

19 June 2025

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

## Mersey VMS and Gold Project Exploration Licence Granted

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Exploration Licence EL6/2021 has been granted and issued by the Tasmanian Government's Mineral Resources Tasmania
- EL6/2021 covers the Mersey VMS and Gold Project in north-west Tasmania, and AustChina will now move forward with plans to commence a first phase of fieldwork at the Project, which is planned to include;
  - Data compilation and geological mapping
  - Surface sampling and rock chip sampling programs, and a LIDAR survey in the western region of the Project
  - Detailed airborne electro-magnetic survey to help identify massive sulphide targets to be followed by drilling (subject to results)
- The Company's technical team has extensive Tasmanian experience, and exploration is already underway at the Sulphide Creek Project also in north-west Tasmania

AustChina Holdings Limited (**ASX: AUH**) ("**AUH**", the "**Company**" or "**AustChina**") is pleased to announce that planning for fieldwork is underway for the Mersey Volcanogenic Massive Sulphide (VMS) Base Metals and Gold Project in north-west Tasmania, following the granting of Exploration Licence EL6/2021.

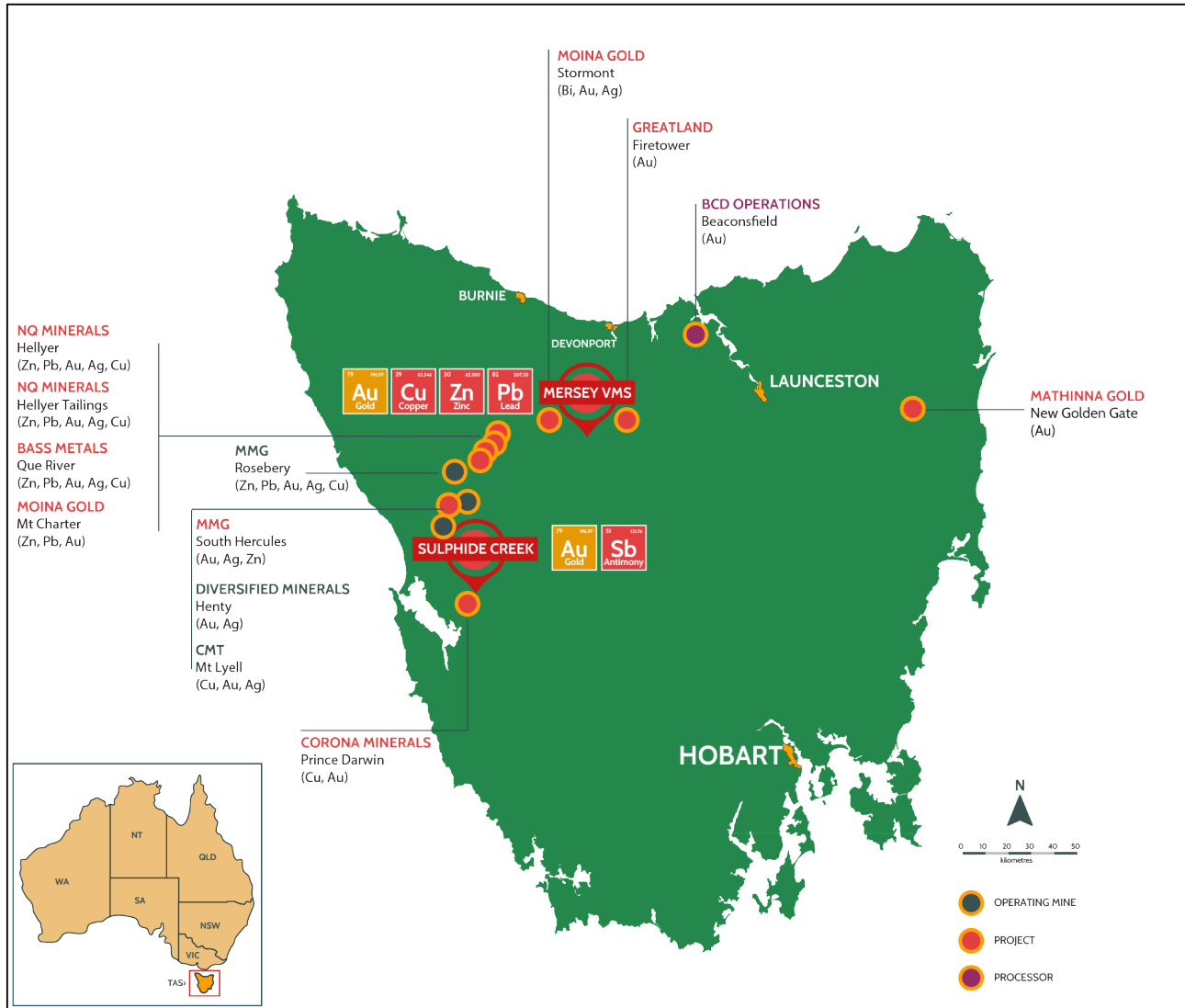
AustChina recently completed the acquisition of Penwortham Exploration Pty Ltd with its Mersey VMS and Sulphide Creek Gold-Antimony Projects in Tasmania (ASX announcement 4 March 2025), and exploration is already underway at Sulphide Creek.

