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# ABOUT WIDGIE NICKEL LIMITED



Widgie holds a unique consolidation of a vast 240km² package of highly prospective nickel, lithium and new economy metal prospects within the prolific Eastern Goldfields nickel sulphide belt situated proximal to significant infrastructure.

Existing Mineral Resources of 170kt of nickel have been defined to underpin Widgie's aim to be a standalone Nickel producer with significant upside potential. A maiden lithium Resource declared with exciting upside potential.

With dedicated technical, human and financial resources Widgie Nickel intends to build on the work completed on the Mt Edwards Project to date which provide a sound basis for mining studies to evaluate the development of a long life low carbon Nickel production centre.

Advancing nickel and lithium Resources towards production

**Providing Critical metals** for a cleaner future and growing decarbonisation

Confirmed presence of **copper, cobalt and PGM**offers further value potential



# FARADAY LITHIUM OPPORTUNITY COMES TO THE FORE

Following discovery of rock chips grading up to 3.70% Li<sub>2</sub>O in October 2022 the Company fast tracked its exploration and development activities at the Faraday Lithium deposit which has seen the deposit evolve to be on the cusp of development less than a year from time of discovery hitting key milestones along the way:



October 2022 – Discovery of high grade rock chips and surface mapping



November 2022 - Lithium exploration drilling commences



January 2023 – Completion of initial exploration drilling program



February 2023 – Offtake discussions commence for DSO



March 2023 - Declaration of maiden resource



May 2023 - Mining proposal lodged with DMIRS



March 2023 - Metallurgical testwork confirms robust upgrade and ability to produce saleable concentrate



August 2023 – Faraday mining proposal conditional approval received from DMIRS subject only to completion of a flora survey and clearance as prescribed under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021

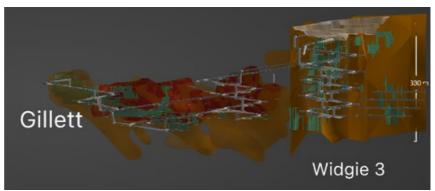






## **WIDGIE SCOPING STUDY**





High grade nickel discovery Eastern Limb at Widgie Townsite

Exploration success. Gillett South and Gillett North Extension

Exploration review highlights potential nickel channels at Widgie South yet to be drill tested

Resource infill drilling completed on all deposits

1Mt of inferred resource converted to Indicated as at 30 June 2023

Metallurgical testwork commenced

Geotechnical data capture complete

Design work commenced







#### **CHAIRMAN'S LETTER**

#### Dear Shareholder

It has been an eventful year for your Company with many significant achievements made, building on the progress from the Company's inaugural year. The Company has been diligently working towards achieving the objectives set out in our Prospectus with a few welcome but unexpected surprises along the way that have further reinforced the value proposition of our 100% owned Mt Edwards project.



Against waning sentiment towards nickel the Company remained focused on building the investment case, however with exploration success discovering a spodumene rich pegmatite outcropping on the Company's tenure this provided a new avenue for the Company to create value.

The year was an eventful one with many highlights and regular news flow, with some twenty market sensitive announcements made throughout the year.

Worthy of special mention is the discovery of Faraday, its delineation and the fast-tracking of the Company's lithium development in less than twelve months is quite remarkable. This coupled with the later discovery of the adjacent Trainline mineralisation augurs well for a development pathway in the forthcoming year.

Up until the end of the financial year the Company has continued to invest significantly in drilling with over 100,000 meters of Reverse Circulation and Diamond drilling completed since ASX listing. The results of this drilling provides Widgie with increased confidence in its Resource base for its feasibility studies. This will allow the Company to further develop its nickel development strategy, not limited to development of a single mining operation, but to consider the project in a more cost-effective manner achieving economies of scale with multiple mines operating concurrently. An expanded standalone operation with a purpose built, bespoke processing facility designed to maximise recoveries and minimise operating costs per tonne. This will enable the Company to maximise revenues through the potential for sale to multiple counterparties achieving higher levels of payability, whether that be for the contained nickel and/or the increasingly valuable by-products.

Widgie has prudently managed the proceeds of its initial \$24m equity raising, however with the increased drill requirements associated with the lithium endowment the Company took the opportunity to bolster its cash reserves during the year by raising an additional \$12 million and importantly attracting high quality institutional investors. The Company welcomes Virtue Investments Corporation as our new major shareholder and the continued support of the other participants supportive of the Company's endeavours.

