

Confirmation and definition drilling program update

Key points

- More than 50 per cent of the confirmation and definition drilling program has been completed
- Drilling program focused exclusively on the Fold Zone to be concluded in early 2024
- DTR estimates using hand-held magnetic susceptibility meters have been encouraging
- Correlation of results with newly reinterpreted ground-magnetic data is advancing geological interpretation and 3D modelling of Fold Zone to inform future resource drilling
- New Exploration Licence (EL9620) granted, increasing the Project's tenement footprint to the south and mine infrastructure planning flexibility

Hawsons Iron Ltd (**Hawsons** or the **Company**) advises that more than 50 per cent of a follow-up drilling program to further define the extent, tonnage and grade of shallow magnetite mineralisation in the Fold Zone south of the existing mineral resource has been completed.

The Company is targeting additional magnetite at a depth of 30-150 metres with a grade greater than 9 per cent Davis Tube Recovery (DTR) to further improve the Hawsons Iron Project's cash flow during the first few years of operation and extend the mine's projected 40-year production life.

Despite some weather interruptions, equipment issues and challenging ground conditions reflecting the structural complexity of the Fold Zone, 10 of 20 planned Reverse Circulation (RC) holes have been drilled, as well as one twin Diamond Drill core hole.

Managing Director Bryan Granzien said drilling activity would pause during the annual holiday season and resume in early 2024 to complete the balance of the confirmation and definition drilling program.

"We had initially planned to expand the focus of this program to include a mineralised Limb Zone which continues to the south and south-west of the existing mineral resource," he said.

"However, further analysis demonstrated that focusing exclusively on the Fold Zone instead would provide greater certainty for investors and reduce subsequent drilling costs required to complete the Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS)." (See **Figure 1** for more detail)

Mr Granzien said rehabilitation work on the completed holes and drill sites would continue during the lull in drilling activity.

"Laboratory analysis of all assay results and incorporation of this data in the Company's geological model will be completed during the March Quarter of 2024 as planned," Mr Granzien said. "DTR estimates using hand-held magnetic susceptibility meters have again been very encouraging."

Mr Granzien said the revised program aimed to further define higher-grade mineralisation within the southern part of the latest pit shell design.

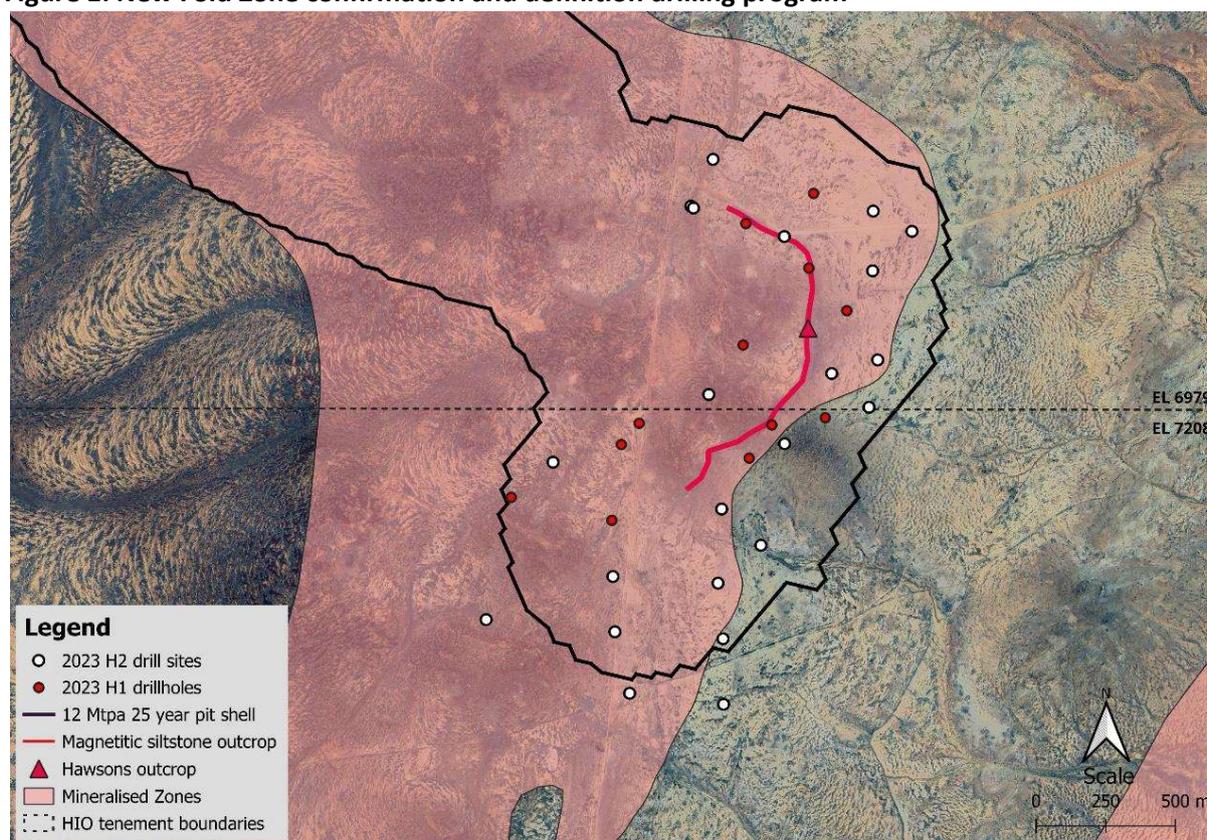
Significantly, independent geological experts H&S Consultants have been incorporating newly reinterpreted ground magnetic data, initially collected in 2012, into the existing geological model.

