# WESTERN AREAS LTD Australian Nickel Conference "Getting on with Business"

20 OCTOBER 2016





Spotted Quoll Open Pit

Corporate 
$$\longrightarrow$$
 Nickel  $\longrightarrow$  Operations  $\longrightarrow$  Growth & Exploration

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The information within this PowerPoint presentation was compiled by Western Areas management, but the information as it relates to mineral resources and reserves was prepared by Mr. Dan Lougher and Mr. Andre Wulfse. Mr. Lougher and Mr. Wulfse are full time employees of Western Areas Ltd. Mr. Lougher and Mr. Wulfse are members of Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) and have sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which they are undertaking to qualify as Competent Persons as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves' (2012 JORC Code). Mr. Lougher and Mr. Wulfse consent to the inclusion in this presentation of the matters based on the information in the form and context in which it appears.

For the Purposes of Clause 3.4(e) in Canadian instrument 43-101, the Company warrants that Mineral Resources which are not Mineral Reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability.

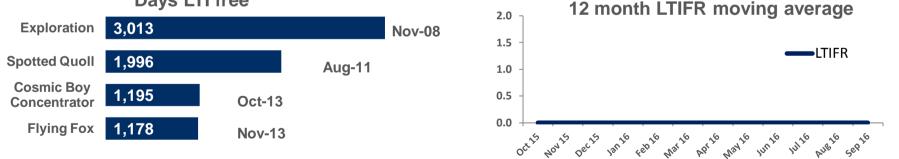


# CORPORATE

### WESTERN AREAS ARE SAFE AREAS



#### **Days LTI free**



#### Safe operations make efficient operations



### **CORPORATE OVERVIEW**

#### High quality assets

- Highest grade, low cash cost nickel producer
- Operational cashflow positive at current prices

#### No debt, clean balance sheet, low costs

- Further flexibility with undrawn A\$50m ANZ facility
- Low unit cash cost producer

#### Organic growth options

- Strong near-mine and regional exploration
- Cosmos exploration and Odysseus PFS

#### Positioned for nickel recovery

- A\$1/lb lift in nickel price = circa A\$35m EBITDA
- Portfolio delivers optionality

ASX code	WSA
Share price	2.67
Shares outstanding (m)	272.2
Market Cap (A\$m) <sup>1</sup>	726.8
Cash (A\$m) <sup>2</sup>	81.1

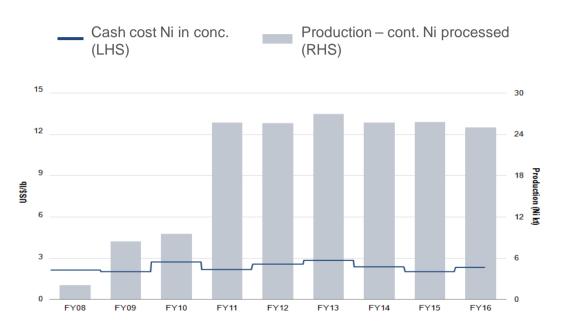
#### **Cosmos Nickel Complex** 567kt Ni resources **PFS** underway **Flying Fox** Pilbara 12.4kt Ni mined FY16 Carnarvon Mid West 48.2kt Ni reserves Warburto 102.2kt Ni resources ields - Esperance Geraldto Spotted Quoll 15.2kt Ni mined FY16 97kt Ni reserves 119.8kt Ni resources

### A leading mid-tier base metal producer



## **CONSISTENT LOW COST PRODUCER**

- ALL FY16 GUIDANCE METRICS MET OR EXCEEDED
- LTIFR ZERO over 2 yrs LTI free
- Exceptional consistency and 6 years without a guidance miss
- Record Spotted Quoll mine production of 15,175 Ni tonnes
- Unit cash cost of production at A\$2.26/lb (US\$1.64/lb) of nickel in concentrate
- Record annual mill throughput at 616,279 ore tonnes



