Western Australia
  - 3,247km<sup>2</sup> consolidated land-holding across the North-Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia
  - 297km² land-holding and strong growth platform in emerging camp-scale district in Alaska, North America
- · Continued sector-leading financial performance and returns to shareholders

<sup>1.</sup> Earnings and production. 2. Comparisons against selected mid and large capitalisation gold producers (including Kirkland Lake Gold Ltd, Evolution Mining Ltd, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd, Newcrest Mining Ltd, Gold Fields Ltd, Newmont Mining Corporation, AngloGold Ashanti Ltd.) 3. Refer to page 3 of this presentation in relation to production targets for Northern Star and Saracen. 4. AISC guidance mid point (includes Pogo AISC of US\$1,300/oz at a spot conversion rate of AUD/USD of \$0.70).



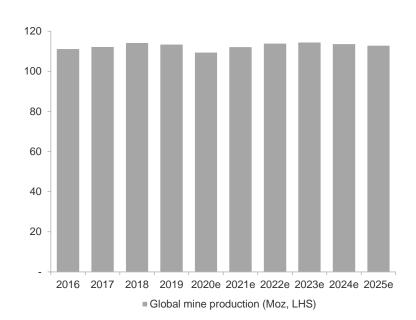


# Compelling production growth

2 Initial production of >1.6Mozpa with a pathway to 2Mozpa, maintaining the growth trajectory of both companies which has generated sector-leading shareholder returns

Lack of production growth across global gold sector<sup>1</sup>

Combined production profile<sup>2,3</sup> (koz)





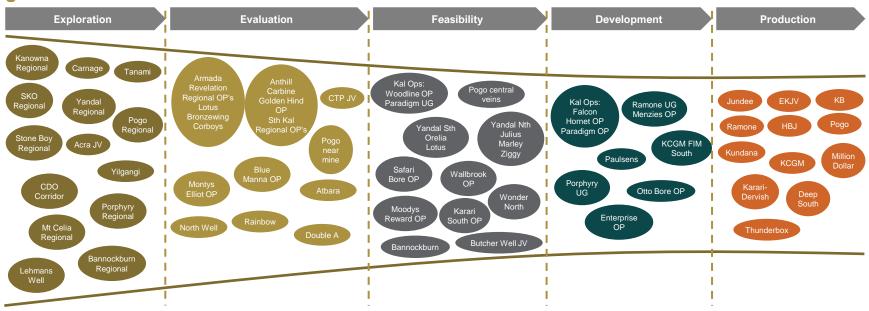
<sup>1.</sup> Source: Macquarie Strategy, IMF, WGC, Metals Focus, US Mint, Perth Mint, Bloomberg, September 2020 2. Represents guidance based on previously announced Northern Star and Saracen market disclosures. 3. Refer to page 3 of this presentation in relation to production targets for Northern Star and Saracen.





# Compelling exploration pipeline<sup>1</sup>

2 Merged entity includes a significant pipeline of projects to drive further Resource and Reserve growth<sup>2</sup>



### Resource extension and conversion to Reserves

- 1. Refer to cautionary note on page 42 in relation to the need to replace Reserves and Resources and the risks associated with exploration
- 2. Note the bubble size shown is not correlated to any Reserves or Resources estimates for each project





### Transaction rationale

## 3 The right skill-set to drive value creation

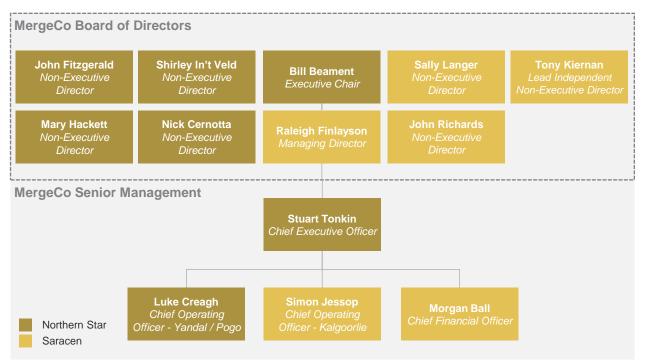
- Proven and highly experienced Board and senior management team to be drawn from both companies:
  - Team reflects the relevant and significant expertise of both companies
  - Existing senior leadership retained with Bill Beament as Executive Chair and Raleigh Finlayson as Managing Director
  - Well-defined succession plan maintains strong and well-balanced senior leadership team now and into the future
- Complementary skill-sets create a world-class management team offering:
  - · A track record of creating shareholder value through discovery, development and production
  - Proven operational expertise across geology, mining (underground and open pit) and processing
  - Financial acumen and prudent capital management
  - Alignment with shareholders (~A\$200 million of combined equity ownership amongst Board and management teams)