I am happy to report that Steve Norregaard and the team have navigated these challenges and generated significant positive momentum that places us in a great position for the year ahead. The inherent value of the Company from a market perspective may well have retracted, however there remains much latent value that I am firmly of the view will rise to the surface as the year evolves and the Company's progress advances.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank you for your continuing support and interest in the Company. We look forward to another exciting year ahead.

**Andrew Parker** 

Non-executive Chairman



#### **REVIEW OF OPERATIONS**

The directors of Widgie Nickel Limited ("Company" and "Widgie") present the Company's financial report for the Company and its controlled entities ("Consolidated Entity" and "Group") for the year ended 30 June 2023.

## Increased confidence in Resources, new discoveries and Lithium opportunity comes to the fore

#### Mt Edwards Nickel and Lithium Project (Widgie 100%)

Widgie controls a dominant ~240 square kilometre land package over the prolific nickel producing Widgiemooltha Dome located 80km south of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.

Ideally positioned adjacent to key infrastructure with an already established Mineral Resource base of some 170kt of contained nickel over 12 separate deposits, the Company plans to advance its Mt Edwards Nickel Project through to initial low capital cost development in addition to carrying out ongoing exploration searching for more high-grade sulphide nickel in the region.

Increased confidence from the results from the Resource development infill, extension programs and exploration success have emboldened Widgie to commence a Scoping Study for a larger nickel mining operation than was previously planned including consideration of a standalone processing plant located onsite.

In just over 8 months from rock chip discovery to mining permitting the emergence of the Faraday Lithium deposit and the potential for direct shipping ore presents the Company with a real near-term mining development opportunity to realise a return on the deposit. This has potential to provide funding to advance and pursue the Company's larger nickel development activities and aspirations.

	Indic	ated	Infe	rred	TOTAL Resources		
Deposit	Tonne (kt)	Nickel (%)	Tonne (kt)	Nickel (%)	Tonne (kt)	Nickel (%)	Nickel Tonnes
Gillett	915	1.6	643	1.3	1,558	1.5	23,400
Widgie 3			626	1.5	626	1.5	9,160
Widgie Townsite	1,183	1.69	1,293	1.5	2,476	1.6	39,300
Munda			508	1.9	508	1.9	9,398
Armstrong	630	1.8	15	4.7	645	1.9	12,200
132N	34	2.9	426	1.9	460	2.0	9,050
Cooke			154	1.3	154	1.3	2,003
Inco Boundary			464	1.2	464	1.2	5,590
McEwen			1,133	1.4	1,133	1.4	15,340
McEwen Hangingwall			1,916	1.4	1,916	1.4	26,110
Mt Edwards 26N			871	1.4	871	1.4	12,400
Zabel	272	1.94	53	2.0	325	2.0	6,360
TOTAL	3,034	1.7	8,102	1.4	11,136	1.5	170,311

**Table 1** – Mt Edwards Project Nickel Mineral Resources

Mineral Resources quoted using a 1% Ni block cut-off grade. Small discrepancies may occur due to rounding.



