



**Axiom Mining Limited**

ARBN 119 698 770

6/76 Doggett Street

Newstead QLD 4006

Australia

T + 61 7 3319 4100

[contact@axiom-mining.com](mailto:contact@axiom-mining.com)

[www.axiom-mining.com](http://www.axiom-mining.com)

29 December 2015

## ASX Announcement

### JORC Resource upgrade: Isabel Nickel Project defines first 5 years of production

#### Highlights

- **High grade saprolite total Mineral Resource tonnage doubled to 3.9 million dry tonnes (Mt) @ 1.7% Ni**
- **Limonite total Mineral Resource tonnage increased to 8.4 Mt @ 1.0% Ni and 0.11% Co**
- **Drilling and upgraded Resource estimate validates historical data and highlights high grade extensions of saprolite**
- **Axiom will continue to upgrade the Resource estimate when drilling recommences in early 2016; site infrastructure development is progressing and sets Axiom on track to meet customer requirements for first shipment of ore by the end of Q1, 2016**

Axiom Mining Limited ('Axiom' or 'the Company') is pleased to announce an update to the independent JORC (2012) Mineral Resource estimate for Prospecting Licence 74/11 area (Kolosori tenement) of the Isabel Nickel Project, Solomon Islands.

Axiom CEO Mr Ryan Mount said, "We have now successfully defined a minimum of the first five years of production, and the significant tonnage increase in this Resource estimate demonstrates the potential of this world class asset.

"Global nickel demand continues to grow, especially for good quality laterite ore in the Pacific yet few new projects are 'development ready'—this estimate is another milestone that progresses the Isabel Nickel Project closer towards meeting that demand."

Development work on site continues and Axiom has adjusted project timelines to ensure the first shipment of ore aligns with requirements of its commercial partner Gunvor, due by the end of Q1, 2016.

This JORC Mineral Resource upgrade follows the addition of 527 drill holes from the Phase 2 drilling completed since the previous Mineral Resource announcement on 30 September 2015.

The drilling is predominantly 50 m and 100 m regional drilling extending the existing Mineral Resources areas at Suma, Kolosori and Havihua and also defining additional Mineral Resources at Upper Havihua, Lower Kolosori, Upper Kolosori, Upper Suma and new prospects at Suma West and Suma North.

The broad spaced drilling undertaken in Phase 2 tends to increase estimation smoothing, which means higher grade zones will be better defined with further infill drilling.

**Continues on page 2**

Modelling parameters and assumptions remain largely unchanged since the previous estimate.

Phase 1 drilling concentrated on tight 25 m spaced grid drilling so as to define a higher degree of confidence Mineral Resources to initiate mining studies and allow early production planning.

Phase 2 drilling and assaying is complete and provides coverage at a broader 50 m and 100 m spacing of both deposit extensions and regional exploration targets mineralisation indicated by historical sampling.

Drill spacing at the new prospects of Suma North and Suma West are on an initial 200 m spacing.

### Resource statement details

The Mineral Resource effective date is 29 December 2015, which includes drilling up to drill hole SU-1323, and is based on 1069 Axiom drill holes with 12,719 m of core samples and 14,014 assayed intervals.

The total saprolite (magnesium silicate) Mineral Resource at a:

- |                       |                                   |                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • 1.0% Ni cut-off is: |                                   | • 1.4% Ni cut-off is: |                                   |
| ○ Measured            | 1.0 Mt @ 1.7% Ni, 0.03% Co        | ○ Measured            | 0.8 Mt @ 1.8% Ni, 0.03% Co        |
| ○ Indicated           | 3.4 Mt @ 1.5% Ni, 0.03% Co        | ○ Indicated           | 1.8 Mt @ 1.7% Ni, 0.03% Co        |
| ○ Inferred            | 3.3 Mt @ 1.4% Ni, 0.03% Co        | ○ Inferred            | 1.3 Mt @ 1.6% Ni, 0.03% Co        |
| ○ <b>Total</b>        | <b>7.7 Mt @ 1.5% Ni, 0.03% Co</b> | ○ <b>Total</b>        | <b>3.9 Mt @ 1.7% Ni, 0.03% Co</b> |

The total limonite (iron oxide) Mineral Resource at a 0.7% Ni cut-off is:

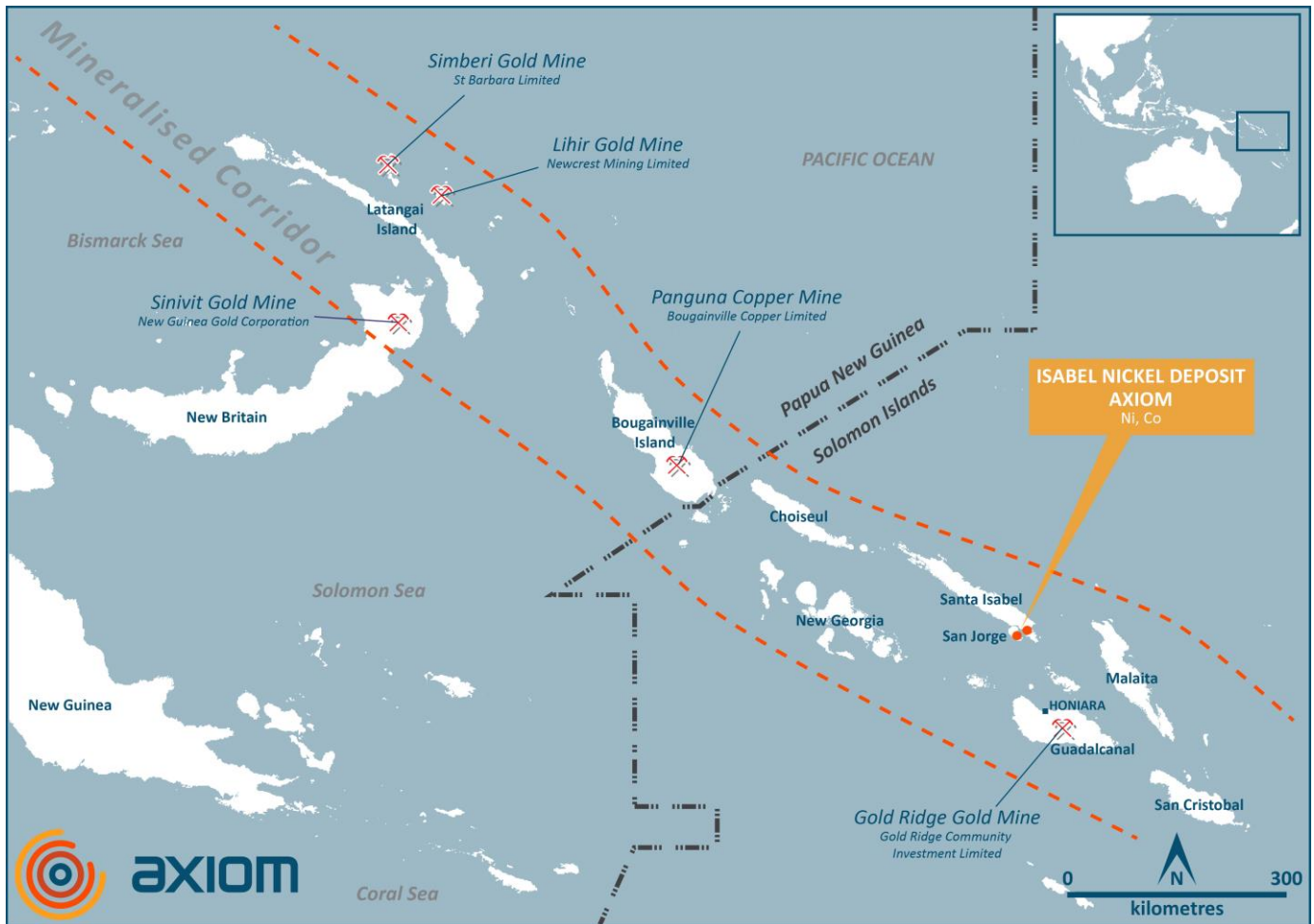
- Measured 0.9 Mt @ 1.1% Ni, 0.11% Co
- Indicated 3.5 Mt @ 1.1% Ni, 0.10% Co
- Inferred 3.9 Mt @ 1.0% Ni, 0.11% Co
- **Total 8.4 Mt @ 1.0% Ni, 0.11% Co**

The Mineral Resource is classified in accordance with the JORC (2012) guidelines with relevant details provided in this announcement and against the JORC (2012) Table 1 criteria (Sections 1 to 3) provided in Appendix A.

### Location

Santa Isabel Island is situated 135 km north-west of the capital Honiara and accessible by air or sea (Figure 1). Axiom's Kolosori tenement is located with 12 degrees off the equator and more than 1500 km from the nearest continent.

Solomon Islands experiences a tropical environment, characterised by high and relatively uniform temperatures and humidity throughout the year and relatively high annual rainfall.



**Figure 1 Isabel Nickel Project location**

## Tenure

Axiom holds Prospecting Licence PL 74/11 (Kolosori tenement) on Santa Isabel Island (Figure 1), which is 80% owned by Axiom with the remaining 20% held by local landowners—the same ownership structure applies to the Prospecting Licence PL01/15 (South San Jorge tenement) on nearby San Jorge Island.

The deposits drilled and defined by Axiom so far are wholly contained within the Kolosori tenement on Santa Isabel Island.

