

## **CORPORATE PRESENTATION**

**RIU Conference** 

FEBRUARY 2016







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The information within this PowerPoint presentation was compiled by Western Areas management, but the information as it relates to mineral resources and reserves was prepared by Mr. Dan Lougher and Mr. Andre Wulfse. Mr. Lougher and Mr. Wulfse are full time employees of Western Areas Ltd. Mr. Lougher and Mr. Wulfse are members of Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) and have sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which they are undertaking to qualify as Competent Persons as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves' (2012 JORC Code). Mr. Lougher and Mr. Wulfse consent to the inclusion in this presentation of the matters based on the information in the form and context in which it appears. The information contained in this presentation in relation to the New Morning Deposit was prepared and first disclosed under the 2004 Edition of the JORC Code. It has not been updated since to comply with the 2012 JORC Code on the basis that the information has not materially changed since it was last reported.

For the Purposes of Clause 3.4(e) in Canadian instrument 43-101, the Company warrants that Mineral Resources which are not Mineral Reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability.

# **AGENDA**

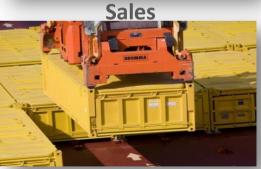














# **CORPORATE**



## **CORPORATE OVERVIEW**



### High quality assets

- Highest grade, low cash cost nickel producer
- Operational cashflow positive at current prices

### Net Cash, consistent shareholder returns

- Flexibility with A\$50m ANZ facility
- Disciplined capital allocation

### Organic growth options

- Strong near-mine and regional exploration
- Recently acquired Cosmos

### Positioned for nickel recovery

- A\$1/lb lift in nickel price = circa A\$35m EBITDA
- Portfolio delivers optionality

ASX code	WSA
Share price	2.14
Shares outstanding (m)	233.4
Market Cap (A\$m) 1	499.5
Cash (A\$m) <sup>2</sup>	29.9

### **Cosmos Nickel Complex**

567kt Ni resources Scoping study being reviewed

#### Flying Fox

12.9kt Ni mined FY15 62kt Ni reserves 99kt Ni resources

#### **Spotted Quoll**

13.6kt Ni mined FY15 107kt Ni reserves 145kt Ni resources



## A leading mid-tier base metal producer

- 1. Based on share price of on 22 Feb 2016
- 2. Cash as at 31 December 2015

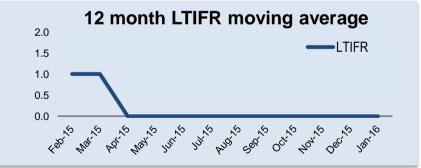
## **WESTERN AREAS ARE SAFE AREAS**











Safe operations make efficient operations



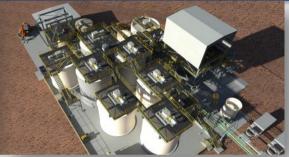
## **GROWTH AND EXPLORATION OUTLOOK**



## **BUILDING THE PLATFORM**









Production

Development

**Discovery & Exploration** 

Flying Fox

**New Morning** 

Western Gawler JV

**Spotted Quoll** 

**Odysseus PFS** 

**Cosmos Nickel Complex** 

**Cosmic Boy Concentrator** 

Mill Recovery Enhancement Project

**Forrestania** 

A portfolio delivering production longevity and growth optionality

## **ORGANIC GROWTH PROFILE**



### Large holding in 2 significantly endowed nickel provinces

#### Cosmos Nickel Complex / Odysseus - Western Australia

- Existing resources and infrastructure (previous Glencore/ Xstrata/Jubilee Mines operation)
- Option to develop a new West Australian integrated Nickel operation