# Compelling Board and senior management

(3) Proven Board and senior management team to continue to drive value creation for shareholders



#### Approach to Board and management

- Board and management team reflects the depth and significant expertise of both Saracen and Northern Star
- Board made up of 5:4 split of Directors between Northern Star and Saracen
- Existing senior leadership retained with Bill Beament as Executive Chair and Raleigh Finlayson as Managing Director
- Lead Independent Non-Executive Director to be Tony Kiernan

#### **Current and future intentions**

- Bill Beament will remain Executive Chair until 1 July 2021 to ensure successful integration, then become Non-Executive Chair
- Raleigh Finlayson will be Managing Director for 12-18 months and then transition to Executive Director (Corporate Development). At this time, CEO / MD roles to be amalgamated
- Saracen Executives have volunteered to escrow a portion of the NST shares they will receive from their retention rights vesting as a result of the change of control, up to 30 June 2023





## Transaction rationale

- (4) Significant synergies unique to this merger, A\$1.5-2.0B¹ of value to be unlocked (pre-tax NPV)
  - This is **M&A that works** A unique and significant opportunity only available by combining Northern Star and Saracen to unlock geographic, operational and strategic synergies that will deliver exceptional value for all stakeholders
  - Transaction unlocks A\$1.5-2.0B¹ of synergies² (pre-tax NPV):
    - Strategic and corporate synergies Including KCGM consolidation, rationalisation and optimisation of corporate costs, efficient allocation of capital and procurement cost savings
    - Mining synergies Including the potential to accelerate Fimiston South Stage 2, optimisation of capital deployment across
      portfolio, leverage open pit and underground skill-sets across respective asset bases
    - Processing synergies Including processing optimisation across the portfolio, KCGM expansion options, Kalgoorlie processing and haulage optionality, fast-tracking the Thunderbox mill expansion for Yandal ore sources, and option for Stage 2 Carosue Dam mill expansion
  - Shareholders in the combined entity to benefit from Northern Star's significant historical investment in establishing the corporate functions, governance systems and strategic knowledge base required of an ASX50-100 company

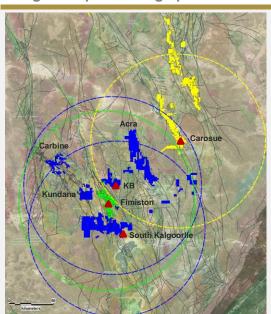




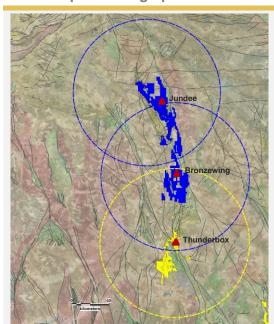
# Processing capacity to unlock value

Over 24Mtpa of processing capacity in the Western Australian Goldfields, providing increased operational flexibility for the combined portfolio

Kalgoorlie processing options



Yandal processing options



- Unprecedented footprint in the Western Australian Goldfields
- Enhanced ability to unlock a range of regional deposits previously constrained by lack of processing solutions
- Extensive Kalgoorlie processing capacity 18.6Mt and established haul road network underpins 1.1Mozpa operation
- Entire Yandal belt within 100km haulage of the combined entity's processing infrastructure

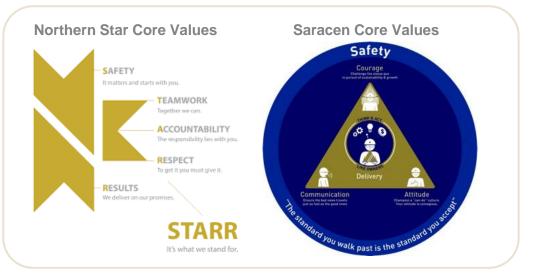






## Alignment on sustainability and culture

4 Northern Star and Saracen are fully aligned in their approach to sustainability and culture. The companies were founded upon the same principles, which have been instrumental to their success



#### **Northern Star Sustainability Vision**

 Delivering responsible environmental and social business practices that lead to both to the creation of strong economic returns for our shareholders, and shared value for our stakeholders

#### Saracen Sustainability Policy

 Commitment to sustainable business practices which support positive societal outcomes whilst maximising shareholder value and financial returns

### **Current voluntary alignments**













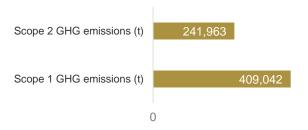


# Environment and social responsibility

The merged entity is committed to ensuring all business activities interact with the natural environment in a consistently responsible manner

Ability to leverage combined ESG experience to enhance shared value for all stakeholders

### Merged entity GHG emissions profile<sup>1</sup>



### Alignment to



First Modern Slavery statements published



### **Community support**

\$10M COVID relief fund

Labs without Walls

Foodbank WA Inc.

