

***Not for release to US wire services or distribution in the United States***

22 February 2023

# EXPLORATION AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE

## Highlights

- Next assay results from maiden drilling at Salazar Rare Earth Elements (REE) Clay Project in southern Western Australia due before month-end
- Beneficiation testwork on Salazar ore progressing well in conjunction with technology partners
- Diamond holes to be drilled at Bulla Park Copper Project (NSW) in June 2023 quarter to test new geological model
- Planning underway for commencement of field activities at Hermit Hill Lithium Project in Northern Territory

West Cobar Metals Limited (ASX:WC1) ("West Cobar", "the Company") is pleased to provide an update on activities at its suite of mineral exploration projects in Western Australia, New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

### Salazar Rare Earths (WA)

Following completion of the first phase of aircore drilling at Salazar Rare Earth Elements 120km NE of the town of Esperance in WA, West Cobar expects to receive a second batch of assay results before the end of February 2023.

The first batch, received in early February, included results for 13 holes<sup>1</sup> and showed total rare earth oxide grades of up to 1.1%. The second batch is likely to include results for 50+ holes drilled surrounding the area of the Newmont Inferred Resource. The remaining results from the 283-hole, 9342m program are expected in March (Figure 1).

<sup>1</sup> West Cobar ASX announcement dated 6 February 2023

For personal use only

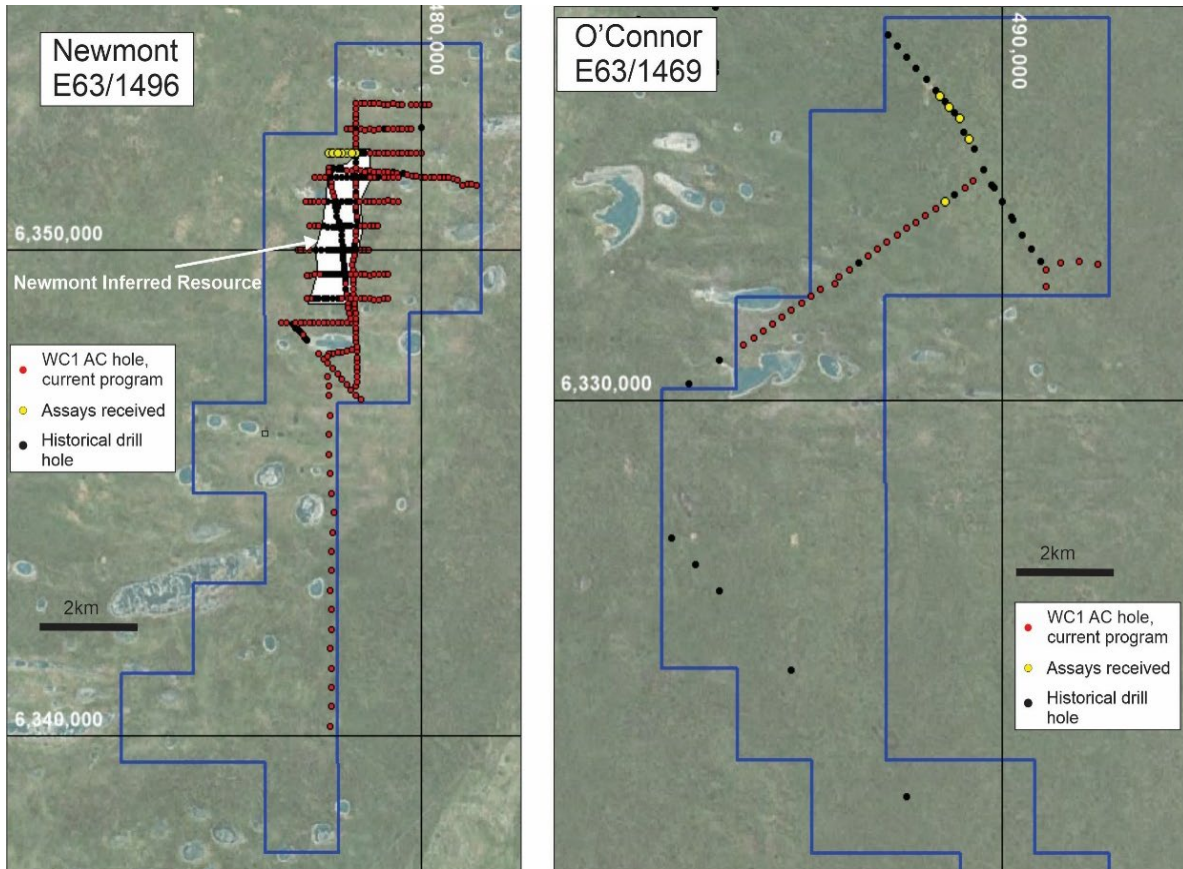


Figure 1: Remaining 270 drill results (in red) from phase 1 air core program at Newmont and O'Connor

All information from the drilling program will be integrated with historical data, with a view to updating the existing high-grade Newmont Inferred Resource (43.5Mt at 1192ppm TREO<sup>2</sup>) in the June 2023 quarter. It is anticipated that drilling will resume in the September quarter as the Company seeks to grow the Salazar resource further.