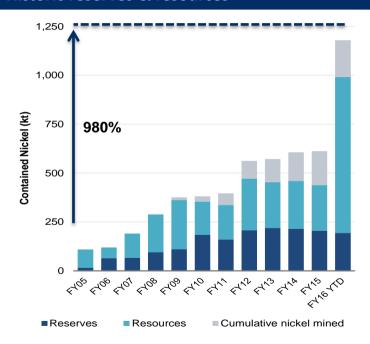
#### Forrestania Operations – Western Australia

- New Morning project Near mine leveraging existing infrastructure with studies underway
- History of reserve/resource extension
- Mill Recovery Enhancement Project lift metallurgical recoveries by 3-5%

#### Western Gawler - South Australia

- First mover advantage
- Intrusive style and geologically similar to Nova

#### **Historic reserves & resources**



## WSA has a track-record of discovery and development

# **COSMOS ACQUISITION**



### **Strategic Rationale**

- Low cost entry
- Plays to WSA's core strengths
- 3. Right street address
- WSA approach to exploration will be different
- Potential 2<sup>nd</sup> operation
- Full infrastructure and facilities
- Future potential concentrate blending
- "Ready to go" when nickel prices support development

### **Transaction Summary**

- 100% Asset acquisition of the Cosmos Nickel Complex
- A\$24.5m purchase price with deferred payments:
  - A\$11.5m on close PAID;
  - A\$7.0m nine months post close (1/7/16); and
  - A\$6.0m eighteen months post close (1/4/17)

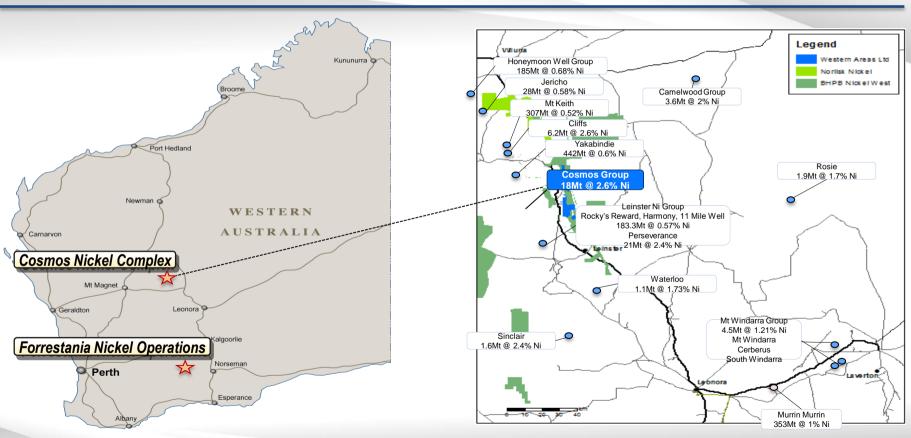




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## **LOCATION – PREMIER NICKEL PROVINCES**