WASM scholarships & equipment

Clontarf Foundation

Shooting Stars & Leonora School

WA Netball (Gold Industry Group)

Bushfire relief

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG)

Blue Tree Project





### Governance

4 Corporate governance is essential to sustainable value creation
We will remain committed to pursuing the highest standards in all aspects of corporate governance and transparency



The Merged entity will meet every recommendation of the ASX Corporate Governance Council Corporate Governance Principles & Recommendations (4<sup>th</sup> edition) when the Executive Chair transitions to a Non-Executive Chair role in July 2021



In its FY21 Board evaluation, Nasdaq evaluated the Northern Star Board to be "highly functional, responsive and engaged"



ACSI rated Northern Star as 'Leading' level of ESG Reporting out of the ASX200





### Transaction rationale

## (5) The scale and liquidity to attract both gold and generalist investors

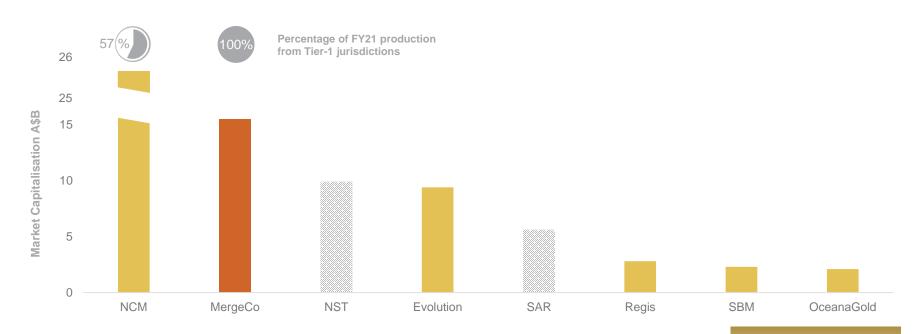
- Top-10 global gold miner with sector-leading production growth; pathway to 2Mozpa<sup>1</sup>
- · Size and liquidity to attract generalist as well as gold-focused global investors and Australian large cap funds
- Increased investor relevance and capital markets presence
- One of the few global gold companies of this scale with operations exclusively in Tier-1 jurisdictions
- Long-life producer with over 19Moz in Reserves and 49Moz in Resources<sup>1</sup>
- Combined market capitalisation of ~A\$16.0 billion with strong global share register
- Strong balance sheet with pro-forma net cash of A\$118 million (as of 30 June 2020)
- Strengthened platform to capitalise on accretive M&A opportunities





# Australian gold landscape re-defined

5 MergeCo creates a new, high-quality large-cap alternative in the Australian gold market The only large cap with 100% production exposure in Tier-1 jurisdictions<sup>1</sup>



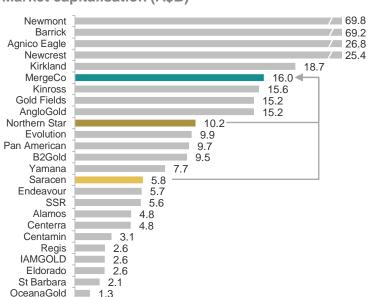




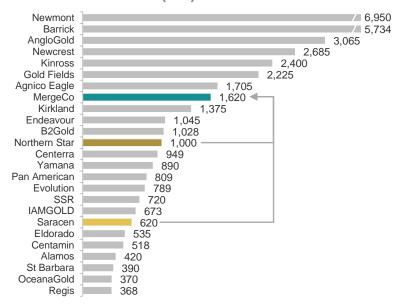
# Relative positioning

# Merger creates a global Top-10 gold producer, with a unique portfolio of assets all located in Tier-1 jurisdictions

### Market capitalisation (A\$B)



### Production Guidance (koz)<sup>1,2</sup>



Source: FactSet and Company disclosures as at 5 October 2020 (2 October 2020 for non-ASX peers. 1. Gold equivalent production; 2. Metrics based on the earliest available production guidance, consisting of a combination of FY21 (Evolution, Newcrest, Northern Star, Regis, Saracen, St Barbara) and CY20 (Alamos, Agnico Eagle, AngloGold, Barrick, B2 Gold, Centamin, Centerra, Eldorado, Endeavour, Gold Fields, IAMGOLD, Kinross, Kirkland, Newmont, OceanaGold, Pan America, SSR, Yamana)





