



CRITICAL MINERALS UPDATE - BULLA PARK AND SALAZAR

AUSTRALIAN CRITICAL MINERALS

4 NOVEMBER 2024

ASX: WC1

MAJOR PROJECTS

Bulla Park, NSW – Copper -Antimony
Salazar, WA – Critical minerals
Fraser Range Terrane, WA - Copper

DIRECTORS & MANAGEMENT

Mark Bolton
Non Exec Chairman

Matt Szwedzicki
Managing Director

David Pascoe
Head of Technical & Exploration

Ron Roberts
Non Exec Director

CAPITAL STRUCTURE

Ordinary Shares	152.5m
Options	65.1m
Performance Rights	4m
Market Cap (undiluted)	\$2.9m
Share Price (01/11/24)	\$0.019

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Highlights

Bulla Park Copper-Antimony Project, NSW

- Review of data underway to identify potential higher-grade areas to be targeted for drilling
- Initial flotation and concentrate testing commencing
- Modelling ahead of maiden copper-antimony Mineral Resource estimation in progress
- Antimony demand is strong amid global supply concerns

Salazar Critical Minerals Project, WA

Scandium

- The Salazar project contains an Inferred Mineral Resource Estimate of **15Mt of 100ppm Sc** (75ppm Sc cut-off) ¹
- Options to target additional high grade scandium areas within Newmont being assessed
- Scandium metal trading at price of A\$5,565 per kilogram *

High Purity Alumina (HPA)

- A review of historical work at Salazar shows strong potential for high purity alumina (HPA) production²
- High grade alumina is present in kaolin within the Newmont deposit, with an Inferred Mineral Resource (JORC 2012) of **4Mt of 29.7% Al₂O₃**, (15% Al cut-off)¹
- Testwork shows that a 4N (99.99%Al₂O₃) HPA product can potentially be produced²
- Major shortfalls of global HPA production are projected
- Low-cost startup options being assessed

West Cobar Metals Limited (“West Cobar”, WC1:ASX) is pleased to provide an update on recent activities at its Bulla Park and Salazar Critical Minerals projects.

*Shanghai Metals Market, 1 November 2024, <https://www.metal.com>

¹ WC1 announcement to ASX, 8 October 2024, ‘MAJOR RESOURCE EXPANSIONS AT SALAZAR’.

² WC1 announcement to ASX, 8 September 2022, ‘ACQUISITION OF SALAZAR RARE EARTHS PROJECT’.

West Cobar has a diverse critical minerals inventory in Australia with established JORC (2012) Mineral Resources in Scandium, Rare Earths, Titanium Dioxide and Alumina.

Following recent diamond drilling at its Bulla Park project in NSW, the company is also modelling the geology and mineralisation with the view to a maiden Copper-Antimony Mineral Resource estimate.

Bulla Park Copper Antimony Project

Current Focus

Recent drilling results are being assessed in conjunction with geophysical data interpretation to identify the next areas to be targeted for drilling. Study outcomes are expected within the next two weeks.

The Company is also completing modelling ahead of an initial copper antimony Mineral Resource Estimate being compiled.

Core samples from BPD09 have been sent to a specialist laboratory for testing of flotation and concentrate potential in regards to extraction of the copper and antimony. Results of this work are expected during December.

Antimony

Antimony (Sb) is a designated critical mineral in many countries and is used in military applications, solar cells, fire retardants and as a strengthening agent in alloy production.

China supplies 56% of the global antimony production and has decided to restrict exports of antimony from 15 September 2024, claiming that its strategic reserves are too low to allow further exports. This has caused the price of antimony to increase significantly to approximately US\$22,700/t* as USA and European users seek to secure supply.

One of the significant uses of antimony is for defence / manufacturing of ammunition. Amid global supply concerns, on 30th October 2024, the Australian Federal government announced plans to establish new domestic munitions manufacturing capability as part of the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO) Enterprise.³

³ Defence Connect, 'Australia announces rapid munitions, missile manufacturing with Thales, Lockheed Martin', <https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/joint-capabilities>

*Shanghai Metals Market, <https://www.metal.com>

Salazar Critical Minerals Project

Alumina for HPA Production

AMC Consultants have estimated an Inferred **Mineral Resource JORC (2012) of 4 Mt of 29.7 % Al₂O₃ (alumina)** potentially upgradeable for HPA feedstock, included within, and outside, the Newmont REE Mineral Resource.¹

Recent AC drilling includes intercepts such as **10m of 34.0% Al₂O₃** (18.0% Al) from 10m in SZA297, which support the Mineral Resource.¹

High alumina content material occurs as soft kaolinite rich clay in the upper saprolite, near surface material. Overburden is about 10m depth and the mineralised interval averages about 10m thickness. Mining would likely be free dig with no drill and blast, and no crushing or energy intensive grinding required.

