

ABN 23 108 161 593

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Report For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011

Expressed in thousands of US dollars (US\$000) unless otherwise stated

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# Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of income and comprehensive income For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011

		Three month	is ended	Nine month	s ended
		30-Sep-11	30-Sep-10	30-Sep-11	30-Sep-10
	Note	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000
Sales revenue		75,326	52,368	198,888	146,912
Treatment, refining and transport charges		(15,194)	(7,685)	(38,240)	(21,848)
Net sales revenue		60,132	44,683	160,648	125,064
Direct costs		(51,437)	(27,310)	(137,433)	(87,895)
Royalties		(4,162)	(2,518)	(11,733)	(6,310)
Depreciation, amortisation and depletion		(12,657)	(10,542)	(35,652)	(26,036)
Cost of sales		(68,256)	(40,370)	(184,818)	(120,241)
Gross (loss)/profit		(8,124)	4,313	(24,170)	4,823
Evnonces					
Expenses General and administration		(2,223)	(1,807)	(6,613)	(5,440)
Financial income	7	(2,223)	138	2,776	(3,440)
Financial expense	7	(10,170)	(5,395)	(29,467)	(15,909)
Net derivative gain/(loss)	8	(10,170)	(16,477)	249	(15,048)
Net foreign exchange gain	J	12,428	13,309	20,297	7,870
Other expenses	10	(1,178)	(196)	(8,733)	(381)
other expenses	10	(294)	(10,428)	(21,491)	(28,484)
Loss before income tax		(8,418)	(6,115)	(45,661)	(23,661)
Income tax		(0,110)	(3,290)	(13,001)	(3,290)
Loss for the period		(8,418)	(9,405)	(45,661)	(26,951)
Loss for the period		(0,410)	(3,403)	(43,001)	(20,331)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME //EVRENSE					
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(EXPENSE)  Foreign currency translation differences		(157,421)	33,603	(115 601)	19,916
Effective portion of changes in fair value of cash flow hec	Inoc	63,392	(50,558)	(115,691) 76,169	(61,514)
Net change in fair value of cash flow hedges transferred		449	(308)	22,581	(6,237)
Other comprehensive expense for the period	to profit of 1033	(93,580)	(17,263)	(16,941)	(47,835)
• • • •		(101,998)	(26,668)	(62,602)	(74,786)
Total comprehensive expense for the period	:	(101,938)	(20,008)	(02,002)	(74,780)
LOSS PER SHARE					
Basic loss per share (\$ per share)		(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.09)	(0.07)
Diluted loss per share (\$ per share)		(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.09)	(0.07)
Weighted basic average number of shares outstanding (C	000's)	491,774	373,681	491,633	367,428
Weighted diluted average number of shares outstanding	(000's)	491,774	373,681	491,633	367,569

The accompanying condensed notes form part of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report.

# Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of changes in equity For the nine months ended September 30, 2011

		Attrib	outable to equity	holders of the Gr	oup		
	Share based						
		Translation	payments	Hedging	Accumulated	Total	
	Issued capital	reserve	reserve	reserve	losses	equity	
Period ended September 30, 2011	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	
Balance at January 1, 2011	681,272	86,808	13,180	(101,024)	(60,901)	619,335	
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/ (EXPENSE) FOR THE PERIOD							
Loss for the period		-	-	-	(45,661)	(45,661)	
Other comprehensive income/							
(expense)							
Foreign currency translation							
differences	-	(115,691)	-	-	-	(115,691)	
Effective portion of changes in fair							
value of cash flow hedges	-	-	-	76,169	-	76,169	
Net change in fair value of cash flow							
hedges transferred to profit or loss		-	-	22,581	-	22,581	
Total other comprehensive income/							
(expense)		(115,691)	-	98,750	-	(16,941)	
Total comprehensive income/							
(expense) for the period		(115,691)	-	98,750	(45,661)	(62,602)	
TRANSACTIONS WITH EQUITY							
HOLDERS							
Share issue costs recovery	804	-	-	-	-	804	
Options lapsed during the period	-	-	(7,016)	-	7,016	-	
Share issued on exercise of							
performance rights	425	-	(425)	-	-	-	
Share based payment transactions	-	-	1,449	-	-	1,449	
Total transactions with equity							
holders	1,229		(5,992)		7,016	2,253	
Balance at September 30, 2011	682,501	(28,883)	7,188	(2,274)	(99,546)	558,986	

 $The\ accompanying\ condensed\ notes\ form\ part\ of\ this\ unaudited\ condensed\ consolidated\ interim\ financial\ report.$ 

# Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of changes in equity For the nine months ended September 30, 2011

	Attributable to equity holders of the Group							
			Share based		·			
	Issued	Translation	payments	Hedging	Accumulated	Total		
	capital	reserve	reserve	reserve	losses	equity		
Period ended September 30, 2010	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000		
Balance at January 1, 2010	477,024	56,249	11,903	(17,967)	(13,283)	513,926		
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/ (EXPENSE) FOR THE PERIOD								
Loss for the period	-	-	-	-	(26,951)	(26,951)		
Other comprehensive income/								
(expense)								
Foreign currency translation								
differences	-	19,916	-	-	-	19,916		
Effective portion of changes in fair								
value of cash flow hedges	-	-	-	(61,514)	-	(61,514)		
Net change in fair value of cash flow								
hedges transferred to profit or loss	-	-	-	(6,237)	-	(6,237)		
Total other comprehensive								
income/(expense)	-	19,916	-	(67,751)	-	(47,835)		
Total comprehensive income/(expense) for the period		19,916	-	(67,751)	(26,951)	(74,786)		
TRANSACTIONS WITH EQUITY								
HOLDERS								
Share issue net of issue costs	100,405	-	-	-	-	100,405		
Share based payment transactions	-	-	623	-		623		
Total transactions with equity								
holders	100,405		623	-	<u>-</u>	101,028		
Balance at September 30, 2010	577,429	76,165	12,526	(85,718)	(40,234)	540,168		

 $The\ accompanying\ condensed\ notes\ form\ part\ of\ this\ unaudited\ condensed\ consolidated\ interim\ financial\ report.$ 

# Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of financial position As at September 30, 2011

	30-Sep-11	31-Dec-10
Note	US\$000	US\$000
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents 9	116,997	102,134
Trade and other receivables 11	46,013	43,024
Inventories 12	53,712	34,509
Derivative financial instruments 13	-	15,774
Total current assets	216,722	195,441
Trade and other receivables 11	13,023	33,803
Property, plant and equipment 15	824,049	883,621
Exploration and evaluation assets 14	530	550
Derivative financial instruments 13	<u>-</u>	6,886
Total non-current assets	837,602	924,860
Total assets	1,054,324	1,120,301
LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables 16	62,881	32,660
Provisions 17	4,633	3,680
Borrowings 18	8,447	16,418
Derivative financial instruments 13	1,667	81,890
Provision for current tax	5,880	6,629
Total current liabilities	83,508	141,277
Provisions 17	12,596	14,405
Borrowings 18	395,684	246,108
Derivative liability - option 19	-	1,013
Derivative financial instruments 13	3,550	98,163
Total non-current liabilities	411,830	359,689
Total liabilities	495,338	500,966
Net assets	558,986	619,335
EQUITY		
Contributed equity 20	682,501	681,272
Reserves	(23,969)	(1,036)
Accumulated losses	(99,546)	(60,901)
Total equity	558,986	619,335

The accompanying condensed notes form part of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report.

# Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of cash flow For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011

		Three months ended 30-Sep-11 30-Sep-10		Nine mont 30-Sep-11	hs ended 30-Sep-10
	Note	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash receipts from customers		74,358	46,478	209,572	117,774
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(59,440)	(51,657)	(232,701)	(137,315)
Interest received		849	138	2,776	424
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities		15,767	(5,041)	(20,353)	(19,117)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(29,389)	(14,474)	(74,168)	(25,219)
Payment for exploration and evaluation expenditure		-	-	(5)	(327)
Net cash used in investing activities		(29,389)	(14,474)	(74,173)	(25,546)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Proceeds from issue on unsecured senior notes		-	-	395,000	-
Repayment senior and off-taker loans		(2,300)	(4,169)	(228,872)	(7,052)
Borrowing costs paid		-	-	(20,476)	-
Hedge collateral		-	-	(25,000)	-
Release of hedge collateral		25,000	-	25,000	-
Proceeds from close out of foreign exchange hedges		-	-	25,793	-
Payment on closeout of nickel and copper call options & interest					
rate swap		-	-	(42,105)	-
Interest paid		(250)	(2,524)	(15,593)	(9,577)
Proceeds from the issue of share capital		-	82,338	-	107,849
Share issue costs		-	(3,991)	-	(4,770)
Net cash from financing activities		22,450	71,654	113,747	86,450
Not increase in each and each equivalents		0.020	E2 120	10 221	41 707
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		8,828	52,139	19,221	41,787
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period		118,073	40,017	102,134	53,027
Effect of changes in foreign currency	0	(9,904)	6,922	(4,358)	4,264
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	9	116,997	99,078	116,997	99,078

The accompanying condensed notes form part of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report.

#### 1. REPORTING ENTITY

Mirabela Nickel Limited (the Company) is a company domiciled in Australia. The address of the Company's registered office is Level 21, Allendale Square, 77 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA 6000. The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report of the Company for the quarter ended September 30, 2011 comprises the Company and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the 'Group'). The Group is primarily involved in the production, development and exploration of mineral properties in Brazil.

#### 2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

#### (a) Statement of compliance

This unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with AASB 134: Interim Financial Reporting, IAS 34: Interim Financial Reporting and the Corporations Act 2001. The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report does not include all of the information required for a full annual financial report, and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated annual financial report for the financial year ended December 31, 2010.

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report was approved by the Audit Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors on November 9, 2011.

#### (b) Basis of measurement

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report has been prepared on the historical cost basis except for the following which are measured at fair value:

- · derivative financial instruments; and
- share based payment arrangements.

The methods used to measure fair values are discussed further in the consolidated annual financial report as at and for the financial year ended December 31, 2010.

#### (c) Functional and presentation currency

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report is presented in US dollars (US\$), which is the Group's presentation currency (refer note 2(e) for change in presentation currency). The Company's functional currency is Australian dollars (A\$) and the functional currency of the Company's foreign subsidiary is Brazilian Real (R\$). The functional currency of each of the Group's entities is measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which that entity operates.

The Group is of a kind referred to in ASIC Class Order 98/100 dated July 10, 1998 and in accordance with that Class Order, amounts in the financial report have been rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise stated.

#### (d) Financial position

The Group held cash on hand and on deposit as at September 30, 2011 of \$116.997 million. Cash at bank includes \$25 million held as hedge collateral by the hedge financiers that was subsequently released during October 2011 upon the perfection of the security on the mineral rights in their favour. In addition, the Company negotiated the release of a further \$25 million held in a Contingency Support Account ("CSA") by the hedge financiers. This \$25 million is also included in cash at bank. As a result of the release of the cash collateral and the CSA, Mirabela has removed all liquidity covenants relating to the Company's hedge book.

As at September 30, 2011 the Group has a net working capital surplus of \$133.214 million, which includes \$1.667 million of net commodity derivative liabilities that will be offset by sales of the underlying commodity. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 the Group incurred a loss of \$45.661 million. As at September 30, 2011 the Group held net assets of \$558.986 million.

The Directors consider the going concern basis of preparation to be appropriate based on forecast cash flows. The meeting of the cash flow forecast depends upon the successful operation of mining and production activities in accordance with the ramp up schedule and nickel price assumptions. Should the ramp up of operations not successfully achieve forecasts or forecast nickel prices not be achieved, the Group may be required to source additional funds through debt or equity markets or a combination of the two.

#### (e) Change in presentation currency

On July 1, 2010, the Group changed presentation currency from Australian dollars (A\$) to US dollars (US\$). The presentation currency of a Group is the currency in which the Group chooses to present its financial reports. The Group has changed its presentation currency for financial reporting in order to better align the presentation of the Group's financial position and financial performance with its operations. Refer note 2(c), functional and presentation currency.

In order to derive US\$ equivalent for the consolidated financial statements, the Group has accounted for this change in presentation currency retrospectively which involves translation of equity, assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses as follows:

- Revenue and expenses for the 9 months ended September 30, 2010 rate A\$1 = US\$0.8826 to US\$0.9061 approximating actual exchange rates for the date of the transactions;
- Balance sheet as at December 31, 2010 rate A\$1 = US\$1.0178, being the exchange rate of December 31, 2010; and
- On the change in presentation currency on July 1, 2010, equity and reserves except the translation reserve were restated using historical rates, approximating the date of the transactions with rates in the range of A\$1 = US\$0.7598 to US\$0.9107, with the translation differences recorded in the translation reserve.