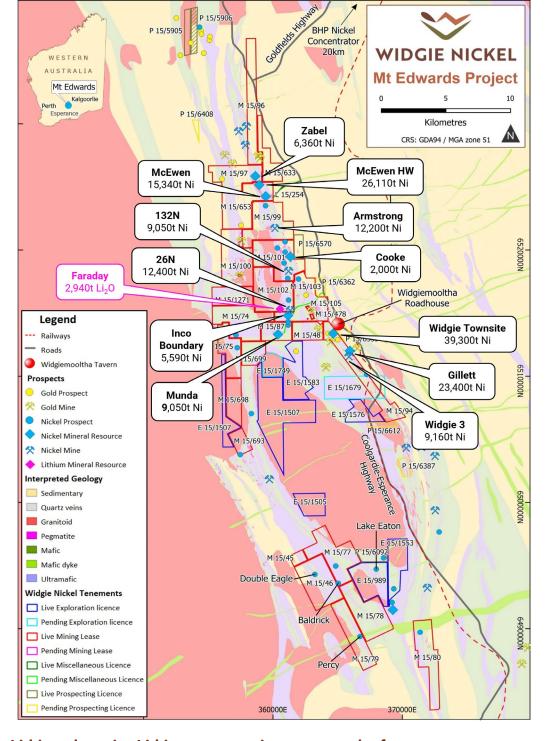


Figure 1 – Location map of Widgie's Project Area – Mt Edwards

#### Faraday Lithium deposit - Lithium opportunity comes to the fore

Following discovery of rock chips grading up to 3.70% Li<sub>2</sub>O in October 2022 the Company fast tracked its exploration and development activities at the Faraday Lithium deposit which has seen the deposit on the cusp of development less than a year from time of discovery hitting key milestones along the way:

- ✓ October 2022 Discovery of high grade rock chips and surface mapping
- ✓ November 2022 Lithium exploration drilling commences
- ✓ January 2023 Completion of initial exploration drilling program
- √ February 2023 Offtake discussions commence for DSO
- ✓ March 2023 Declaration of maiden resource



- ✓ March 2023 Metallurgical testwork confirms robust upgrade and ability to produce saleable concentrate
- ✓ May 2023 Mining proposal lodged with DMIRS
- ✓ August 2023 Faraday mining proposal conditional approval received from DMIRS subject only to completion of a flora survey and clearance as prescribed under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021

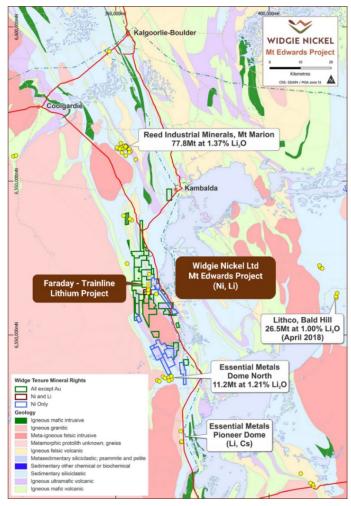
**Table 2** − 2023 Faraday Maiden Mineral Resource Estimate at a 0.30% Li<sub>2</sub>O grade cut-off

Lithium Resources (0.3% cut-off)							
	Indicated Inferred TOTAL Resources						
Deposit	Tonne	Li20	Tonne	Li20	Tonne	Li20	Li20
	(kt)	(%)	(kt)	(%)	(kt)	(%)	Tonnes
Faraday	105	0.65	376	0.58	481	0.59	2939
TOTAL	105	0.65	376	0.58	481	0.59	2,939

#### **Notes**

- · Tonnes and grades have been rounded to reflect the relative uncertainty of the estimate
- Faraday Mineral Resource is contained within tenement M15/102

The Faraday-Trainline Lithium Project area is located on Mining Lease M15/102, 4km west north-west of the Widgiemooltha townsite. Access is via the Coolgardie-Norseman Rd, 63km south of Coolgardie. Faraday and Trainline are central to Widgie's Mt Edwards Project, covering a significant land holding within the "Lithium Corridor" between Mt Marion to the north and Pioneer Dome to the south (Figure 2).



**Figure 2 -** Regional Geology showing Faraday and Trainline Lithium Project location, and surrounding lithium Projects



Further exploration work has demonstrated that there is significant potential upside to the Company's lithium resources at Faraday and surrounds. In July 2023 Widgie announced it had unearthed a new near surface lithium prospect directly to the north of the Faraday Lithium Deposit. The new prospect is named Trainline.

In addition, at the Faraday deposit itself, 80 metre step out drilling to the west downdip demonstrated that mineralisation continues at depth. Overall, the drill results indicate strong potential to increase lithium resources. Further XRD analysis indicates that spodumene\* is the exclusive lithium bearing mineral.