Meanwhile, beneficiation testwork on representative ore samples from the Newmont deposit is currently underway through the ARC Centre of Excellence for Enabling Eco-Efficient Beneficiation of Minerals at the University of Newcastle.

West Cobar has also engaged mineral processing specialist Nagrom to undertake scouting beneficiation testwork on historical ore samples from the O'Connor prospect.

These metallurgical programs will run over the course of 2023, with material results to be communicated as they become available.

<sup>2</sup> West Cobar ASX announcement "Acquisition of Salazar Rare Earths Project" dated 8 September 2022.

### **Bulla Park Copper (NSW)**

West Cobar plans to fly a low-level aeromagnetic survey over the Bulla Park Copper Project in the Cobar Basin in central NSW this quarter ahead of confirming the location for 1-2 diamond drill holes to test a new geological model for the project.

The new model suggests that the significant copper mineralisation identified at Bulla Park to date could reflect a “halo” around a higher-grade intrusive pipe or stockwork system, as is seen in other deposits in the Cobar Basin.

The Company expects the diamond holes to be drilled in the June 2023 quarter, with results to inform next steps at Bulla Park.

### **Hermit Hill Lithium (NT)**

Following the grant of the 667km<sup>2</sup> Hermit Hill tenement (EL 33208) in December 2022, West Cobar has begun planning in preparation for the commencement of fieldwork at the end of the wet season in April.

Initial activities will include geological mapping and soil and rock chip sampling to develop targets for drilling. Geophysical surveys may also be undertaken to assist in identifying lithium-rich pegmatitic zones under cover.

### **West Cobar Metals – other NSW projects**

Inter-party negotiations with the property owners at West Cobar’s Cawkers Well and Nantilla projects in New South Wales have to date been unsuccessful in concluding access agreements.

The mediation – arbitration process, as set out in the arbitration framework within the *Mining Act 1992* (NSW), has been initiated in an attempt to substantiate West Cobar’s access rights.