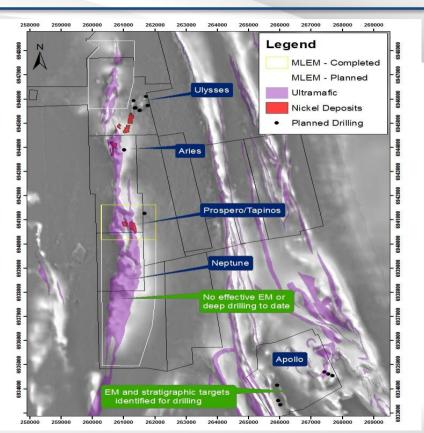




### **COSMOS NICKEL COMPLEX**



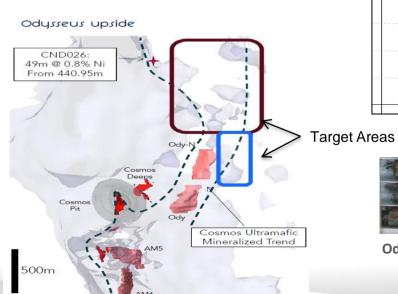
- Tenements covering 88km2
  - Near to BHP Leinster nickel operations
  - Previous highest grade open pit nickel mine globally
- 17km long ultramafic sequence
  - Dominated by high MgO ultramafic rocks
- High tenor nickel sulphide belt up to 30% nickel
  - Similar to Forrestania, higher than Leinster
  - Mining grades around 5% Nickel
- Ground geophysics program commenced using latest
  EM technology
  - MLEM work started on Neptune (previously named Lake Miranda)
- Review of Xstrata drill data base reveals intersections requiring follow-up work
  - Prospero 4.2m @ 12.5% Ni (incl 2.4m @ 19.7% Ni)
  - Aries 4.5m @ 12.3% Ni and 3.3m @ 10.6% Ni

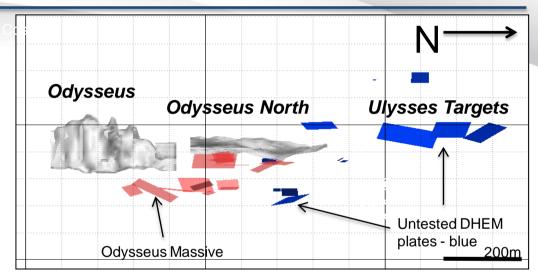


## **ODYSSEUS – ULYSSES EXPLORATION**

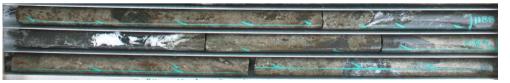


- 6 hole, 7,000 metre drilling program has been designed – focussed on Ulysses
- A\$2.6M exploration program
- Drilling untested plates designed at adding more resource tonnes to the Odysseus Project





Odysseus deposits - Long section



Odysseus Massive Nickel Sulphides - 3.92m @ 15.37% Ni (incl. 1m @ 18.1% Ni)

## **ODYSSEUS SCOPING STUDY REVIEW**



### Significant undeveloped resource containing massive sulphides, matrix sulphides and high grade disseminated sulphides

### XNAO conducted an in-house study on the Odysseus group of deposits

- In house study undertaken by XNAO over 2012/13
- Concentrator expansion from 450ktpa to 750ktpa with 7-8 year mine life generating between 12-14kt of nickel in concentrate per annum considered

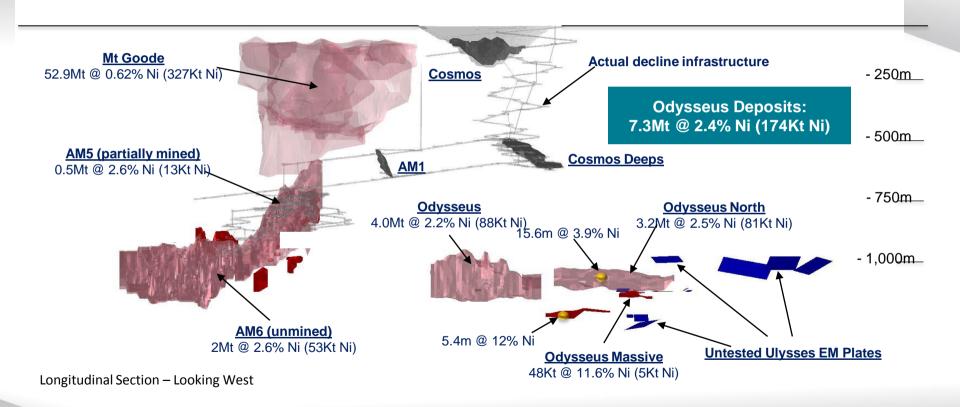
### Western Areas is reviewing the existing XNAO study and has commenced a 'gap analysis' to complete a pre-feasibility study over the following 9 months

- Test near mine exploration potential beginning with Ulysses drilling commencing in March quarter
- Review mining method, mining schedule, underground infrastructure and decline dewatering options
- Reduce concentrate grade specification in line with FNO grades to improve nickel recovery
- Review metallurgical testwork and flow sheet to optimise processing plant
- Optimise capital and operating cost assumptions for the current lower cost environment
- Explore contractor versus owner operator alternatives and leverage FNO experience