#### 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies applied by the Group in this unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial report are consistent with those applied by the Group in its consolidated annual financial report as at and for the financial year ended December 31, 2010.

#### 4. USE OF ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

The preparation of a financial report in accordance with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expense. Significant estimates and assumptions include those related to:

- the life of mine assumptions,
- the carrying value of the Santa Rita Project,
- the valuation of financial instruments,
- share based compensation,
- determination of reserves to be used in depletion calculations,
- · determination of useful lives of property, plant and equipment,
- determination of life-of-mine stripping ratio, and
- determination as to whether certain costs are expensed or deferred.

While management believe the estimates and assumptions to be reasonable, actual future results may vary significantly. The significant judgements made by management in applying the Company's accounting policies and the key sources of estimation uncertainty are consistent with those applied to the consolidated annual financial report as at and for the financial year ended December 31, 2010.

#### 5. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Group's financial risk management objectives and policies are consistent with those disclosed in the consolidated annual financial report as at and for the financial year ended December 31, 2010.

#### 6. SEGMENT REPORTING

During the financial period, Mirabela Nickel Limited operated in one business and operating segment, mineral exploration and development, and in one primary geographical area, Brazil, with two primary customers.

Customer Sector Group	Principal Activities
Base Metals	Mining of nickel, copper, cobalt and platinum in Brazil

The accounting policies applied for internal reporting purposes are consistent with those applied in preparation of this financial report.

Information on the reportable segments of the Group

			Mirabela
		Unallocated	Nickel
US\$000	Base Metals	items/elimination <sup>(c)</sup>	Group
3 months ended September 30, 2011			
Net Revenue			
Group Production	60,132	-	60,132
Total net revenue	60,132	-	60,132
Underlying EBITDA <sup>(a)</sup>	4,531	(2,221)	2,310
Depreciation, amortisation and depletion	(12,164)	(493)	(12,657)
Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup>	(7,633)	(2,714)	(10,347)
Net financial expense	(570)	(8,751)	(9,321)
Net foreign exchange (loss)/gain	(18,938)	31,366	12,428
Other expenses	(8,645)	7,467	(1,178)
(Loss)/gain before taxation	(35,786)	27,368	(8,418)
Capital expenditure	29,389	-	29,389

 $<sup>^{(</sup>a)}$  Underlying EBITDA is underlying EBIT, before depreciation, amortisation and depletion.

<sup>(</sup>b) Underlying EBIT is earnings before net financial expense, net derivative loss, net foreign exchange gain, taxation and other expenses.

<sup>(</sup>c) Unallocated items comprise mainly corporate assets including cash, certain items of property, plant and equipment, head office expenses, income tax assets and liabilities, consolidation and elimination adjustments.

Unallocated   Unallocated   Unallocated   Unallocated   Unallocated   Unallocated   Unallocated   Unallocated   Unallocated   Items/elimination   Group   Production   160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,648   - 160,6				
US\$000         Base Metals         items/elimination (c)         Group           9 months ended September 30, 2011         Net Revenue         160,648         -         160,648           Group Production         160,648         -         160,648           Total net revenue         160,648         -         160,648           Underlying EBITDA (a)         11,480         (6,611)         4,869           Depreciation, amortisation and depletion         (33,690)         (1,962)         (35,652)           Underlying EBIT (b)         (22,210)         (8,573)         (30,783)           Net financial expense         (10,779)         (15,912)         (26,691)           Net derivative (loss)/gain         (5,734)         5,983         249           Net foreign exchange gain         11,230         9,067         20,297           Other expenses         (13,471)         4,738         (8,733)           Loss before taxation         (40,964)         (4,697)         (45,661)           Capital expenditure         74,145         28         74,173           As at September 30, 2011         Total assets         908,064         146,260         1,054,324				Mirabela
9 months ended September 30, 2011         Net Revenue       160,648       -       160,648         Group Production       160,648       -       160,648         Underlying EBITDA <sup>(a)</sup> 11,480       (6,611)       4,869         Depreciation, amortisation and depletion       (33,690)       (1,962)       (35,652)         Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup> (22,210)       (8,573)       (30,783)         Net financial expense       (10,779)       (15,912)       (26,691)         Net derivative (loss)/gain       (5,734)       5,983       249         Net foreign exchange gain       11,230       9,067       20,297         Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       70tal assets       908,064       146,260       1,054,324			Unallocated	Nickel
Net Revenue       Group Production       160,648       -       160,648         Total net revenue       160,648       -       160,648         Underlying EBITDA <sup>(a)</sup> 11,480       (6,611)       4,869         Depreciation, amortisation and depletion       (33,690)       (1,962)       (35,652)         Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup> (22,210)       (8,573)       (30,783)         Net financial expense       (10,779)       (15,912)       (26,691)         Net derivative (loss)/gain       (5,734)       5,983       249         Net foreign exchange gain       11,230       9,067       20,297         Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       74,145       28       74,173         Total assets       908,064       146,260       1,054,324	US\$000	Base Metals	items/elimination <sup>(c)</sup>	Group
Group Production       160,648       -       160,648         Total net revenue       160,648       -       160,648         Underlying EBITDA <sup>(a)</sup> 11,480       (6,611)       4,869         Depreciation, amortisation and depletion       (33,690)       (1,962)       (35,652)         Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup> (22,210)       (8,573)       (30,783)         Net financial expense       (10,779)       (15,912)       (26,691)         Net derivative (loss)/gain       (5,734)       5,983       249         Net foreign exchange gain       11,230       9,067       20,297         Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       70,145       146,260       1,054,324	9 months ended September 30, 2011			
Total net revenue       160,648       -       160,648         Underlying EBITDA <sup>(a)</sup> 11,480       (6,611)       4,869         Depreciation, amortisation and depletion       (33,690)       (1,962)       (35,652)         Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup> (22,210)       (8,573)       (30,783)         Net financial expense       (10,779)       (15,912)       (26,691)         Net derivative (loss)/gain       (5,734)       5,983       249         Net foreign exchange gain       11,230       9,067       20,297         Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       74,145       28       74,173         Total assets       908,064       146,260       1,054,324	Net Revenue			
Underlying EBITDA <sup>(a)</sup> Depreciation, amortisation and depletion  (33,690)  (1,962)  (35,652)  Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup> (22,210)  (8,573)  (30,783)  Net financial expense  (10,779)  (15,912)  (26,691)  Net derivative (loss)/gain  (5,734)  (5,734)  (5,734)  (5,734)  (7,738)  (8,733)  Charles expenses  (13,471)  (4,697)  (45,661)  Capital expenditure  74,145  28  74,173  As at September 30, 2011  Total assets  908,064  146,260  1,054,324	Group Production	160,648	-	160,648
Depreciation, amortisation and depletion       (33,690)       (1,962)       (35,652)         Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup> (22,210)       (8,573)       (30,783)         Net financial expense       (10,779)       (15,912)       (26,691)         Net derivative (loss)/gain       (5,734)       5,983       249         Net foreign exchange gain       11,230       9,067       20,297         Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       74,145       146,260       1,054,324	Total net revenue	160,648	-	160,648
Depreciation, amortisation and depletion       (33,690)       (1,962)       (35,652)         Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup> (22,210)       (8,573)       (30,783)         Net financial expense       (10,779)       (15,912)       (26,691)         Net derivative (loss)/gain       (5,734)       5,983       249         Net foreign exchange gain       11,230       9,067       20,297         Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       74,145       146,260       1,054,324				
Underlying EBIT         (22,210)         (8,573)         (30,783)           Net financial expense         (10,779)         (15,912)         (26,691)           Net derivative (loss)/gain         (5,734)         5,983         249           Net foreign exchange gain         11,230         9,067         20,297           Other expenses         (13,471)         4,738         (8,733)           Loss before taxation         (40,964)         (4,697)         (45,661)           Capital expenditure         74,145         28         74,173           As at September 30, 2011         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201         70,201	Underlying EBITDA <sup>(a)</sup>	11,480	(6,611)	4,869
Net financial expense       (10,779)       (15,912)       (26,691)         Net derivative (loss)/gain       (5,734)       5,983       249         Net foreign exchange gain       11,230       9,067       20,297         Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701<	Depreciation, amortisation and depletion	(33,690)	(1,962)	(35,652)
Net derivative (loss)/gain       (5,734)       5,983       249         Net foreign exchange gain       11,230       9,067       20,297         Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701       701 <td< td=""><td>Underlying EBIT<sup>(b)</sup></td><td>(22,210)</td><td>(8,573)</td><td>(30,783)</td></td<>	Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup>	(22,210)	(8,573)	(30,783)
Net foreign exchange gain       11,230       9,067       20,297         Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       70,201       70,201       70,201         Total assets       908,064       146,260       1,054,324	Net financial expense	(10,779)	(15,912)	(26,691)
Other expenses       (13,471)       4,738       (8,733)         Loss before taxation       (40,964)       (4,697)       (45,661)         Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       701       701       701       701         Total assets       908,064       146,260       1,054,324	Net derivative (loss)/gain	(5,734)	5,983	249
Loss before taxation (40,964) (4,697) (45,661)  Capital expenditure 74,145 28 74,173  As at September 30, 2011  Total assets 908,064 146,260 1,054,324	Net foreign exchange gain	11,230	9,067	20,297
Capital expenditure       74,145       28       74,173         As at September 30, 2011       Total assets       908,064       146,260       1,054,324	Other expenses	(13,471)	4,738	(8,733)
As at September 30, 2011 Total assets 908,064 146,260 1,054,324	Loss before taxation	(40,964)	(4,697)	(45,661)
As at September 30, 2011 Total assets 908,064 146,260 1,054,324				
Total assets 908,064 146,260 1,054,324	Capital expenditure	74,145	28	74,173
Total assets 908,064 146,260 1,054,324				
	As at September 30, 2011			
Total liabilities 725 617 (230 270) 495 239	Total assets	908,064	146,260	1,054,324
10tal Habilities (250,275) 455,556	Total liabilities	725,617	(230,279)	495,338

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(a)</sup> Underlying EBITDA is underlying EBIT, before depreciation, amortisation and depletion.

<sup>(</sup>b) Underlying EBIT is earnings before net financial expense, net derivative loss, net foreign exchange gain, taxation and other expenses.

<sup>(</sup>c) Unallocated items comprise mainly corporate assets including cash, certain items of property, plant and equipment, head office expenses, income tax assets and liabilities, consolidation and elimination adjustments.

			Mirabela
		Unallocated	Nickel
US\$000	Base Metals	items/elimination <sup>(c)</sup>	Group
3 months ended September 30, 2010			
Net Revenue			
Group Production	44,683	-	44,683
Total net revenue	44,683	-	44,683
Underlying EBITDA <sup>(a)</sup>	14,842	(1,794)	13,048
Depreciation, amortisation and depletion	(5,513)	(5,029)	(10,542)
Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup>	9,329	(6,823)	2,506
Net financial (expense)/ income	(7,790)	2,533	(5,257)
Net derivative loss	(15,711)	(766)	(16,477)
Net foreign exchange gain/(loss)	55,023	(41,714)	13,309
Other expenses	(196)	-	(196)
(Loss)/ income before taxation	40,655	(46,770)	(6,115)
Capital expenditure	14,173	301	14,474
9 months ended September 30, 2010			
Net Revenue			
Group Production	125,064	-	125,064
Total net revenue	125,064	-	125,064
Underlying EBITDA <sup>(a)</sup>	30,858	(5,439)	25,419
Depreciation, amortisation and depletion	(25,949)	(87)	(26,036)
Underlying EBIT <sup>(b)</sup>	4,909	(5,526)	(617)
Net financial (expense)/ income	(23,273)	7,788	(15,485)
Net derivative (loss)/gain	(16,697)	1,649	(15,048)
Net foreign exchange gain/(loss)	29,428	(21558)	7,870
Other expenses	(381)	-	(381)
Loss before taxation	(6,014)	(17,647)	(23,661)
Capital expenditure	25,219	327	25,546
As at December 31, 2010			
Total assets	1,018,449	101,852	1,120,301
Total liabilities	977,912	(476,946)	500,966

<sup>(</sup>a) Underlying EBITDA is underlying EBIT, before depreciation, amortisation and depletion.

<sup>(</sup>b) Underlying EBIT is earnings before net financial expense, net derivative loss, net foreign exchange gain, taxation and other expenses.

<sup>(</sup>c) Unallocated items comprise mainly corporate assets including cash, certain items of property, plant and equipment, head office expenses, income tax assets and liabilities, consolidation and elimination adjustments.