Both areas at Santa Isabel and San Jorge were explored extensively by INCO in the 1960s and 1970s using test pitting, drilling and auger sampling methods to define nickel laterite deposits of potential economic interest.

INCO completed some feasibility studies, and in the 1990s Kaiser Engineering completed further feasibility studies and metallurgical test work.

## Geology

The Solomon Islands archipelago is located at the boundary of the Australian and Pacific continental plates, with Santa Isabel and San Jorge Islands part of a linear NW-SE trending chain of islands within the New Georgia Group and adjacent to an active volcanic forearc region.

Continental collision has resulted in the uplift and obduction of sea floor sediments including some limestone and mostly volcanoclastic sediments—this has included overthrusting of ultramafic rocks that now form elongate pods of more or less serpentinised harzburgite and dunite, cut by pyroxenite veins.

The nickel laterite deposits of Solomon Islands have developed under tropical conditions over ultramafic rocks (Figure 2). Their formation is largely by weathering and decomposition of the ultramafic host rocks which leads to residual and supergene enrichment of nickel within the laterite profile.

The laterite formation comprises two principal zones overlying fresh and weathered rock that include:

- the saprolite zone where weathered silicate minerals remain. This zone can include weathered to fresh remnant rocks and silicate clay minerals from the initial decomposition and weathering of the host ultramafic rocks. Residual enrichment is limited and nickel is generally enriched within the saprolite by supergene processes.
- the limonite zone where silicate minerals are largely destroyed and removed leaving dominantly the iron rich oxides such as limonite (goethite) that can grade into higher alumina oxide mineral towards surface. Residual enrichment of iron, aluminium, manganese, cobalt and nickel occur from the compaction of the profile from the intense leaching from tropical rainfall over time.

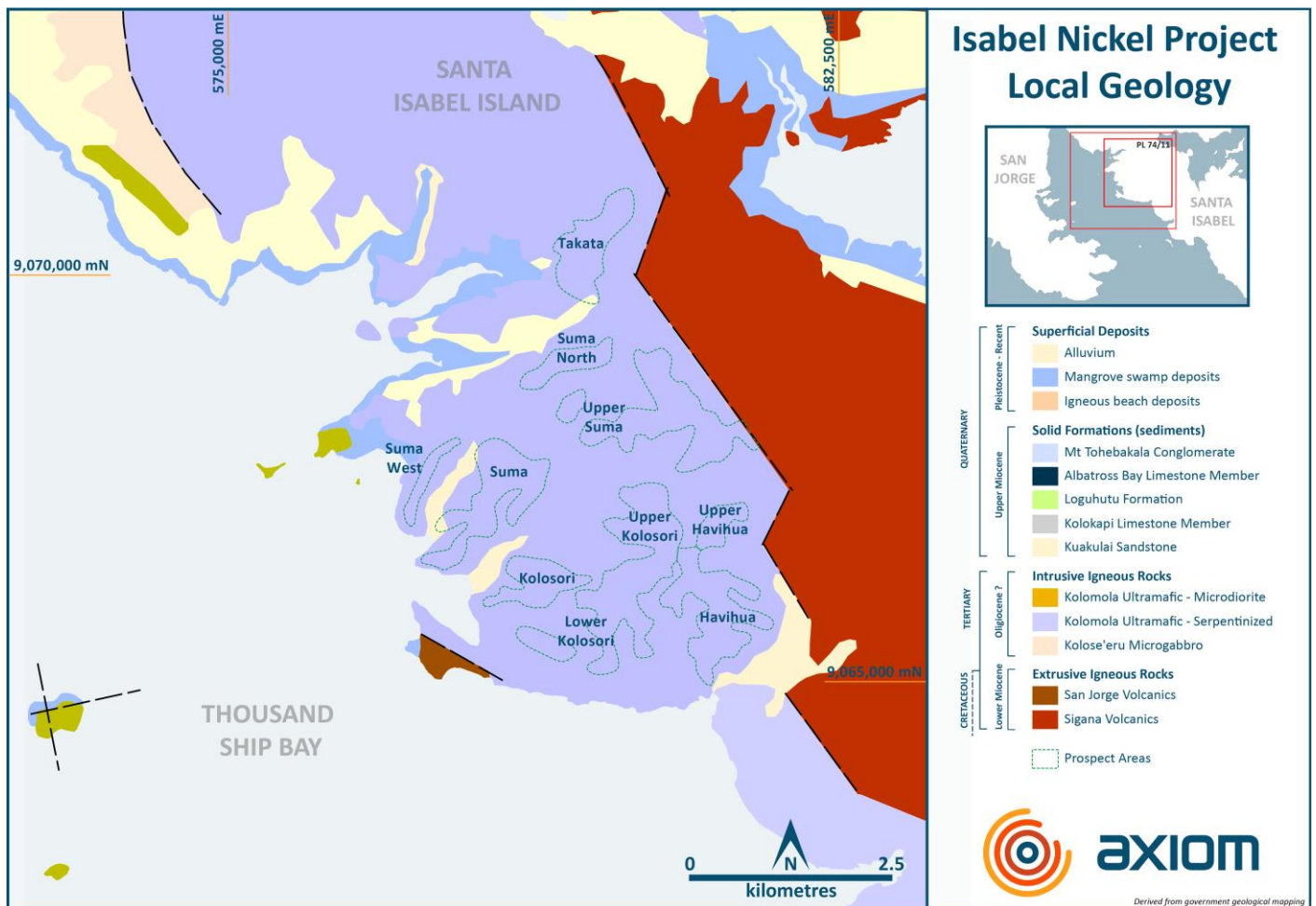


Figure 2 Local geology—map derived from government geological mapping



## Drilling and sampling

Since gaining access to the sites, Axiom has undertaken two stages of drilling—orientation drilling and resource definition drilling.

Orientation drilling took place from November 2014 to June 2015 for 133 drill holes and 2241 m was completed by a single diamond drill rig. This was used for initial orientation drilling at Havihua, Kolosori and Suma. Orientation drilling predominantly used HQ diamond core but included PQ and NQ core. Half core sampling was undertaken on initially regular 0.5 m intervals changing to regular 1 m intervals towards the end of the program, with some sub-sampling on smaller lengths on geological contacts.

Phase 1 of resource definition drilling was undertaken from July 2015 to September 2015 for 409 drill holes over 5001 m. The program included largely 25 m grid drilling of mineralisation identified at Havihua and Kolosori. Phase 2 of resource definition drilling was undertaken from August 2015 to November 2015 for 527 drill holes over 5476 m. The program included largely 50 m and 100 m grid drilling of mineralisation extensions and regional exploration target, with 200 m spacing in new prospect areas not previously tested by INCO.

Phase 1 and 2 definition drilling used NQ core and a tungsten bit. Core sampling was generally whole core sampled on regular 1 m down hole intervals with sub sampling down to 0.3 m on significant geology contacts. Half core sampling was used for holes selected for QAQC duplicate sampling.

