

## **Maiden critical minerals exploration program commences at Aston Project in WA's highly prospective Gascoyne Province**

**Initial exploration field work to focus on known high-grade lithium trend.**

### **KEY POINTS**

- The 100%-owned Aston Project ("Project") is located in the rapidly emerging Gascoyne Lithium-REE\* Mineral Province of Western Australia.
- The Project, which was acquired earlier this year, comprises 13 largely contiguous Exploration Licences covering a total area of ~1,700km<sup>2</sup>.
- Recent exploration successes by companies working in the region proximal to the Aston Project have highlighted the potential for significant lithium and rare earth (REE) mineralisation.

**Minerals 260 Limited ("Minerals 260" or the "Company")** is pleased to advise that it has commenced its maiden exploration field work program at the recently acquired Aston Project, located approximately 230km east of Carnarvon and 850km north of Perth in Western Australia (**Figure 1**).

The Aston Project was acquired earlier this year via the purchase of two separate tenement packages from ASX-listed explorers eMetals Limited and White Cliff Minerals Limited (see ASX releases dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023).

The Gascoyne Province has been explored historically for gold, base metals, tungsten and uranium; however, recent exploration by neighbouring tenement holders has highlighted the region's prospectivity for both hard rock hosted lithium (spodumene) and REE deposits.

The planned field program, which is designed to define drill targets, will take approximately six months to complete and comprises:

- Geological reconnaissance including rock chip sampling.
- A detailed airborne magnetic and radiometric survey over the ~50% of the Project area for which this data is not already available.
- A grid-based (500x500m) geochemical program comprising ~6,000 samples.

The geological reconnaissance program will initially prioritise the Jameson-Malinda lithium trend, defined by Delta Lithium Limited (ASX: DLI/formerly Red Dirt Metals Limited), part of which is interpreted to trend through the northern part of the Aston Project (**Figure 2**).

Exploration by Delta Lithium<sup>1</sup> has recorded significant spodumene-related lithium mineralisation at the Malinda prospect (up to 29m @ 1.4% Li<sub>2</sub>O from 121m) and the Jameson prospect (up to 4.2% Li<sub>2</sub>O in rock chips), which are located ~20km apart. Government mapping and air photo imagery indicates that ~6km of this prospective trend runs through the Aston Project (**Figure 3**).

REE\* - Rare Earth Elements

<sup>1</sup> DLI ASX announcement dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and [www.deltalithium.com.au](http://www.deltalithium.com.au)

Government mapping has also recorded numerous pegmatites and tantalum occurrences within the region (**Figure 2**) including on the Aston Project. This is interpreted to enhance the lithium prospectivity of the region given that most of the significant pegmatite-hosted lithium developments in Australia were previously exploited for tantalum.

The Gascoyne Province is also emerging as a globally important REE region with significant discoveries located both north and south of the Aston Project (**Figure 1**), including:

- The Yangibana REE Project, being developed by Hastings Technology Metals Limited ("Hastings"/ASX: HAS<sup>2</sup>), and Dreadnought Resources Limited's ("Dreadnought"/ASX: DRE<sup>3</sup>) Yin REE mineral resource, both located 50-60km to the north; and
- Kingfisher Mining Limited's ("Kingfisher"/ASX: KFM) MW2 Rare Earth Element (REE) discovery<sup>4</sup>, located adjacent to the south-west corner of the Aston Project (**Figure 2**).

The discoveries outlined above are coincident with strong thorium anomalies defined by detailed airborne radiometric surveys. Detailed radiometric data available for the tenure acquired from White Cliff Minerals has defined similar strong thorium anomalies that will be investigated by the planned reconnaissance work. A subset of these thorium anomalies is shown in **Figure 4**.

The Aston Project is largely underlain by the Durlacher Supersuite (**Figure 2**), which is the primary host unit to the Yangibana and Yin discoveries, and it is envisaged that the airborne geophysical survey in progress over the ground acquired from eMetals will define additional thorium anomalies for follow up.

Magnetic data from the current airborne geophysical survey, which will take four weeks to complete, will be merged with the White Cliffs data and assessed for signatures that may indicate carbonatite intrusions prospective for REE mineralisation.