#### A management team which consistently delivers guidance



## **ORGANIC GROWTH PROFILE**

#### Large holding in 2 significantly endowed nickel provinces Forrestania Operations – Western Australia

- New Morning project Near mine leveraging existing infrastructure with studies underway – upgraded resource
- History of reserve/resource extension
- Mill Recovery Enhancement Project lift metallurgical recoveries by 3-5% (evaluating Nickel Sulphate market)
- Evaluating Lithium potential at the Forrestania tenements

#### Cosmos Nickel Complex / Odysseus – Western Australia

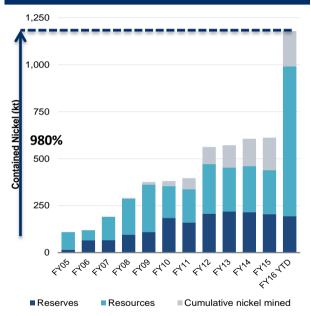
- Existing resources and infrastructure (previous Glencore/ Xstrata/Jubilee Mines operation)
- Option to develop a new West Australian integrated Nickel operation
- Drilling at Neptune to commence around year end

#### Western Gawler – South Australia

- First mover advantage
- Intrusive style and geologically similar to Nova

#### WSA has a track-record of discovery and development

#### **Historic reserves & resources**





# MANAGING THROUGH THE CYCLE

Reducing cost structure	Cash cost reduction has been a consistent feature		
	<ul> <li>Expertise in dilution control and maximising grade and tonnage versus reserve / resource</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Maximising plant and equipment productivity</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Absolute cost out with contractors, suppliers and at the corporate level</li> </ul>		
Prudent capital management	Remaining debt free with A\$81.1m cash at bank		
	<ul> <li>Deferred the Mill Enhancement Project by 6 months, but long lead items ordered</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Exploration spend reduced, but still robust. Focus on Cosmos and Western Gawler</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Retain a strong balance sheet to provide flexibility</li> </ul>		
Opportunistic approach	Build portfolio		
	<ul> <li>Add quality projects that suffer through a lack of funding and/or play to our core strengths</li> </ul>		
	Maintain valuation discipline		
	<ul> <li>Be patient in assessing opportunities. Do not succumb to the fear of "missing out"</li> </ul>		

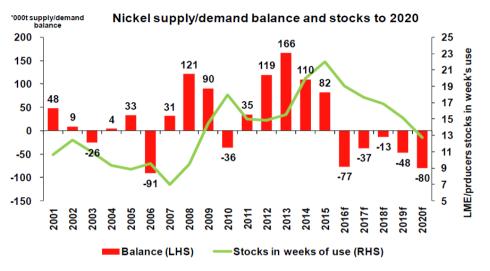
### The cost structure and capabilities to prosper throughout the cycle



# NICKEL MARKET



### LARGE OVER-SUPPLY MOVING TO DEFICIT



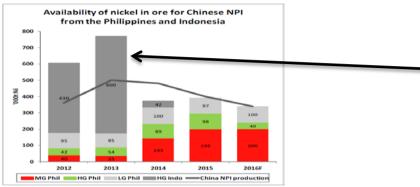
Source: INSG, Macquarie Research, May 2016

Last 5 yrs of surplus supply

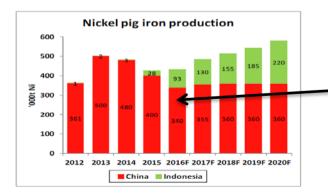
- Forecast of 70-75k tonnes deficit in 2016
- Does not factor in current
   Filipino environmental concerns and mine closures
- Current LME stockpiles falling and no increase in SHFE inventory
- Strong growth in 300 Series SS (contains 10-12% nickel)