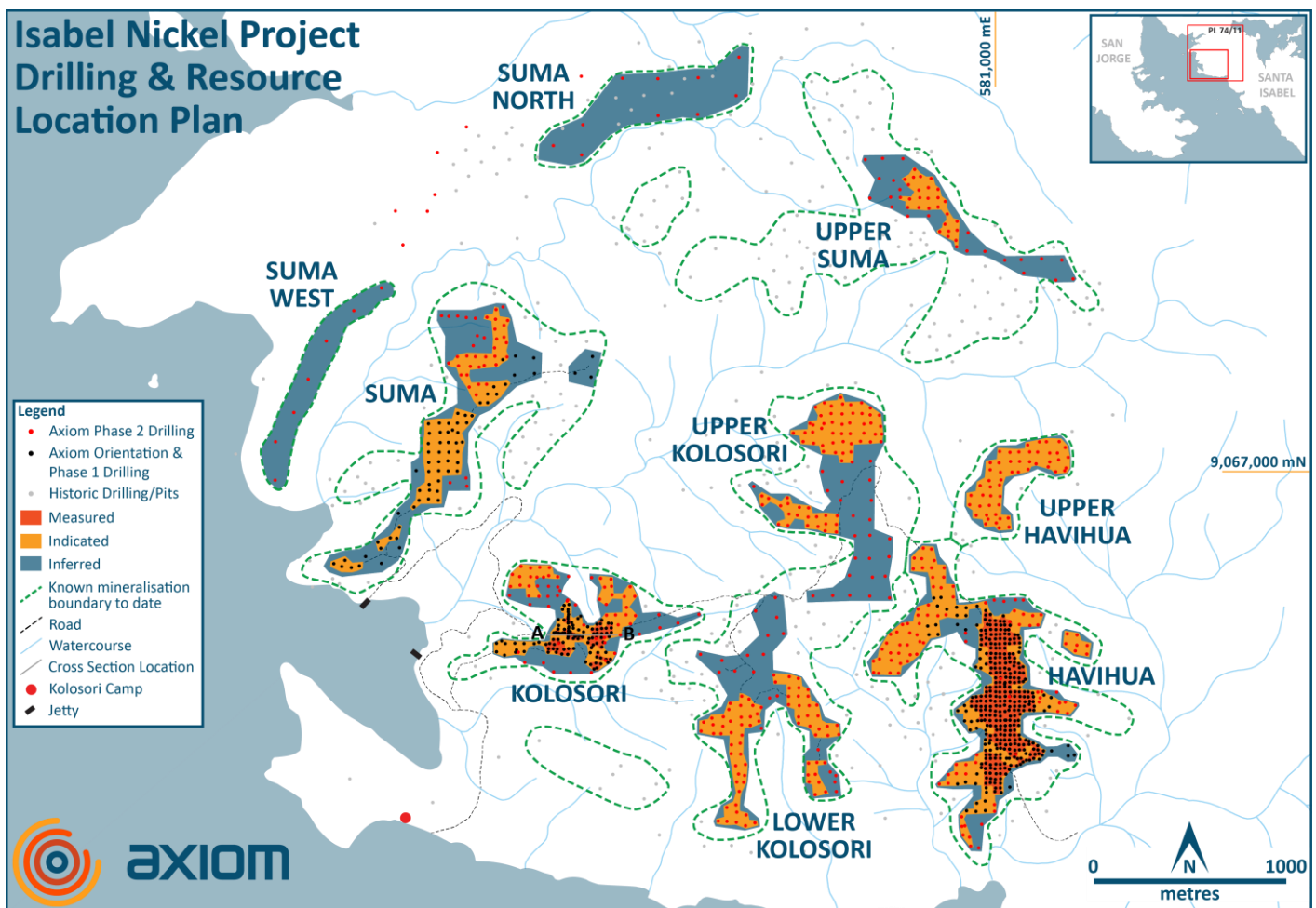


Figure 3 Drilling and resource classification areas

The arrangement of drilling retained and used for the resource estimate is displayed in Figure 3. This identifies Axiom orientation and Phase 1 drilling used in the previous Mineral Resource statement (black), subsequent new Axiom drilling from Phase 2 (red) and INCO pitting used to assist thickness modelling (grey).

Only INCO pitting greater than 70 m from an Axiom drill hole is retained to assist the volume and grade estimates. This was increased from the previous limit of 40 m after review of the recent Axiom drilling, which has included some widely spaced regional drilling. This parameter restricts INCO data to contributing to only the Inferred Mineral Resource areas where the data is wide spaced and supported by Axiom drilling results.

## Analysis

All Axiom samples were dispatched to Honiara and prepared in a commercial preparation facility run by Intertek Genalysis Laboratory Services (Intertek).

Sample preparation was by normal methods and included drying (24 hrs at 90° C), crushing to 5 mm, splitting to ~1.4 kg, pulverisation to 90% passing 200 mesh. 50 g pulps were dispatched to Intertek Laboratories in Australia for analysis by glass fusion XRF for a standard nickel laterite suite, method FB1/XRF

In addition, loss on ignition (LOI) was also undertaken using thermos-gravimetric analysis.

Initial batches were also assayed by ICP method 4A/OE for verification of the XRF results but are not otherwise reported or used in the estimate.

## Estimation

The laterite profile in each drill hole was interpreted to define five sequential domains using geochemistry and logging. The domains capture the critical changes in mineralisation enrichment and other material type changes and include:

- an upper overburden zone of the limonite with minimal nickel enrichment
- limonite zone with nickel and cobalt enrichment comprising iron rich oxides
- transition zone comprising either mixed limonite/saprolite samples or transitional clays when present
- saprolite zone with nickel enrichment comprising weathered silicate mineral
- bedrock or rock saprolite with minimal to no nickel enrichment.

Sharp or rapid changes in grade across each domain boundary warrant domaining and independent estimation. The domains were wireframed in conjunction with an extrapolation boundary as a conservative thinning edge model with the boundaries presented in Figure 3.

The boundary was based on the outermost sampling information that included both Axiom and INCO sampling information and interpretation of any limitations evident in the topography data.

Resources are only reported to maximum extrapolation of 50 m from the last available Axiom drill hole.

A block model was constructed with 10 m by 10 m by 1 m flat blocks to represent the domains. Block elevations were calculated in true space, flattened to the down hole depth and unfolded to the top or bottom of each domain. The unfolded coordinates were used for estimation using Ordinary Kriging of each domain and variogram models derived for that domain.

The flattened coordinates were used to assist the visualisation and manual verification of the model estimates. Examples of the domain and grade estimates in flattened spaced are provided in Figure 4 and the resulting nickel estimates in true space in Figure 5.

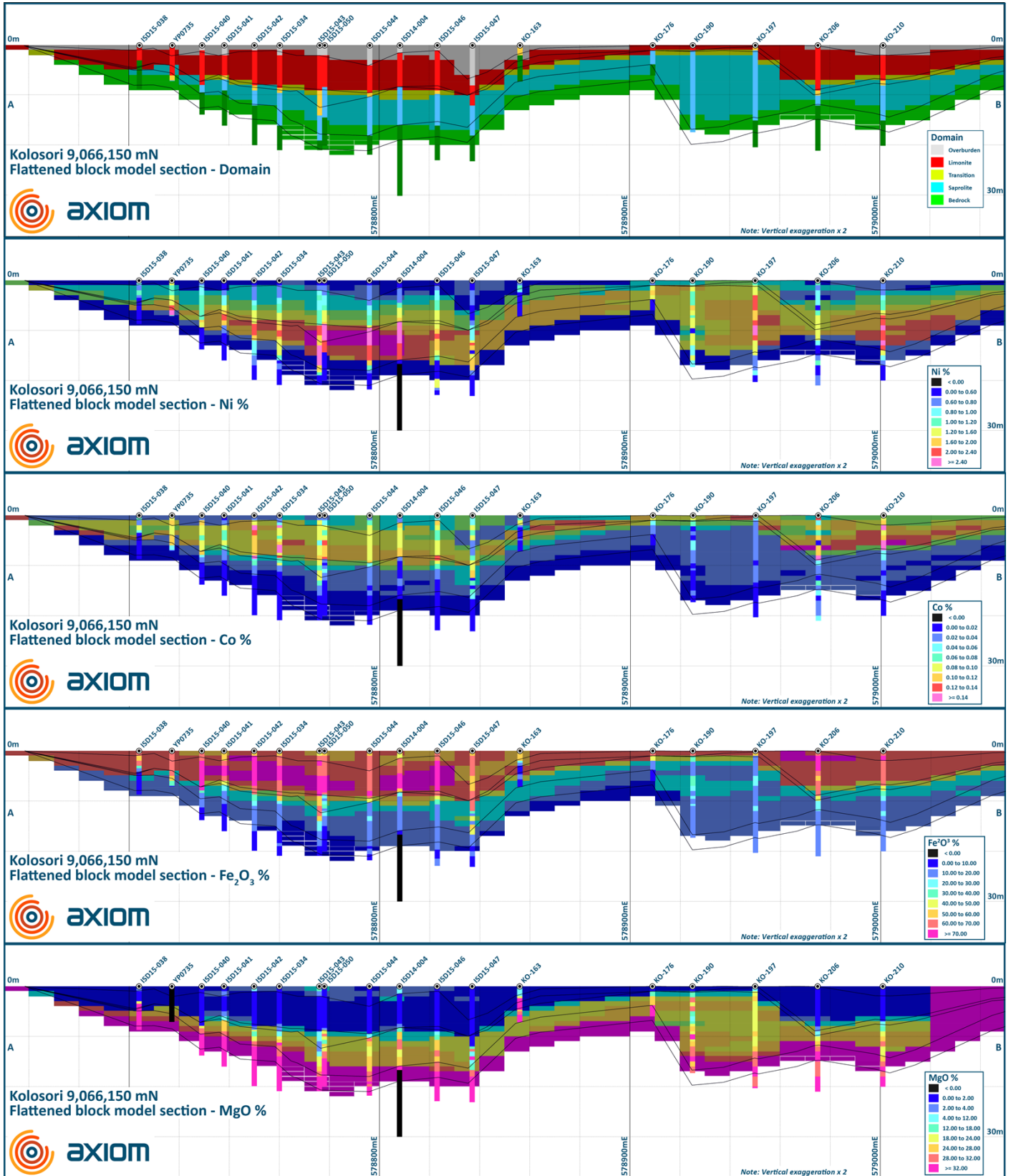
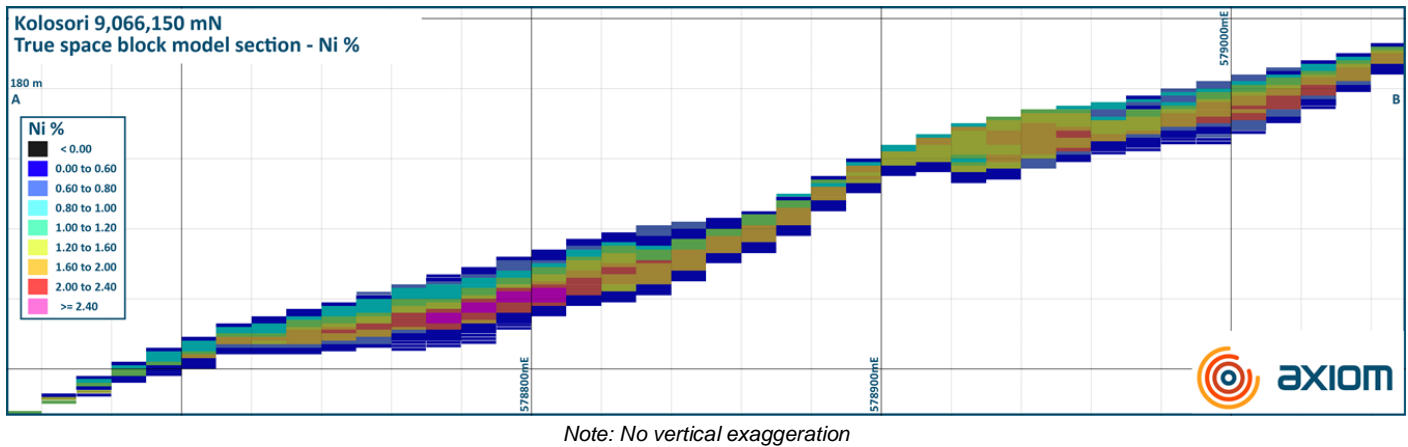


Figure 4 Kolosori 9066150 mN displaying flattened block model section for Domain, Ni, Co, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MgO



**Figure 5 Kolosori 9066150 mN displaying true space block model Ni section**

### Resource comparison

Table 1 compares the current Mineral Resource estimate to the previous estimate, announced 30 September 2015. The bulk of the increase is attributed to the addition of regional areas and deposit extensions where Phase 2 drilling has concentrated on wide spaced grid drilling of a new areas.