Historic exploration included extensive stream and localised soil surveys; however, only a limited number of the samples were assayed for lithium and REE. The proposed geochemical program is designed to provide litho-geochemical data that will lead to in-fill sampling and definition of drill targets.

Minerals 260's strong cash position (~\$18.6M on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023) ensures that it can quickly progress exploration activity on the Gascoyne tenure while maintaining momentum at its other key asset, the Moora/Koojan Project in the Julimar Region of south-west Western Australia.

## **Management Comments**

Commenting on the commencement of fieldwork at Aston, Minerals 260 Managing Director David Richards said: *"Given that we have worked hard to acquire a large land position in the highly prospective Gascoyne Province, we are excited to get on the ground and start our targeted exploration program."*

*"We look forward to updating the market with additional news as soon as possible."*

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Managing Director, David Richards.

<sup>2</sup> [www.hastingstechmetals.com](http://www.hastingstechmetals.com)

<sup>3</sup> DRE ASX announcement dated 28<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and [www.dreadnoughtresources.com.au](http://www.dreadnoughtresources.com.au)

<sup>4</sup> KFM ASX announcement dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and [www.kingfishermining.com.au](http://www.kingfishermining.com.au)

## Competent Person Statement

*The Information in this report that relates to new Exploration Results is based on and fairly represents information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr David Richards, who is a Competent Person and a member of the Australasian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG). Mr Richards is a full-time employee of the company. Mr Richards has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activities 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 Richards consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.*

*The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcements and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates or production targets or forecast financial information derived from a production target (as applicable) in the relevant market announcements continue to apply and have not materially changed. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcements.*

## Forward Looking Statement

*This announcement contains forward-looking statements which involve a number of risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are expressed in good faith and believed to have a reasonable basis. These statements reflect current expectations, intentions or strategies regarding the future and assumptions based on currently available information. Should one or more of the risks or uncertainties materialise, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary from the expectations, intentions and strategies described in this announcement. No obligation is assumed to update forward looking statements if these beliefs, opinions and estimates should change or to reflect other future developments.*

---

### For further information please contact:

David Richards  
Managing Director  
T: +61 8 6556 6020  
[info@minerals260.com.au](mailto:info@minerals260.com.au)

---

### Investor Relations:

Nicholas Read  
Read Corporate  
T: +61 8 9388 1474  
[nicholas@readcorporate.com.au](mailto:nicholas@readcorporate.com.au)