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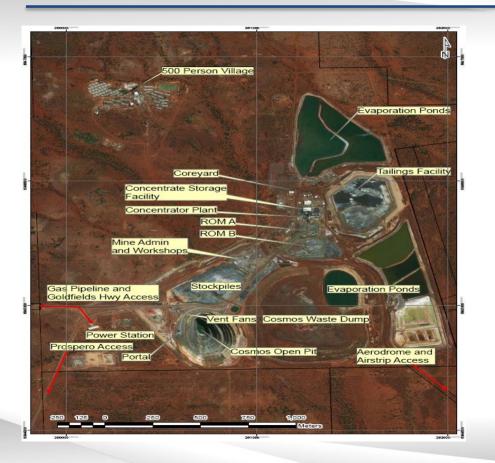
## **ODYSSEUS COMPLEX AND OTHER RESOURCES**





## **COSMOS AERIAL VIEW**





### Significant infrastructure in place:

- 450ktpa mill with expansion options
- Tailings storage and evaporation ponds
- Concentrate storage
- Coreyard facilities
- Gas connection
- Mill and mining spares inventory
- Approximately 500 person accommodation village
- Recreational facilities
- Aerodrome
- Administration and workshop buildings
- Telecommunications

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# **COSMOS INFRASTRUCTURE**





Mill with tailings dam in background



Millinfrastructure



Refuge chambers



Water evaporation fans

# **COSMOS INFRASTRUCTURE**





Administration infrastructure



**Fuel tanks** 



Spare and brand new SAG mill in storage



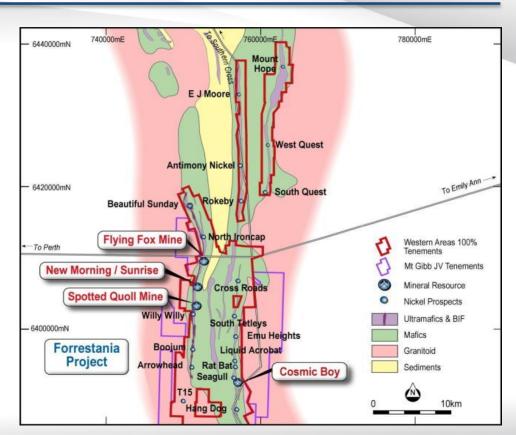
Aerodrome infrastructure

## **FORRESTANIA TENEMENTS**



### **Regional Geology**

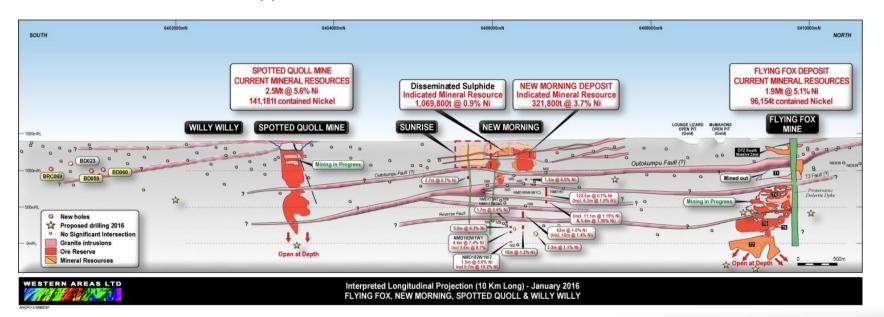
- 120km strike length (900 sq km) of prospective Forrestania Nickel Project, within 400km long nickel province
- Total endowment of 29.97Mt at 2.28% Ni for 684k Ni tonnes
- Nickel sulphide deposits and most occurrences in two belts (Eastern and Western)
- Western Ultramafic Belt hosts the high grade Flying Fox, Spotted Quoll and New Morning deposits