"The purpose of this work is to use this extensive historical ground magnetic data to improve the geological interpretation of the Fold area and accurately identify zones of higher magnetic intensity, near-surface material for the final resource estimation drilling program," Mr Granzien said.

“Leveraging this historical magnetic data has eliminated the need to conduct costly ground-borne magnetic survey campaigns, while improving the turnaround time to produce 3D magnetic imagery.”

The current drill program has been assessed against the updated model, indicating all drill holes designed to target near-surface mineralisation are in optimal positions, supporting the use of high amplitude magnetic anomalies to identify mineralisation and understand its continuity within the weathered profile.

Figure 1: New Fold Zone confirmation and definition drilling program



The follow-up drilling program aims to build on the exploration success from Stage 2 of the Strategic Review’s recommended three-stage resource analysis program earlier this year. ([See ASX Announcement dated 8 August: Successful exploration program discovers mineable intersections of near-surface magnetite mineralisation](#))

“The confirmed presence of mineable widths of targeted-grade mineralisation above the base of oxidation in the southern Fold and Limb Zone supports a change in mining strategy to greatly shorten the project’s ramp-up period to full production,” Mr Granzién said.

Laboratory analysis from the previous exploration drilling program revealed DTR averages in 10 holes ranging from 10.2-16.9 per cent, with samples in several holes well above 20 per cent.

