

Blackstone Makes Strategic Investment in One of the World's Largest Undeveloped Nickel Projects

Blackstone Minerals Limited ("Blackstone" or the "Company") is pleased to announce it has made a strategic investment in NICO Resources Limited (NICO). NICO has successfully completed its Initial Public Offering ("IPO") and obtained admission to the official list of the ASX on 17 January 2021. Blackstone's initial investment of A\$2.75m will earn a 15.11% interest in the common equity of NICO.

NICO holds three exploration licenses covering the Wingellina (WA), Claude Hills (SA) and Mt Davies (SA) project areas in Central Australia (NICO's 'Central Musgrave Project'). Wingellina and Claude Hills have a JORC compliant Mineral Resource of 1.95Mt of nickel (refer Table 1) and JORC compliant Probable Reserve of 1.56Mt of nickel (refer Table 2).

As a result of the continuing decline in global nickel sulfide resources, Blackstone considers that nickel laterite projects of scale will play an important role in delivering products into the lithium-ion battery industry. The NICO management team is aligned with Blackstone's ambitions to develop and operate sustainable mining operations.

Highlights of the NICO investment include:

- The Central Musgrave Project is one of the largest undeveloped nickel resources globally
- Historically, the Central Musgrave Project has generated significant interest from major battery metals players including Posco and Samsung. Blackstone considers the Central Musgrave Project is of particular importance to growing relationships between Australia and South-East Asia (and South Korea in particular)
- Prior metallurgical test work programs undertaken for the Central Musgrave Project indicate the potential commercial production of high quality- cobalt and nickel sulphates, mixed nickel sulphates, mixed nickel/ cobalt sulfides, hydroxides and carbonates and scandium

Central Musgrave Project Nickel Resource	Cut-off (Ni%)	Mt	% Ni	Ni (Mt)
Wingellina - Measured & Indicated	0.5%	168.5	0.93%	1.56
Wingellina - Inferred	0.5%	14.1	0.87%	0.12
Claude Hills - Inferred	0.5%	33.0	0.81%	0.27
Total	0.5%	215.6	0.91%	1.95

Table 1 - Central Musgrave Project Mineral Resource Estimate

Central Musgrave Project Nickel Reserve	Cut-off (Ni%)	Mt	% Ni	Ni (Mt)
Wingellina - Probable	0.5%	168.4	0.93%	1.56

Table 1 - Central Musgrave Project Mineral Reserve Estimate

Scott Williamson, Blackstone's Managing Director, said:

"The Central Musgrave Project fits into the Company's medium to longer term planning horizon, and we are pleased to have secured a strategic equity position at what we consider to be the lowest point in the valuation cycle for the asset. Given the globally significant scale of the Central Musgrave project, we believe its development will be required to support a sustainable transition to the electrification of transportation and energy storage."

Further details on the NICO IPO

The Central Musgrave Project was previously 100% owned by Metals X Limited (Metals X). As part of Metals X strategy to focus on the development of its Tin portfolio, Metals X proceeded to execute the sale of the Central Musgrave Project to NICO, which was completed on 7 January 2022. Further information about the NICO IPO can be found in the Metals X ASX announcement released 24 November 2021 - "Nickel asset sale - replacement Prospectus."

Authorised by the Managing Director on behalf of Blackstone Minerals Limited.

For more information, please contact

Scott Williamson

Managing Director
+61 8 9425 5217
scott@blackstoneminerals.com.au

Dhanu Anandarasa

Manager Corporate Development
+61 8 9425 5217
dhanu@blackstoneminerals.com.au

Patrick Chang

Head of Corporate Development
+61 8 9425 5217
patrick@blackstoneminerals.com.au

Reporting Compliance - Exploration Results, Exploration Targets, Mineral Resource Estimates and Ore Reserves

Any information relating to Exploration Results, Exploration Targets, Mineral Resource Estimates and Ore Reserves for the NICO projects is obtained from the NiCo Resources Ltd Prospectus lodged with ASIC dated 12 November 2021 and the replacement prospectus 23 November 2021.

Forward Looking Statements

This report contains certain forward-looking statements. The words "expect", "forecast", "should", "projected", "could", "may", "predict", "plan", "will" and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward looking statements. Indications of, and guidance on, future earnings, cash flow costs and financial position and performance are also forward-looking statements. Forward looking statements, opinions and estimates included in this announcement are based on assumptions and contingencies which are subject to change without notice, as are statements about market and industry trends, which are based on interpretations of current market conditions. Forward looking statements are provided as a general guide only and should not be relied on as a guarantee of future performance. Forward looking statements may be affected by a range of variables that could cause actual results or trends to differ materially.