## **FORRESTANIA – NEAR MINE EXPLORATION**



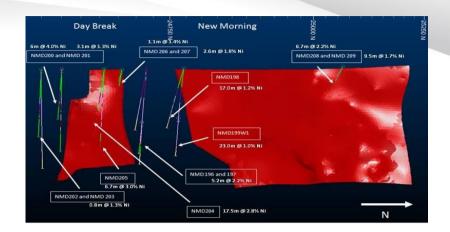
- Exploration spend in FY16 likely around A\$10m
- Focus is on near mine opportunities



## **NEW MORNING**



- 2.5km from Flying Fox and 2.8km from Spotted Quoll
- All material approvals in place, potential major capex savings and accessible from either mine
- Open Pit and shallow underground studies commenced
- Massive sulphide Indicated Resource of 321.8kt @ 3.7% nickel
- Significant intersections:
  - 4.4m @ 7.4% nickel including 3.6m @ 8.7% nickel
  - **3.0m** @ 6.3% nickel including 2.4m @ 7.6% nickel
  - 1.5m @ 5.6% nickel including 0.7m @ 10.2% nickel
- Recent shallow hit of 54m @ 1.7% nickel from 38m (including 2.5m @ 5.0% nickel)

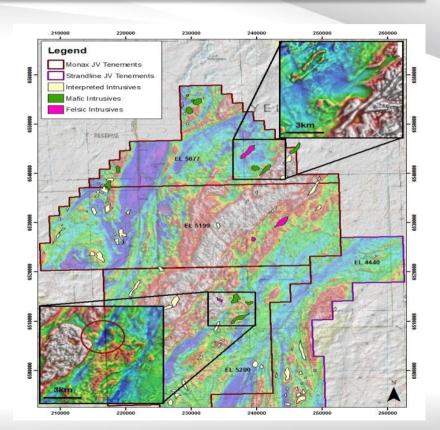




## **WESTERN GAWLER JOINT VENTURES**



- Two separate Farm-In Agreements with Gunson Resources Ltd and Monax Mining Ltd:
  - A\$0.8m on each to earn 75% over 2 years
  - Further A\$0.4m on each for 90% over additional 18 months
  - Close to existing infrastructure
  - Total area 2,746km2
- A\$2.8m exploration program
- First mover advantages targeting massive high grade poly-metallic mineralisation
- Potential to host mafic-ultramafic intrusive related deposits
- High resolution airborne geophysics completed (57,477km were flown)
- Numerous features likely to represent large maficultramafic intrusions

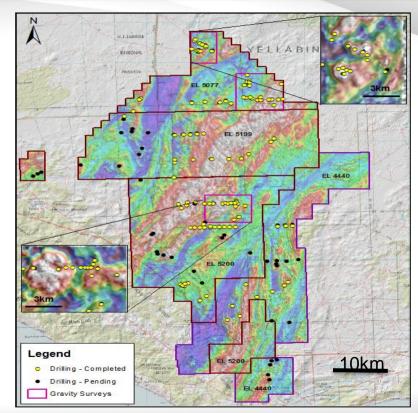


## **EXPLORATION SUMMARY**



#### **Broad scale prospectivity for Ni/Cu and Gold**

- Ongoing RC drilling with encouraging early results
- Targeting potential mafic/ultramafic intrusions and generating geochemical targets in the broader areas
- 115 AC/RC/DD drill holes completed to date
- Full heritage access approvals nearing completion
- Geochemical review of drilling data highlights gold anomalism, confirms base metal potential
- Petrology confirms the presence of intrusive mafic and ultramafic rocks