#### 7. FINANCIAL INCOME/(EXPENSE)

	Three mor	nths ended	Nine mon	ths ended
	30-Sep-11	30-Sep-10	30-Sep-11	30-Sep-10
	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000
Interest received	849	138	2,776	424
Financial income	849	138	2,776	424
Interest expense	(9,943)	(5,395)	(28,647)	(15,909)
Accretion of rehabilitation costs	(227)	-	(820)	-
Financial expense	(10,170)	(5,395)	(29,467)	(15,909)

### 8. NET DERIVATIVE GAIN/(LOSS) THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS

	Three mor	nths ended	Nine mon	ths ended
	30-Sep-11	30-Sep-11 30-Sep-10		30-Sep-10
	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000
Derivative gain - option	-	399	1,027	1,649
Realised foreign exchange contract gain	-	1,269	-	2,434
Derivative gain	-	1,668	1,027	4,083
Call option loss	-	(14,679)	(549)	(11,244)
Interest rate swap loss	-	(3,466)	(229)	(7,887)
Derivative loss	-	(18,145)	(778)	(19,131)
Net derivative gain/(loss)	-	(16,477)	249	(15,048)

#### 9. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	30-Sep-11	31-Dec-10	30-Sep-10
	US\$000	US\$000	US\$000
Cash at bank and on hand	59,675	24,833	32,100
Call deposits	57,322	77,301	66,978
	116,997	102,134	99,078

Cash at bank and on hand includes \$25 million held as hedge collateral by the hedge financiers that was subsequently released during October 2011 upon the perfection of the security on the mineral rights in their favour. Cash at bank also includes \$25 million held in a Contingency Support Account ("CSA") by the hedge financiers at September 30, 2011 that was subsequently released during October 2011.

#### 10. OTHER EXPENSES

Other expenses comprise Brazilian indirect taxes incurred on payout of the Norilsk Nickel loan, exploration expenditure, transaction fees and general expenditure.

#### 11. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	30-Sep-11	31-Dec-10
	US\$000	US\$000
Current asset		
Trade receivables	18,379	30,793
Other receivables	136	144
Prepayments	27,498	12,087
	46,013	43,024
Non-current asset		
Other receivables	-	2,710
Prepayments	13,023	31,093
	13,023	33,803

Prepayments for the period ended September 30, 2011 comprise payments in advance for consumables, plant and equipment not yet delivered.

In addition to the above, current and non-current prepayments also consist of claimable Brazilian federal and state taxes incurred during the construction and commissioning stages of the Santa Rita Project. It is anticipated these taxes will be offset against future federal and state taxes payable and are classified into current and non-current based on their expected period of recovery.

#### 12. INVENTORIES

	30-Sep-11	31-Dec-10
	US\$000	US\$000
Broken ore - cost	14,404	6,195
Concentrate - cost	14,203	10,506
Stores, spares and consumables - cost	25,105	17,808
	53,712	34,509

Inventories comprise broken ore stocks, concentrate stocks and stores, spares and consumables. Stores, spares and consumables represent materials and supplies consumed in the production process. All stocks have been calculated as the lower of cost and net realisable value, with net realisable value for broken ore stocks and concentrate representing the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less any further costs expected to be incurred in respect of such disposal.

#### 13. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	30-Sep-11	31-Dec-10
	US\$000	US\$000
Current asset		
Foreign exchange - forward contracts <sup>(a)</sup>	-	15,774
	-	15,774
Non-current asset		
Foreign exchange - forward contracts <sup>(a)</sup>		6,886
	_	6,886
Current liability		-
Nickel - forward contracts <sup>(a)</sup>	1,667	46,726
Copper - forward contracts <sup>(a)</sup>	-	408
Metal call options <sup>(b)</sup>	-	32,251
Interest rate swap <sup>(c)</sup>	-	2,505
	1,667	81,890
Non-current liability		
Nickel - forward contracts <sup>(a)</sup>	3,550	61,592
Copper - forward contracts <sup>(a)</sup>	-	21,197
Metal call options <sup>(b)</sup>	-	13,485
Interest rate swap <sup>(c)</sup>	-	1,889
	3,550	98,163

#### (a) Forward contracts designated as hedges

As at September 30, 2011, the Group had a net hedge liability position of US\$5.217 million reflecting the negative mark-to-market value of commodity (nickel) contracts. As at December 31, 2010 the net hedge liability position was US\$107.263 million which reflected the positive mark-to-market value of foreign exchange forward contracts and the negative mark-to-market value of commodity (nickel and copper) contracts.

#### (i) Metal forward contracts

During September 2011 the Group terminated 1,154 tonnes of nickel forward contracts at zero cost. At September 30, 2011, Nickel forward contracts comprise of 9,473 tonnes at an average price of US\$17,125 per tonne extending from October 2011 to March 2014. The remaining Nickel forward contracts of 9,473 tonnes were terminated in October 2011 at a cost of US\$10.017 million.

The Group terminated its Copper forward contracts of 8,844 tonnes on 29 September 2011 for a cost of \$9.973 million.

The ineffective portion of the termination costs relating to closed Copper hedges of \$0.614 million were recognised as an expense. The effective portion of \$14.576 million relating to closed Copper hedges (\$9.359 million) and outstanding Nickel hedges (\$5.217 million) at September 30, 2011 remains in hedge reserve, which will unwind to revenue upon realisation of the underlying hedge transaction.

#### (ii) Foreign exchange forward contracts

The foreign exchange forward contracts were terminated on April 20, 2011. The fair value of US\$25.793 million was realised in cash through the statement of financial position. Included in the hedge reserve is US\$14.785 million crystallised upon settlement of the contracts, which will unwind to revenue upon realisation of the underlying hedge transaction.

#### (b) Metal call options

The Group terminated its nickel and copper call options of US\$37.950 million on April 20, 2011, at an additional loss of US\$0.549 million which is recorded in the statement of income and comprehensive income.

#### (c) Interest rate swap

The Group terminated its interest rate swap of US\$4.155 on April 20, 2011, at an additional loss of US\$0.229 million which is recorded in the statement of income and comprehensive income.

#### 14. EXPLORATION AND EVALUATION EXPENDITURE

	30-Sep-11	31-Dec-10
	US\$000	US\$000
Balance at the beginning of the period	550	161
Expenditure incurred during the period	5	376
Transfer to development expenditure	-	(9)
Effect of movements in foreign exchange	(25)	22
Balance at the period end	530	550

The recoverability of the carrying amounts of exploration and evaluation assets is dependent upon the successful development and commercial exploitation or sale of the respective area of interest.

#### 15. PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

30 September 2011 US\$000	Plant & equipment	Leased Asset	Land	Mine properties <sup>(a)</sup>	Construction & development expenditure in progress (b)	Total
Cost						
Balance at 1 January 2011	437,055	39,454	13,878	440,837	-	931,224
Additions	11,643	-	-	20,261	42,264	74,168
ARO life of mine adjustment	-	-	-	(1,878)	-	(1,878)
Effect of movement in exchange						
rates	(45,742)	(4,004)	(1,408)	(45,940)	(5,039)	(102,133)
Balance at 30 September 2011	402,956	35,450	12,470	413,280	37,225	901,381
Depreciation						
Balance at 1 January 2011	(31,605)	(6,694)	-	(9,304)	-	(47,603)
Depreciation charge for the						
period	(26,882)	(2,007)	-	(10,157)	-	(39,046)
Effect of movement in exchange						
rates	6,531	677	-	2,109	-	9,317
Balance at 30 September 2011	(51,956)	(8,024)	-	(17,352)	-	(77,332)
Net book value at 30 September						
2011	351,000	27,426	12,470	395,928	37,225	824,049

#### (a) Mine properties

Mine properties include deferred stripping costs of US\$37.658 million (31 December 2010: US\$17.397 million).

#### (b) Construction and development expenditure in progress

This refers to cost incurred on the processing plant upgrade at the Santa Rita operation to increase production capacity to 7.2Mtpa, as well as the installation of the de-sliming plant and crusher upgrade.

					Construction & development	
31 December 2010	Plant &	Leased		Mine	expenditure in	
US\$000	equipment	Asset	Land	properties	progress	Total
Cost						
Balance at 1 January 2010	185,981	-	12,305	-	685,358	883,644
Additions	8,623	3,814	-	24,053	-	36,490
Disposals	(2)	-	-	-	-	(2)
Reclassification (c)	-	-	-	(36,584)	-	(36,584)
Transfers	222,592	32,367	936	429,463	(685,358)	-
Effect of movement in exchange						
rates	19,861	3,273	637	23,905	-	47,676
Balance at 31 December 2010	437,055	39,454	13,878	440,837	-	931,224
Depreciation						
Balance at 1 January 2010	(5,024)	-	-	-	-	(5,024)
Depreciation charge for the year	(22,971)	(4,839)	-	(7,834)	-	(35,644)
Disposals	2	-	-	-	-	2
Transfers	912	(912)	-	-	-	-
Effect of movement in exchange						
rates	(4,524)	(943)	-	(1,470)	-	(6,937)
Balance at 31 December 2010	(31,605)	(6,694)	-	(9,304)	-	(47,603)
	_					
Net book value at 31 December						
2010	405,450	32,760	13,878	431,533	-	883,621

#### (c) Reclassification

This refers to Brazilian federal and state taxes on capital expenditure during the construction, commissioning and ramp-up periods that the Group believes is recoverable and able to be offset against future federal and state taxes payable. In the previous financial year ended December 31, 2010, the value of these recoverable taxes has been reclassified from property, plant and equipment to prepayments in the Statement of financial position, to better reflect the nature of the transaction.

#### **16. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES**

	30-Sep-11	31-Dec-10
	US\$000	US\$000
Trade payables	32,303	19,737
Other payables and accrued expenses	30,578	12,923
	62,881	32,660

Other payables and accrued expenses as at September 30, 2011 include an amount of US\$15.937 million interest in relation to the senior unsecured notes.

#### 17. PROVISIONS

	30-Sep-11	31-Dec-10
	US\$000	US\$000
Current liability		
Provision for annual leave	4,633	3,680
	4,633	3,680
Non-current liability		
Provision for rehabilitation	9,531	11,627
Other provision	3,065	2,778
	12,596	14,405
Reconciliation of movements in provisions		
Annual leave provision		
Balance at beginning of period	3,680	879
Net provision made during the financial period	1,110	2,682
Effect of movements in foreign exchange	(157)	119
Balance at period end	4,633	3,680
Rehabilitation provision		
Balance at beginning of period	11,627	18,872
Accretion expense	(820)	-
Life of mine adjustment	(1,878)	-
Reversal of provision	-	(8,457)
Effect of movements in foreign exchange	602	1,212
Balance at period end	9,531	11,627
Other provision		
Balance at beginning of period	2,778	
Provision made during the financial period	2,778	2,778
Effect of movements in foreign exchange	(119)	2,778
Balance at period end	` '	2,778
balance at peniou enu	3,065	2,778

The rehabilitation provision is an estimate of the value of future costs for dismantling, demobilisation, remediation and ongoing treatment and monitoring of the Santa Rita operation. The Group uses third parties to estimate these costs. The estimate will be reviewed over time as the operation develops. The unwinding of the effect of

discounting on the provision is recognised as a finance cost. In addition, the rehabilitation obligation has been recognised as an asset and will be amortised over the life of the mine.

Other provisions include indirect taxes payable which are not repayable in the next 12 months.

#### 18. BORROWINGS

September 30, 2011	Senior unsecured notes	Caterpillar finance lease facility	
US\$000	(i)	(ii)	Total
Nominal Interest Rate	8.75%	COF + LIBOR + 2.75%	
Loan Term	2011 to 2018	2009 to 2014	
Carrying Value	376,652	27,479	404,131
Current borrowings	-	8,447	8,447
Non-current borrowings	376,652	19,032	395,684
	376,652	27,479	404,131

December 31, 2010 US\$000	Caterpillar finance lease facility (ii) COF + LIBOR +	Norilsk Ioan (iii)	Votorantim Ioan (iv)	Senior Ioan (v) COF + 5.25% to	Total
Nominal Interest Rate	2.75%	LIBOR + 3.50%	CDI rate	5.75%	
Loan Term	2009 to 2014	2010 to 2013	2009 to 2013	2011 to 2015	
Carrying Value	33,234	54,748	26,893	147,651	262,526
Current borrowings	8,247	-	7,896	275	16,418
Non-current borrowings	24,987	54,748	18,997	147,376	246,108
<u>-</u>	33,234	54,748	26,893	147,651	262,526

- (i) US\$395 million of 8.75% senior unsecured notes due 2018 were issued in the international and United States Rule 144A debt capital markets during April 2011. The notes are guaranteed by Mirabela Investments Pty Ltd and Mirabela Mineração do Brasil Ltda. Interest on the notes will be payable semi-annually in arrears on April 15 and October 15 of each year during the term of the notes, beginning October 15, 2011. Borrowing costs of US\$20.476 million to secure this funding have been offset against the principal borrowings amount and are amortised using the effective interest rate method. Effective interest for the period relating to the capitalised borrowing costs was US\$0.994 million.
- (ii) The US\$55 million master funding and leasing agreement is for the purpose of lease financing of up to 90% of the purchase price of Caterpillar mobile equipment. The facility was drawn down to US\$40.795 million as at September 30, 2011, with US\$27.479 million outstanding after repayments. Further drawdown under the leasing facility will require approval from Caterpillar prior to the drawdown. The Company does not intend to drawdown further on this facility. Lease payments under the facility are calculated on the basis of a 60 month term, and include interest determined at the date of the particular funding request as the prevailing 3 month US\$ LIBOR rate plus COF plus 2.75% per annum (weighted average interest rate of 4.22%).