The drilling results at Trainline and Faraday included:

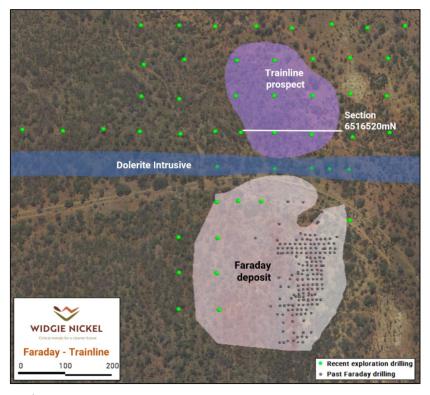
#### **Trainline Discovery:**

•	23MERC118		2m @ 0.86% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 4m
		and	9m @ 0.82% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 17m
		incl.	4m @ 1.19% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 22m
•	23MERC114		10m @ 0.68% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 43m
		Incl.	7m @ 0.79% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 43m
•	23MERC113		7m @ 0.61% Li <sub>2</sub> 0 from 30m
		Incl.	3m @ 0.94% Li <sub>2</sub> 0 from 30m

#### **Faraday Extension:**

•	23MERC129		1m @ 0.89% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 23m
		and	3m @ 0.63% Li2O from 92m
•	23MERC131		3m @ 0.63% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 99m
		Incl.	1m @ 1.20% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 100m
		and	4m @ 0.47% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 105m
•	23MERC132		2m @ 0.55% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 130m
		and	5m @ 0.69% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 137m
		Incl.	3m @ 0.87% Li <sub>2</sub> O from 137m

<sup>\*</sup>XRD mineral identification of 16 samples, identifies spodumene as the exclusive lithium bearing mineral



**Figure 3 -** Plan view of Faraday - Trainline Lithium Project. Displaying drill location and cross cutting dolerite intrusive.



#### New Nickel discoveries - exploration success

Following the discovery of Gillet North in the prior year, Widgie has continued to enjoy exploration success with the drill bit during the current year with exciting discoveries to the south of Gillett, Widgie Townsite and at Munda.

A nickel Mineral Resource upgrade is targeted for the current half on the back of these strong results.

#### Gillett

In July 2023 significant nickel mineralisation intercepts outside of current Gillett Resource confirmed:

- ✓ 23MERCD057 extends Gillett mineralisation 270m to the south of the current Resource
- ✓ 23MEDD007 extends Gillett mineralisation 120m to the north of the current Resource
- ✓ 23MERCD027 confirms high-grade core of the Gillett North target
- ✓ Widgie South remains open to the north and south of the current Resources
- ✓ Drilling has increased Resource confidence for future mining studies

Significant nickel intercepts include:

#### Gillett:

Infill 23MERCD004 12.0m @ 1.97% Ni from 192m

Incl 7.90m @ 2.55% Ni from 194.1m

Exploration 23MERCD057 7.00m @ 1.14% Ni from 295m Exploration 23MEDD007 2.12m @ 1.33% Ni from 218m

#### **Gillett North:**

Exploration 23MERCD027 13.2m @ 1.68% Ni from 278.88m

Incl 2.51m @ 4.36% Ni from 289.57m

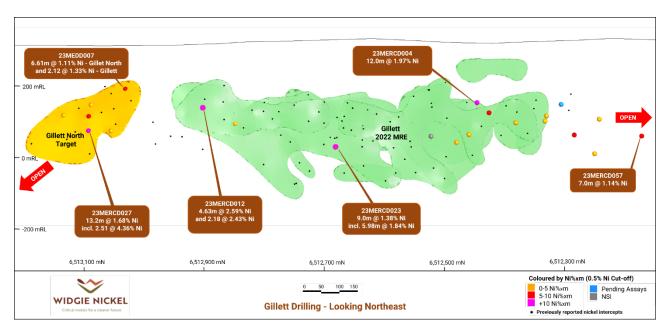


Figure 4 - Gillett and Gillett North long section looking North East - 2023 drilling intercepts highlighted

In May 2023, Widgie announced significant results at the Gillett Resource and surrounding areas, proving that mineralisation continues to the south of Gillett, an area previously considered "closed off".

Significant nickel intercepts included:



23MERCD017 30m @ 1.17% Ni, 0.14% Cu, 0.03% Co, 0.04 g/t Au, 0.11 g/t Pd, 0.09 g/t Pt from 214.0m

Inc. 5.0m @ 2.07% Ni, 0.29% Cu, 0.06% Co, 0.13g/t Au, 0.25g/t Pd, 0.22g/t Pt from 214.0m

and 11m @ 1.57% Ni, 0.18% Cu, 0.05% Co, 0.03g/t Au, 0.10g/t Pd, 0.11g/t Pt from 232.0m