# A compelling combination - Takeaways

# A unique opportunity exclusively available for both companies to unlock significant value, and build a major global gold producer with an exceptional high-margin growth profile

#### Benefits to both sets of shareholders

- ✓ Top-10 global producer, with 19Moz in Reserves and 49Moz in Resources¹
- ✓ Complementary Board and management teams to drive growth and continued sector-leading returns
- ✓ Diversification of production and cash flows across a number of high quality, low-risk Tier-1 jurisdictions
- ✓ Transaction unlocks A\$1.5-2.0B NPV in pre-tax synergies to be delivered via geographic, operational, and strategic synergies²
- ✓ Leading approach to environmental, social and governance principles and practices
- ✓ Consolidation of ownership at KCGM for the first time
- ✓ Dominant position in greater Kalgoorlie district, targeting 1.1Mozpa in production
- ✓ Rationalised ownership of the Yandal belt, spanning Jundee, Bronzewing and Thunderbox
- ✓ Significant organic growth pipeline across a merged portfolio with enviable geological endowment
- ✓ Enhanced financial strength and flexibility to pursue accretive M&A
- Increased investor relevance and capital markets profile

#### Benefits to Northern Star shareholders

- Exposure to high-quality, de-risked operations and infrastructure at Thunderbox and Carosue
- ✓ Saracen's open pit expertise

#### Benefits to Saracen shareholders

- ✓ Stronger near-term cash flows
- Exposure to growth and North American platform through Pogo
- Northern Star's underground expertise

<sup>1.</sup> Refer to page 3 of this presentation in relation to Ore Reserve and Mineral Resource estimates, and production targets, for Northern Star and Saracen.

<sup>2.</sup> Over the next ten years





### Indicative timetable

# Scheme booklet anticipated to be dispatched to Saracen shareholders in December 2020 with completion targeted in early February 2021

**Transaction timetable (indicative)** 

Event	Date
First Court Hearing	December 2020
Saracen to dispatch Scheme documents to its shareholders	December 2020
Scheme Meeting	January 2021
Second Court hearing	February 2021
Effective Date	February 2021
Record Date	February 2021
Implementation Date	February 2021











# Pro-Forma Snapshot

		Northern Star	Saracen	Pro-Forma
Share price / Offer price	A\$	13.82	5.22	-
No. ordinary shares <sup>1</sup>	M	741	1,108	1,158
Market Capitalisation <sup>2</sup>	A\$M	10,240	5,782	16,022
% shareholding in MergeCo	%	64.0%	36.0%	-
Cash and equivalents (30 Jun 2020) <sup>3</sup>	A\$M	770	369	1,139
Debt (30 Jun 2020) <sup>3</sup>	A\$M	700	321	1,021
Enterprise Value	A\$M	10,170	5,734	15,904
Gold Reserves <sup>4</sup>	Moz	10.8	8.5	19.4
Gold Resources <sup>4</sup>	Moz	31.8	17.4	49.2
FY21 Production	koz	940-1,060	600-640	1,540-1,700
FY21 AISC <sup>5</sup>	A\$/oz	1,490-1,635	1,300-1,400	1,420-1,550

<sup>1.</sup> Refer to latest Appendix 2A announcements from NST (7 September 2020) and SAR (18 August 2020); 2. Market capitalisation based on the last undisturbed share price of NST of A\$13.82 per share and the pro-forma NST ordinary shares on issue of 1,158M post implementation of the scheme; 3. Based on 30 June 2020 4. Refer to page 3 of this presentation in relation to Ore Reserve and Mineral Resource estimates for NST and SAR. 5. Includes Pogo AISC guidance of US\$1,200-1,400/oz, converted to A\$/oz at AUD/USD of \$0.70





# People, inclusion & diversity

People provide the foundation for any organisation's success

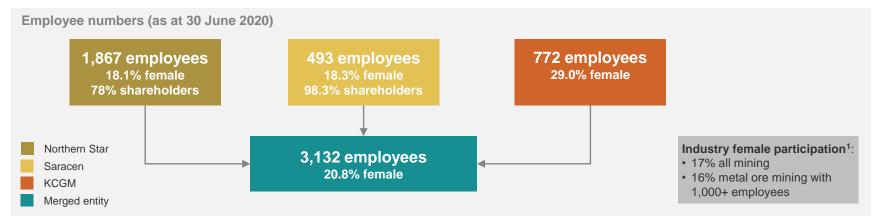
Northern Star's and Saracen's practices foster inclusivity and actively manage diversity as a means of enhancing company performance. The safety, health and well-being of our employees, contractors and visitors is paramount

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Anti-Harassment and Bullying awareness training