- (iii) The facility is subordinated to the Senior Credit Facility with Barclays Bank Plc, Credit Suisse International, West LB AG, Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation and Bayerische Hypo-und Vereinsbank AG (banking syndicate). Interest is payable at LIBOR plus a 3.50% margin. Overdue amounts incur a 1% per annum higher interest rate during the period of non-payment. On April 18, 2011 this facility was repaid in full and the final repayment amount including capitalised interest was US\$56.038 million.
- (iv) The facility is subordinated to the Senior Credit Facility with the banking syndicate. Interest is payable at the average rates for interbank deposits (CDI), as calculated by the Brazilian Custody and Settlement Chamber (CETIP). The R\$ loan amount is repayable in monthly instalments from September 30, 2009 to November 30, 2013. Principal repayments were accelerated during the period in accordance with a prepayment agreement with Votorantim, whereby the principal is automatically reduced through offset of the domestic sales tax payable by Votorantim on each monthly sale. On April 19, 2011 this facility was repaid in full and the final repayment amount was US\$24.497 million.
- (v) Interest is payable on a Cost of Funds (COF) basis (determined as the weighted average cost of funds of each lender), plus a margin of 5.75% per annum prior to the completion (as defined in the Senior Loan documents) of the Santa Rita Project and thereafter 5.25% per annum (weighted average interest rate of 6.51%). The remainder of the loan is repayable in half yearly instalments from March 31, 2012 to September 30, 2015. On April 20, 2011 this facility was repaid in full and the final repayment amount was US\$152.136 million.

#### 19. DERIVATIVE LIABILITY - OPTION

	30-Sep 11	31-Dec-10
	US\$000	US\$000
Norilsk option derivative liability	-	1,013
	-	1,013

Under the Norilsk Loan Agreement, Norilsk had an option to convert up to US\$40 million of the US\$50 million loan into ordinary shares of Mirabela Nickel Limited at a price of US\$8.00 per share, expiring on December 31, 2012. The options expired pursuant to the repayment of the loan on April 20, 2011. During the period a gain of US\$1.027 million was recorded in the statement of income and comprehensive income.

#### **20. CONTRIBUTED EQUITY**

Movement in share capital for the nine months ended September 30, 2011

	Ordinary shares	Number of shares	Issue price	US\$
Jan 1, 2011	Opening balance	491,561,237		681,271,793
July 4, 2011	Shares issued on exercise of performance rights (Issued at	220,000	US\$1.93	425,024
	A\$1.84)			
	Closing balance	491,781,237		681,696,817
Add:	Share issue costs recovery - current period <sup>(a)</sup>		<u>-</u>	804,084
	Total contributed Equity		-	682,500,901

#### (a) Share issue costs recovery

An independent review was undertaken on the ability to claim GST on prior financial periods share issue costs.

#### Movement in share capital for the nine months ended September 30, 2010

	Ordinary shares	Number of shares	Issue price	US\$
Jan 1, 2010	Opening balance	354,694,375		477,023,997
Jan 21, 2010	Issue of ordinary shares fully paid (Issued at A\$2.30)	4,467,450	\$2.08	9,304,163
Feb 5, 2010	Options converted (Issued at A\$0.95)	12,000	\$0.86	10,323
	Warrants converted to ordinary shares			
Feb 9, 2010	(Issued at A\$2.30)	5,500,000	\$2.08	11,454,610
Feb 16, 2010	Options converted (Issued at A\$0.95)	50,000	\$0.86	43,011
Mar 15, 2010	Options converted (Issued at A\$0.95)	12,000	\$0.86	10,323
Mar 30, 2010	Issue of ordinary shares fully paid (Issued at A\$2.30)	2,100,000	\$2.08	4,373,578
Apr 7, 2010	Options converted (Issued at A\$0.95)	20,000	\$0.86	17,205
Apr 12, 2010	Options converted (Issued at A\$0.95)	18,000	\$0.86	15,484
Apr 16, 2010	Options converted (Issued at A\$0.95)	225,000	\$0.86	193,551
Apr 30, 2010	Options converted (Issued at A\$0.95)	63,900	\$0.86	54,969
Sep 17, 2010	Issue of ordinary shares fully paid (Issued at A\$1.60)	48,896,905	\$1.45	70,842,051
Sep 17, 2010	Issue of ordinary shares fully paid (Issued at A\$1.60)	6,177,500	\$1.45	8,949,989
	Closing balance	422,237,130	_	582,293,241
Less:	Share issue costs-current period		_	(4,863,759)
			=	577,429,482

#### Options on issue at September 30, 2011

Exercise Price	Exercise Price US\$ <sup>(1)</sup>	Expiry Date	Number of Options
A\$6.20	US\$5.85	Dec 31, 2011	350,000
A\$6.20	US\$5.51	Sep 11, 2012	300,000
A\$3.00	US\$2.02	Jul 7, 2013	3,000,000
A\$3.00	US\$2.73	Jul 7, 2013	750,000
A\$3.00	US\$2.50	Jun 30, 2014	400,000
Balance			4,800,000

#### Options on issue at September 30, 2010

Exercise Price	Exercise Price		Number of
A\$ <sup>(1)</sup>	US\$ <sup>(1)</sup>	Expiry Date	Options
A\$5.60	US\$4.75	Feb 23, 2011	1,800,000
A\$6.20	US\$5.25	Jun 30, 2011	1,400,000
A\$6.20	US\$5.52	Sep 7, 2011	300,000
A\$6.20	US\$5.85	Dec 31, 2011	350,000
A\$6.20	US\$5.51	Sep 11, 2012	300,000
A\$8.89 <sup>(1)</sup>	US\$8.00	Dec 31, 2012	5,000,000
A\$3.00	US\$2.02	Jul 7, 2013	3,000,000
A\$3.00	US\$2.73	Jul 7, 2013	750,000
A\$3.00	US\$2.50	Jun 30, 2014	400,000
Balance			13,300,000

<sup>(1)</sup> All options are exercisable in A\$ (presented in US\$ at historical rates) with the exception of the US\$8.00 options, which are exercisable in US\$.

During the period ended September 30, 2011 a total of 3,500,000 options lapsed, comprising 1,800,000 options at an exercise price of US\$4.75 on February 23, 2011, 1,400,000 options at an exercise price of US\$5.75 on June 30, 2011 and 300,000 options at an exercise price of US\$5.52 on September 7, 2011. A further 5,000,000 options at an exercise price of US\$8.00 expired pursuant to the repayment of the loan held with Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta OY on April 20, 2011.

#### 21. CAPITAL AND OTHER COMMITMENTS

	30-Sep-11	31-Dec-10
	US\$000	US\$000
Operating lease commitments		
Non-cancellable operating lease rentals:		
Within one year	800	687
One year or later and no later than five years	2,409	3,110
	3,209	3,797
Exploration expenditure commitments		
Commitments for rental fees under exploration licence agreements:		
Within one year	5,228	4,898
	5,228	4,898
Contractual, capital and operating commitments		
Contracted but not provided for and payable:		
Within one year	82,245	83,716
One year or later and no later than five years	92,411	141,703
Greater than five years	17,568	-
	192,224	225,419

#### 22. SHARE BASED PAYMENTS

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, the Company recognised an employee share based payment expense of US\$347,716 and US\$1,448,771 respectively (three and nine months ended September 30, 2010: US\$166,058 and US\$623,435).

#### 23. RELATED PARTIES

Key management personnel receive compensation in the form of short-term employee benefits, post employment benefits and share based payment awards. Key management personnel received total compensation of US\$929,129 and US\$3,038,051 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 (three and nine months ended September 30, 2010: US\$839,796 and US\$3,139,599).

#### Transactions with key management personnel

Key management personnel, or their related parties, hold positions in other entities that result in them having control or significant influence over the financial or operating policies of those entities. These entities may enter into transactions with the Company or its subsidiaries. The terms and conditions of such transactions are no more favourable than those available, or which might reasonably be expected to be available, to non-director related entities dealing at arm's length with the Company. These are detailed below.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, the Company was invoiced US\$Nil and US\$28,716 by Verona Capital Pty Ltd (US\$Nil for three and nine months ended September 30, 2010) for the recovery of shared overheads.

The Company charged Verona Capital Pty Ltd a total of US\$Nil and US\$64,451 (three and nine months ended September 30, 2010: US\$8,248 and US\$48,407) for office rent and shared overheads for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011. Mr Craig Burton, the non-executive chairman of the Company, is the director of Verona Capital Pty Ltd.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, the Company charged US\$Nil and US\$4,654 (three and nine months ended September 30, 2010: US\$4,432 and US\$9,723) to Nearfield Resources Limited, for shared overhead and premises rent costs. Mr Craig Burton is a director of Nearfield Resources Limited.

#### 24. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In October 2011, the Company closed out all remaining Nickel forwards (9,473 tonnes) for a cost of \$10.017 million.

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011

All amounts in thousands of US dollars (US\$'000) unless otherwise stated



#### INTRODUCTION

The following management discussion and analysis ("MD&A") of Mirabela Nickel Limited, including its subsidiaries, ("Mirabela", the "Company" or the "Group") is for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and should be read in conjunction with the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the same period, and the notes thereto. The effective day of this report is November 9, 2011.

The Company's annual financial statements, interim financial statements and the financial information contained in this MD&A were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS").

#### THE COMPANY

Mirabela is an international mineral resource company engaged in the mining, production and sale of nickel concentrate. The ordinary shares of Mirabela are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "MNB" and on the Australian Securities Exchange under the symbol "MBN".

Mirabela's principal asset is the 100% owned Santa Rita nickel sulphide, open pit operation in Bahia State, Brazil, discovered by Mirabela in 2004 and brought into commercial production in 2010. Mirabela also has a portfolio of prospective nickel targets in Brazil, including an underground mineral resource at Santa Rita.

#### **OVERALL PERFORMANCE & SELECTED ANNUAL INFORMATION**

Financial Statistics	Three r	nonths ended	Nine n	nonths ended
	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10
Total revenue	75,326	52,368	198,888	146,912
Net sales revenue	60,132	44,683	160,648	125,064
Cost of sales	(68,256)	(40,370)	(184,818)	(120,241)
Gross (loss)/profit	(8,124)	4,313	(24,170)	4,823
Loss for the period	(8,418)	(9,405)	(45,661)	(26,951)
EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	2,310	13,048	4,869	25,419
Basic (loss) per share	(\$0.02)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.09)	(\$0.07)
Diluted (loss) per share	(\$0.02)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.09)	(\$0.07)
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-
Total assets	1,054,324	1,079,272	1,054,324	1,079,272
Long term liabilities	411,830	350,161	411,830	350,161
Total liabilities	495,338	539,104	495,338	539,104
Net assets	558,986	540,168	558,986	540,168



Production Statistics	Measure	Three m	nonths ended	Nine months ended	
Troduction statistics	Micusure	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10
Mining					
Total Material Mined	Tonnes	10,435,162	7,424,000	28,597,291	19,979,000
Ore Mined	Tonnes	1,693,049	846,000	3,963,599	2,162,000
Nickel Grade	%	0.48	0.55	0.48	0.55
Processing					
Total Ore Processed	Tonnes	1,441,399	942,000	3,806,316	2,561,000
Nickel Grade	%	0.52	0.52	0.49	0.52
Copper Grade	%	0.14	0.12	0.13	0.13
Cobalt Grade	%	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Nickel Recovery	%	62	49	58	50
Copper Recovery	%	68	68	68	66
Cobalt Recovery	%	35	27	34	28
Production					
Nickel in Concentrate Produced	DMT	4,605	2,405	10,825	6,700
Copper in Concentrate Produced	DMT	1,368	774	3,375	2,259
Cobalt in Concentrate Produced	DMT	76	41	194	116
Sales					
Nickel in Concentrate Sold	DMT	4,228	2,359	10,220	6,852
Copper in Concentrate Sold	DMT	1,262	753	3,192	2,297
Cobalt in Concentrate Sold	DMT	77	37	189	115

Unit Cash Costs	Measure	Three m	Three months ended		onths ended
		30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10
Payable Nickel Production <sup>(2)</sup>	lbs	9,035,318	4,718,442	21,240,380	13,145,735
<b>Production Costs</b>					
Mining Cost	USD/lb	3.66	2.36	3.67	3.02
Processing Costs	USD/lb	1.89	2.72	2.13	2.71
Administration Cost	USD/lb	0.66	1.00	0.89	1.05
Subtotal	USD/lb	6.21	6.08	6.69	6.78
Selling Costs					
Transport/Shipping Cost	USD/lb	0.23	0.07	0.16	0.09
By-Product Credit (3)	USD/lb	(1.21)	(0.96)	(1.37)	(1.01)
Smelter Charges	USD/lb	1.48	1.57	1.65	1.57
Subtotal	USD/lb	0.50	0.68	0.44	0.65
Unit Cash Cost	USD/lb	6.71	6.76	7.13	7.43



Unit Cash Costs (cont)	Measure	Three m	onths ended	Nine m	Nine months ended		
		30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10		
Unit Royalty Cost	USD/lb	0.51	0.53	0.58	0.48		
Realised Nickel Price <sup>(4)</sup>	USD/lb	9.22	8.19	10.10	9.33		
Realised Copper Price <sup>(4)</sup>	USD/lb	3.62	2.41	4.01	2.64		
Realised Cobalt Price <sup>(4)</sup>	USD/lb	14.88	17.46	17.00	17.52		
Average Real/US\$ Exchange Ra	ate	1.64	1.75	1.63	1.78		

<sup>(1)</sup> EBITDA is defined as gross profit less general & administration expenses, but before depreciation, amortisation and depletion. See "Non GAAP Measures".

#### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

#### **OPERATING REVIEW**

Mirabela remains on track to achieve the production guidance of between 15,500 and 16,500 tonnes of nickel in concentrate for 2011. The Company is targeting full production levels by the end of December 2011 with the completion of the project ramp-up activities.

#### **SAFETY**

During the third quarter Mirabela had three LTI's, increasing the 12 month moving average Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate to 1.50 at the end of the third quarter. Two LTI's were related to drilling activities and one LTI to maintenance. Preventative measures have been implemented. Mirabela continues its strong focus on safety training and the implementation of best practices to reduce the risk of injuries and to improve the Company's safety performance.

#### **MINING**

Mirabela achieved a record mining performance during the third quarter of 2011, with 10.4 million tonnes of material movement and 1.7 million tonnes ore production. Ore was mined at an average nickel grade of 0.48% and a strip ratio of 5.2:1.

With the pre-strip of the mine completed in the second quarter, fresh ore production was available from all three zones of the open pit enabling the ramp-up of ore production. The majority of ore produced during the third quarter came from the central and southern zones in accordance with the mine plan.

Mirabela strengthened the drilling fleet late in the third quarter with the addition of an Atlas Copco Pit Viper 271 and an Atlas Copco L8 drill rig. Mirabela continues to work with its drilling contractors to improve drilling performance, with their performance improving during the quarter but still underperforming compared to owner operated drilling. Mirabela is expecting delivery of two drill rigs at the end of the first quarter of 2012.

Truck availability and utilisation improved during the quarter due to improved tyre availability and performance. A twelve month supply of tyres was secured at the end of the second quarter. Loader productivity improved with the change over from backhoe to front shovel configurations delivering the expected results.

<sup>(2)</sup> Average payability of 89%.

<sup>(3)</sup> Including prior period QP adjustments and excludes hedging.

<sup>(4)</sup> Including prior period QP adjustments and realised hedging.

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011



#### **PROCESSING**

During the quarter a record of 1.4 million tonnes of ore was milled at an average grade of 0.52% nickel with an average recovery of 62%. The record recovery result for the quarter was due to the improved quality and consistency of ore presented to the plant as this was the first quarter where fresh ore was available from all three zones. Monthly plant shutdowns are continuing to allow for the necessary tie-in work for the plant upgrade project to 7.2Mtpa.

Nickel in concentrate production was up 36% to a record 4,605 tonnes from the second quarter 2011 (3,395 tonnes), with contained copper in concentrate increasing to 1,368 tonnes and contained cobalt in concentrate increasing to 76 tonnes.

#### 7.2MTPA PROCESSING PLANT UPGRADE

The processing plant upgrade remains ahead of schedule and on budget. Installation of the second ball mill, second pebble crusher and second Larox filter have been completed. The civil works and the installation of the de-sliming plant and crusher upgrade are underway. The de-sliming plant is on target to be completed by the end of 2011 and the crusher upgrade by the end of January 2012.

#### **SALE OF CONCENTRATE**

Nickel in concentrate sold to Mirabela's customers, Votorantim Metais Niquel S.A. and Norilsk Nickel increased to 4,228 tonnes, an increase of 8% compared to the second quarter of 2011 (3,909 tonnes). One export shipment of 11,389 tonnes of concentrate to Norilsk Nickel was completed during the quarter with the next shipment completed during late October 2011. Steady deliveries to Votorantim continued throughout the quarter.

#### **EXPLORATION**

Exploration activity for the quarter was focused on tenement maintenance only. Open pit extension drilling under the North pit is expected to start during the fourth quarter, targeting an increase in open pit resources.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

#### THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

#### **NET SALES REVENUE**

Sales generated during the quarter comprised 4,228 tonnes of nickel in concentrate at an average nickel price of \$9.22/lb including realised hedges, and 1,262 tonnes of copper in concentrate at an average copper price of \$3.62/lb including realised hedges. This resulted in gross nickel revenue of \$65.30 million, copper revenue of \$7.50 million, cobalt revenue of \$1.11 million, platinum revenue of \$0.65 million and other revenue of \$0.76 million. Treatment, refining and transport charges associated with the sale of concentrate totalled \$15.19 million.

The comparative quarter ended September 30, 2010 comprised 2,359 tonnes of nickel in concentrate at an average nickel price of \$8.19/lb including realised hedges, and 753 tonnes of copper in concentrate at an average copper price of \$2.41/lb including realised hedges. This resulted in gross nickel revenue of \$47.61 million, copper revenue of \$3.00 million, and cobalt revenue of \$0.64 million, platinum revenue of \$0.75 million, and other revenue of \$0.37 million. Treatment, refining and transport charges totalled \$7.69 million. The higher sales revenue for the current period is mainly due to the higher nickel sales volume as the Company continues its ramp up to full production, further assisted by the higher average nickel price, offset by a stronger Real/USD exchange rate.

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011



#### **COST OF SALES**

Cost of sales for the quarter of \$68.26 million comprised direct costs of \$51.44 million, royalties of \$4.16 million and indirect costs of \$12.66 million. Direct costs were driven by expenditure on mining (\$36.87 million), processing & plant (\$17.03 million), administration (\$6.25 million), offset by stockpile movements (\$8.71 million) associated with the timing of production and sales. Cost of sales for the comparative period ended September 30, 2010 of \$40.37 million comprised direct costs of \$27.31 million, royalties of \$2.52 million and indirect costs of \$10.54 million. The higher cost of sales during the current period is mainly due to a stronger Real / USD exchange rate (period to September 30, 2011: US\$1:R\$1.64 vs period to September 30, 2010: US\$1:R\$1.75), as well as increased operational costs reflective of the Company's ramp-up to full production.

Royalties of \$4.16 million reflect the leasing of mining rights to nickel sulphide ore, federal royalties and landowner royalties in connection with surface rights.

Depreciation and amortization (indirect costs) of \$12.66 million reflects the Company's use of its assets based on a combination of a unit of production calculation and the useful life of equipment.

#### (LOSS)/PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD

The Santa Rita Operation incurred a gross loss for the quarter of \$8.12 million and a net loss of \$8.42 million for the quarter (September 30, 2010: gross profit of \$4.31 million and a net loss of \$9.41 million), mainly driven by cost of sales as discussed above, and financing costs offset by favourable foreign exchange movements. The comparative period net loss was mainly due to derivative losses on nickel and copper call options and financial expenses.

Net financing costs for the quarter ended September 30, 2011 of \$9.32 million mainly comprise of net interest expense of \$9.09 million associated with the Senior Unsecured Notes and Caterpillar loan. Financing costs for the comparative period ended September 30, 2010 comprised net interest expense of \$5.26 million. The higher interest expense in the current period reflects the increase in long term debt following the refinancing during April 2011.

Gains on financial derivatives for the quarter ended September 30, 2011 were nil as the nickel and copper call options were closed out as part of the refinancing completed in April 2011. The comparative period loss of \$16.48 million was driven by nickel and copper call options (\$14.68 million).

The \$12.43 million foreign exchange gain comprises of realised and unrealised movements primarily on the conversion of functional currency on cash held and borrowings. The comparative period ended September 30, 2010 reflected a foreign exchange gain of \$13.31 million primarily related to realised and unrealised movements primarily on the conversion of functional currency on cash held and borrowings.

Other expenses of \$1.18 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2011 comprises of exploration expenditure, transaction fees and general expenditure.

#### **UNIT CASH COSTS**

Unit cash costs represent the total of all cash costs directly attributable to operations after deductions of credits in respect of by-product sales.

Unit cash costs are presented in US dollars. A strengthening of the Brazilian real against the US dollar will have a negative effect on unit cash costs, whilst a weakening of the Brazilian real to the US dollar will have a positive effect on unit cash costs.

By-product credits, in particular copper (10% of sales revenue) and cobalt (1.5% of sales revenue), are an important factor in determining cash costs. The Company's cost per pound will be positively affected by increases in the prices for copper and cobalt, and adversely affected with decreases in those prices.



The unit cash cost of production for the three months ended September 30, 2011 was \$6.71 per pound of payable nickel (September 30, 2010: \$6.76 per pound). The marginally lower unit cash cost against the corresponding quarter was driven by higher nickel production volumes, reflecting the ramp up of operations, offset by unfavourable exchange rate movements (Real/USD: 1.64 vs 1.75) and higher mining costs. Mobile fleet availability improved during the quarter, due to the procurement of a twelve month tyre supply and the improved contractor drilling fleet performance resulted in record drilling meters.

The following table reflects a reconciliation of the Company's unit cash cost to the income statement prepared in accordance with GAAP:

	Three months ended	Three months ended
	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10
Costs as reported in the income statement (US\$000):		
Gross (loss)/profit	(8,124)	4,313
Add back:		
Royalties	4,162	2,518
Depreciation, amortization and depletion	12,657	10,542
Less:		
Nickel sales revenue	(79,364)	(47,606)
Direct stockpile movement	10,042	(1,646)
Total cash operating cost of production (US\$000)	60,627	31,879
Payable nickel (pounds)	9,035,318	4,718,442
Unit Cash Cost (US\$) per pound of payable nickel	6.71	6.76

#### **NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011**

#### **NET SALES REVENUE**

Sales generated during the nine month period comprised 10,220 tonnes of nickel in concentrate at an average nickel price of \$10.10/lb including realised hedges, and 3,192 tonnes of copper in concentrate at an average copper price of \$4.01/lb including realised hedges. This resulted in gross nickel revenue of \$170.62 million, copper revenue of \$21.24 million, cobalt revenue of \$3.10 million, platinum revenue of \$2.11 million, and other revenue of \$1.82 million. Treatment, refining and transport charges associated with the sale of concentrate totalled \$38.24 million.

The comparative period ended September 30, 2010 comprised 6,852 tonnes of nickel in concentrate at an average nickel price of \$9.33/lb (hedging commenced April 2010), and 2,297 tonnes of copper in concentrate at an average copper price of \$2.64/lb (hedging commenced April 2010). This resulted in gross nickel revenue of \$133.21 million, copper revenue of \$10.05 million, cobalt revenue of \$2.01 million, platinum revenue of \$1.18 million, and other revenue of \$0.46 million. Treatment, refining and transport charges totalled \$21.85 million. The higher sales revenue for the current period is mainly due to the higher nickel sales volume as the Company continues its ramp up to full production, further assisted by the higher average nickel price, offset by a stronger Real/USD exchange rate.

#### **COST OF SALES**

Cost of sales for the period of \$184.82 million comprised direct costs of \$137.43 million, royalties of \$11.73 million and indirect costs of \$35.65 million. Direct costs were driven by expenditure on mining (\$85.60 million), processing & plant (\$45.40 million), and administration (\$19.23 million), offset by stockpile movements (\$12.80 million) associated with the timing of production and sales. The comparative period ended September 30, 2010 reflected the company's first nine months of commercial

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011



production, with cost of sales of \$120.24 million comprising direct costs of \$87.90 million, royalties of \$6.31 million and indirect costs of \$26.04 million. The higher cost of sales during the current period is mainly due to a stronger Real / USD exchange rate (period to September 30 2011: US\$1:1.63 vs period to September 30 2010: US\$1:R\$1.78), as well as increased operational costs reflective of the Company's ramp-up to full production.