For personal use only

WEST COBAR METALS

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

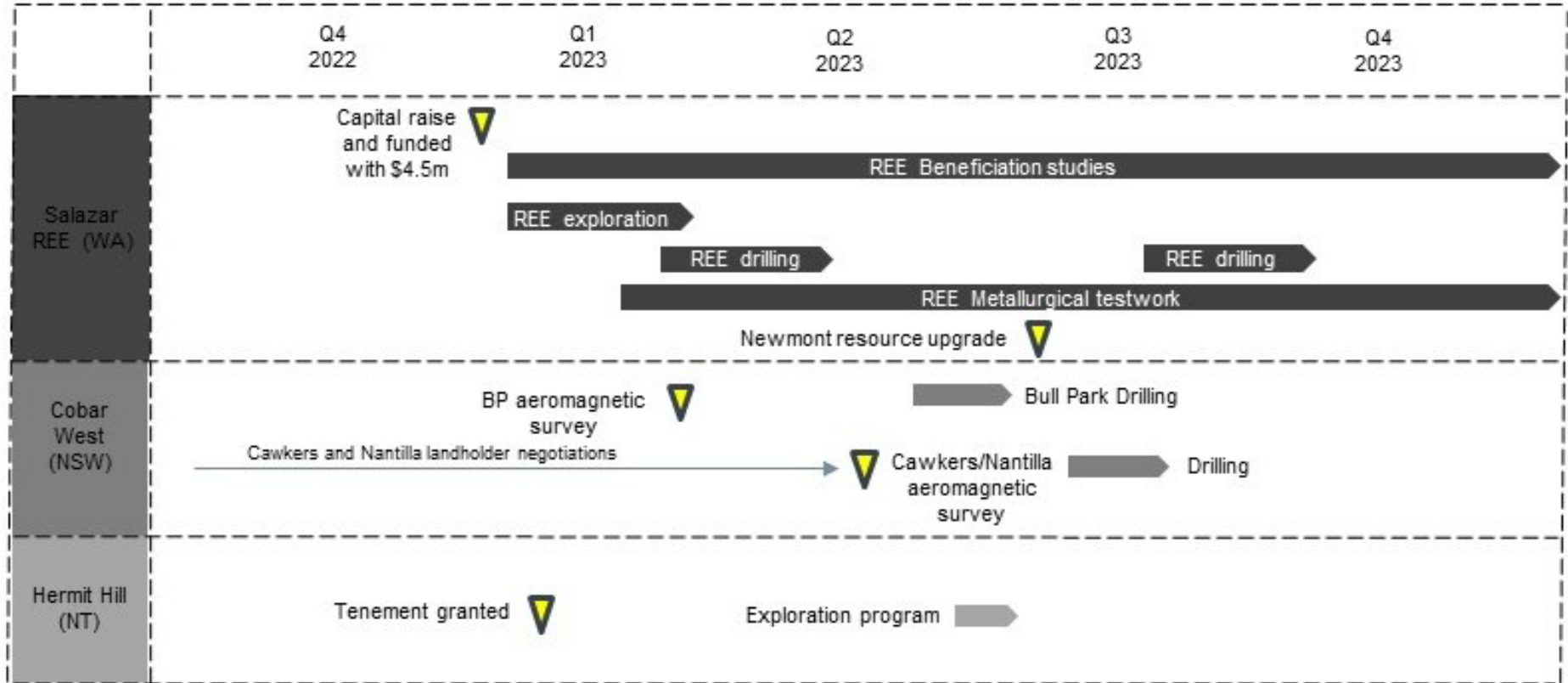


Figure 2: Proposed WC1 quarterly exploration and resource development activities

-ENDS-

This ASX announcement has been approved by the Board of West Cobar Metals Limited.

**Further information:**

David Pascoe  
Chief Executive Officer  
[david.pascoe@westcobarmetals.com.au](mailto:david.pascoe@westcobarmetals.com.au)  
+61 8 9481 0389

Luke Forrestal  
GRA Partners  
[luke.forrestal@grapartners.com.au](mailto:luke.forrestal@grapartners.com.au)  
+61 411 479 144

Kevin Das  
Executive Director  
[kevin.das@westcobarmetals.com.au](mailto:kevin.das@westcobarmetals.com.au)  
+61 421 077 523

This announcement has been prepared for publication in Australia and may not be released or distributed in the United States. This announcement does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, securities in the United States or any other jurisdiction. Any securities described in this announcement have not been, and will not be, registered under the US Securities Act of 1933 and may not be offered or sold in the United States except in transactions exempt from, or not subject to, the registration of the US Securities Act and applicable US state securities laws.

**Forward looking statement**

Certain information in this document refers to the intentions of West Cobar, but these are not intended to be forecasts, forward looking statements or statements about the future matters for the purposes of the Corporations Act or any other applicable law. The occurrence of the events in the future are subject to risk, uncertainties and other actions that may cause West Cobar's actual results, performance or achievements to differ from those referred to in this document. Accordingly, West Cobar and its affiliates and their directors, officers, employees and agents do not give any assurance or guarantee that the occurrence of these events referred to in the document will actually occur as contemplated.

Statements contained in this document, including but not limited to those regarding the possible or assumed future costs, performance, dividends, returns, revenue, exchange rates, potential growth of West Cobar, industry growth or other projections and any estimated company earnings are or may be forward looking statements. Forward-looking statements can generally be identified by the use of words such as 'project', 'foresee', 'plan', 'expect', 'aim', 'intend', 'anticipate', 'believe', 'estimate', 'may', 'should', 'will' or similar expressions. These statements relate to future events and expectations and as such involve known and unknown risks and significant uncertainties, many of which are outside the control of West Cobar. Actual results, performance, actions and developments of West Cobar may differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements in this document.

Such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this document. There can be no assurance that actual outcomes will not differ materially from these statements. To the maximum extent permitted by law, West Cobar and any of its affiliates and their directors, officers, employees, agents, associates and advisers:

- disclaim any obligations or undertaking to release any updates or revisions to the information to reflect any change in expectations or assumptions;
- do not make any representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information in this document, or likelihood of fulfilment of any forward-looking statement or any event or results expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement; and
- disclaim all responsibility and liability for these forward-looking statements (including, without limitation, liability for negligence).

### **Competent Person Statement and JORC Information**

The Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (the 'JORC Code') sets out minimum standards, recommendations and guidelines for Public Reporting in Australasia of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves.

The information contained in this announcement that relates to the exploration information at West Cobar's projects fairly reflects information compiled by Mr David Pascoe, who is CEO of West Cobar Metals Limited and a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Pascoe has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking 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 Pascoe consents to the inclusion in this announcement of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

The Company confirms that with respect to the Salazar Project, that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the Ore Resources provided by the Competent Person in the announcement to the ASX of 8 September 2022 and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the Ore Resources, continue to apply and have not materially changed.