Employee assistance programs (EAP)



300+ Accredited Mental Health First Aiders







# Kalgoorlie Production Centre

Kalgoorlie Overview		
	KCGM (NST/SAR)	
Mines	Kalgoorlie Operations (NST)	
	Carosue Dam (SAR)	
Mining method	Underground & open pit	
Processing	Ability to process varying ore types (free-milling and sulphide ores)	
Milling capacity	Currently 18.6Mtpa with capital committed to expand to 19.4Mtpa in FY21	
Reserves	13.30Moz	
Resources	30.5Moz	
FY2021 Production	950-1,030koz	
FY2021 AISC	A\$1,475 – A\$1,575/oz (US\$1,033 – US\$1,103/oz)	
Targeted Production	1.1Mozpa	







## Yandal Production Centre

Yandal Overview	
	Jundee (NST)
Mines	Thunderbox (SAR)
	Bronzewing (NST)
Mining method	Underground & open pit
Processing	Conventional CIL plant
Milling capacity	Currently 5.5Mtpa with capital committed to expand to 8.5Mtpa in FY22
Reserves	4.6Moz
Resources	10.2Moz
FY2021 Production	410-450koz
FY2021 AISC	A\$1,130 – A\$1,220/oz (US\$791 – US\$854/oz)
Targeted Production	600kozpa









## North American Production Centre

North America (Pogo) Overview		
Mines	Pogo	
Mining method	Underground	
Processing	Conventional CIL plant	
Milling capacity	Currently 1Mtpa with capital committed to expand to 1.3Mtpa	
Reserves	1.5Moz	
Resources	6.7Moz	
FY2021 Production	180-220koz	
FY2021 AISC	US\$1,200/oz – US\$1,400/oz	









## Consolidated Ore Reserves

		Proved				Probable			Total Reserv	е
	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)		Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)
Kalgoorlie Gold Project										
KCGM	127,611	0.7	3,073		111,832	1.8	6,617	239,443	1.3	9,690
Carosue Dam	3,297	0.9	96		29,266	2.0	1,906	32,560	1.9	2,002
Kanowna	2,459	3.0	239		5,790	2.6	486	8,249	2.7	725
Kundana	285	4.9	45		1,893	4.0	243	2,177	4.1	289
East Kundana JV	673	5.2	113		1,718	4.7	259	2,391	4.8	372
South Kalgoorlie	72	4.7	11		1,490	3.4	162	1,562	3.4	173
Carbine	-	-	-		581	2.6	49	581	2.6	49
Sub-Total Kalgoorlie	134,397	0.8	3,577		152,569	2.0	9,722	286,966	1.4	13,299
Yandal Gold Project				_						
Jundee	2,102	1.4	93		14,766	4.1	1,931	16,868	3.7	2,024
Thunderbox	7,043	1.5	337		26,063	1.7	1,409	33,106	1.6	1,745
Bronzewing	5,100	2.0	332		10,844	1.4	487	15,944	1.6	820
Sub-Total Yandal	14,245	1.7	762		51,673	2.3	3,827	65,918	2.2	4,589





# Consolidated Ore Reserves (cont.)

	Proved				Probable		Total Reserve			
	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	
Pogo Gold Project										
Pogo	-	-	4	5,867	8.0	1,507	5,867	8.0	1,511	
Sub-Total Pogo	-	-	4	5,867	8.0	1,507	5,867	8.0	1,511	
Other Gold Projects										
Paulsens	197	4.9	31	84	4.0	11	281	4.6	42	
Sub-Total Other	197	4.9	31	84	4.0	11	281	4.6	42	
TOTAL	148,801	0.9	4,375	210,193	2.2	15,066	359,032	1.7	19,441	





## Consolidated Mineral Resources

	Measured				Indicated			Inferred			Total Resources		
	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	
Kalgoorlie Gold Project													
KCGM	127,323	0.8	3,050	177,518	1.9	11,016	74,449	2.1	5,036	379,290	1.6	19,102	
Carosue Dam	9,794	2.0	629	43,414	2.0	2,768	18,170	2.0	1,151	71,379	2.0	4,548	
Kanowna	3,206	3.3	335	12,282	2.9	1,127	8,666	2.6	711	24,154	2.8	2,173	
Kundana	624	4.4	89	4,016	4.7	607	4,589	3.2	477	9,229	4.0	1,173	
East Kundana JV	1,039	6.2	207	2,999	5.2	506	2,227	4.4	315	6,264	5.1	1,028	
South Kalgoorlie	1,433	3.1	141	9,329	3.0	894	9,382	3.0	903	20,145	3.0	1,938	
Carbine	-	-	-	3,190	2.7	272	2,465	3.1	246	5,655	2.8	518	
Sub-Total Kalgoorlie	143,419	1.0	4,451	252,748	2.1	17,190	119,948	2.3	8,839	516,116	1.8	30,480	
Yandal Gold Project													
Jundee	2,102	1.4	93	38,924	3.2	4,057	14,197	2.5	1,124	55,223	3.0	5,274	
Thunderbox	10,242	1.7	547	39,840	1.8	2,292	6,908	1.9	428	56,990	1.8	3,267	
Bronzewing	4,634	2.4	358	16,439	1.9	989	5,310	1.7	282	26,383	1.9	1,629	
Sub-Total Yandal	16,979	1.8	999	95,203	2.4	7,337	26,415	2.2	1,834	138,597	2.3	10,170	