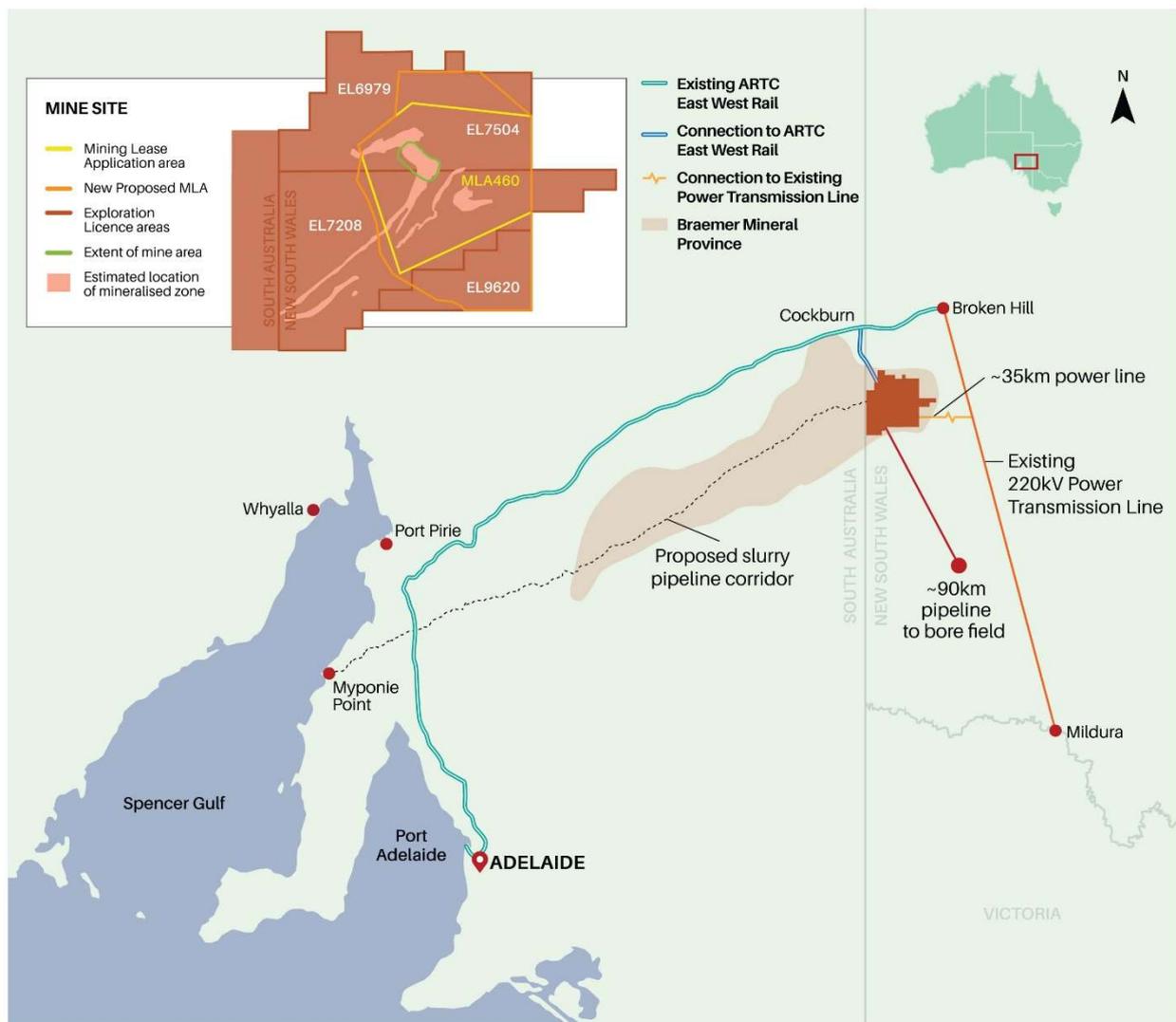
The Hawsons Iron Project’s current Exploration Target is 5–18 billion tonnes, which is in addition to its Measured, Indicated and Inferred JORC 2012 Mineral Resource estimate of 3.924 billion tonnes



using a 6 per cent recovered magnetic fraction DTR cut-off constrained to a pit shell. ([See ASX Announcement date 30 September 2023: Mineral Resource Update Completed](#))

The Company has also successfully applied for an additional exploration tenement adjoining its existing lease EL7208. This new tenement EL9620 extends the Project's exploration footprint to the south and significantly improves mine planning flexibility within the boundaries of a new proposed Mining Lease Area application. (See **Figure 2** for more detail)

Figure 2: Hawsons Iron Project and Tenement Map



Released by authority of the Board

Hawsons Iron Limited

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About Hawsons Iron Ltd

Hawsons Iron Ltd (ASX: HIO) is an iron ore developer and producer listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. The company is focused on developing its flagship Hawsons Iron Project near Broken Hill into a premium provider of high-quality iron ore products for the global steel industry.

The Hawsons Iron Project is situated 60km southwest of Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia in the emerging Braemar Iron Province. It is potentially capable of producing the world's highest-grade iron product (70% Fe), making it among the world's leading undeveloped high-quality iron ore concentrate and pellet feed projects.

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