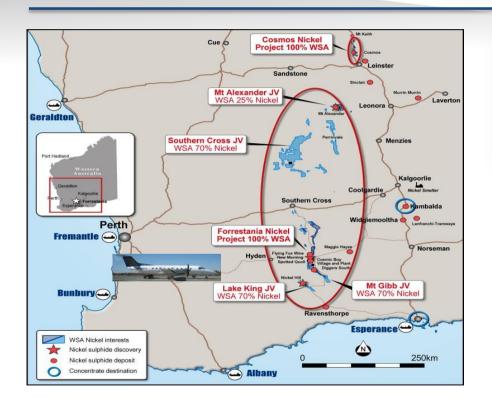


# **OPERATIONS**



# LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION.....







Spotted Quoll face at average 10.6% Nickel Sulphide

Premier, stable mining district – tier 1 mines – organic growth

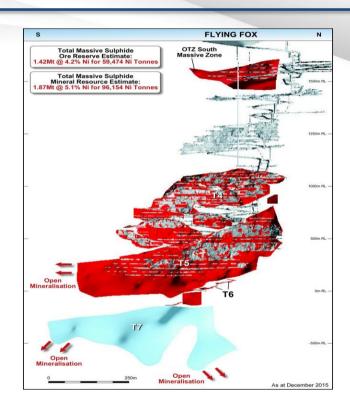
## **FLYING FOX MINE**



Reserve	1.4Mt @ 4.2%
Contained nickel	59,474 Ni tonnes
Resource	1.9Mt @ 5.1%
Contained nickel	96,154 Ni tonnes
Mine life (reserve)	+5 years

### **Key points**

- Reserve life has a demonstrated history of replenishment
- Added OTZ South Massive Zone 182,898t @ 4.1% Ni for 7,417 nickel tonnes
- Recent drilling into T5 and T6 domain has been encouraging, including 6.3m @ 8.0% Ni
- Has been operating for over 9 years



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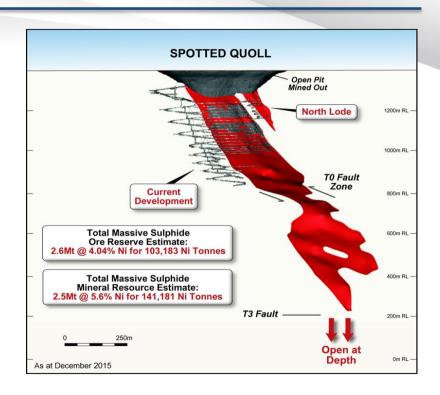
# **SPOTTED QUOLL MINE**



Reserve	2.6Mt @ 4.0%
Contained nickel	103,183 Ni tonnes
Resource	2.5Mt @ 5.6%
Contained nickel	141,181 Ni tonnes
Mine life (reserve)	+9 years

### **Key points**

- Discovered by WSA in 2007, 6km south of Flying Fox
- Remains open at depth and to the North
- Production has outperformed reserve tonnes and grade consistently
- Top down mining with paste fill
- Has never recorded an LTI



WSA Explored – Discovered – Developed – another world class nickel mine

## FORRESTANIA NICKEL CONCENTRATOR



### **Concentrator Summary**

- Current nameplate capacity of 550,000tpa of ore but is <u>achieving</u> throughput 10% above capacity
- Nickel concentrate output circa 25,000tpa Ni
- Concentrate grades of between 14.0% to 15.0% Ni
  - Premium blending product (Fe/Mg ratio >15:1)
  - Desirable to smelters
- 14,000t of concentrate storage capacity

### **Export Infrastructure and Logistics**

- Well established container logistics chain into China
- Shipping contract in place, FOB Esperance Port
- BHP Nickel West concentrate delivered to Kambalda







