

# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

14 June 2022

## First Anthill copper cathode plated: Copper metal and cashflow ramp-up begins

### Highlights:

- *First Anthill copper cathode produced at Mt Kelly – a key milestone for Austral*
- *First 70,000t of ore stacked, irrigated and producing copper*
- *354,000t of ore mined from Anthill to date, containing 4,000t of copper*
- *Revenue and copper production sharply increasing on a daily basis*



Figure 1. Production team proudly holding the first sheet of Anthill copper cathode. Wrapped 2.5t copper bundles on ground contain first Anthill production. 60t of copper being sent to Townsville Port in this batch. Site has produced 680t of cathode this year from remnant mined ore. Approximately 9,000t of cathode production is expected for calendar 2022.

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## Summary

Copper producer **Austral Resources Australia Ltd (ASX:ARI)** (“**Austral**” or the “**Company**”) is pleased to announce that the first Anthill copper cathode has been produced, successfully completing an intensive mine development and plant commissioning since listing eight months ago.

This paves the way for Austral to meet its stated objective of producing copper cathode at a rate of 10,000tpa from mid 2022.



*Figure 2. Stacker laying down Anthill ore on Pad 8. Over 70,000t stacked to date, representing the first 700t of recoverable Anthill copper cathode. Irrigation dripper lines to the left of the stacker, laying on surface. Leach solution percolates through heap and is collected by a network of drain pipes at base of heap. Copper levels in Pregnant Leach Solution commenced build-up within days of commencing irrigation.*

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## Austral's Chief Executive Officer, Steve Tambanis, commented:

*"This production milestone is of huge significance for Austral. It concludes an intensive eight-month period where the Anthill Mine was developed from a bare paddock into a fully integrated mine and the Mt Kelly plant was refurbished and commissioned.*

*Production statistics are impressive:*

- *8.5Mt of overburden has been moved at Anthill since January*
- *354,000t of oxide ore has been mined, representing over 4,000t of contained copper*
- *Over 70,000t of Anthill ore has been stacked on the heap leach and is producing copper*
- *Positive mine grade reconciliation to date*

*The most important aspect is that the operation is **de-risked and comfortably ramping-up** to design capacity of 10,000tpa cathode. With that comes increased sales revenue and cashflow.*

*On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our employees and contractors for delivering a safe and successful start-up. Thiess, Roc-Drill, Orica, Northline Copper, DBC Haulage have been wonderful. Simply an awesome team effort.*

*So, what's next?*

*Our exploration and development activities are being scaled up to discover and deliver new copper ore. The MIM JV is a significant step to increasing our exploration efforts – with a seasoned regional explorer that has operated in the district for decades. Austral commences oxide exploration drilling this month at a number of prospects and sulphide exploration drilling is planned to begin shortly at Lady Colleen. Discussions are underway with other potential exploration JV partners.*

*We look forward to further updating shareholders as we continue building copper production from Anthill and scale-up exploration and development activities to further increase production and extend mine life."*

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*Figure 3. Copper-laden leach solution (green). This has percolated through the heap leach and is on its way to the PLS ponds for concentrating and electrowinning.*

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Figure 4. Copper cathode bundles ready for transport to Townsville.



Figure 5. Robotic cathode stripping and stacking.

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This announcement is authorised for market release by Steve Tambanis, Chief Executive Officer.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Jane Morgan  
Investor and Media Relations Manager  
+61 (0) 405 555 618  
jm@janemorganmanagement.com.au

Company contact:  
Level 9, 60 Edward Street  
Brisbane City Qld 4000  
+61 (0) 73520 2500

## About Austral Resources

Austral Resources Australia Ltd is an ASX listed copper cathode producer operating in the Mt Isa region, Queensland, Australia. Its Mt Kelly copper oxide heap leach and solvent extraction electrowinning (SXEW) plant has a nameplate capacity of 30,000tpa of copper cathode. Austral has developed its Anthill Mine (Ore Reserve of 5.06Mt at 0.94% Cu) and expects to produce 40,000t of copper cathode over a four-year period from mid-2022.

Austral also owns a significant copper inventory with a JORC compliant Mineral Resource Estimate of 60Mt@ 0.7% Cu and 2,100km<sup>2</sup> of highly prospective exploration tenure in the heart of the Mt Isa district, a world class copper and base metals province. The Company is implementing an intensive exploration and development programme designed to extend the life of mine, increase its resource base and then review options to commercialise its copper resources.

## Competent Persons' Statement

The information in this announcement that relates to Mineral Assets, Exploration Targets, Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves is based on and fairly reflects information compiled and conclusions derived by Mr Andrew Beaton and Mr Steven Tambanis, Competent Persons who are Members of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Beaton is the Site General Manager at Austral and Mr Tambanis is Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Mr Tambanis and Mr Beaton are geologists and have sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results and Ore Reserves (2012 JORC Code). Mr Tambanis and Mr Beaton consent to the inclusion in this announcement of the matters based on this information in the form and context in which it appears.

## Ore Reserve and Mineral Resource Estimate Statements

Detailed information that relates to Ore Reserves and Mineral Resource Estimates is provided in Austral Resources Prospectus, Section 7, Independent Technical Assessment Report. This document is available on Austral's website: [www.australres.com](http://www.australres.com) and on the ASX released as "Prospectus" on 1 November 2021. The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the estimates of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves as cross referenced in this release and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates continue to apply and have not changed.