Cut-off Al (%)	Category	Saprolite Zone	Mt	Al %	Al ₂ O ₃ %	TREO ppm	Fe %	Si %
15	Inferred	TREO>=600	2	15.7	29.7	881	4.19	19.9
	Inferred	TREO<600	2	15.7	29.7	303	3.00	22.3
	Total		4	15.7	29.7	650	3.72	21.9

Table 1: Newmont Deposit, Inferred Al₂O₃ (alumina) Mineral Resource ¹

Alumina Process Testwork Completed

Process testwork on the Salazar alumina material consisted of a conventional screening circuit at 25µm to upgrade the clay and remove any deleterious minerals for the production of an alumina rich clay concentrate.^{2,4} The clay concentrate was then further upgraded by calcination at 700°C to remove water to make metakaolin, followed by a 20% HCl acid leach at 90degC and precipitation of aluminium chloride hexahydrate (ACH).^{2,5}

Assay results for three sequential crystallisation stages of ACH showed a trend of decreasing contaminants such as Na, Mg, Si, P, K, Ca and Ti.

The testwork demonstrates that it is possible to produce 4N HPA (99.99% Al₂O₃) product (Figure 1). Acid recovery would be an important driver for the project. Overall, the net acid

⁴ Nagrom, 2017, 'Al and REE Product Generation'.

⁵ TSW Analytical, 2017, 'Potential TEE-Sc-Ga-Ti-Al Project – Hydrometallurgical test-work'.

demand is expected to be low largely due to very high HCl projected recovery from the ACH calcination process.



Figure 1: screened saprolite clay from SAC373 9-20m and final 4N HPA product

Products

4N HPA is currently mostly used for chemical mechanical planarization slurries used for removing the irregularities from silicon wafers, nanophosphors that produce the white light in LEDs and an increasing demand for use in lithium-ion batteries.

The HPA market is estimated to grow at an annual compound growth rate of 12% up to 2032, and a significant shortfall in production is indicated.⁶

Alumina is marketed as Smelter Grade Alumina (SGA) and several High Purity Alumina types (3N, 4N and 5N) which sell at prices directly related to the Al_2O_3 purity. West Cobar is targeting 4N HPA, equivalent to 99.99% alumina, currently priced at US\$12,600 to US\$28,000 per tonne (price dependant on particle size).⁷

⁶ www.marketresearchfuture.com – Global High Purity Alumina Market Overview

⁷ Shanghai Metals Market, 1 November 2024, <https://www.metal.com>

About West Cobar

West Cobar has significant projects in Australia containing critical minerals. At the Salazar Critical Minerals Project, WA:

- **Scandium:** Inferred Mineral Resource Estimate - **15Mt of 100ppm Sc** (75ppm Sc cut-off)¹
- **Alumina:** Inferred Mineral Resource Estimate - **4 Mt of 29.7 % Al₂O₃** (15% Al cut-off)¹
- **TiO₂:** Inferred Mineral Resource Estimate - **42Mt of 5.2% TiO₂** (2% Ti cut-off)¹
- Total **REE** Mineral Resource Estimate - **230Mt at 1178ppm TREO⁸** (Newmont and O'Connor Deposits, 600ppmTREO cut-off).¹

It is envisaged that the various products within the same deposit at Newmont have potential to be developed via a multi-commodity flowsheet process.

At the Bulla Park project in NSW, major thick intervals of copper-antimony mineralisation have been intersected e.g. **66m at 0.34% Cu and 0.13% Sb, 7g/t Ag** in recently drilled BPD09, which demonstrate potential for a large tonnage copper-antimony deposit.⁹

-ENDS-

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

Further information:

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⁸ TREO = La₂O₃ + CeO₂ + Pr₆O₁₁ + Nd₂O₃ + Sm₂O₃ + Eu₂O₃ + Gd₂O₃ + Tb₄O₇ + Dy₂O₃ + Ho₂O₃ + Er₂O₃ + Tm₂O₃ + Yb₂O₃ + Lu₂O₃ + Y₂O₃

⁹ WC1 announcement to ASX, 24 September 2024, '190 Metre Antimony Copper intercept at Bulla Park'.

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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.

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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 Head of Technical and Exploration 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 statement of estimates of Mineral Resources for the Newmont deposit in this announcement was reported by West Cobar in accordance with ASX Listing Rule 5.8 and the JORC Code (2012 edition) in the announcement released to the ASX on 8 October 2024 (Competent Person: Mr Serik Urbisinov), and for which the consent of the Competent Person was obtained. Copies of these announcements are available at www.asx.com.au. West Cobar confirms it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the Mineral Resources estimates information included in that market announcement and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the Mineral Resources estimates in that announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. West Cobar confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from that market announcement.

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