Other changes include:

- an improved survey of the 1960s INCO bulk sample trench and dump areas at Kolosori
- increase in the exclusion distance for INCO sampling from 40 m to 70 m to increase the reliance on Axiom drill samples
- a small upward revision of some bulk densities based on additional data from Phase 2
- a lower 0.8% Ni cut-off (previously 0.9% Ni) used to define base of the saprolite domain. This was modified to account for the variability in grade distribution in some of the new areas. This has affected the existing Measured Mineral Resource areas with a 10% increase in tonnage and a 4% decrease in nickel grade that is attributed to the inclusion of lower grade saprolite samples into the block estimates.

**Table 1 Current and previous Mineral Resource comparison**

Estimate	Category	Previous Estimate 30 Sep 2015*			Current Estimate Dec 2015		
		Mt	Ni %	Co %	Mt	Ni %	Co %
Limonite 0.7 % Ni cut-off	Measured	0.9	1.1	0.12	0.9	1.1	0.11
	Indicated	1.0	1.0	0.11	3.5	1.1	0.10
	Inferred	1.0	1.0	0.11	3.9	1.0	0.11
	Sub-total	2.9	1.1	0.11	8.4	1.0	0.11
Saprolite 1.0 % Ni cut-off	Measured	0.9	1.8	0.03	1.0	1.7	0.03
	Indicated	0.6	1.6	0.03	3.4	1.5	0.03
	Inferred	0.5	1.6	0.03	3.3	1.4	0.03
	Sub-total	2.0	1.7	0.03	7.7	1.5	0.03
Total	Measured	1.8	1.4	0.07	1.9	1.4	0.07
	Indicated	1.6	1.3	0.08	6.9	1.3	0.07
	Inferred	1.5	1.2	0.08	7.2	1.2	0.07
	Total	4.8	1.3	0.08	16.1	1.2	0.07

\* Previous Mineral Resources are no longer current and provided for comparison purposes only



## Classification

Resource classification adopted a typical industry approach for wet tropic laterites using drill spacing. This is supported by the variogram analysis. Figure 3 displays the resource classification with Measured, Indicated and Inferred Mineral Resource Areas based on Axiom drilling grids of:

- 25 m spacing and up to 12.5 m extrapolation for Measured Mineral Resource
- 50 m spacing and up to 25 m extrapolation for Indicated Mineral Resource
- 100 m spacing and up to 50 m extrapolation for Inferred Mineral Resource, extending to 200 m spacing in some prospects.

Figure 3 also displays the outlines of the outmost limit of continuous mineralisation identified by INCO sampling, now modified in places by new regional Axiom drilling. These outlines are used for exploration planning and used as the limit to wireframed geology models. They are also overlain on Figure 2 for visual reference and abut in some places as they are also used to identify the deposit areas in the block model as labelled in Figure 3.

Only areas with a classification plotted in Figure 3 are reported as Mineral Resource with other areas within the green outlines remaining as known mineralisation yet to be followed up with modern Axiom drilling and sampling.

## Mining

Mining of nickel laterites in sloping terrain is typically undertaken in a top down approach in contoured strips fanning out from an access roadway.

Mining is completed as a sequence of steps that include the pre-stripping of overburden and relocation of waste and topsoil to a previous mining block followed by the mining of limonite and formation of narrow benches from which the grade control and mining of saprolite is then completed in higher grade areas.

The strip mining approach allows for progressive and rapid rehabilitation.

The current defined Mineral Resource will be mined first to provide accessible hardstand areas for longer term infrastructure requirements.

## Metallurgy

INCO in the 1960s and Kaiser Engineering in the 1990s completed metallurgical test work and feasibility studies into the acid leaching of iron oxide dominated laterite from Santa Isabel in which they considered the metallurgy and economics to be favourable.

The current geochemical profile would suggest that the resource is amenable to the chemical requirements for existing processing methods that include pyro-metallurgical smelting, Carron hydrometallurgical processing and nickel pig iron (NPI).

## Cut-off grade

Processing methods use either limonite, or saprolite or a blend of the two. Ores can be exported or potentially processed on site.

The processing costs vary as does the payable content for export products. As a result the resource is subdivided into a range of material types and reported at higher grade cut-offs suitable for potential export shipment and lower grade cut-offs for on-site processing or product blending.

Different lower cut-offs are used for the overall resource report of blocks above 0.7% Ni for limonite and transition and 1.0% and 1.4% Ni for saprolite. The differences reflect the likely disparity in processing costs between the two material types.

Overburden and bedrock domains do contain occasional pods of discontinuous mineralisation that is excluded from the Mineral Resource statement.

Cut-offs of 0.7% Ni for the top of the limonite and 0.8% Ni for the base of the saprolite also affect the Mineral Resource estimate reporting. This approach coupled with the rapid drop in nickel grade between the saprolite and bedrock means there are few blocks with grades estimated between 0.7% and 1.0% Ni content in either the saprolite or bedrock domains.

A combination of hard boundaries used for estimating the domains and domains grade cut-offs similar to those used for reporting mean that there is no effective dilution included in the Mineral Resource estimates at the lower grade cut-offs. There are also no other modifying factors applied to the Mineral Resource for mining or metallurgical consideration.

### Ongoing Phase 2 work

To expedite the Mineral Resource estimate for the current mine planning studies some final stages of resource definition work are ongoing. These will be completed and reviewed in the coming months but are not expected to have a material impact on the current Mineral Resource:

- Final surveying of the Phase 2 drilling is underway. Much of the Phase 2 drilling program is surveyed by hand held GPS which may have location errors of up to  $\pm 10$  m. However this only affects areas drilled to 50 and 100 m spacing where GPS survey is considered acceptable as an interim measure.
- QAQC of the laboratory analyses for Phase 2 does not include umpire check analyses at a second laboratory, which is in progress.
- A survey of the 1960s INCO trench at Havihua is yet to be completed to improve the volume estimates of the mined material and existing waste dumps and stockpiles.

## APPENDIX A: JORC 2012 Table 1 criteria assessment

### Section 1: Sampling Techniques and Data

(Criteria in this section apply to all succeeding sections.)

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Sampling techniques	<p><i>Nature and quality of sampling (e.g. cut channels, random chips, or specific specialised industry standard measurement tools appropriate to the minerals under investigation, such as down hole gamma sondes, or handheld XRF instruments, etc). These examples should not be taken as limiting the broad meaning of sampling.</i></p> <p><i>Include reference to measures taken to ensure sample representation and the appropriate calibration of any measurement tools or systems used.</i></p> <p><i>Aspects of the determination of mineralisation that are Material to the Public Report.</i></p> <p><i>In cases where 'industry standard' work has been done this would be relatively simple (eg 'reverse circulation drilling was used to obtain 1m samples from which 3kg was pulverised to produce a 30g charge for fire assay'). In other cases more explanation may be required, such as where there is coarse gold that has inherent sampling problems. Unusual commodities or mineralisation types (eg submarine nodules) may warrant disclosure of detailed information.</i></p>	<p>In the 1960s, INCO completed extensive sampling, mostly by test pits (shafts) and channel sampling on 200 m centres. Analysis was limited to Ni, Co and Fe assaying and survey discrepancies in locating the old pit sites are up to 40 m. These data were used to target initial exploration but not used for the Mineral Resource statement.</p> <p>Axiom has completed two stages of drilling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation drilling – November 2014 to June 2015: 2241 m was completed by a single diamond drill rig. This was used for initial orientation drilling at Havihua and Kolosori and completed all current drilling at Suma. Drilling was predominantly HQ diamond core. Half core sampling was undertaken on initially regular 0.5 m intervals changing to regular 1 m intervals (at the middle of the program), with some sub-sampling on smaller lengths on geological contacts.</li> <li>• Phase 1 resource definition drilling – July 2015 to September 2015: 5001 m was completed by up to five man-portable custom-build drill rigs. The program included largely 25 m grid drilling of mineralisation identified at Havihua and Kolosori. Drilling was NQ core using a tungsten bit. Core sampling was generally whole core sampled on regular 1 m downhole intervals with sub sampling down to 30 cm on significant geology contacts. Half core sampling was used for holes selected for QAQC duplicate sampling.</li> <li>• Phase 2 resource definition drilling – August 2015 to November 2015: 5476 m was completed by up to five man-portable custom-build drill rigs. The program included largely 50 m and 100 m grid drilling of resource extensions and regional areas. Two new prospects were drilled to 200 m spacing. Drilling was NQ core and sampling as per Phase 1.</li> </ul>
Drilling techniques	<p><i>Drill type (eg core, reverse circulation, open-hole hammer, rotary air blast, auger, Bangka, sonic, etc) and details (eg core diameter, triple or standard tube, depth of diamond tails, face-sampling bit or other type, whether core is oriented and if so, by what method, etc).</i></p>	<p>Orientation drilling – Axiom used a large skid mounted drill rig with triple tube diamond core methods with water circulation for predominantly HQ and some NQ.</p> <p>Phase 1 and 2 resource definition drilling – Axiom used several smaller man-portable rigs for single tube NQ single tube core drilling with a tungsten carbide bit. Water circulation was not employed such that hard rock is recovered as a mixture of core and chips. The drill rigs and operation are commonly used in laterite drilling in Indonesia and the Philippines.</p> <p>Holes were drilled vertically through the limonite and saprolite zones into underlying basement.</p>
Drill sample recovery	<p><i>Method of recording and assessing core and chip sample recoveries and results assessed.</i></p> <p><i>Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples.</i></p> <p><i>Whether a relationship exists between sample recovery and grade and whether sample bias may have occurred due to preferential loss/gain of fine/coarse material.</i></p>	<p>Orientation drilling initially resulted in low core recovery in the first few drill holes until water circulation was reduced. The program averaged 97% recovery.</p> <p>Resource definition drilling average core recovery is 99% for Phase 1 and 97% for Phase 2. This commonly includes recovery of up to 130% expected in certain conditions with the dry drilling method used.</p>