WSA produces a high quality concentrate

# **DECEMBER 2015 QUARTERLY REPORT**



Tonnes Mined		2014/2015		2015/2016		YTD
		Z014/ Mar Qtr	Jun Otr	Sep Otr	Dec Otr	Total
Flying Fox	l e	Iviai Qti	Juli Qti	sep Qu	Dec Qti	Total
Ore Tonnes Mined	Tns	72,144	62,976	67,400	76,163	143,563
Grade	Ni %	4.6%	4.9%	4.7%	4.2%	4.4%
Ni Tonnes Mined	Tns	3.330	3.076	3,155	3.183	6.338
Spotted Quoll - Underground		-,	-,	0,200	-,	3,222
Ore Tonnes Mined	Tns	70,590	68,569	80,702	81,318	162,020
Grade	Ni %	4.8%	5.1%	4.8%	4.6%	4.7%
Ni Tonnes Mined	Tns	3,372	3,489	3,905	3,734	7,639
Total - Ore Tonnes Mined	Tns	142.734	131.545	148.102	157.481	305.583
Grade	Ni %	4.7%	5.0%	4.8%	4.4%	4.6%
Total Ni Tonnes Mined	Tns	6,702	6,565	7,060	6,917	13,977
Tanana Mailla dan destal		2014/	2015	2015/:	2016	YTD
Tonnes Milled and Sold		Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Total
Ore Processed	Tns	145,933	157,913	153,540	152,435	305,975
Grade	%	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%
Ave. Recovery	%	90%	89%	89%	89%	89%
Ni Tonnes in Concentrate	Tns	6,180	6,676	6,252	6,256	12,508
Ni Tonnes in Concentrate Sold	Tns	6,452	6,690	6,233	6,281	12,514
Total Nickel Sold	Tns	6,452	6,690	6,233	6,281	12,514
		2014/2015		2015/2016		
Financial Statistics		Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	YTD
Group Production Cost/lb						
Mining Cost (*)	A\$/lb	1.64	1.62	1.58	1.63	1.60
Haulage	A\$/lb	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06
Milling	A\$/lb	0.46	0.40	0.45	0.41	0.43
Admin	A\$/lb	0.18	0.14	0.19	0.17	0.18
By Product Credits	A\$/lb	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Cash Cost Ni in Con (***)	A\$/lb	2.32	2.19	2.26	2.24	2.25
Cash Cost Ni in Con/lb (***)	US\$/Ib (**)	1.82	1.71	1.64	1.61	1.63
Exchange Rate US\$ / A\$		0.79	0.78	0.73	0.72	0.72

<sup>(\*)</sup> Mining Costs are net of deferred waste costs and inventory stockpile movements

#### **Some Facts**

- ALL FY16 GUIDANCE METRICS ON TRACK OR BETTER
- LTIFR ZERO
- Record Spotted Quoll production
- Unit cash cost of production at A\$2.25/lb (US\$1.63/lb) of nickel contained in concentrate
- Positive reconciliation to reserve a continued feature
- Exceptional consistency and 5 years without a guidance miss

### A management team which consistently delivers guidance

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<sup>(\*\*)</sup> US\$ FX for Relevant Quarter is RBA ave daily rate (Dec Qtr = A\$1:US\$0.7204)

<sup>(\*\*\*)</sup> Payable terms are not disclosed due to confidentiality conditions of the offtake agreements.

Cash costs exclude royalties and concentrate logisitics.

Note. Grade and recovery estimates are subject to change until the final assay data are received.



# **NICKEL MARKET**



## **NICKEL MARKET SNAPSHOT**



- Historically, on a through the cycle basis, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on the cost curve has acted as a catalyst for supply / demand adjustments by the nickel market
- The nickel price is now trading below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the cash cost curve
  - WSA believes >60% of produces losing money, even before sustaining capex
  - WSA is one of the few nickel miners with a positive gross margin



# **WESTERN AREAS VALUE EQUATION**



- High Grade = Margin
- Lowest Quartile Cash Costs

**Highest Grade Nickel Globally** 



 Consistent returns to shareholders in Dividends

Cashflow Positive



 Guidance continually met or exceeded

**Strong Track** Record of Delivery



 Zero Lost Time Injuries in past 12 months



 Pipeline of growth opportunities



 Fundamentals and forecasts positioned to rebound

Nickel Price Primed for Upside



 New mine successfully brought on in 24 months

History of Discovery and Development



 Net cash with significant flexibility

Strong Balance



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# THE END