# Consolidated Mineral Resource (cont.)

	Measured				Indicated			Inferred			Total Resources		
	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	Tonnes (000's)	Grade (gpt)	Ounces (000's)	
Pogo Gold Project													
Pogo	-	-	4	9,492	10.2	3,121	11,763	9.4	3,548	21,255	9.8	6,669	
Sub-Total Pogo	-	-	4	9,492	10.2	3,121	11,763	9.4	3,548	21,255	9.8	6,672	
Other Gold Projects													
Paulsens	353	5.7	65	217	4.1	29	1,809	2.0	115	2,379	2.7	209	
Ashburton	-	-	-	98	1.6	5	444	1.2	17	542	1.3	22	
Central Tanami	3,062	2.5	245	4,430	2.8	400	4,842	2.9	453	12,334	2.8	1,098	
Western Tanami	482	2.8	44	1,079	6.0	208	1,449	5.8	271	3,010	5.4	523	
Sub-Total Other	3,897	2.8	353	5,825	3.4	642	8,544	3.1	856	18,266	3.2	1,851	
TOTAL	164,294	1.1	5,807	363,268	2.4	28,290	166,670	2.8	15,076	694,234	2.2	49,173	





## Competent Persons Statements

#### Northern Star

The information in this announcement that relates to Mineral Resource estimations, exploration results, data quality and geological interpretations for the Company's Project areas (excluding the Central Tanami Gold Project, the Bronzewing Project, the Anthill Project and the Mt Clement Project) is based on information compiled by Michael Mulroney, a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a full-time employee of Northern Star Resources Limited. Mr Mulroney has sufficient experience that is relevant to the styles of mineralisation and type of deposits under consideration and to the activity being undertaken 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" for the Company's Project areas. Mr Mulroney consents to the inclusion in this announcement of the matters based on this information in the form and context in which it appears.

The information in this announcement that relates to Ore Reserve estimations for the Company's Project areas (excluding the Bronzewing Project) is based on information compiled by Jeff Brown, a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a full-time employee of Northern Star Resources Limited. Mr Brown has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken 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". Mr Brown consents to the inclusion in this announcement of the matters based on this information in the form and context in which it appears.

The information in this announcement that relates to the Central and Western Tanami Gold Projects is extracted from the Tanami Gold NL ASX announcement entitled "Quarterly Report for the Period Ending 31 March 2014" released on 1 May 2014 and is available to view on <a href="https://www.tanami.com.au">www.tanami.com.au</a>.

The information in this announcement that relates to Mineral Resource estimations, data quality, geological interpretations and potential for eventual economic extraction for the Groundrush deposit at the Central Tanami Gold Project is based on information compiled by Brook Ekers a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and a full-time employee of Northern Star Resources Limited. Mr. Ekers 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". Mr. Ekers consents to the inclusion in this announcement of the matters based on this information in the form and context in which it appears.

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any further new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcement entitled "Quarterly Report for the Period Ending 31 March 2014" released on 1 May 2014 and, in the case of estimates of Mineral Resources, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the relevant market announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. To the extent disclosed above, the Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcement.

The information in this announcement that relates to the Bronzewing Project is extracted from the Echo Resources Ltd announcement entitled "Yandal Gold Project BFS & Growth Strategy" released on 23 April 2019 and is available to view on www.asx.com.au.

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any further new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcement entitled "Yandal Gold Project BFS & Growth Strategy" released on 23 April 2019 and, in the case of estimates of Mineral Resources, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the relevant market announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. To the extent disclosed above, the Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcement.

The information in this announcement that relates to the Anthill Project is extracted from the Intermin Resources Limited (now Horizon Minerals Limited) announcement entitled "Anthill Resource Grows 60% to Over 125,000 ounces" released on 18 December 2018 and is available to view on www.asx.com.au.