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary																								
Logging	<p><i>Whether core and chip samples have been geologically and geotechnically logged to a level of detail to support appropriate Mineral Resource estimation, mining studies and metallurgical studies.</i></p> <p><i>Whether logging is qualitative or quantitative in nature. Core (or costean, channel, etc) photography.</i></p> <p><i>The total length and percentage of the relevant intersections logged.</i></p>	<p>All holes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>marked up for recovery calculations</li> <li>geologically marked up and logged for geology, fractures and recovery</li> <li>marked up for sampling interval and density determination</li> <li>photographed</li> <li>density determined.</li> </ul> <p>Geotechnical logging included hardness, fractures, fracture frequency, recovery and mining characteristics.</p> <p>Geology logging includes lithology, minerals, rock content and size, colour and texture.</p>																								
Sub-sampling techniques and sample preparation	<p><i>If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken.</i></p> <p><i>If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split, etc and whether sampled wet or dry.</i></p> <p><i>For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample preparation technique.</i></p> <p><i>Quality control procedures adopted for all sub-sampling stages to maximise representation of samples.</i></p> <p><i>Measures taken to ensure that the sampling is representative of the in situ material collected, including for instance results for field duplicate/second-half sampling.</i></p> <p><i>Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled.</i></p>	<p>Orientation HQ drilling was initially half core sampled on 0.5 or 1 m lengths, which changed to whole core 1 m sampling intervals at the middle of the program.</p> <p>Resource definition NQ drilling was whole core sampled unless selected for field duplicate sampling (1 in 20 holes) where it was half core sampled. Sampling was on 1m regular lengths except at geological contacts.</p> <p>The principal sampling method from both stages of drilling result in similar sample weights of around 5kg per metre of core.</p> <p>Sample preparation was completed by Intertek in Honiara, a commercial laboratory facility, using standard perpetration methods that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 hour drying at 90° C</li> <li>jaw crushing to &lt;5 mm</li> <li>riffle split to 1.2 to 1.6 kg</li> <li>pulverised with LM2 sampled to 50 g and 200 g pulps.</li> </ul> <p>Intertek monitors pulverisation checking 1 in 15 have 90% passing &lt;75 microns.</p> <p>A range of OREAS nickel laterite standards were inserted into the suite of samples. Blank samples were also inserted. These were inserted 1 to 2 in every batch of samples (150–200 samples) for all drilling samples submitted.</p> <p>Core duplicates are collected by splitting the previous sample interval. Duplicates are collected one in every 20 holes (5%) drilled.</p> <p>Laboratory standards and blanks were inserted into every 20 samples submitted plus repeats were completed every 50 samples.</p> <p>Check samples were sent to ALS laboratory in Brisbane for XRF analysis and provide excellent repeatability of the reported elements. Phase 2 check samples are in progress.</p> <p>Review of the QAQC results indicated no significant issues. QAQC sampling is summarised as follows and provides a suitable QAQC sampling regime.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>QAQC sample type</th> <th>Samples</th> <th>% of drilling</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Axiom blank</td> <td>43</td> <td>0.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Axiom standard (CRM)</td> <td>155</td> <td>1.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Axiom duplicate</td> <td>634</td> <td>4.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Axiom check sample</td> <td>210</td> <td>1.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intertek standards and blanks</td> <td>791</td> <td>5.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intertek duplicates</td> <td>785</td> <td>5.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2618</td> <td>18.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	QAQC sample type	Samples	% of drilling	Axiom blank	43	0.3%	Axiom standard (CRM)	155	1.1%	Axiom duplicate	634	4.5%	Axiom check sample	210	1.5%	Intertek standards and blanks	791	5.6%	Intertek duplicates	785	5.6%	Total	2618	18.7%
QAQC sample type	Samples	% of drilling																								
Axiom blank	43	0.3%																								
Axiom standard (CRM)	155	1.1%																								
Axiom duplicate	634	4.5%																								
Axiom check sample	210	1.5%																								
Intertek standards and blanks	791	5.6%																								
Intertek duplicates	785	5.6%																								
Total	2618	18.7%																								



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Quality of assay data and laboratory tests	<p><i>The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total.</i></p> <p><i>For geophysical tools, spectrometers, handheld XRF instruments, etc, the parameters used in determining the analysis including instrument make and model, reading times, calibrations factors applied and their derivation, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Nature of quality control procedures adopted (eg standards, blanks, duplicates, external laboratory checks) and whether acceptable levels of accuracy (ie lack of bias) and precision have been established.</i></p>	<p>All Axiom analyses were by Intertek in Australia using glass fusion XRF for a standard 12 element nickel laterite suite that includes most elements of interest.</p> <p>In addition, Intertek undertook loss on ignition by thermos-gravimetric analysis to provide the last major element.</p> <p>The total analyses accounts for over 99.9% of the rock mass allowing verification of the assay totals.</p> <p>For some early Axiom samples, ICP analyses were also undertaken providing alternative analysis method to verify the XRF results and also supply some additional trace elements.</p> <p>Handheld XRF units are only used in the field to assist the determination of the end of drilling.</p>
Verification of sampling and assaying	<p><i>The verification of significant intersections by either independent or alternative company personnel.</i></p> <p><i>The use of twinned holes.</i></p> <p><i>Documentation of primary data, data entry procedures, data verification, data storage (physical and electronic) protocols.</i></p> <p><i>Discuss any adjustment to assay data.</i></p>	<p>Eight core holes twinned existing INCO or Kaiser pits or INCO GEMCO drill holes during orientation drilling. All Axiom drilling is in areas previously indicated as mineralised by INCO sampling. Axiom drilling has similar grade and distribution of mineralisation.</p> <p>In the orientation program one Axiom hole was twinned by an additional NQ triple tube core hole 1 m offset. Metallurgical holes drilled during Phase 2 provide some additional twin (3) and close spaced holes (6). These provide comparable results and acceptable repeatability.</p> <p>ResEval independently built the database used for the estimate from geology logs provided by Axiom and assays provided by Intertek. A relational database was use to ensure each assay was assigned to a drill sample or QAQC and there were no duplicate or missing samples. Basic down hole checks and cross validation were used to ensure the down hole integrity of the database and used to query and correct field data issues.</p> <p>There were no adjustments to any assays other than the replacement of below detection values with half the detection limit.</p>
Location of data points	<p><i>Accuracy and quality of surveys used to locate drill holes (collar and down hole surveys), trenches, mine workings and other locations used in Mineral Resource estimation.</i></p> <p><i>Specification of the grid system used.</i></p> <p><i>Quality and adequacy of topographic control.</i></p>	<p>Initial collar location was by handheld GPS reading to approximately 5 m accuracy.</p> <p>After completing the hole, collars are again picked up by handheld GPS for the as-drilled location.</p> <p>Quality checks on initial resurveys by a local Honiara based quality surveyor indicated some issues and have not been used. Orientation and Phase 1 drill collars were subsequently resurveyed using a Trimble R1 GNSS DGPS receiver and Viewpoint RTX real time correction with a stated accuracy of <math>\pm 0.5</math>m laterally and <math>\pm 1.2</math> m vertically (in open terrain). Surveying of Phase 2 drill holes is in progress with 20% completed.</p> <p>All exploration and evaluation work is completed in UTM WGS 84 Zone 57S.</p> <p>Topography data includes a processed DTM grid at a 1.25 m grid cell size. The topography is understood to be reprocessed information combining shuttle radar elevations and government photogrammetry data. It is considered adequate for exploration and Mineral Resource definition purposes.</p>





Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<i>Data spacing and distribution</i>	<p><i>Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results.</i></p> <p><i>Whether the data spacing and distribution is sufficient to establish the degree of geological and grade continuity appropriate for the Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve estimation procedure(s) and classifications applied.</i></p> <p><i>Whether sample compositing has been applied.</i></p>	<p>Drilling by Axiom is at a spacing of 200 m, 100 m, 50 m or 25 m as applied for Mineral Resource classification. Extrapolation is limited to half the drill spacing and has additional historic INCO sampling to confirm that mineralisation extends beyond the limit of the classified Mineral Resource.</p> <p>Drill core samples are generally 1 m with some 0.5 m regular sampling and occasional shorter intervals. 1 m composites were adopted to provide a consistent sample basis for estimation.</p>
<i>Orientation of data in relation to geological structure</i>	<p><i>Whether the orientation of sampling achieves unbiased sampling of possible structures and the extent to which this is known, considering the deposit type.</i></p> <p><i>If the relationship between the drilling orientation and the orientation of key mineralised structures is considered to have introduced a sampling bias, this should be assessed and reported if material.</i></p>	<p>The nickel laterite is a weathered geomorphic surface drape over ultramafic source units.</p> <p>All holes and pits were vertical and provide a suitable intersection.</p> <p>Regular grid drill spacing is used within field or topographic practicalities.</p> <p>Regional and local structures are described as horizontal to sub-horizontal and related to thrusting. There is no evidence of cross cutting structures or units that would bias the assay results.</p>
<i>Sample security</i>	<p><i>The measures taken to ensure sample security.</i></p>	<p>All samples were escorted offsite to a secure facility at the site camp. On-site security was provided for samples. Samples were bagged in polyweave bags and zip tied.</p> <p>Chain of custody protocols were in place for transport to the Honiara sample preparation laboratory.</p>
<i>Audits or reviews</i>	<p><i>The results of any audits or reviews of sampling techniques and data.</i></p>	<p>Orientation drilling and exploration was reviewed by an independent consultant, experienced in wet tropic laterite exploration.</p> <p>Resource definition drilling was reviewed by ResEval Pty Ltd for both exploration processes and Mineral Resource definition.</p>

## Section 2: Reporting of Exploration Results

(Criteria listed in the preceding section also apply to this section.)

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<i>Mineral tenement and land tenure status</i>	<p><i>Type, reference name/number, location and ownership including agreements or material issues with third parties such as joint ventures, partnerships, overriding royalties, native title interests, historical sites, wilderness or national park and environmental settings.</i></p> <p><i>The security of the tenure held at the time of reporting along with any known impediments to obtaining a licence to operate in the area.</i></p>	<p>Prospecting Licence 74/11—80% held by Axiom.</p> <p>50-year land lease—80% owned by Axiom.</p> <p>The validity of both the Prospecting Licence and the leasehold was tested and confirmed in a recent Solomon Islands High Court judgment.</p> <p>The hearing for the appeal against this judgment was completed and pending final decision.</p>
<i>Exploration done by other parties</i>	<p><i>Acknowledgment and appraisal of exploration by other parties.</i></p>	<p>INCO in the 1960s undertook extensive pitting, auger and drilling at Santa Isabel and San Jorge helping to define the prospective nickel laterite areas, and culminating in feasibility studies.</p> <p>Several parties undertook chromite exploration at Santa Isabel and San Jorge in the 1960s and 1970s.</p> <p>Kaiser Engineering in the 1990s undertook a limited verification pitting program, some additional metallurgical test work and a feasibility study based on the INCO exploration sampling.</p>



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Geology	<i>Deposit type, geological setting and style of mineralisation.</i>	Wet tropical laterite. In-situ chemical weathering of the ultramafic rocks with nickel and cobalt enrichment through both residual and supergene processes.  See Figure 2 and associated description for more details.
Drill hole Information	<p><i>A summary of all information material to the understanding of the exploration results including a tabulation of the following information for all material drill holes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>easting and northing of the drill hole collar</i></li> <li><i>elevation or RL (Reduced Level – elevation above sea level in metres) of the drill hole collar</i></li> <li><i>dip and azimuth of the hole</i></li> <li><i>down hole length and interception depth</i></li> <li><i>hole length.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>If the exclusion of this information is justified on the basis that the information is not material and this exclusion does not detract from the understanding of the report, the Competent Person should clearly explain why this is the case.</i></p>	<p>INCO sampling from the 1960s provides coverage over most of the tenement indicating the prospective areas.</p> <p>INCO data is currently used to supplement volume and grade estimates where supported by Axiom drilling but in widely spaced areas. INCO samples within 70 m of an Axiom drill holes are excluded ensuring they only contribute to Inferred Mineral Resource where infilling Axiom defined areas.</p> <p>Reliance on INCO data is minimised because of several aspects that would require further work and correction.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>current database is incomplete</li> <li>supporting logs and assay data is not yet located</li> <li>there are errors in locating the original sample coordinates, known to be up to 40 m in error</li> <li>assays are limited to Ni, Co and Fe and have no supporting QAQC.</li> </ul> <p>For recent Axiom drilling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>orientation drilling used HQ and NQ triple tube with a diamond drill rig</li> <li>site conditions required resource definition drilling to adopt smaller man-portable drill rigs capable of efficient regular rig moves with reduced environmental impact.</li> <li>the change from triple tube drilling with water circulation to single tube dry drilling has improved core recoveries, avoided any potential for the washing of core during drilling but does result in a more destructive hard rock sample. The small man-portable drill rigs are typically used for nickel laterite exploration in Asia and the sampling is considered suitable for Mineral Resource estimation purposes.</li> <li>all Axiom drill holes have been tabulated and published in previous announcements to the ASX during 2015.</li> </ul> <p>A summary of the locations is presented in Figure 3.</p>
Data aggregation methods	<p><i>In reporting Exploration Results, weighting averaging techniques, maximum and/or minimum grade truncations (eg cutting of high grades) and cut-off grades are usually Material and should be stated.</i></p> <p><i>Where aggregate intercepts incorporate short lengths of high grade results and longer lengths of low grade results, the procedure used for such aggregation should be stated and some typical examples of such aggregations should be shown in detail.</i></p> <p><i>The assumptions used for any reporting of metal equivalent values should be clearly stated.</i></p>	<p>Axiom used 1 m length weighted composites for the Mineral Resource estimate. These are restricted to the five Mineral Resource domains. Where sub-sampling is present this can result in a small number of composites between 0.3 m and 1.3 m that are not 1 m in length.</p> <p>The grade distributions for the economic elements are not considered to be highly skewed and demonstrate a low variance within each Mineral Resource domain. Hence no grade cutting is considered necessary.</p> <p>There are also no significant outlier values that require adjustment.</p> <p>Mineral Resource domaining is based on a mineralisation envelope establish on geological basis of 0.7% Ni in limonite and 0.8% Ni in saprolite/bedrock.</p>



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<i>Relationship between mineralisation widths and intercept lengths</i>	<p><i>These relationships are particularly important in the reporting of Exploration Results.</i></p> <p><i>If the geometry of the mineralisation with respect to the drill hole angle is known, its nature should be reported.</i></p> <p><i>If it is not known and only the down hole lengths are reported, there should be a clear statement to this effect (eg 'down hole length, true width not known').</i></p>	<p>The laterite is thin but laterally extensive. The intercepts are almost perpendicular to the mineralisation.</p> <p>Drilling so far has been confined to the major ridgelines due to access and deposit geometry.</p>
<i>Diagrams</i>	<p><i>Appropriate maps and sections (with scales) and tabulations of intercepts should be included for any significant discovery being reported.</i></p> <p><i>These should include, but not be limited to a plan view of drill hole collar locations and appropriate sectional views.</i></p>	<p>Maps and sample cross sections are provided in the preceding ASX announcement.</p>
<i>Balanced reporting</i>	<p><i>Where comprehensive reporting of all Exploration Results is not practicable, representative reporting of both low and high grades and/or widths should be practiced to avoid misleading reporting of Exploration Results.</i></p>	<p>Both low and higher grade cut-offs are reported as well as an indication of materials of suitable grade for potential export shipment products.</p>
<i>Other substantive exploration data</i>	<p><i>Other exploration data, if meaningful and material, should be reported including (but not limited to): geological observations; geophysical survey results; geochemical survey results; bulk samples – size and method of treatment; metallurgical test results; bulk density, groundwater, geotechnical and rock characteristics; potential deleterious or contaminating substances.</i></p>	<p>INCO undertook 879 pits and drill/auger holes at Isabel providing a broad exploration coverage of the prospecting lease.</p> <p>Both INCO and Kaiser completed feasibility studies and metallurgical test work.</p> <p>Axiom completed some broad mining and environmental study work to accompany the mining application for the Isabel tenement.</p> <p>This included several desktop studies.</p>
<i>Further work</i>	<p><i>The nature and scale of planned further work (eg tests for lateral extensions or depth extensions or large-scale step-out drilling).</i></p> <p><i>Diagrams clearly highlighting the areas of possible extensions, including the main geological interpretations and future drilling areas, provided this information is not commercially sensitive.</i></p>	<p>Current work has focused on a core area of three deposits at Isabel.</p> <p>Future work will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extending the Axiom drilling for the existing deposits</li> <li>• testing other known deposits</li> <li>• Commencing initial drilling on San Jorge</li> <li>• complete an ore export scoping study for Isabel</li> <li>• investigating on-site processing options.</li> </ul>

### Section 3: Estimation and reporting of Mineral Resources

(Criteria listed in section 1, and where relevant in section 2, also apply to this section.)