---

For personal use only

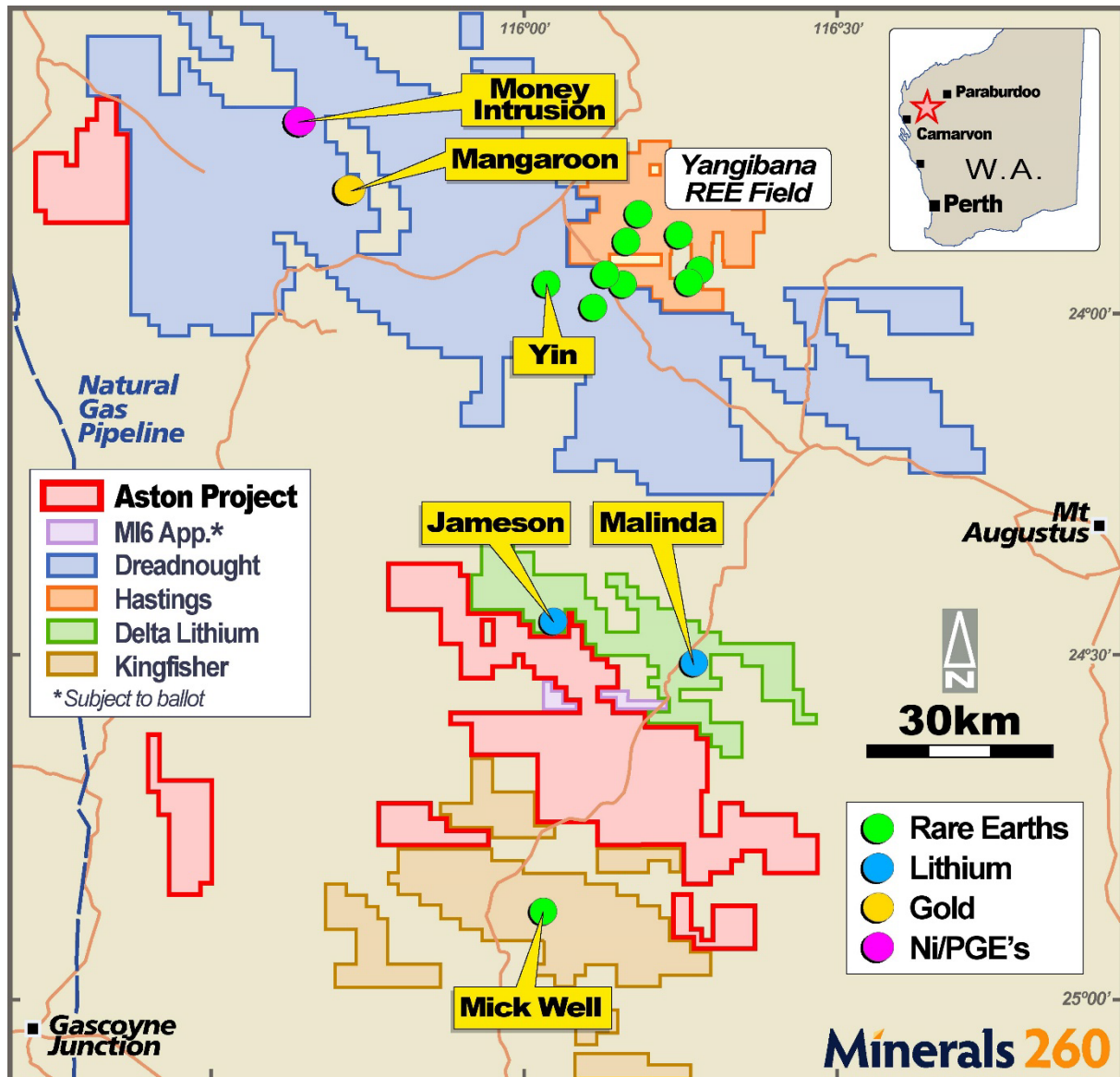


Figure 1: Aston Project – Location plan showing significant tenement positions.