## **IMPACT OF INDONESIAN AND FILIPINO LATERITE ORE**



Source: Trade data, Nickel Asia, Macquarie Research, May 2016



Source: INSG, Macquarie Research, May 2016

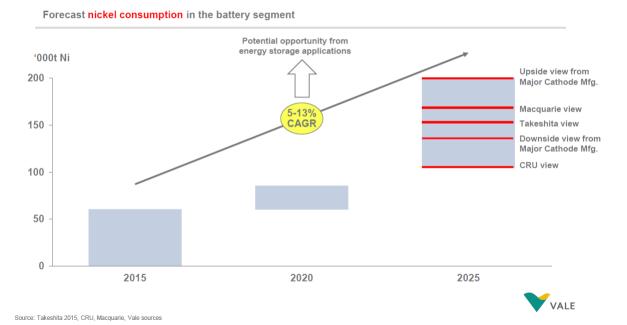
- Indonesian miners ramped up nickel production ahead of Jan 2014 ban – maybe
   300kt+ nickel was stocked in China ahead of ban
- Philippines ramped up production after the ban – mainly lower grade ores (1.4 – 1.5% Ni vs. 1.8 – 2.0% from Indonesia)
- New Caledonian laterite exports have strict controls and is not additional material
- Recent moves by Filipino Government to
   moderate environmental impact. Talks on potential ban – catalyst for recent Ni price

movement



## **GROWING EMERGING MARKET – ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

- Nickel is increasingly being included in battery formulations as it leads to higher energy density batteries. Approximately 50kgs Ni in each Tesla EV.
- Nickel demand from batteries is expected to grow at faster pace than seen historically, from ~50kt in 2015 to 150-200kt by 2025

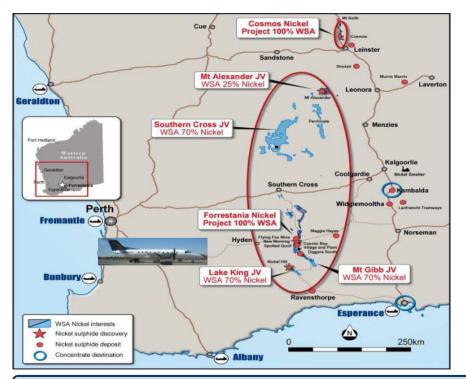


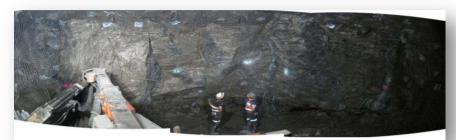
WESTERN AREAS LTD

# OPERATIONS

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# **LOCATION – EASILY ACCESSIBLE SITES**





Lounge Lizard 10m wide face of 7% Massive Nickel Sulphide



Spotted Quoll face at average 10.6% Nickel Sulphide

Premier and stable mining district with high quality mines and organic growth options

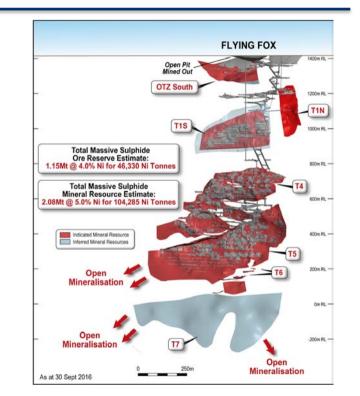


### **FLYING FOX MINE**

Reserve	1.15Mt @ 4.0%
Contained nickel	46,330 Ni tonnes
Resource	2.08Mt @ 5.0%
Contained nickel	104,285 Ni tonnes
Mine life	5 years

#### **Key points**

- FY16 production 12,432 Ni tonnes
- Reserve life has a demonstrated history of replenishment
- Added OTZ South Massive Zone 182,898t @ 4.1% Ni for 7,417 nickel tonnes
- Recent drilling into T5 and T6 domain has been encouraging, including 6.3m @ 8.0% Ni
- Has been operating for over 10 years