23MERCD010 4.31m @ 1.14% Ni, 0.16% Cu, 0.04% Co, 0.04 g/t Au, 0.17 g/t Pd, 0.09 g/t Pt from

225.67m

and 4.35m @ 2.77% Ni, 0.39% Cu, 0.08% Co, 0.22g/t Au, 0.31g/t Pd, 0.17g/t Pt from

233.99m

 $23 \text{MERCD022} \quad \textbf{7.41m} \ \textcircled{a} \quad \textbf{1.63\%} \ \textbf{Ni, 0.20\%} \ \textbf{Cu, 0.05\%} \ \textbf{Co, 0.04} \ \textbf{g/t Au, 0.25} \ \textbf{g/t Pd, 0.11} \ \textbf{g/t Pt from}$ 

214.0m

These excellent drilling results to the north and south of the Gillett resource has extended the known nickel mineralisation to approximately 1.5km strike with infill drilling further increasing the confidence within the Resource. The 2023 Gillett Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) update due to commence in August 2023 will include the maiden addition of the Gillett North discovery. Figure 4 demonstrates the 2023 drilling where hole 23MERCD057 extends the Gillett mineralisation 270m to the south of the current resource and is interpreted to be on the flank of the mineralised nickel channel. This hole will be utilised to conduct a downhole electromagnetic (DHEM) survey to vector future drilling to the core of the mineralised nickel channel.

Gillett North infill drilling confirms the presence of high-grade nickel sulphide mineralisation (23MERCD027) on the western limb of the Gillett anticline. Recent structural interpretation suggests Gillett North is the continuation of the Gillett mineralised channel system (ref *Figure 5*). The mineralisation from Gillett has rolled over the Gillett antiform onto the western limb of the fold that represents the Gillett North mineralisation.

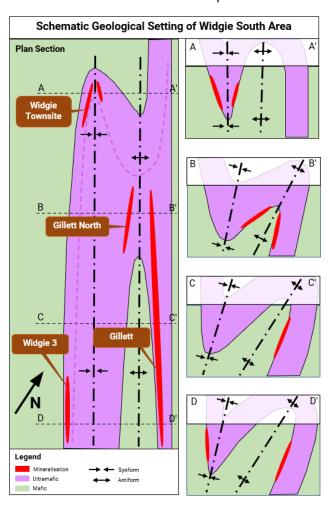


Figure 5 - Schematic of Widgie South geology and mineralisation positions



Figure 6 illustrates the current 2023 drilling of Gillett and Gillett North in plan view and section locations.

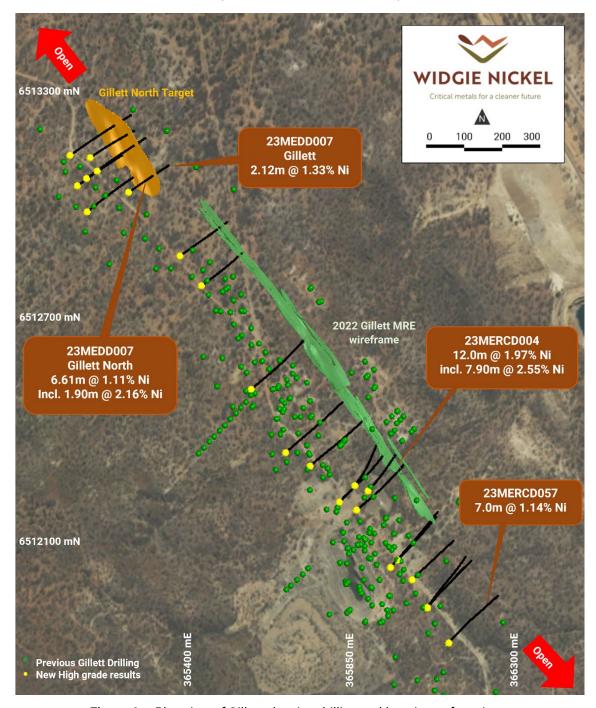


Figure 6 - Plan view of Gillett showing drilling and locations of sections





Figure 7 - Drilling being undertaken at the Gillett Deposit

#### **Widgie Townsite**

Significant nickel mineralisation intercepts at Widgie Townsite confirms:

- ✓ High-grade nickel discovery on Eastern Limb of Widgie Townsite Syncline
- ✓ Drilling to deliver increased Resource confidence for future mining studies at Widgie Townsite
- ✓ High grade continuity at Widgie Townsite extends at depth
- ✓ New Eastern Transitional mineralisation identified

Significant nickel intercepts include:

#### **Eastern Limb:**

MEDD069 **29.0m @ 1.66% Ni from 79m** Incl. 5.0m @ 3.23% Ni from 88m

#### Widgie Townsite:

MEDD061 **30.85m @ 1.59% Ni from 435m**Incl. 13.43m @ 2.74% Ni from 449.7m
And **3.36m @ 3.27% Ni from 471.3m** 

23MERCD039 **14.0m @ 2.73% Ni from 509m**Incl. 11.03m @ 3.19% Ni from 511m
23MERCD038 **1.04m @ 5.49% Ni from 479.6m** 

#### **Eastern Transitional:**

23MERCD039 **43.0m** @ **0.69%** Ni from **65m** 23MERCD038 **22.0m** @ **1.02%** Ni from **36m** 

A detailed structural review is underway to enhance the understanding of Widgie South.



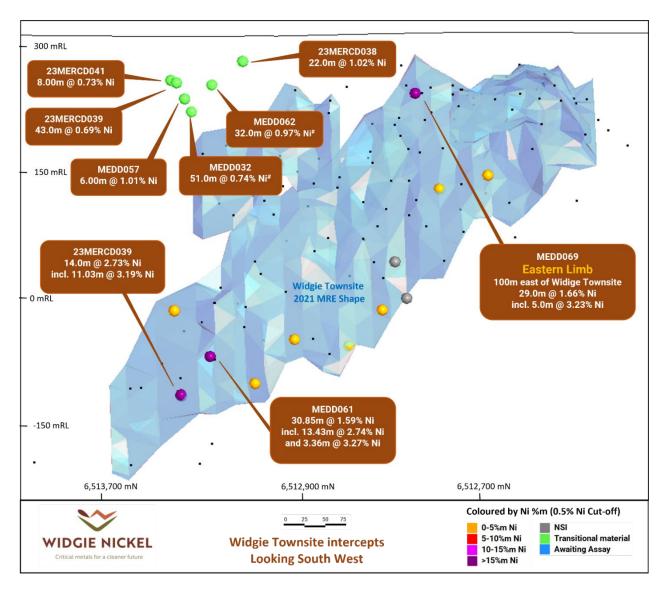
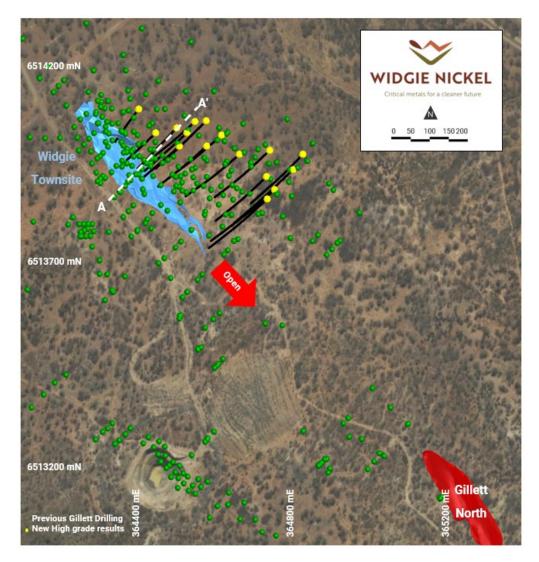


Figure 8 - Widgie Townsite long section looking Northeast - Significant intercepts shown

#### Infill

In regard to infill drilling from viewing Figure 8, MEDD061 and 23MERCD039 confirm the high-grade mineralisation plunge at Widgie Townsite that remains open at depth. Importantly MEDD061 shows an exceptionally wide mineralisation intercept of 30.9m @ 1.59% Ni including 13.4m @ 2.74% Ni from 435m and 3.36m @ 3.27% Ni from 471.3m. 23MERCD039 is immediately down plunge of MEDD061 which enforces the down plunge continuity of the high-grade mineralisation at Widgie Townsite returning 14.0m @ 2.73% Ni.