For personal use only

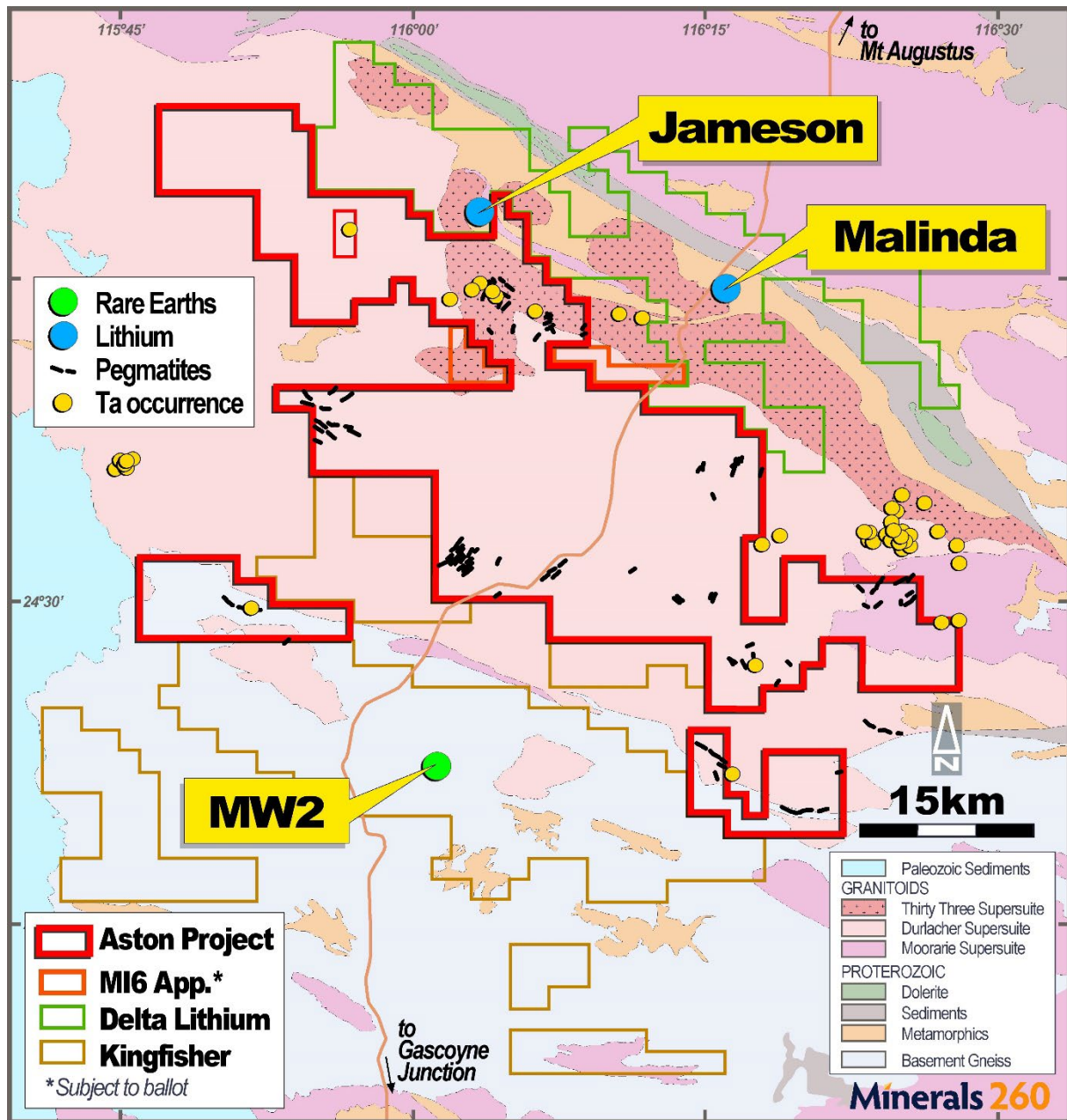


Figure 2: Aston Project – Geoscience Australia 1:2,500,000 bedrock interpretation showing known lithium and REE mineralisation.