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any further new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcement entitled "Anthill Resource Grows 60% to Over 125,000 ounces" released on 18 December 2018 and, in the case of estimates of Mineral Resources, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the relevant market announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. To the extent disclosed above, the Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcement.





## **Competent Persons Statements**

#### Northern Star cont.

The information in this announcement that relates to the Mt Clement Project is extracted from the Artemis Resources Limited announcement entitled "Substantial Resource Increase at Mt Clement Gold & Silver Project" released on ASX Announcement dated 26 July 2011 and is available to view on www.artemisresources.com.au.

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any further new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcement entitled "Substantial Resource Increase at Mt Clement Gold & Silver Project" released on ASX Announcement dated 26 July 2011 and, in the case of estimates of Mineral Resources, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the relevant market announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. To the extent disclosed above, the Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcement.

#### KCGM

The Mineral Resources, Ore Reserves and exploration results information reported in accordance with the 2012 edition of the Joint Ore Reserves Committee's Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves ("JORC Code") in this announcement for all the Company's projects (excluding KCGM)" extracted from the report entitled "Resources and Reserves, Production and Cost Guidance Update (ex-KCGM)" dated 13 August 2020, available at <a href="https://www.nstrid.com">www.nstrid.com</a>. For the purposes of ASX Listing Rule 5.23, Northern Star confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcements and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the relevant market announcements continue to apply and have not materially changed. Northern Star confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcements.

The Mineral Resources, Ore Reserves and exploration results information reported in accordance with the 2012 edition of the Joint Ore Reserves Committee's Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves ("JORC Code") in this announcement for KCGM is extracted from the report entitled "KCGM Strategic Review and Outlook Statement" dated 18 August 2020, available at <a href="https://www.nsrttd.com">www.nsrttd.com</a> and <a href="https://www.nsrttd.com">w

#### Saracen

The information in the report to which this statement is attached that relates to Exploration Results and Mineral Resources related to Gold and Nickel is based upon information compiled by Mr Daniel Howe, a Competent Person who is a member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Daniel Howe is a full-time employee of the Company. Daniel Howe has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken 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'. Daniel Howe consents to the inclusion in the report of matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

The information in the report to which this statement is attached that relates to all underground Ore Reserves relating to Gold is based upon information compiled by Stephen King, a Competent Person who is a member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Stephen King is a full-time employee of the Company.

Stephen King has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken 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'. Stephen King consents to the inclusion in the report of matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears. The information in the report to which this statement is attached that relates to all open pit Ore Reserves relating to Gold is based upon information compiled by Hemal

Patel, a Competent Person who is a member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Hemal Patel is a full-time employee of the Company. Hemal Patel has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken 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'. Hemal Patel consents to the inclusion in the report of matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

The information in the report to which this statement is attached that relates to underground Ore Reserves at Thunderbox is based upon information compiled by Dan Donald, a Competent Person who is a member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Dan Donald is a consultant to Saracen Mineral Holdings through Entech Mining Consultants. Dan Donald has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken 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'. Dan Donald consents to the inclusion in the report of matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.





# Forward looking statements and risks

#### Past performance

Past performance metrics and figures, as well as pro forma financial information, included in this presentation are given for illustrative purposes only and should not be relied upon as (and are not) an indication of Northern Star's or Saracen's future financial performance or condition or prospects (including on a consolidated basis). Investors should note that past performance or Northern Star and Saracen, including in relation to the historical trading price of shares, production, ore reserves and mineral resources, costs and other historical financial information cannot be relied upon as an indicator of (and provide no guidance, assurance or guarantee as to) future performance, including the future trading price of shares. The historical information included in this presentation is, or is based on, information that has previously been released to the market.

#### Future performance and forward looking statements

This presentation contains forward looking statements about Northern Star and Saracen. Often, but not always, forward looking statements can be identified by the use of forward looking words such as "may", "will", "expect", "intend", "plan", "estimate", "anticipate", "continue", and "guidance", or other similar words and may include, without limitation, statements in this presentation regarding intent, belief, expectations, plans, strategies and objectives of management, indications of and guidance on synergies, future earnings or financial position or performance, future acquisitions, anticipated production or construction commencement dates, costs or production outputs for each of Northern Star and Saracen (based on, among other things, their respective estimates of their production for the periods specifically referred to in this presentation), the outcome and effects of the Scheme (including expected benefits to Northern Star and Saracen shareholders) and the future operation of Northern Star and Saracen makes any representation or warranty as to the currency, accuracy, reliability or completeness of any forward looking statements contained in this presentation.