**Figure 9 –** Plan view of Widgie Townsite and newly discovered Eastern Limb and Tranistional Mineralisation Zone. Displaying drill collar locations and section locations

#### **Transitional Mineralisation**

The near surface transitional intercepts (illustrated in Figure 8) from 23MERCD038, 23MERCD039, 23MERCD041, MEDD057, MEDD032, and MEDD062 have intercepted broad zones of transitional mineralisation at the base of oxidisation which collectively appear continuous representing a significant plume of mineralisation located off the known Widgie Townsite basal contact.

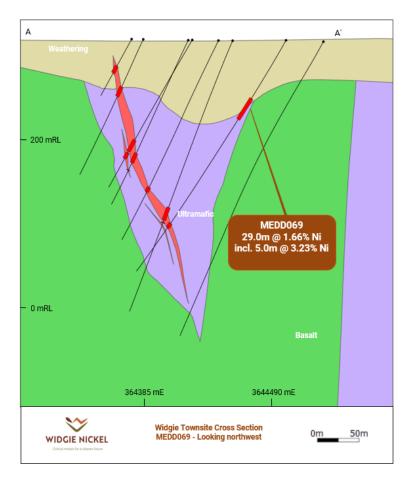
These intercepts were discovered in the RC pre-collars after being identified through routine XRF analysis, with drilling not specifically targeting this newly discovered mineralisation. A further resampling campaign in nearby pre-collars confirms the extent of mineralisation from holes drilled to date.

Further work is underway to consider the potential deeper source of this mineralisation. No drilling exists to the east of this, thus presenting as an excellent exploration target.

#### Eastern Limb

MEDD069, further to the south, provides a new significant target on the basal contact on the Eastern Limb of the Widgie Townsite Syncline returning 29m @ 1.66% Ni from 79m, including 5m @ 3.23% Ni. The Eastern Limb was untested due to previous drill angles being sub-parallel to the contact of the Eastern Limb (Figure 9 and 10). However, MEDD069 has highlighted the potential for a new nickel channel. This area will be subjected to further drill testing with drilling to be orientated from west to east as opposed to east to west.





**Figure 10–** Widgie Townsite cross section showing high grade MEDD069 upon the now highly prospective Eastern Limb of Widgie Townsite Synform

#### Munda

On 26 June 2023, Widgie was pleased to announce it had received high-grade assay results from its recently completed drilling campaign at the Munda nickel deposit. High grade nickel mineralisation intercepts included:

MEDD026 12.46m @ 2.05% Ni from 329.6m Incl. 6.06m @ 3.20% Ni from 336.0m MERC163 1m @ 4.35% Ni from 59m

MERC167 6.12m @ 4.39% Ni from 246.25m Incl. 2.55m @ 7.08% Ni from 249.45m

Additionally, further exploration success was achieved, with basal nickel mineralisation discovered 200 metres to the east of Munda deposit:

MERC259 6m @ 0.81% Ni from 115m lncl. 2m @ 1.12% Ni from 115m

The Company sees Munda as a complimentary satellite operation to the proposed Mt Edwards nickel operation, which will be centred at Widgie South and is currently the subject of feasibility studies. Given the existing significant nickel endowment, Munda with its high tenor mineralisation and low contaminant levels has potential to contribute high-quality ore to a larger scale, and/or longer life operation. The Munda mineral resource currently stands at 508kt @ 1.9% Ni for 9,398t of contained nickel @ 1% Ni cut-off (or 320kt at 2.2% Ni for 7,040t of contained nickel @ 1.5% Ni cut-off).



Reinterpretation of the Munda 3D geological model has highlighted parallel high-grade mineralised shoots not previously understood. The Munda infill drilling will aid in increasing the confidence of the future resource reestimate increasing the proportion of Indicated resources at Munda for future economic studies.

Enticingly, Munda remains open at depth and exploration success with MERC259 (6m at 0.81% Ni) 200m to the east of Munda's M4 mineralised shoot unlocks a significant search space for further Munda style mineralisation shoots to be discovered. Further work is required to fully understand the context of MERC259 mineralisation.