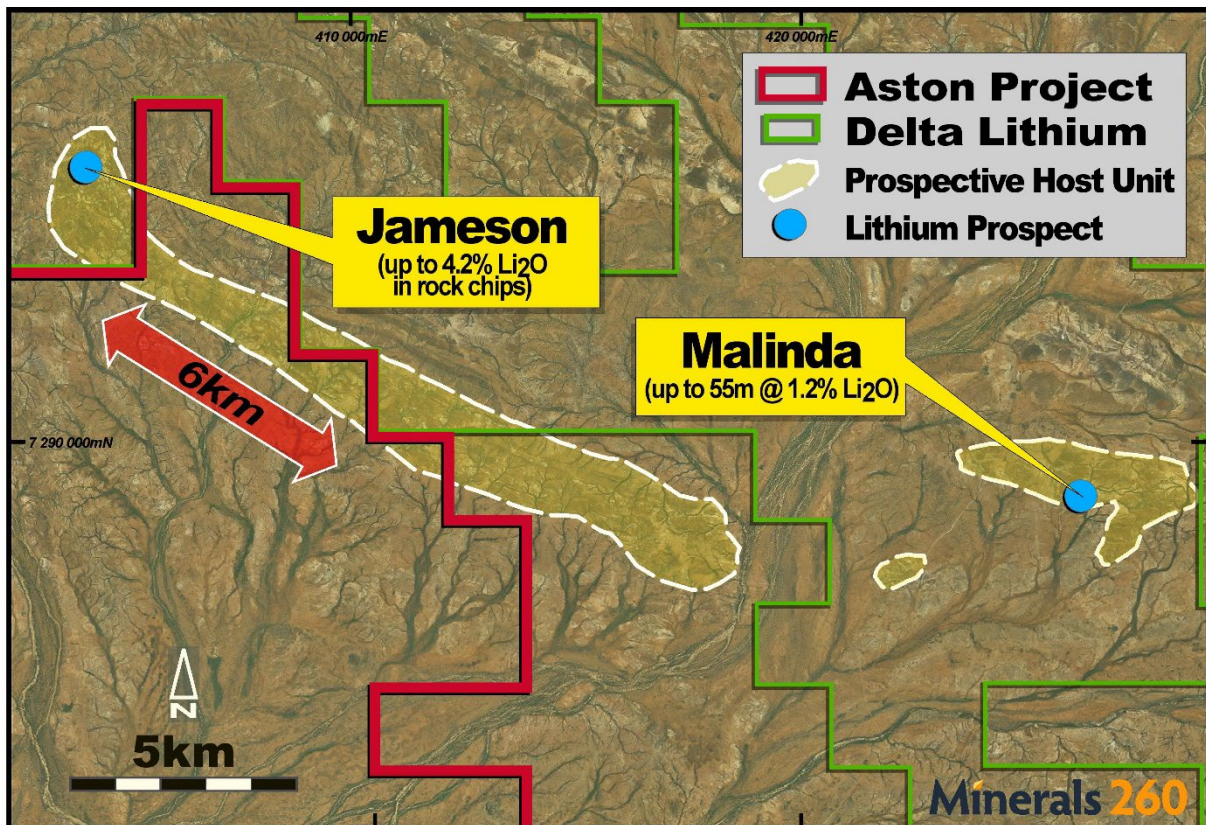


Figure 3: Aston Project – Jameson-Malinda lithium trend on air photo image.

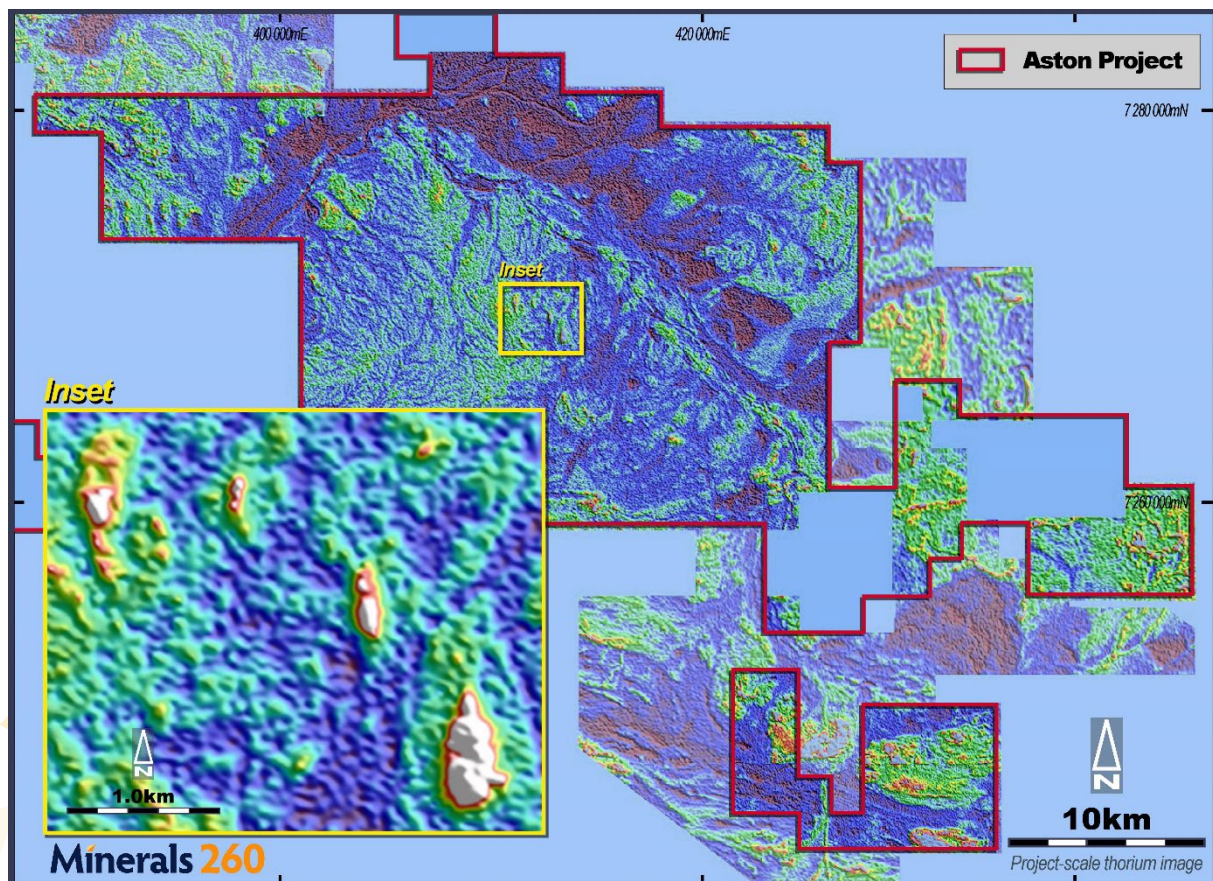


Figure 4: Aston Project – Thorium image over former White Cliff tenure.