To the extent that this presentation materials contains forward looking information, the forward looking information is subject to a number of risks, including those generally associated with the gold industry and the mining industry more broadly. Any such forward looking statement inherently involves known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, performance and achievements to be materially greater or less than estimated. These may include, but are not limited to, changes in commodity prices, foreign exchange fluctuations and general economic conditions, increased costs and demand for production inputs, the speculative nature of exploration and project development (including the risks of obtaining necessary licenses and permits and diminishing quantities or grades of reserves), political and social risks, changes to the regulatory framework within which Northern Star and Saracen operate or may in the future operate, environmental conditions including extreme weather conditions, geological and geotechnical events, and other environmental issues, the recruitment and retention of key personnel, industrial relations issues, litigation and outbreaks of disease or pandemics (including the continuation or escalation of the global COVID-19 pandemic). Further information in relation to risks (including those that are specific to the Scheme) will be provided in the Scheme Booklet.

Any such forward looking statements are based on assumptions, qualifications and contingencies which are subject to change and which may ultimately prove to be materially incorrect, as are statements about market and industry trends, which are based on interpretations of current market conditions. Investors should consider any forward looking statements contained in this presentation in light of such matters (and their inherent uncertainty) and not place reliance on such statements. Forward looking statements are not guarantees or predictions of future performance and may involve significant elements of subjective judgment, assumptions as to future events that may not be correct, known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside the control of Northern Star and Saracen. Any forward looking statements are based on information available to Northern Star and Saracen as at the date of this presentation. Except as required by law or regulation (including the ASX Listing Rules), Northern Star, Saracen and their respective directors, officers, employees, advisers, agents and other intermediaries disclaim any obligation or undertaking to provide any additional or updated information, whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise (including to reflect any change in expectations or assumptions).

Nothing in this presentation will, under any circumstances (including by reason of this presentation remaining available and not being superseded or replaced by any other presentation or publication with respect to Northern Star, Saracen or the subject matter of this presentation), create an implication that there has been no change in the affairs of Northern Star or Saracen since the date of this presentation.

#### Investment risk

As noted above, an investment in shares in Northern Star and Saracen is subject to investment and other known and unknown risks, some of which are beyond the control of Northern Star and Saracen. These risks, together with other general risks applicable to all investments in listed securities not specifically referred to, may affect the value of shares in Northern Star and Saracen in the future. Northern Star and Saracen do not guarantee any particular rate of return or the performance of Northern Star or Saracen, nor guarantee the repayment of capital from Northern Star or Saracen, or any particular tax treatment. When making any investment decision, investors should make their own enquires and investigations regarding all information in this presentation, including but not limited to the assumptions, uncertainties and contingencies which may affect future operations of Northern Star and Saracen, and the impact that different future outcomes may have on Northern Star and Saracen. In respect of the Scheme, investors should carefully consider the information to be made available in the Scheme Booklet (and all other materials issued by Saracen in connection with the Scheme) and seek independent advice before making any decision.





## Financial data and Ore Reserve replacement

#### Industry data

Certain market and industry data used in connection with or referenced in this presentation, including in relation to other companies in the peer group of Northern Star and Saracen, may have been obtained from public filings, research, surveys or studies made or conducted by third parties, including as published in industry-specific or general publications. None of Northern Star, Saracen, their respective advisers and their respective representatives, have independently verified any such market or industry data.

#### Effect of rounding

A number of figures, amounts, percentages, estimates, calculations of value and fractions in this presentation are subject to the effect of rounding. Accordingly, the actual calculation of these figures may differ from the figures set out in this presentation.

#### Financial data

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#### Ore Reserve Replacement

The merged group must continually replace Ore Reserves depleted by production to maintain production levels over the long term. Ore Reserves can be replaced by expanding known ore bodies, locating new deposits or making acquisitions. There is a risk that depletion of Ore Reserves will not be offset by discoveries or acquisitions or that divestitures of assets will lead to a lower reserve base. The Ore Reserve base of the merged group may decline if Ore Reserves are mined without adequate replacement and the merged group may not be able to sustain production beyond the current mine lives, based on current production rates.

Exploration is highly speculative in nature and costly. The merged group's exploration projects involve many risks and may be unsuccessful. There is no assurance that current or future exploration programs will be successful. Also, if a discovery is made, it may, in some cases, take up to a decade or longer from the initial phases of exploration drilling until mining is permitted and production is possible. Whether a mineral deposit will be commercially viable depends on a number of factors, including the particular attributes of the deposit, such as size, grade and proximity to infrastructure, metal prices, government, land use and environmental protection. There is no certainty that the expenditure incurred by the merced group towards the search for and evaluation of mineral deposits will ultimately result in discoveries of commercial quantities of ore.