### WSA's foundation asset within Forrestania

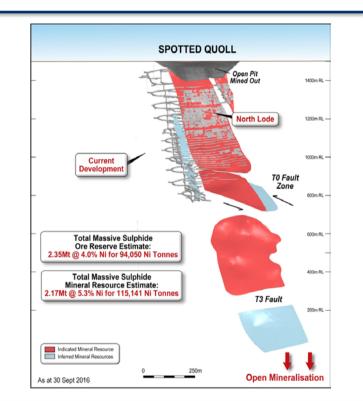


## **SPOTTED QUOLL MINE**

Reserve	2.35Mt @ 4.0%
Contained nickel	94,050 Ni tonnes
Resource	2.17Mt @ 5.3%
Contained nickel	115,141 Ni tonnes
Mine life	+8 years

#### **Key points**

- Has never recorded an LTI
- FY16 record annual production 15,175 Ni tonnes
- Discovered by WSA in 2007, 6km south of Flying Fox
- Remains open at depth and to the North
- Production has outperformed reserve tonnes and grade consistently
- Top down mining with paste fill



### WSA Explored, Discovered and Developed



#### **Concentrator Summary**

- Mill processed an annual record of 616k tonnes of ore in FY16, for 25,009 nickel tonnes
- 12% above name plate capacity of 550,000 tpa
- Concentrate grades of between 14.0% to 15.5% Ni
  - Premium blending product (Fe/Mg ratio >15:1)
  - Desirable to smelters

#### **Export Infrastructure and Logistics**

- Export concentrate transported to Esperance Port in half height containers and through to China
- Shipping contract in place, FOB Terms
- BHPB Nickel West concentrate delivered to Kambalda

### WSA produces a high quality and in demand nickel concentrate





### **INDEPENDENT PRODUCER – OFFTAKE CONTRACTS**

#### **Offtake Contracts**

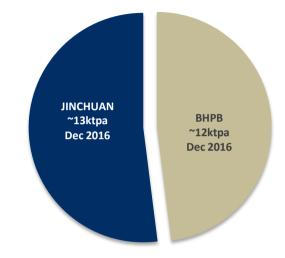
- Existing contracts with Jinchuan/BHPB
- "FOB" Terms
- Very competitive payable percentage of LME

#### **Offtake Status – Opportunities for Western Areas**

- 10ktpa contract for BHPB expires for first time in 7 years
- Tender process commenced in October 2016
- Potential growth in roasting market in Asia the Company is investigating alternative markets
- Shortage of high quality premium blending concentrate
- Strong EOI's already received from new and existing parties

#### **Evaluating New Markets**

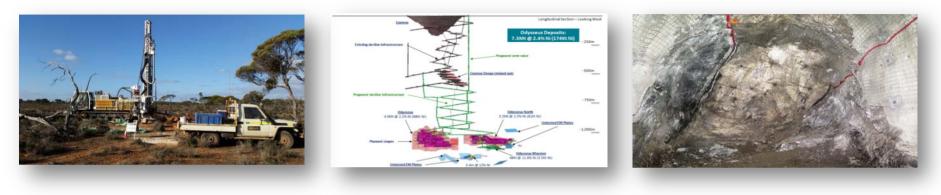
 Potential to produce nickel sulphate through the mill recovery enhancement project





# GROWTH & EXPLORATION OUTLOOK

### **BUILDING THE PLATFORM**



Exploration and Growth	Development	Production
<ul> <li>Cosmos Nickel Complex</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Odysseus PFS</li> </ul>	Spotted Quoll
<ul> <li>Western Gawler JV</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>New Morning</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Flying Fox</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Forrestania</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Mill Recovery Enhancement</li> </ul>	Cosmic Boy Concentrator

A portfolio with production and growth optionality



### **COSMOS ACQUISITION**

#### **Strategic Rationale**

- Low cost entry Full purchase price \$24.5m plus stamp duty
- Right street address historical highest grade mine globally; under explored ultramafic belt (88km<sup>2</sup>)
- Full infrastructure and facilities Mill, camp, aerodrome, gas pipeline
- Potential 3<sup>rd</sup> mine drilled out resources
- "Ready to go" when nickel prices support development