The Company now advises that EL6/2021, which covers the Mersey VMS Project area, has now been granted and issued by the Tasmanian Government's Mineral Resources Tasmania, and plans for the first phase of fieldwork are underway. The Exploration Licence is valid until 18 May 2030.

The Mersey Project is located in the historical and world class mining area of northwest Tasmania, approximately 150km northeast of the Sulphide Creek Project (Figure 1). It covers an area of 200km<sup>2</sup> within the prospective Mount Read Volcanics.

The Project is interpreted to host similar geological settings to the nearby world-class Hellyer and Rosebury VMS deposits. There is also active exploration within the area, with Flynn Gold's (ASX:FG1) Firetower Gold Project located adjacent to the Mersey Project.

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**Figure 1.** Mersey VMS and Gold Project location in north west Tasmania, 150km north-east of the Sulphide Creek Project.

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***AustChina Holdings Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Fogg, commented:***

***"We are delighted to now have the Mersey Project exploration licence granted and issued. The timely grant of the licence by Mineral Resources Tasmania allows us to progress our exploration planning for the Mersey Project and commence the initial phase of fieldwork at the Project, as envisaged when we entered into the agreement to acquire Penwortham Exploration Pty Ltd and its projects."***

***Field work is already underway at Sulphide Creek and we are excited to now be able to undertake on-ground value accretive activities at both projects. We look forward to updating the market on our progress at both projects."***

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### **Initial Phase of Fieldwork**

The first-phase fieldwork program at the Mersey Project will initially include data compilation to aid in building a more full understanding of known mineralisation at the Project.

- 3 This will be followed by geological mapping, and soil sampling and rock chip geochemistry sampling programs to target initial drilling. These programs will focus on the gold prospective areas in western region of the Project. A LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey is also planned to be conducted over this portion of the Project area to assist in locating historic workings and structural interpretation.

A detailed airborne electro-magnetic (EM) survey over the entire Mersey Project area is also planned to help identify massive sulphide targets. Subject to results, the Company then plans to undertake a maiden reverse circulation (RC) drilling program at high priority target areas.

### **Mersey VMS and Gold Project Commentary**

The Mersey Base Metals-Gold Project covers an area of 200km<sup>2</sup> in an active exploration and mining precinct in north-west Tasmania. It is interpreted to host both VMS and gold mineralisation potential.

The Project's VMS mineralisation model is similar to the major nearby Hellyer Mine and Rosebery Mine, owned by NQ Minerals and MMG respectively, within the Mt Read Volcanics. The Mersey Project is located just 35km along strike from the Hellyer Mine area.

Multiple mineralisation styles have previously been identified at the Mersey Project. These include shear hosted, steeply dipping stacked zinc-lead-rich ore lenses, and distal copper and gold ore zones adjacent zinc-lead-rich ore lenses.

Previous exploration identified VMS mineralisation in the central region of the Project, with much of this work completed in the 1970's and 1980's. More recently, new insights and understandings into VMS systems and their controls have created new exploration opportunities in Tasmania, including at the Mersey Project area.

AustChina intends to apply these learnings into its exploration approach and strategy at the Mersey Project.