Royalties of \$11.73 million reflect the leasing of mining rights to nickel sulphide ore, federal royalties and landowner royalties in connection with surface rights.

Depreciation and amortization (indirect costs) of \$35.65 million reflects the Company's use of its assets based on a combination of a unit of production calculation and the useful life of equipment.

#### (LOSS)/PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD

The Santa Rita Operation incurred a gross loss for the period of \$24.17 million and a net loss of \$45.66 million for the period (September 30, 2010: gross profit of \$4.82 million and a net loss of \$26.95 million), mainly driven by cost of sales as discussed above, as well as financing costs, general & administration and other expenses, offset by favourable foreign exchange movements. The comparative period net loss was mainly due to derivative losses and financing costs.

Net financing costs for the period ended September 30, 2011 of \$26.69 million, mainly comprise of net interest expense (\$25.87 million). Financing costs for the comparative period ended September 30, 2010 comprised net interest expense of \$15.49 million. The higher interest expense in the current period reflects the increase in long term debt following the refinancing during April 2011.

Gains on financial derivatives for the period ended September 30, 2011 were \$0.25 million, mainly comprising of a favourable movement on Norilsk options (\$1.03 million) offset by losses on call options and interest rate swap. The comparative period loss of \$15.05 million was mainly driven by nickel and copper call options (\$11.24 million) and loss on interest rate swaps (\$7.89 million).

The \$20.30 million foreign exchange gain comprises of realised and unrealised movements on the conversion of functional currency on cash held and borrowings. The comparative period ended September 30, 2010 reflected a foreign exchange gain of \$7.87 million primarily related to realised and unrealised movements on the conversion of functional currency on cash held and borrowings.

Other expenses of \$8.73 million for the period ended June 30, 2011 comprised of Brazilian indirect taxes incurred on payout of the Norilsk Nickel loan, exploration expenditure, transaction fees and general expenditure.

#### **UNIT CASH COSTS**

Unit cash costs represent the total of all cash costs directly attributable to operations after deductions of credits in respect of by-product sales.

Unit cash costs are presented in US dollars. A strengthening of the Brazilian real against the US dollar will have a negative effect on unit cash costs, whilst a weakening of the Brazilian real to the US dollar will have a positive effect on unit cash costs.

By-product credits, in particular copper (11% of sales revenue) and cobalt (2% of sales revenue), are an important factor in determining cash costs. The Company's cost per pound will be positively affected by increases in the prices for copper and cobalt, and adversely affected with decreases in those prices.

The unit cash cost of production for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was \$7.13 per pound of payable nickel (September 30, 2010: \$7.43 per pound). The lower unit cash cost against the corresponding period was driven by higher production volumes, reflecting the ramp up of operations, offset by unfavourable exchange rate movements (Real/USD: 1.63 vs 1.78).



The following table reflects a reconciliation of the Company's unit cash cost to the income statement prepared in accordance with GAAP:

	Nine months ended	Nine months ended
	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10
Costs as reported in the income statement (US\$000):		
Gross (loss)/profit	(24,170)	4,823
Add back:		
Royalties	11,733	6,310
Depreciation, amortization and depletion	35,652	26,036
Less:		
Nickel sales revenue	(170,616)	(133,211)
Direct stockpile movement	(4,043)	(1,618)
Total cash operating cost of production (US\$000)	151,444	97,660
Payable nickel (pounds)	21,240,380	13,145,735
Unit Cash Cost (US\$) per pound of payable nickel	7.13	7.43

### **SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY RESULTS**

Selected financial data for each of the eight most recently completed quarters is included in the table below.

For the three months ended *	Sep-11	Jun-11	Mar-11	Dec-10	Sep-10	Jun-10	Mar-10	Dec-09
Total revenue	75,326	80,307	43,255	64,063	52,368	51,938	42,619	-
Net sales revenue	60,132	66,228	34,288	54,096	44,683	44,471	35,924	-
Cost of Sales	(68,256)	(77,648)	(38,914)	(51,071)	(40,370)	(49,862)	(30,010)	-
Gross profit	(8,124)	(11,420)	(4,626)	3,025	4,313	(5,391)	5,914	-
Expenses	294	(14,831)	(6,366)	(23,692)	(13,718)	10,588	(28,657)	(562)
Net (loss)/ income	(8,418)	(26,251)	(10,992)	(20,667)	(9,405)	5,197	(22,743)	(562)
Basic (loss)/profit per share								
(cents)	(1.72)	(5.34)	(2.24)	(4.37)	(2.52)	1.42	(6.29)	(0.16)
Diluted(loss)/ profit per share (cents)	(1.72)	(5.34)	(2.24)	(4.37)	(2.52)	1.42	(6.29)	(0.16)

<sup>\*</sup> Revenue and expenses have been converted using the average exchange rates, ranging from A\$1 = US\$0.8826 to US\$1.0778 during the period December 2009 to September 2011.

Prior to January 1, 2010 the Company was not in commercial production and its quarterly results did not include sales revenue and cost of sales. Rather, mining revenues and associated costs were capitalised to the balance sheet.



The Company's results for 2011 are discussed throughout this document, with further information disclosed for previous quarters within the respective quarterly financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis located on www.sedar.com.

#### **LIQUIDITY**

The following sets out the Company's cash flows for the quarter ended September 30, 2011 as compared to the period ended September 30, 2010:

Cash Flows from	Three months ended*	Three months ended*	Nine months ended*	Nine months ended*
	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10	30 Sep 11	30 Sep 10
Operating activities	15,767	(5,041)	(20,353)	(19,117)
Investing activities	(29,389)	(14,474)	(74,173)	(25,546)
Financing activities	22,450	71,654	113,747	86,450

<sup>\*</sup>Cash flow for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 have been converted using average exchange rates of A\$1 = US\$0.9964 to US\$1.0778 for the period. Cash flow for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 have been converted using average exchange rates of A\$1 = US\$0.8961.

Net cash inflow from operating activities for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 were \$15.77 million, compared to \$5.04 million outflow for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. Cash receipts totalled \$74.36 million, reflecting the sale of 4,228 tonnes of nickel in concentrate to Votorantim and Norilsk. This was offset by cash outflows of \$59.44 million, driven by mining costs, plant maintenance costs, payments on nickel and copper hedges (excluding payments related to the close out of the nickel and copper hedge book that occurred in October 2011), together with increased operational costs resulting from the Company's ramp-up to full production.

Net cash outflows from investing activities for the three month period were \$29.40 million, compared to \$14.47 million outflow for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. The cash outflow for the current period included the strengthening of the drilling fleet with the addition of an Atlas Copco Pit Viper 271 and an Atlas Copco L8 drill rig, together with the installation of the second ball mill, second pebble crusher and second Larox filter related to the 7.2Mtpa plant upgrade. Further outflow included civil works and commencement of the de-sliming plant installation and crusher upgrade, as well as deferred waste removal costs. The cash outflow for the comparative period reflects the purchase and leasing of mining equipment during the initial ramp up stages of the project.

The net cash inflow from financing activities of \$22.45 million mainly reflects the release of cash collateral (\$25 million) by the hedge financiers upon the perfection of the security on the mineral rights in their favour, marginally offset by repayments under the Caterpillar lease facility. The net cash inflow for the comparative period ended September 30, 2010 of \$71.65 million reflects gross proceeds from tranche one of the capital raising (\$82.34 million), offset by capital raising costs (\$3.99 million), principle repayments on the Caterpillar Leasing Facility (\$4.17) and interest paid (\$2.52 million) on the senior credit facility and Leasing Facility.

#### **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Group held cash on hand and on deposit as at September 30, 2011 of \$117 million. Cash at Bank includes \$25 million held as hedge collateral by the hedge financiers that was subsequently released during October 2011 upon the perfection of the security on the mineral rights in their favour. In addition, the Company negotiated the release of a further \$25 million held in a Contingency Support Account ("CSA") by the hedge financiers. This \$25 million is also included in cash at bank. As a result of the release of the cash collateral and the CSA, Mirabela has removed all liquidity covenants relating to the Company's hedge book.

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011



As at September 30, 2011 the Group has a net working capital surplus of \$133.21 million, which includes \$1.67 million of net commodity derivative liabilities that will be offset by sales of the underlying commodity. For the nine month period ended June 30, 2011 the Group incurred a loss of \$45.66 million. At June 30, 2011 the Group held net assets of \$558.99 million.

The Directors consider the going concern basis of preparation to be appropriate based on forecast cash flows. The meeting of the cash flow forecast depends upon the successful operation of mining and production activities in accordance with the ramp up schedule and nickel price assumptions. Should the ramp up of operations not successfully achieve forecasts or forecast nickel prices not be achieved, the Group may be required to source additional funds through debt or equity markets or a combination of the two.

#### **FINANCING**

As at September 30, 2011 the Group held balances of cash on hand and on deposit of \$117 million. The decrease of \$26 million from 30 June 2011 is mainly due to the project capital expenditure programme. All project capital expenditure is on budget with the remaining capital expenditure expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter 2012.

The \$25 million held as cash collateral by the hedge financiers was released upon the perfection of the security on the mineral rights in their favour. The Company negotiated a release of a further US\$25 million held in a Contingency Support Account ("CSA") by the hedge financiers. As a result of the release of the cash collateral and the CSA, Mirabela has removed all liquidity covenants relating to the Company's hedge book.

The Company made the first bi-annual interest payment of US\$17.3 million on the US\$395 million of senior unsecured notes ("Notes") on October 14, 2011. The Notes have a coupon rate of 8.75% and are due 2018.

During September and October 2011, Mirabela closed out all outstanding copper (8,844 tonnes) and nickel (10,626 tonnes) hedges for a cost of approximately \$20 million. The Company now has no hedge positions.

#### **SHARE CAPITAL**

As at September 30, 2011 the Company's issued share capital consisted of 491,781,237 ordinary shares, and a balance of 4,800,000 unlisted options and 1,568,276 performance rights were outstanding.

The Company issued 220,000 ordinary fully paid shares during the quarter as a result of the conversion of 220,000 Performance Rights in accordance with the Mirabela Nickel Ltd performance rights plan that was approved by Shareholders on September 13, 2010.

During the quarter 300,000 options were not exercised at the expiry date and have lapsed.



#### **CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS**

The Company's contractual commitments as at September 30, 2011 are as follows:

	Payments due by period						
As at September 30, 2011	Total	Within 1 year	1-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years		
Operating leases	3,209	800	1,722	687	-		
Exploration	5,228	5,228	-	-	-		
Purchase obligations	192,224	82,245	76,753	15,658	17,568		
Loans and borrowings	404,131	8,447	9,173	2,601	383,910		
Provision for rehabilitation	9,531	-	-	-	9,531		
Total	614,323	96,720	87,648	18,946	411,009		

The table on contractual commitments excludes trade payables and derivative liabilities, and should be read in conjunction with the table under the heading "loans and borrowings". Operating lease commitments relate to the Company's rental properties. Exploration commitments are those required to maintain Mirabela's rights to its exploration tenements in good standing.

Purchase obligations reflect contracts entered into during the ramp up of the Company's operations and consist primarily of mining contracts (\$182 million) that include fuel, mining equipment, preventive maintenance and explosives.

#### **PROJECT CAPITAL**

The 7.2Mtpa plant upgrade remains on budget, with 68% completion achieved as at September 30, 2011. Installation of the second ball mill, second pebble crusher and second Larox filter have now been completed. The civil works and the installation of the de-sliming plant and crusher are underway, with the de-sliming plant currently 63% complete, and on track for completion by the end of 2011. The crusher upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of January 2012. Total remaining project capital expenditure is \$18.77 million, expected to be incurred over the period to March 31, 2012.

#### CAPITAL RESOURCES

#### LOANS AND BORROWINGS

The following interest-bearing loans entered into for the financing of the Santa Rita mine (non-current and current) were outstanding as at September 30, 2011:

	Caterpillar Finance Lease			
	Senior Unsecured Notes*	Facility	Total	
Current borrowings	-	8,447	8,447	
Non-current borrowings	376,652	19,032	395,684	
Total	376,652	27,479	404,131	

<sup>\*</sup> US\$395 million senior unsecured notes, offset by capitalised borrowing costs of \$19.48 million.

The US\$395 million of 8.75% senior unsecured notes due 2018 are guaranteed by Mirabela Investments Pty Ltd and Mirabela Mineração do Brasil Ltda. The interest is payable in US dollars, semi annually on April 15 and October 15, commencing October 15, 2011. Borrowing costs associated to secure this funding have been offset against the principal borrowings amount and amortised using the effective interest rate method.