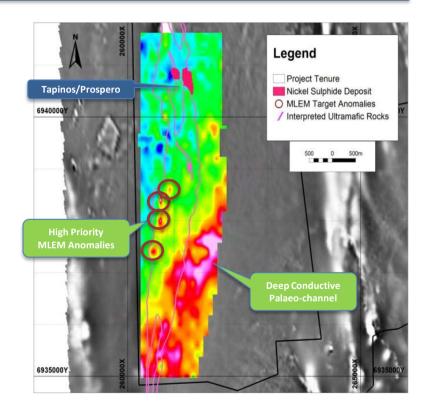
### **COSMOS EXPLORATION**

#### Focus on Neptune (previously Lake Miranda)

- Significant anomalies detected through MLEM
- Heritage surveys successfully completed
- Section 18 lodged
- Drilling targeted by end of CY16
- DHEM being completed between Odysseus and Prospero

# Review of Xstrata drill data base reveals intersections requiring follow-up work

- Prospero 4.2m @ 12.5% Ni (incl 2.4m @ 19.7% Ni)
- Aries 4.5m @ 12.3% Ni and 3.3m @ 10.6% Ni





### **ODYSSEUS PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY**

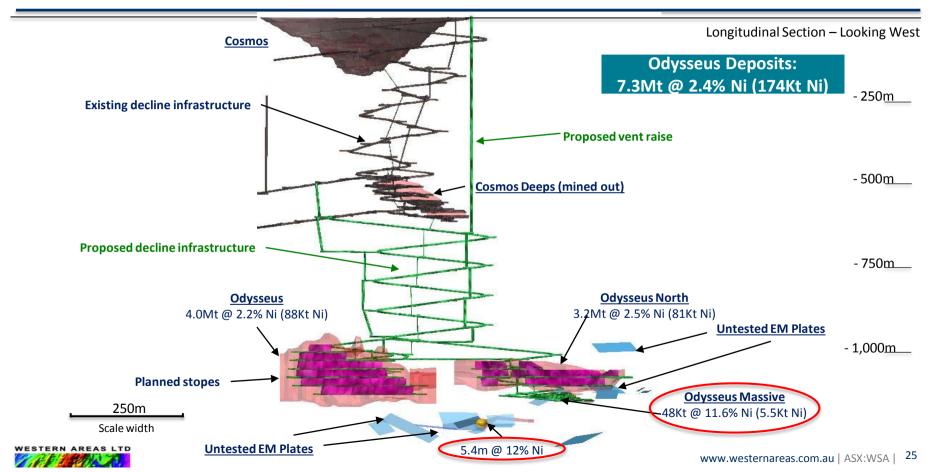
Significant undeveloped resource containing massive sulphides, matrix sulphides and high grade disseminated sulphides

### **Pre-feasibility Study Commenced**

- Targeted completion in December quarter 2016
- Significant savings >30% identified for operating and capital costs
- Review mining method, mining schedule and underground infrastructure
- Produce concentrate grade in line with FNO grades and improve nickel recovery
- Review metallurgical testwork and flow sheet to optimise processing plant
- Further optimise capital and operating cost assumptions
- Explore contractor versus owner operator alternatives and leverage FNO experience
- Full feasibility study planned for CY2017