## Appendix 1 – Aston Project– JORC Code 2012 Table 1 Criteria

The table below summarises the assessment and reporting criteria used for the Aston Project and reflects the guidelines in Table 1 of *The Australasian Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves* (the JORC Code, 2012).

### Section 1 Sampling Techniques and Data

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<b>Sampling techniques</b>	<i>Nature and quality of sampling (eg 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>	No drilling, rock chip or soil sample results reported
	<i>Include reference to measures taken to ensure sample representivity and the appropriate calibration of any measurement tools or systems used.</i>	
	<i>Aspects of the determination of mineralisation that are Material to the Public Report.</i>  <i>In cases where 'industry standard' work has been done this would be relatively simple (eg 'reverse circulation drilling was used to obtain 1 m samples from which 3 kg was pulverised to produce a 30 g 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>	No drilling reported
<b>Drilling techniques</b>	<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>	No drilling reported
<b>Drill sample recovery</b>	<i>Method of recording and assessing core and chip sample recoveries and results assessed.</i>	No drilling reported
	<i>Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples.</i>	No drilling reported
	<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>	None noted.
<b>Logging</b>	<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>	No drilling reported
	<i>Whether logging is qualitative or quantitative in nature. Core (or costean, channel, etc) photography.</i>	No drilling reported
	<i>The total length and percentage of the relevant intersections logged.</i>	No drilling reported
<b>Sub-sampling techniques and</b>	<i>If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken.</i>	No drilling reported

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<b>sample preparation</b>	<i>If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split, etc and whether sampled wet or dry.</i>	No drilling reported
	<i>For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample preparation technique.</i>	No drilling reported
	<i>Quality control procedures adopted for all sub-sampling stages to maximise representivity of samples.</i>	No drilling reported
	<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>	No drilling reported
	<i>Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled.</i>	No drilling reported
<b>Quality of assay data and laboratory tests</b>	<i>The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total.</i>	No drilling reported
	<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>	No drilling reported
	<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>	No drilling reported
<b>Verification of sampling and assaying</b>	<i>The verification of significant intersections by either independent or alternative company personnel.</i>	No drilling reported
	<i>The use of twinned holes.</i>	No drilling reported
	<i>Documentation of primary data, data entry procedures, data verification, data storage (physical and electronic) protocols.</i>	No drilling, rock chip or soil sample results reported
	<i>Discuss any adjustment to assay data.</i>	None required
<b>Location of data points</b>	<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>	No drilling, rock chip or soil sample results reported
	<i>Specification of the grid system used</i>	The grid system used is GDA94 Zone 50
	<i>Quality and adequacy of topographic control.</i>	No drilling, rock chip or soil sample results reported
<b>Data spacing and distribution</b>	<i>Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results.</i>	No drilling, rock chip or soil sample results reported
	<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>	MRE not being prepared.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	<i>Whether sample compositing has been applied.</i>	No drilling, rock chip or soil sample results reported
<b>Orientation of data in relation to geological structure</b>	<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>	No drilling, rock chip or soil sample results reported
	<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>	No drilling, rock chip or soil sample results reported
<b>Sample security</b>	<i>The measures taken to ensure sample security.</i>	No drilling, rock chip or soil sample results reported
<b>Audits or reviews</b>	<i>The results of any audits or reviews of sampling techniques and data.</i>	None completed.