The Caterpillar master leasing agreement of \$55 million was drawn down to \$40.80 million as at September 30, 2011 with \$27.48 million outstanding after repayments. Further drawdown under the leasing facility will require approval from Caterpillar prior to the drawdown. The Company does not intend to drawdown further on this facility.

#### **OFF BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

As at September 30, 2011 there were no off balance sheet arrangements.

#### TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

During the period the Company transacted with related parties of Mr Craig Burton, the non-executive chairman of the Company. The terms and conditions of the transactions were no more favourable than those available, or which might reasonably be expected to be available, to non-director related entities dealing at arm's length with the Company.

The Company charged \$Nil for the three months ended September 30, 2011 and \$0.03 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 (three and nine months ended September 30, 2010: immaterial amount and \$0.05 million) to Verona Capital Pty Ltd for office rent and shared overheads. Verona Capital Pty Ltd is a director related entity associated with Mr Craig Burton.

The Company charged immaterial amounts for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 (three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 also immaterial) to Nearfield Resources Ltd, for the shared overheads and premises rent costs. Nearfield Resources Ltd is a director related entity associated with Mr Craig Burton.

All amounts for services were billed based on normal market rates for the services provided.

#### **SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

In October 2011, the Company closed out all remaining nickel forwards (9,473 tonnes) for a cost of approximately \$10 million. The Company now has no hedge positions.

#### **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities and income and expenses. While management believe the estimates and assumptions to be reasonable, actual future results may vary significantly. A summary of the Company's critical accounting estimates is set out below.

#### PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING DETERMINATION OF RESERVES AND RESOURCES

Reserves are estimates of the amount of nickel product that can be economically extracted from the Group's mine properties. In order to calculate reserves, estimates and assumptions are required about a range of geological, technical and economic factors, including quantities, grade, production techniques, recovery rates, production costs, future capital requirements, short and long term nickel prices and exchange rates. Due to the fact that economic assumptions used to estimate reserves change from period to period, and geological data is generated during the course of operations, estimates of reserves may change from period to period. Changes in reported reserves may affect the Group's financial results and position in a number of ways including:

- Asset carrying values may be impacted due to changes in the estimated future cash flows;
- Depreciation and amortisation charged in the statement of income and comprehensive income may change where such changes are calculated using the units of production basis; and

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011



 Decommissioning, site restoration and environmental provisions may change where changes in estimated reserves alter expectations about the timing or cost of these activities.

If changes in estimates occur, depreciation and amortisation of mining assets are adjusted prospectively.

#### **VALUATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Company uses metal and foreign exchange forward contracts to manage financial risks associated with its underlying business activities and the financing of those activities. All of the Company's forward contracts as at September 30, 2011 are recorded using hedge accounting, under which the effective portion of the forward contract is recognised in equity and the ineffective portion is recognised in the income statement. The financial statements entries have been prepared on the assumption that hedges existing as at September 30, 2011 will continue to be highly effective (80% - 125%) on a prospective and retrospective basis.

#### **IMPAIRMENT OF PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

The carrying value of property plant and equipment is assessed for impairment at each reporting date, or upon any changes in circumstances that may indicate that the carrying amounts may not be recoverable. The Company assesses the recoverability of its assets carrying values based on estimated future cash flows, having consideration to the quantity of mineral reserves, future metal prices, and expected future operating and capital costs. The uncertainty of future events requires the Company to make assumptions that may result in accounting estimates changing from one period to another. This may result in asset balances being materially impacted if other assumptions and estimates had been used. Further, future operating results could be impacted if different assumptions and estimates are applied in future periods.

#### **REVENUE RECOGNITION**

The Company's offtake agreements require nickel and other commodity sales to be determined on a provisional basis at the time of sale, with final prices to be determined in a future period. For this purpose, it is necessary for management to estimate the final prices received. Significant volatility in metal prices may result in actual results upon sales finalisation being materially different to those estimated. Management follows the industry practice of re-pricing any provisionally priced sales at the end of each reporting period based on published forward curve prices with differences being recorded in the current period's earnings.

#### PROVISION FOR MINE CLOSURE AND RESTORATION

The rehabilitation provision is an estimate of the value of future costs for the dismantling, demobilisation, remediation and ongoing treatment and monitoring of the Santa Rita Operation site. The Company relies on estimates from third parties to estimate these costs. The estimate is subject to change over the life of the mine as more data becomes available. As at September 30, 2011 the Company has recognised a liability of \$9.53 million (present value) for rehabilitation costs at the Santa Rita Operation and will accrete costs through periodic charges to the income statement. In addition, the rehabilitation obligation asset has been recognised and will be amortised over the life of the mine. Future changes to the rehabilitation obligation will be prospectively reflected in the year the estimates change.

#### **SHARE BASED PAYMENTS**

The Company utilises the binomial model for valuing options. The value derived from the option pricing model is highly subjective and depends entirely on the input assumptions made. These input assumptions include share price on measurement date, exercise price of the instrument, expected volatility (based on weighted average historic volatility adjusted for changes expected due to publicly

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011



available information), weighted average expected life of the instruments (based on historical experience and general option holder behaviour), expected dividends and the risk-free interest rate (based on government bonds). Service and non-market performance conditions attached to the transactions are not taken into account in determining fair value

The fair value of performance rights granted to employees at grant date is recognised as an employee expense, and is not required to adjust the fair value afterwards (even if it becomes more or less valuable or does not ultimately vest) unless the award is modified. The performance rights are subjected to both service and performance conditions. Service conditions require the employee to complete a specified period of service with failure to do so resulting in forfeiture of the award. Performance conditions require the employee to complete a specified period of service and meet performance targets. A performance condition can either be market vesting or non-market vesting. For market vesting conditions, the Group is required to take into consideration the probability of reaching the target share price when estimating the fair value of the equity instruments at grant date. For non-market vesting conditions, the Group does not take into account the vesting conditions when estimating the fair value of the equity instruments granted. Therefore, the Group will only consider the vesting conditions in their calculation when estimating the number of equity instruments expected to vest during the vesting period.

#### **CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **CHANGE IN PRESENTATION CURRENCY**

On July 1, 2010 the Group changed presentation currency from Australian dollars (A\$) to US dollars (US\$). The presentation currency of a Group is the currency in which the Group chooses to present its financial reports. The Group has changed its presentation currency for financial reporting from A\$ to US\$ in order to better align the presentation of the Group's financial position and financial performance with its operations.

In order to derive US\$ equivalent for the consolidated financial statements, the Group has accounted for this change in presentation currency retrospectively which involves translation of equity, assets, liabilities and revenue and expense as follows:

- Revenue and expenses for the 3 months year ended September 30, 2011 rate A\$1 = US\$1.0203 to US\$1.0778 average rate for the period, approximating actual exchange rates for the date of the transactions;
- Revenue and expenses for the 9 months year ended September 30, 2011 rate A\$1 = US\$0.9964 to
  US\$1.0778 average rate for the period, approximating actual exchange rates for the date of the
  transactions;
- Revenue and expenses for the 3 months period ended September 30, 2010 rate A\$1 = US\$0.9061 approximating actual exchange rates for the date of the transactions;
- Revenue and expenses for the 9 months period ended September 30, 2010 rate A\$1 = US\$0.8826 to US\$0.9061approximating actual exchange rates for the date of the transactions;
- Balance sheet as at September 30, 2011 rate A\$1 = US\$0.9744, being the exchange rate of September 30, 2011;
- Balance sheet as at December 31, 2010 rate A\$1 = US\$1.0178, being the exchange rate of December 31, 2010; and
- Equity and reserve except translation reserve has been restated using historical rates, approximating the date of transaction with rates in the range of A\$1 = US\$0.8826 to US\$1.0778, with the translation differences recorded in the translation reserve.



#### FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Commodity Instruments Pre close out of hedge book	2011 COCT-Dec	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total Remaining 30 Sep 11
Nickel Hedges						
Tonnes	1,225	4,899	3,683	819	-	10,626
\$/lb	8.10	7.89	7.66	7.55	-	7.81
Copper Hedges						
Tonnes	54	2,232	2,904	2,922	732	8,844
\$/lb	2.98	2.87	2.74	2.62	2.57	2.72

Commodity Instruments As at September 30, 2011	2011 Oct-Dec	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total Remaining 30 Sep 11
Nickel Hedges						
Tonnes	648	4,322	3,683	819	-	9,473
\$/lb	8.04	7.86	7.66	7.55	-	7.77

As at September 30, 2011 the Company's metal hedging position comprised 9,473t of nickel forwards, sold at an average price of US\$7.77/lb during the period from October 2011 to March 2014. The negative mark-to-market value of these hedges was \$5.22 million as at September 30, 2011 (compared to \$129.92 million negative mark-to-market value of hedges as at December 31, 2010).

During September 2011, the Company closed out 1,154 tonnes of its remaining nickel forwards at zero premium cost, together with close out of all remaining copper forward contracts (8,844 tonnes) for a cost of \$9.97 million.

During October 2011, the Company closed out the remaining 9,473 tonnes of nickel forwards for a cost of \$10.02 million. The Company now has no hedge positions.

#### **OTHER MD&A REQUIREMENTS**

Information about the Company and its business activities, including its annual financial statements and annual information form (AIF), is available under the Company's profile at www.sedar.com and on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.mirabela.com.au">www.mirabela.com.au</a>.

# MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES AND INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting.

The Company's disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that all relevant information is communicated to senior management to allow timely decisions regarding the required disclosure.

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The internal controls over financial reporting are designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of the Company's financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements in compliance with IFRS.

The Company's management are of the opinion that any disclosure controls and processes or internal controls over financial reporting, no matter how well developed and executed, can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that the objectives of the control systems are met.

During the period ended September 30, 2011 no material changes were made to the Company's disclosure and internal controls over financial reporting. The Company is committed to monitor and improve the control environment on an ongoing basis.

The CEO and CFO conducted an evaluation of the Company's disclosure controls and processes and internal controls over financial reporting for the period ended September 30, 2011 and have concluded that the controls were effective.

#### **RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

There are a number of risks that may have a material and adverse impact on the future operating and financial performance of Mirabela and the value of its ordinary shares. These include risks that are widespread and associated with any form of business and specific risks associated with Mirabela's business and its involvement in the exploration and mining industry generally and in Brazil in particular. While most risk factors are largely beyond the control of Mirabela and its directors, the Company will seek to mitigate the risks where possible. An investment in the Company's shares is considered to be speculative due to the nature of Mirabela's business and the present stage of its development.

#### **DECREASES IN THE PRICE OF NICKEL**

The price of nickel will affect the profitability of the Santa Rita Operation. The price of nickel fluctuates widely and is affected by numerous factors beyond the control of Mirabela such as industrial and retail supply and demand, exchange rates, inflation rate fluctuation, changes in global economies, confidence in the global monetary system, forward sales of metals by producers and speculators as well as other global or regional political, social or economic events. The supply of metals consists of a combination of new mine production and existing stocks held by governments, producers, speculators and consumers.

Future production from Mirabela's mining properties, including in particular the Santa Rita Operation, is dependent upon the price of nickel being adequate to make it economic. In particular, the Company's mineral reserves have been calculated at a price of US\$8.00/lb, which as of the date of this MD&A is below the prevailing market price.

Future price declines in the market value of nickel and copper could cause commercial production from the Santa Rita Operation to be rendered uneconomic. Declining metal prices will also adversely affect the Company's ability to obtain financing both now and in the long term.

#### **PRODUCTION ESTIMATES**

The Company may not achieve its production estimates. The failure of the Company to achieve its production estimates could have a material adverse effect on any or all of its future cash flows, profitability, results of operations and financial conditions. The realization of production estimates is dependent on, among other things, the accuracy of mineral reserve and resource estimates, the accuracy of assumptions regarding ore grades and recovery rates, ground conditions (including hydrology), the physical characteristics of ores, the presence or absence of particular metallurgical characteristics, and the accuracy of the estimated rates and costs of mining, ore haulage and processing.

Actual production may vary from estimates for a variety of reasons, including: the availability of certain types of ores; the actual ore mined varying from estimates of grade or tonnage; dilution and

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011



metallurgical and other characteristics (whether based on representative samples of ore or not); short-term operating factors such as the need for sequential development of ore bodies and the processing of new or adjacent ore grades from those planned; mine failures, slope failures or equipment failures; industrial accidents; natural phenomena such as inclement weather conditions, floods, droughts, rock slides and earthquakes; encountering unusual or unexpected geological conditions; changes in power costs and potential power shortages; shortages of principal supplies needed for mining operations, including explosives, fuels, chemical reagents, water, equipment parts and lubricants; plant and equipment failure; the inability to process certain types of ores; labour shortages or strikes; lack of required labour; civil disobedience and protests; and restrictions or regulations imposed by government agencies or other changes in the regulatory environment.