## **ODYSSEUS CONCEPTUAL MINE DESIGN**



# WESTERN GAWLER JOINT VENTURE

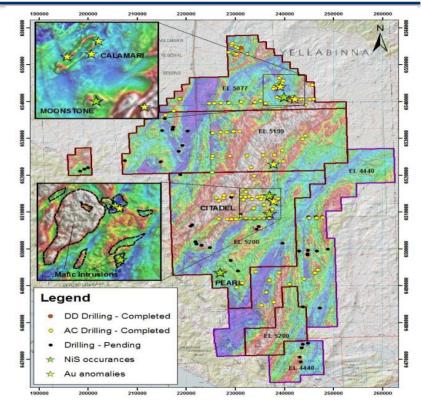
- Greenfields Exploration
  - Large strategic holding (4,450km<sup>2</sup>)
  - Camp scale opportunities
  - Majority 100% owned
    - With Strandline farm in agreement WSA earning up to 90%
- Right Address
  - Prospective under explored belt
  - Analogous to Fraser Range
  - Targeting poly-metallic base metal and gold mineralisation
- Right Rocks
  - Mafic/Ultramafic intrusive rocks
  - Magmatic nickel sulphides confirmed in multiple locations (Petrology)
- Right Signatures
  - Anomalous values returned from drilling



# **EXPLORATION SUMMARY**

#### Broad scale prospectivity for Ni/Cu and Gold

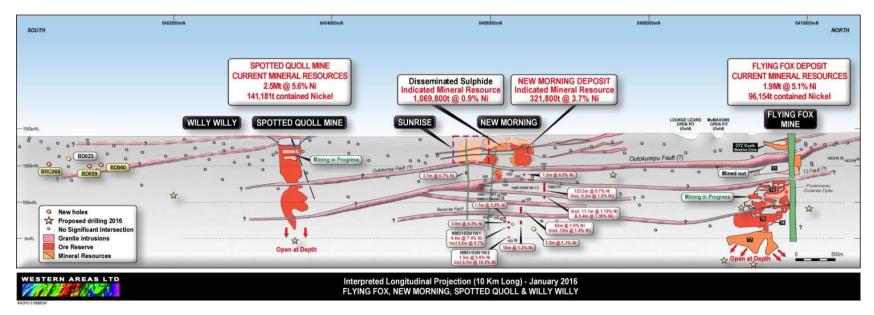
- Successful first phase of exploration
  - Mafic/Ultramafic intrusions identified
  - Broad spaced drilling in progress
    - 150 AC holes -12,451m , 1xDDH 582.6m
- Numerous areas of potential identified
  - Coincident magnetic and gravity anomalies and geochemical anomalism from drilling
  - Pearl, Atomic Café, Citadel, Moonstone, Calamari
- Planned exploration (next six months)
  - Further testing prospect areas
    - Pearl, Citadel, Moonstone
    - Gravity and ground electromagnetic surveys
  - Prospect generation Yalata area
    - On ground exploration to commence
    - Gravity / First phase drilling
  - Drill testing of anomalies
- Community Proactive engagement to support activities



Exploration drilling overlaying magnetics (RTP)

## **FORRESTANIA – NEAR MINE EXPLORATION**

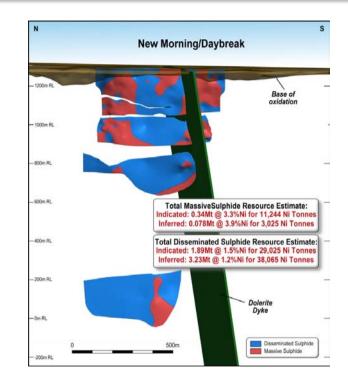
- Focus is on near mine opportunities
- Upgrade New Morning / Daybreak resource potential open pit





# **NEW MORNING / DAYBREAK**

- 2.5km from Flying Fox and 2.8km from Spotted Quoll
- All material approvals in place, potential major capex savings and accessible from either mine
- Open Pit and shallow underground studies commenced
- BioHeap testwork ongoing to evaluate heap leach criteria
- Massive sulphide Resource of 418kt @ 3.4% for 14,249 nickel tonnes
- Low grade resource (at 0.5% Ni COG) of 5.1m tonnes @ 1.3% for 67,090 nickel tonnes





## WESTERN AREAS VALUE EQUATION

Strong leverage to turnaround in nickel price through current operations and organic projects



# THE END

Constant of