## Section 2 Reporting of Exploration Results

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<b>Mineral tenement and land tenure status</b>	<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>The Aston Project comprises 13 granted exploration licences (E09/2114, E09/2156, E09/2302, E09/2358, E09/2463, E09/2464, E09/2472, E09/2607, E09/2628, E09/2629, E09/2630, E09/2641 and E09/2701). The tenement package covers 1,709km<sup>2</sup> located ~850km north of Perth, Western Australia.</p> <p>E09/2114, E09/2156, E09/2302, E09/2358, E09/2463, E09/2464 and E09/2472 are held by eMetals Limited or its wholly owned subsidiaries RWG Minerals Pty Ltd and Iron Clad Prospecting Pty Ltd.</p> <p>E09/2607, E09/2628, E09/2629, E09/2630, E09/2641 and E09/2701 are held by White Cliff Minerals Limited (WCN) via its wholly owned subsidiaries Magnet Resource Company Pty Limited and Electrification Metals Pty Ltd.</p> <p>Minerals 260 Limited (MI6) has completed Tenement Sale Agreements to acquire the above ELs and applications to transfer the ELs to MI6's wholly owned subsidiary ERL (Aust) Pty Ltd are pending with DMIRS.</p> <p>E09/2156 is subject to a royalty payable to Venus Metals Corporation Limited.</p> <p>The Aston Project covers part of 4 Native Title Determinations including the Thudgari (WAD6212/1998), Gnulli Gnulli (WAD22/2019), Wajarri Yamatji Part A (WAD6033/1998) and Budina (WAD131/2004).</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>	All tenements are in good standing.
<b>Exploration done by other parties</b>	<i>Acknowledgment and appraisal of exploration by other parties.</i>	<p>Multiple phases of exploration have been undertaken for base metals, gold, tungsten and uranium on localised areas within the Project. Detailed follow-up has defined a number of minor mineral occurrences with limited potential.</p> <p>Exploration completed by White Cliff Minerals includes a low level, detailed aeromagnetic and radiometric survey plus compilation of historic sampling.</p>
<b>Geology</b>	<i>Deposit type, geological setting and style of mineralisation.</i>	The Aston Project is located within the Gascoyne Province of Western Australia. The Gascoyne Province is located between the Archaean Pilbara and Yilgarn cratons and comprises a Palaeoproterozoic to Mesoproterozoic

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
		<p>assemblage of metasedimentary and metavolcanic supracrustal rocks intruded by multiple phases of granitoids.</p> <p>The Gascoyne Province has been affected by multiple deformation events associated with several major orogenies. Several major WNW/ESE trending crustal-scale structures which are considered important controls on local metallogeny cut the Project area.</p> <p>There are numerous pegmatites mapped in the region which are interpreted to be derived from granites belonging to the Neoproterozoic Thirty Three Supersuite (990 – 950Ma). The ubiquitous occurrence of tantalum associated with these pegmatites indicates prospectivity for lithium.</p> <p>The Project is also considered prospective for REE based on discoveries to the north and south hosted in a similar geological setting.</p>
<b>Drill hole Information</b>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• easting and northing of the drill hole collar</li> <li>• elevation or RL (Reduced Level – elevation above sea level in metres) of the drill hole collar</li> <li>• dip and azimuth of the hole</li> <li>• down hole length and interception depth</li> <li>• hole length.</li> </ul>	No drilling reported.
<b>Data aggregation methods</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The assumptions used for any reporting of metal equivalent values should be clearly stated.</p>	<p>No drilling reported.</p> <p>No drilling reported.</p> <p>None reported</p>
<b>Relationship between mineralisation widths and intercept lengths</b>	<p>These relationships are particularly important in the reporting of Exploration Results.</p> <p>If the geometry of the mineralisation with respect to the drill hole angle is known, its nature should be reported.</p> <p>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').</p>	No drilling reported.
<b>Diagrams</b>	<p>Appropriate maps and sections (with scales) and tabulations of intercepts should be included for any significant discovery being reported. These should include, but not be limited to a plan view of drill hole collar locations and appropriate sectional views.</p>	No drilling reported.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<b>Balanced reporting</b>	<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>	No drilling reported.
<b>Other substantive exploration data</b>	<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>	All meaningful and material data reported
<b>Further work</b>	<i>The nature and scale of planned further work (eg tests for lateral extensions or depth extensions or large-scale step-out drilling).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geological reconnaissance and propsecting.</li> <li>• 500x500m soil sampling.</li> <li>• Low-level, airborne geophysics</li> </ul>

For personal use only