### **Initial Base Metals and Gold Target Areas**

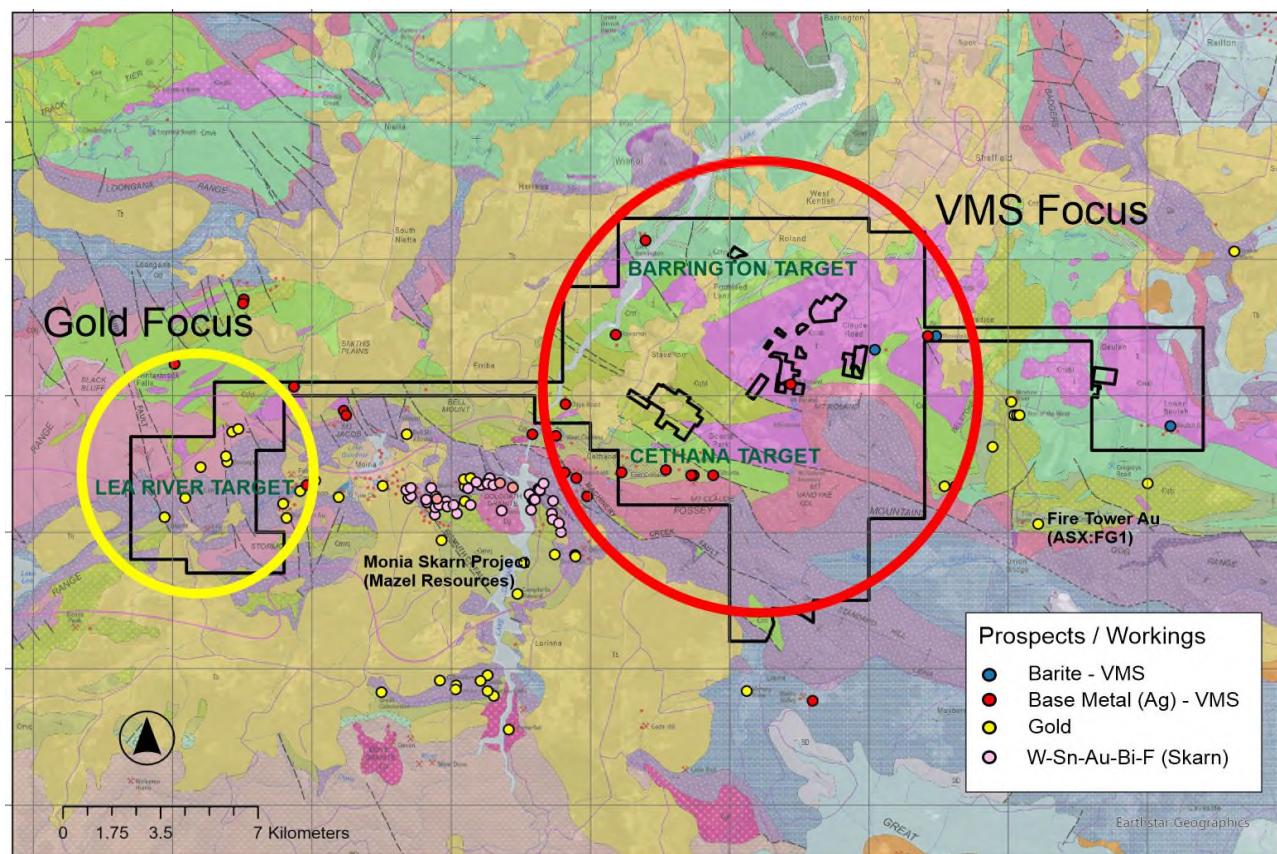
At the Cethana target, multiple base metal prospects exist over an eight kilometre long, sericite-chlorite-pyrite alteration zone (Cethana Alteration Zone) hosted within felsic volcanoclastics and lavas, containing lead-zinc mineralisation.

- 4 Old workings containing silver-lead-zinc-copper stockworks have been reported from the Mt Roland and Atkinsons Prospects. Lead isotopes taken from sulphide samples at Mt Roland and Gowrie Prospects indicate similar results to the Rosebery VMS Mine.

Copper-silver-lead and zinc mineralisation is present at the Barrington target as disseminations and a thin massive sulphide band hosted in sericite quartz-carbonate-pyrite altered tuffaceous siltstone and sandstone.

In the western region of the Project, the Lea River prospect presents as a potential orogenic gold target. The area contains multiple historic gold workings, with pyrite quartz veins within shear zones contained in Ordovician sediments, along major north-east structures. This includes at the blacks, Devonport and Gold Cliffs Prospects.

Lea River has been subject to limited modern exploration, and its gold prospectivity will be a focus of AustChina's initial exploration at the Project.



**Figure 2.** Mersey Project showing the Lea River gold target in the western area of the Project and the VMS target area in the central area of the Project.

Further information of the Mersey Project is provided in ASX announcement of 4 February 2025, and AustChina's investor presentation of 2 June 2025.

**This announcement has been approved for release by the Chairman of the Board**

#### For further information

**Andrew Fogg**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**T: +61 7 3229 6606**

**E: [info@austchinaholdings.com](mailto:info@austchinaholdings.com)**

**James Moses**

**Investor & Media Relations**

**T: +61 420 991 574**

**E: [james@mandatecorporate.com.au](mailto:james@mandatecorporate.com.au)**



## Competent Persons Statement

The information in this announcement that relates to Exploration Results was compiled by Ian Neilson, who is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geosciences. Mr Neilson is providing geological support to the Company on the project areas. Mr Neilson has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Neilson consents to the inclusion in the announcement of the matters based on the information in the form and context in which it appears.

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information in the original reports, and that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original report.

## About AustChina Holdings

AustChina Holdings (ASX: AUH) is a junior ASX-listed mineral resources focused company, with a focus on key, high-demand minerals – including gold, antimony and base metals. Its current projects include the Sulphide Creek Gold Antimony Project and the Mersey Volcanogenic Massive Sulphide (VMS) Base Metals and Gold Project in active world-class mineral belts in Tasmania, and the Blackall Coal Project in Queensland. It also holds investment interests in an ASX-listed copper exploration company.