Such occurrences could also result in damage to mineral properties or mines, interruptions in production, injury or death to persons, damage to property of the Company or others, monetary losses and legal liabilities in addition to adversely affecting mineral production. These factors may cause a mineral deposit that has been mined profitably in the past to become unprofitable forcing the Company to cease production.

#### **INCREASES IN OPERATING COST ESTIMATES**

Operating costs are estimated based on the interpretation of geological data, feasibility studies, anticipated climatic conditions and other factors. Any of the following events, among the other events and uncertainties described in this MD&A, could affect the ultimate accuracy of such estimate and result in an increase in actual operating costs incurred: (i) unanticipated changes in grade and tonnage of ore to be mined and processed; (ii) incorrect data on which engineering assumptions are made; (iii) equipment delays; (iv) labour disputes and negotiations; (v) changes in government regulation including regulations regarding prices, cost of consumables, royalties, duties, taxes, permitting and restrictions on production quotas on exportation of minerals; and (vi) title claims. Material increases in operating costs at the Santa Rita Operation could cause the Company to suspend operation of the Santa Rita Operation as currently planned, either temporarily or permanently.

#### **DELAYS IN PROCURING NEW EQUIPMENT**

Delays in procuring new equipment, or maintaining and supporting existing equipment may impact the Company's ability to achieve its production forecasts. Equipment delays may result from difficulties in procurement, due to funding constraints the Company may face, late ordering of equipment, shipping and customs delays, or fabrication, drilling, blasting and loading problems. Additionally, excessive wear on equipment could create the need for unexpected repairs or new equipment or spares, creating further delays and increasing operating costs.

Supply shortages may also result from an excess of demand over supply for mining equipment and competition for supplies from competitors. If the Company is unable to secure sufficient supplies for its operations, it may suffer reductions in its production capacity, which could have a material adverse effect on its financial and operating results.

#### THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL CONDITION

As at September 30, 2011 the Company has a net working capital surplus of \$133.21 million, which includes \$1.67 million of net commodity derivative liabilities that will be offset by sales of the underlying commodity. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 the Company incurred a loss of \$45.66 million. At September 30, 2011 the Company held net assets of \$558.99 million.

There can be no assurance that the Company will not continue to incur losses. Numerous factors, including declining metal prices, adverse currency exchange rate movements (in particular in the United States dollar), lower than expected ore grades or higher than expected operating costs (including increased commodity prices), and impairment write-offs of mine property and/or exploration property



costs, could cause the Company to continue to be unprofitable in the future. Continued losses could have important consequences, including the following:

- Increasing the Company's vulnerability to general adverse economic conditions and industry conditions;
- Limiting the Company's ability to obtain additional financing to fund future working capital, capital expenditures, operating and exploration costs and other general corporate requirements;
- Requiring the Company to dedicate a significant portion of the Company's cash flow from
  operations, anticipated from the Santa Rita Operation, to make debt service payments, which
  would reduce its ability to fund working capital, capital expenditures, operating and exploration
  costs and other general corporate requirements;
- Limiting the Company's flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry; and
- Placing the Company at a disadvantage when compared to its competitors that have less debt relative to their market capitalisation.

#### MINERAL RESERVES AND MINERAL RESOURCES ESTIMATES

The estimated costs of the Project, the tonnages and grades anticipated to be achieved and the anticipated level of recovery are based on the Company's estimated mineral reserves and mineral resources for the Project. No assurance can be given that the anticipated tonnages and grades will be achieved, that anticipated level of recovery will be realised or that mineral reserves will be mined or processed profitably. There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating mineral reserves and mineral resources, including many factors beyond the Company's control. Such estimation is a subjective process, and the accuracy of any reserve or resource estimate is a function of the quantity and quality of available data and of the assumptions made and judgements used in engineering and geological interpretation. Short term operating factors relating to the mineral reserves, such as the need for the orderly development of ore bodies or the processing of new or different ore grades, may cause mining operations to be unprofitable in any particular accounting period. In addition, there can be no assurance that recoveries in small scale laboratory tests will be duplicated in larger scale tests under on-site conditions or during production.

Fluctuations in nickel prices, results of drilling, metallurgical testing and production and the evaluation of mine plans subsequent to the date of any estimate of reserves or resources may require revisions to such estimates. As a result, the volume and grade of reserves the Company mines and processes, the recovery rate it achieves and the cost of its operations may not be the same as currently anticipated. Any material reductions in the Company's estimated mineral reserves and mineral resources, or of its ability to extract these mineral reserves, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and financial condition.

#### ADDITIONAL FUNDING MAY BE REQUIRED

The Company is not yet cash flow positive as the Santa Rita mine ramps up to full production. Becoming cash flow positive will depend on a number of factors including, but not limited to, the price of nickel and other base metals, the optimisation of operations without delay, operating costs, production, recovery and exchange rates.

If the Company is not cash flow positive or is normally expected to be cash flow positive, prior to the depletion of its cash reserves and available credit, the Company will require third party financing to fund future working capital, capital expenditures, operating and exploration costs, and other general corporate requirements.

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The success and the pricing of any such capital raisings and/or debt financing will be dependent upon the prevailing market conditions at that time and upon the ability of a company without significant projects already in production and with significant amounts of existing indebtedness, to attract significant amounts of debt and/or equity. There is no assurance that such financing will be obtained or on terms satisfactory to the Company. Failure to obtain sufficient financing, as and when required, could cause the Company to realise assets and extinguish liabilities other than in the normal course of business and not be able to continue as a going concern.

#### **FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISK**

Exchange rate fluctuations have affected the Company's costs, revenue and cash flows. Although the Company raises equity in Canadian and Australian dollars and the Company's indebtedness is denominated in United States dollars, portions of the Company's operating expenses and portions of the remainder of its capital expenditures are incurred in Brazilian reais. Further, nickel is sold worldwide, predominantly in United States dollars.

Accordingly, adverse fluctuations in the relative price of the Brazilian real and the Canadian, Australian and United States dollars would effectively increase the costs of development and production at the Santa Rita mine and could materially and adversely affect the Company's earnings and financial condition.

#### **CONCENTRATE SPECIFICATIONS**

The Company's concentrate is subject to risks of process upsets and equipment malfunctions. Head grade, mill throughput recovery rates, or anticipated metallurgical recoveries may ultimately be lower than expected. Concentrate produced by Mirabela until 2014 is subject to off-take agreements and must meet certain specifications. Failure to meet such specifications could entitle purchasers to refuse delivery or seek price adjustments, which in either case, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's revenue, cash flows and financial condition.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND REGULATIONS**

All phases of Mirabela's operations are subject to environmental regulation in the various jurisdictions in which it operates. These regulations mandate, among other things, the maintenance of air and water quality standards and land reclamation. They also set limitations on the generation, transportation, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous waste. Environmental legislation is evolving in a manner which will require stricter standards and enforcement, increased fines and penalties for non-compliance, more stringent environmental assessments of proposed projects, and a heightened degree of responsibility for companies and their officers, directors and employees. There is no assurance that future changes in environmental regulation, if any, will not adversely affect Mirabela's operations. Environmental hazards may exist on the properties on which Mirabela holds interests which are unknown to Mirabela at present and which have been caused by previous or existing owners or operators of the properties.

Government approvals and permits are current and may in the future be required in connection with the operations of Mirabela. To the extent such approvals are required and not obtained, Mirabela may be curtailed or prohibited from continuing its mining operations or from proceeding with planned exploration or development of mineral properties or sale of concentrate.

Failure to comply with applicable laws, regulations and permitting requirements may result in enforcement actions there under, including orders issued by regulatory or judicial authorities causing operations to cease or be curtailed, and may include corrective measures requiring capital expenditures, installation of additional equipment, or remedial actions. Parties engaged in mining operations or in the exploration or development of mineral properties or the sale of concentrate may be required to

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compensate those suffering loss or damage by reason of the mining activities and may have civil or criminal fines or penalties imposed for violations of applicable laws or regulations.

Amendments to current laws, regulations and permits governing operations and activities of mining and exploration companies, or more stringent implementation thereof, could have a material adverse impact on Mirabela and cause increases in exploration expenses, capital expenditures or production costs, or reduction in levels of production, or require abandonment or delays in development of new mining properties.

#### **CHANGES IN THE TERMS OF THE LEASING FACILITY**

Mirabela Brazil, as lessee, and Mirabela, as guarantor, entered into a master funding and lease agreement dated March 23, 2009 with Caterpillar Financial SARL, as arranger, and Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation, as lender (together with the arranger, "Caterpillar Financial"), pursuant to which Caterpillar Financial agreed to extend a master funding and lease facility in the principal amount of not more than \$55 million (the "Leasing Facility") for the purpose of lease financing up to 90% of the purchase price of Caterpillar mobile equipment from Marcosa SA and Sotreq SA, Brazil.

By the terms of the Leasing Facility, Caterpillar Financial may syndicate up to \$30 million of the Leasing Facility and is entitled to make changes to the pricing and structure of the Leasing Facility (subject to limitations to be determined by the parties), in order to achieve a successful syndication (such changes applying only to the syndicated portion of the facility). There can be no assurance that such changes to the pricing and structure of the Leasing Facility will not have an adverse effect on the Company and its financial condition.

#### FORWARD LOOKING INFORMATION

Certain information in this MD&A, including all statements that are not historical facts, constitutes forward-looking information within the meaning of applicable Canadian securities laws. Such forward-looking information includes, but is not limited to, information which reflect management's expectations regarding Mirabela's future growth, results of operations (including, without limitation, future production and capital expenditures), performance (both operational and financial) and business prospects (including the timing and development of new deposits and the success of exploration activities) and opportunities. In this MD&A this specifically includes statements regarding the timing of completion of the processing plant upgrade to 7.2Mtpa and production of between 15,500 and 16,500 tonnes of nickel in concentrate for 2011. Often, this information includes words such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "budget", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates" or "does not anticipate" or "believes" or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will" be taken, occur or be achieved.

In making and providing the forward-looking information included in this MD&A, the Company has made numerous assumptions. These assumptions include among other things: (i) assumptions about the price of nickel and other base metals; (ii) that there are no material delays in the optimisation of operations at the Santa Rita Operation; (iii) assumptions about operating costs and expenditures; (iv) assumptions about future production and recovery; (v) that the supply and demand for nickel develops as expected; (vi) that there is no unanticipated fluctuation in foreign exchange rates; and (vii) that there is no material deterioration in general economic conditions. Although management believes that the assumptions made and the expectations represented by such information are reasonable, there can be no assurance that the forward-looking information will prove to be accurate. By its nature, forward-looking information is based on assumptions and involves known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the Company's actual results, performance or achievements, or results, to be materially different from future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such

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forward-looking information. Such risks, uncertainties and other factors include among other things the following: (i) decreases in the price of nickel and copper; (ii) the risk that the Company will continue to have negative operating cash flow;; (iii) the risk that additional financing will not be obtained as and when required; (iv) adverse fluctuations in foreign exchange rates; (v) the risk that concentrate produced will not meet certain minimum specifications; (vi) material increases in operating costs; (vii) production estimates may not be accurate; (viii) environmental risks and changes in environmental legislation; (ix) failure to comply with restrictions and covenants under the Unsecured Senior Notes; and (x) changes in the terms of the Leasing Facility in order to achieve successful syndication.

This MD&A (See "Risk Factors") and the Company's annual information form contain information on risks, uncertainties and other factors relating to the forward-looking information. Although the Company has attempted to identify factors that would cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those disclosed in the forward-looking information, there may be other factors that cause actual results, performances, achievements or events not to be anticipated, estimated or intended. Also, many of the factors are beyond the Company's control. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information. The Company undertakes no obligation to reissue or update forward-looking information as a result of new information or events after the date of this MD&A except as may be required by law. All forward-looking information disclosed in this document is qualified by this cautionary statement.

#### **NON-GAAP MEASURES**

This MD&A makes reference to several non-GAAP measurements that may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other issuers. The Company believes that, in addition to conventional measures prepared in accordance with GAAP, certain investors use this information to evaluate the Company. The terms are intended to provide additional information and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for measures prepared in accordance with GAAP. Non-GAAP financial measures referred to in this MD&A include:

- "Cash operating cost per pound of nickel produced" or to "unit cash costs". This includes all mining, processing, site administration, transport and smelter costs, less by-product credits;
- "Realised nickel price". This includes total gross nickel revenue, prior period quotational period adjustments, realised nickel and foreign exchange hedges, but excludes call options;
- "Realised copper price". This includes total gross copper revenue, prior period quotational period adjustments, realised copper and foreign exchange hedges, but excludes call option adjustments;
- "EBITDA". This includes gross profit less general & administration expenses, but before depreciation, amortisation and depletion.