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<i>Database integrity</i>	<p><i>Measures taken to ensure that data has not been corrupted by, for example, transcription or keying errors, between its initial collection and its use for Mineral Resource estimation purposes.</i></p> <p><i>Data validation procedures used.</i></p>	<p>INCO and Kaiser historic data was rebuilt from original Kaiser database files dating from the later 1990s.</p> <p>Original laboratory records and geological logs are not available to verify the database. The database was compared to other data compilations also available.</p> <p>Axiom drilling data was built from field geology logs entered into a database onsite and laboratory data files.</p>



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
		A relational database was established to cross check the matching of all assays as original drill core samples or QAQC samples. Down hole data including geology logs, samples and collar details were cross checked for inconsistencies.
Site visits	<p><i>Comment on any site visits undertaken by the Competent Person and the outcome of those visits.</i></p> <p><i>If no site visits have been undertaken indicate why this is the case.</i></p>	<p>Mr Jovenal Gonzalez Jr commenced employment with Axiom in April 2015. He was based on-site and supervised the exploration drilling and sampling during the resource definition drilling and part of the orientation drilling program.</p> <p>Mr John Horton visited site from 20 to 24 of July 2015 and inspected the resource definition drilling and sampling. He visited the Intertek Honiara sample preparation facility on 24 July 2015 and attended review meetings in Honiara on 16 December 2015.</p>
Geological interpretation	<p><i>Confidence in (or conversely, the uncertainty of) the geological interpretation of the mineral deposit.</i></p> <p><i>Nature of the data used and of any assumptions made.</i></p> <p><i>The effect, if any, of alternative interpretations on Mineral Resource estimation.</i></p> <p><i>The use of geology in guiding and controlling Mineral Resource estimation.</i></p> <p><i>The factors affecting continuity both of grade and geology.</i></p>	<p>Nickel is enriched in the laterite profile overlying ultramafic rocks. The laterite forms on the top and sides of ridges on Santa Isabel Island resulting in thin laterally extensive deposits. Lateralisation is relatively consistent due to the weathering of highly serpentinised basement rocks.</p> <p>This results in some sharp boundaries between the three material types in from surface:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limonite – upper iron oxide rich laterite</li> <li>• Saprolite – lower silicate rich laterite</li> <li>• Bedrock and weathered rock.</li> </ul> <p>These geological controls are evident in the geochemistry and geological logging and provide the basis of the Mineral Resource domains.</p> <p>Vertical grade trends are a result of the laterite enrichment process and are a result of the both residual and supergene enrichment process.</p> <p>The segregation of mineralised and overburden material and a transitional zone between the limonite and saprolite result in a total of five domains used for estimation purposes</p> <p>The vertical depth trends and the control on mineralisation by the topography are honoured with unfolding during estimation.</p>
Dimensions	<p><i>The extent and variability of the Mineral Resource expressed as length (along strike or otherwise), plan width, and depth below surface to the upper and lower limits of the Mineral Resource.</i></p>	<p>The extent of the Mineral Resource model defined by Axiom drilling includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Havihua &amp; Upper Havihua: area of 71 ha (2000 m by 1100 m). Thickness of 6.5 m with saprolite and limonite equally developed</li> <li>• Kolosori: area of 26 ha (1100 m by 500 m). Thickness of 5.4 m with saprolite and limonite equally developed</li> <li>• Suma and Suma West: area of 51 ha (two areas up to 1600 m by 500 m). Thickness of 3.6 m with saprolite poorly developed</li> <li>• Kolosori Lower and Upper: area of 71 ha (2300 m by 900 m). Thickness of 5.5 m with saprolite and limonite equally developed</li> <li>• Upper Suma and Suma North: area of 39 ha (two areas each 1100 m by 250 m). Thickness of 4.6 m with saprolite and limonite equally developed.</li> </ul> <p>All the deposits have an overburden domain that averages just over 1 m vertical thickness.</p>
Estimation and modelling techniques	<p><i>The nature and appropriateness of the estimation technique(s) applied and key assumptions, including treatment of extreme grade values, domaining, interpolation parameters and maximum distance of extrapolation from data points. If a computer assisted estimation method was chosen include a description</i></p>	<p>Blocks were constructed on a regular size of 10 m by 10 m by 1 m and estimated using parent cell Ordinary Kriging. Discretisation of 5 by 5 by 2 cells was used to offset the estimation.</p> <p>Block estimates include Ni, Co, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MgO, MnO, CaO, LOI, Cu, Zn, Sc, Na<sub>2</sub>O, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>3</sub> and include the elements usually required for laterite processing options.</p>



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	<p><i>of computer software and parameters used.</i></p> <p><i>The availability of check estimates, previous estimates and/or mine production records and whether the Mineral Resource estimate takes appropriate account of such data.</i></p> <p><i>The assumptions made regarding recovery of by-products.</i></p> <p><i>Estimation of deleterious elements or other non-grade variables of economic significance (eg sulphur for acid mine drainage characterisation).</i></p> <p><i>In the case of block model interpolation, the block size in relation to the average sample spacing and the search employed.</i></p> <p><i>Any assumptions behind modelling of selective mining units.</i></p> <p><i>Any assumptions about correlation between variables.</i></p> <p><i>Description of how the geological interpretation was used to control the resource estimates.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion of basis for using or not using grade cutting or capping.</i></p> <p><i>The process of validation, the checking process used, the comparison of model data to drill hole data, and use of reconciliation data if available.</i></p>	<p>Extrapolation is included with up to half the classification drill spacing at 12.5 m for Measured, 25 m for Indicated and 50 m for Inferred. Search parameters include a maximum of 12 composites in total, a maximum of 3 composite per sector and three estimation passes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 by 35 by 1.5 m, 4 min samples for Measured classification blocks</li> <li>• 70 by 70 by 2.5 m, 4 min samples for unestimated Measured or Indicated classification blocks</li> <li>• 150 by 150 by 3.5 m, 1 min samples for all remaining unestimated blocks.</li> </ul> <p>Unfolding was to the lower contact for the limonite and transition zones and the upper contact for the saprolite and bedrock zones.</p> <p>The blocks lie within the modelled seam in unfolded space and provided a representation of the sloping terrain in true space. The flattened orientation of the blocks and search range are consistent with the laterite formation and the variogram models used for the Kriged estimates. Elements were estimated independently but used the same or similar variogram models to ensure similar estimation weights.</p> <p>Similarities in the experimental variograms were used to derive combined models for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ni, Co and MnO</li> <li>• Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MgO, CaO &amp; LOI</li> </ul> <p>It is anticipated the 1 m blocks will be recombined into minable thickness units to assess mining options.</p> <p>Grade cutting is not applied as the elements do not display highly skewed grade distributions.</p> <p>The model was validated using visual observation, comparison of SWATH plots, mean grades and grade tonnage curves.</p> <p>This includes the comparison to raw samples, composites and nearest neighbour estimates to provide declustered averages.</p>
Moisture	<p><i>Whether the tonnages are estimated on a dry basis or with natural moisture, and the method of determination of the moisture content.</i></p>	<p>Tonnages are reported on a dry basis.</p> <p>Moisture data is currently derived from all sampled drill core based on weights before and after drying during sample preparation. Results are provided in the estimates for the approximate in-situ moisture content (MC).</p>
Cut-off parameters	<p><i>The basis of the adopted cut-off grade(s) or quality parameters applied.</i></p>	<p>Cut-off grades are also supplied to indicate material potentially suitable for export shipment or on-site processing. These will be reviewed based on market dynamics and further studies.</p> <p>Low grade cut-off grades include 0.7% Ni for limonite and 1.0% for saprolite. A higher grade threshold for saprolite at 1.4% Ni indicates potential saprolite shipment material.</p>
Mining factors or assumptions	<p><i>Assumptions made regarding possible mining methods, minimum mining dimensions and internal (or, if applicable, external) mining dilution. It is always necessary as part of the process of determining reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction to consider potential mining methods, but the assumptions made regarding mining methods and parameters when estimating Mineral Resources may not always be rigorous. Where this is the case, this should be reported with an explanation of the basis of the mining assumptions made.</i></p>	<p>Blocks of 10 m laterally have been employed to maintain a size suitable for mine planning purposes and the estimation of Measure Mineral Resource areas. The 1 m height blocks can be combined to provide different minimum thickness requirements for mining scenarios.</p> <p>The blocks include smoothing from within the zone that can be significant on wider spaced drilling classified as Indicated and Inferred. Dilution is required at the domain contacts that are modelled as sharp or hard boundaries.</p>





Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<p><i>Metallurgical factors or assumptions</i></p>	<p><i>The basis for assumptions or predictions regarding metallurgical amenability. It is always necessary as part of the process of determining reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction to consider potential metallurgical methods, but the assumptions regarding metallurgical treatment processes and parameters made when reporting Mineral Resources may not always be rigorous. Where this is the case, this should be reported with an explanation of the basis of the metallurgical assumptions made.</i></p>	<p>Kaiser Engineering in the 1990s undertook some metallurgical test work and bulk sampling and found the limonite suitable for pressure acid leach processing.</p> <p>In the 1960s, INCO dispatched a bulk shipment processed at Yabulu in Townsville successfully.</p> <p>Neither data sets were well documented and there is no subsequent metallurgical test work.</p> <p>Axiom has completed a multi-element analysis of all core that provides a full geochemical profile. This indicates the saprolite has a suitable SiO<sub>2</sub>/MgO ratio for smelters that import ore. The limonite is typical for wet tropic laterites and has a chemistry suitable for both HPAL, Carron and NPI processing options.</p>
<p><i>Environmental factors or assumptions</i></p>	<p><i>Assumptions made regarding possible waste and process residue disposal options. It is always necessary as part of the process of determining reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction to consider the potential environmental impacts of the mining and processing operation. While at this stage the determination of potential environmental impacts, particularly for a greenfields project, may not always be well advanced, the status of early consideration of these potential environmental impacts should be reported. Where these aspects have not been considered this should be reported with an explanation of the environmental assumptions made.</i></p>	<p>Axiom has a granted prospecting licence that requires stakeholder engagement and approval of local landowners.</p> <p>Axiom has also completed sufficient work to submit a mining lease application that requires additional stakeholder engagement and approvals as well as mining and environmental studies.</p> <p>Many of the ridge lines at Isabel have been previously disturbed by extensive logging and are relatively open. This includes all the areas drilled to date. Other areas are covered by thick rainforest.</p> <p>The environmental requirements are typical for any nickel laterite mine and are dominated by sediment control and run-off during mining. Rapid rehabilitation will help to stabilise mined areas.</p>



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary																																														
<i>Bulk density</i>	<p><i>Whether assumed or determined. If assumed, the basis for the assumptions. If determined, the method used, whether wet or dry, the frequency of the measurements, the nature, size and representativeness of the samples.</i></p> <p><i>The bulk density for bulk material must have been measured by methods that adequately account for void spaces (vugs, porosity, etc), moisture and differences between rock and alteration zones within the deposit.</i></p> <p><i>Discuss assumptions for bulk density estimates used in the evaluation process of the different materials.</i></p>	<p>Axiom commenced regular drill core density determinations in the orientation drilling program, using a field Archimedes method on 1 m samples to derive wet bulk density. This may have included some bubbles in the measurements and densities potentially biased low. The results are now considered biased and have not been used.</p> <p>Resource definition drilling implemented two density determination methods. One used direct measurement with callipers, which is suitable for soft clay samples and the other directly measuring volume via water displacement and used for hard rock or irregular specimens.</p> <p>The resource definition drilling program density methods have provided consistent results and the data accepted for density assessment.</p> <p>Density was reviewed and updated at the end of Phase 2 drilling with 3212 wet bulk density (WBD) determinations are available. Of which 1792 are considered reliable and used for average density assessments, with the remainder used to support the conclusions.</p> <p>The WBD are then corrected from average moisture content (MC) data to derive dry bulk density (DBD) determinations. A broad relationship with Ni grade and proximity to the limonite-saprolite interface has been captured using Ni grade ranges to assign density and moisture content to estimated blocks as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Zone</th> <th>Ni % Grade</th> <th>WBD</th> <th>MC</th> <th>DBD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Limonite overburden</td> <td></td> <td>1.88</td> <td>28</td> <td>1.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Limonite</td> <td>&lt;1</td> <td>1.88</td> <td>28</td> <td>1.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 to 1.2</td> <td>1.88</td> <td>31</td> <td>1.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>&gt;1.2</td> <td>1.79</td> <td>33</td> <td>1.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transition</td> <td></td> <td>1.72</td> <td>36</td> <td>1.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Saprolite</td> <td>&gt;1.6</td> <td>1.56</td> <td>39</td> <td>0.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>&lt;1.6</td> <td>1.47</td> <td>32</td> <td>1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Bedrock</td> <td>&gt;0.6</td> <td>1.64</td> <td>27</td> <td>1.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>&lt;0.6</td> <td>1.84</td> <td>24</td> <td>1.40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All density determinations are in units of t/m<sup>3</sup>. Saprolite DBD appears conservative but is based on available data.</p>	Zone	Ni % Grade	WBD	MC	DBD	Limonite overburden		1.88	28	1.35	Limonite	<1	1.88	28	1.35	1 to 1.2	1.88	31	1.30	>1.2	1.79	33	1.20	Transition		1.72	36	1.10	Saprolite	>1.6	1.56	39	0.95	<1.6	1.47	32	1.00	Bedrock	>0.6	1.64	27	1.20	<0.6	1.84	24	1.40
Zone	Ni % Grade	WBD	MC	DBD																																												
Limonite overburden		1.88	28	1.35																																												
Limonite	<1	1.88	28	1.35																																												
	1 to 1.2	1.88	31	1.30																																												
	>1.2	1.79	33	1.20																																												
Transition		1.72	36	1.10																																												
Saprolite	>1.6	1.56	39	0.95																																												
	<1.6	1.47	32	1.00																																												
Bedrock	>0.6	1.64	27	1.20																																												
	<0.6	1.84	24	1.40																																												
<i>Classification</i>	<p><i>The basis for the classification of the Mineral Resources into varying confidence categories.</i></p> <p><i>Whether appropriate account has been taken of all relevant factors (ie relative confidence in tonnage/grade estimations, reliability of input data, confidence in continuity of geology and metal values, quality, quantity and distribution of the data).</i></p> <p><i>Whether the result appropriately reflects the Competent Person's view of the deposit.</i></p>	<p>Both Mineral Resource estimation and classification is based on recent drill sampling by Axiom.</p> <p>At this stage the sampling data by INCO and Kaiser have been used only to supplement extrapolation and widely spaced areas supported by Axiom drilling. INCO sample is only considered to supplement Inferred Mineral Resource estimates.</p> <p>Mineral Resource classification is applied using drilling spacing typically used in the nickel laterite industry for wet tropic deposits that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>generally 100 m spacing for Inferred and up to 200 m</li> <li>50 m for Indicated</li> <li>25 m for Measured.</li> </ul> <p>Variograms support the basis of the classification for the saprolite zone. The limonite zone displays greater continuity but is classified on the same basis as the saprolite.</p>																																														
<i>Audits or reviews</i>	<p><i>The results of any audits or reviews of Mineral Resource estimates.</i></p>	<p>No audit or review of the Mineral Resource estimate has been completed at this stage. The previous Mineral Resource estimate was compared to previous INCO estimates and new estimates based on only historic INCO data.</p>																																														



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<i>Discussion of relative accuracy/ confidence</i>	<p><i>Where appropriate a statement of the relative accuracy and confidence level in the Mineral Resource estimate using an approach or procedure deemed appropriate by the Competent Person. For example, the application of statistical or geostatistical procedures to quantify the relative accuracy of the resource within stated confidence limits, or, if such an approach is not deemed appropriate, a qualitative discussion of the factors that could affect the relative accuracy and confidence of the estimate.</i></p> <p><i>The statement should specify whether it relates to global or local estimates, and, if local, state the relevant tonnages, which should be relevant to technical and economic evaluation. Documentation should include assumptions made and the procedures used.</i></p> <p><i>These statements of relative accuracy and confidence of the estimate should be compared with production data, where available.</i></p>	<p>Block estimates are based on variogram models that reflect the spatial change in variance. Total ranges on the variograms are 200 m in limonite and 50 m in saprolite. This reflects the higher variability present in the saprolite and the relative consistency of grade in the limonite.</p> <p>Variability in the limonite is principally in the thickness in limonite that can be subject to erosion in places, which may vary depending on the topographic setting.</p> <p>Variability in the saprolite is reflected in both thickness and grade. The higher cut-off grade required for economic definition of saprolite results in lateral patches that require detailed drilling for high confidence definition or mining of the saprolite to allow grade control definition.</p> <p>Wider spaced exploration drilling will result in broader smoothing and a lack of definition of the high grade zones. As a result it is expected that Indicated and particularly Inferred classified areas will likely understate quantity of higher grade saprolite that could be available.</p> <p>At this stage a geostatistical correction is not applied to the estimates until the mining criteria are reviewed.</p>

**ENDS**

#### About Axiom Mining Limited

Axiom Mining Limited focuses on tapping into the resource potential within the mineral-rich Pacific Rim. Through dedication to forging strong bonds and relationships with the local communities and governments where we operate, Axiom Mining has built a diversified portfolio of exploration tenements in the Asia Pacific region. This includes a majority interest in the Isabel Nickel Project in the Solomon Islands and highly prospective gold, silver and copper tenements in North Queensland, Australia. The Company is listed on the ASX. For more information on Axiom Mining, please visit [www.axiom-mining.com](http://www.axiom-mining.com)

#### Competent Person's Statement

The information in this announcement that relates to Exploration Results is based on information compiled by Mr Jovenal Gonzalez Jr who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM). Mr Gonzalez has sufficient experience that is relevant to the styles of mineralisation and types of deposit under consideration and to the activity that is 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 Gonzalez is an employee to Axiom Mining Limited and consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

This Mineral Resource estimate is based upon and accurately reflects data compiled or supervised by Mr John Horton, Principal Geologist of ResEval Pty Ltd, who is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM), a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG). Mr Horton has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and the type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he has undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 edition of the 'Australasian Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Horton consents to the inclusion in the report of matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

#### Disclaimer

Statements in this document that are forward-looking and involve numerous risk and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from expected results are based on the Company's current beliefs and assumptions regarding a large number of factors affecting its business, including litigation outcomes in the Solomon Islands Court of Appeal. There can be no assurance that (i) the Company has correctly measured or identified all of the factors affecting its business or their extent or likely impact; (ii) the publicly available information with respect to these factors on which the Company's analysis is based is complete or accurate; (iii) the Company's analysis is correct; or (iv) the Company's strategy, which is based in part on this analysis, will be successful.