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## Appendix 1. Key Austral ASX announcements

DATE	TITLE
<b>1 Nov 2021</b>	Austral Prospectus
<b>3 Nov 2021</b>	Austral lists on ASX
<b>9 Nov 2021</b>	Anthill and Mt Kelly development underway
<b>17 Nov 2021</b>	Anthill blasting commences
<b>7 Dec 2021</b>	Thiess signing
<b>14 Dec 2021</b>	Updated Company presentation
<b>11 Jan 2022</b>	Mining commences at Anthill
<b>30 Jan 2022</b>	December Quarter Report
<b>3 Feb 2022</b>	Offtake and Prepayment Agreement secured with Glencore
<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	Austral's Anthill Mine Ore Shipments Commence
<b>26 Apr 2022</b>	Exploration update
<b>28 Apr 2022</b>	March Quarter Report
<b>4 May 2022</b>	RIU Conference presentation
<b>6 Jun 2022</b>	Austral exploration update
<b>8 Jun 2022</b>	Glencore (MIM) JV
<b>8 Jun 2022</b>	Resources Rising Stars Presentation

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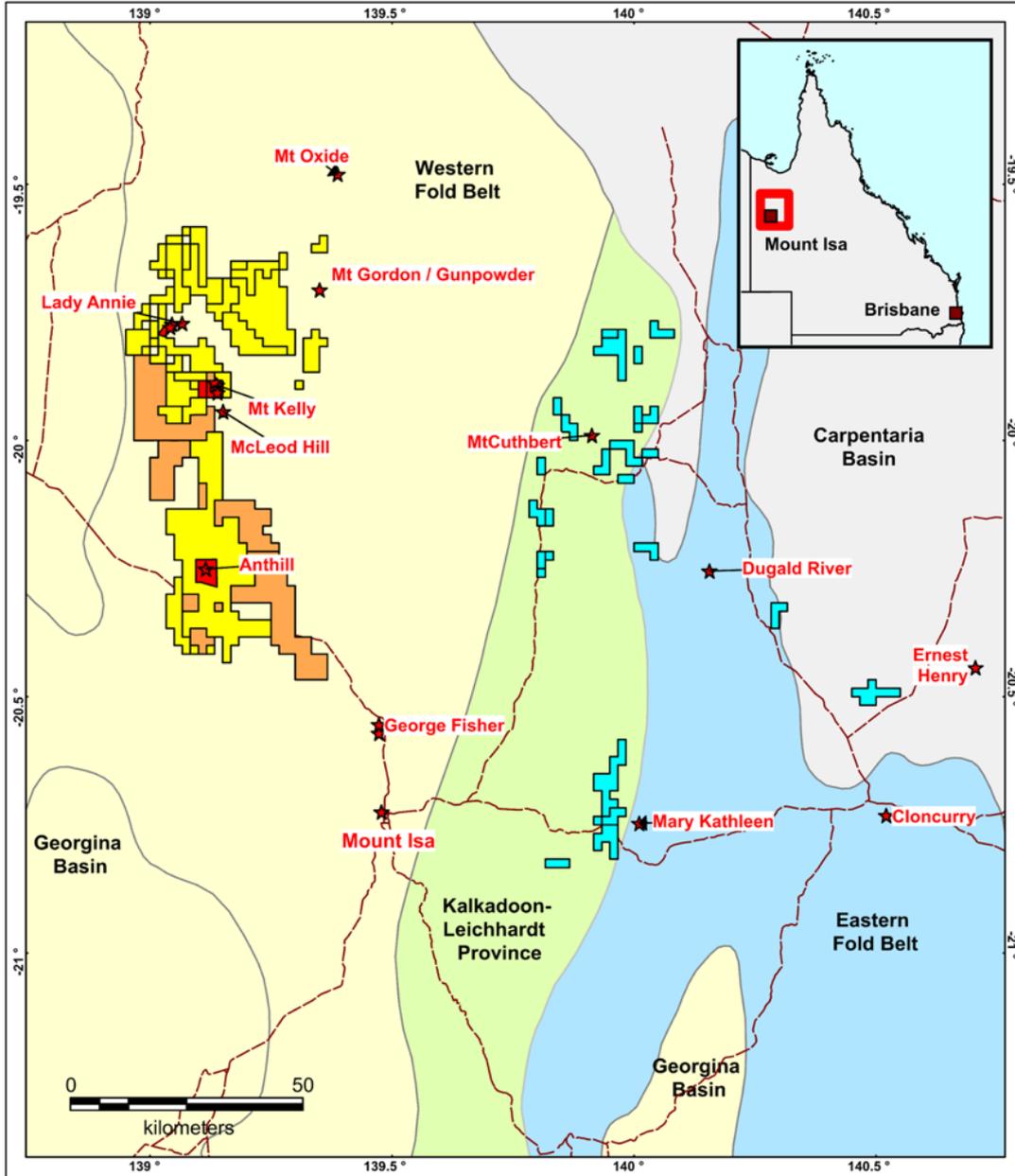


Figure 6: Map of Austral's 2,100km<sup>2</sup> of EPM and EPMA tenure in the Mt Isa Province.