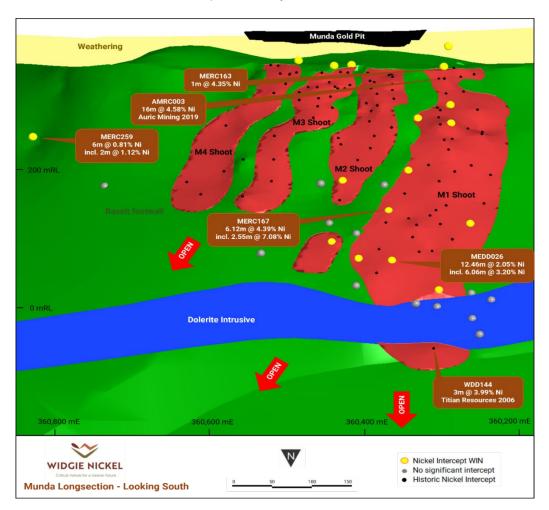


Figure 11 - Munda longsection looking South - 2023 Geology interpretation with historic significant intercepts

#### **Increased confidence in Resources**

#### Gillett

As discussed above, subsequent and ongoing exploration success since the release of the below Gillett Resource in January 2023 is expected to result in Resource growth at Gillett in the forthcoming Resource reestimate schedule for H1 FY2024.

The January 2023 MRE expanded the Gillett Mineral Resource by 20% to 1.56 million tonnes at 1.5% nickel, equating to 23,400 tonnes of contained nickel between 80 and 350 metres below surface.

In addition, 60% of the Gillett Resource is now upgraded to the higher confidence Indicated category. Importantly, for the first time, the Gillett Resource now quantifies the Palladium and Platinum endowment, with Pd (0.17g/t) and Pt (0.08g/t) (equating to 8,515oz Pd and 4,007oz Pt).



Mineral Resource Classification	Cut-off (Ni %)	Tonnes (kt)	Ni %	Ni tonnes
	1	915	1.6	14,800
Indicated	1.5	449	2.1	9,400
	2	186	2.5	4,700
	1	643	1.3	8,600
Inferred	1.5	151	2.1	3,200
	2	24	2.5	600
	1	1,558	1.5	23,400
TOTAL	1.5	698	2.1	12,600
	2	350	2.5	5,300

Table 3 - Gillett Mineral Resource Estimate at various nickel grade cut-offs

Infill results at Gillett, Widgie 3, and Widgie Townsite reaffirm confidence in the MRE and will be used in conjunction with the current drilling to re-estimate these Resources, to improve and expand geological confidence.

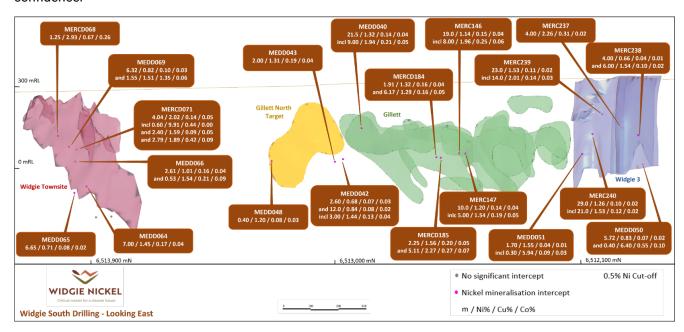


Figure 12 -Widgie South long section looking East- Significant intercepts

#### **Armstrong Resource Upgrade and Scoping Study**

The Armstrong Deposit is on the cusp of being development ready, but will now be incorporated into a Scoping Study for a broader standalone nickel operation incorporating the Widgie South deposits and 132N. The Scoping Study for the larger longer life mining operations seeks to unlock substantially more value from Widgie's entire Resource base.

In November 2022, Widgie announced a new Mineral Resource Estimate incorporating Platinum-Group Elements (PGEs) for the Armstrong deposit ("Armstrong").

The new estimate included information derived from an additional 11,610m of new drilling across 38 holes, which allowed for a detailed reinterpretation of the geology and mineralisation. Indicated Resources at Armstrong have been increased to 630,000t @ 1.8% nickel for 11,500t Ni, with 98% of the Resource now within



the higher confidence Indicated category, compared to 83% previously. The Resource now also quantifies the Palladium + Platinum + Gold (3E) endowment with Au (0.2g/t), Pd (0.4g/t) and Pt (0.2g/t) = 0.8g/t 3E (contained metal equating to 4,100oz Au, 8,300oz Pd and 4,100oz Pt).

Table 4 - Armstrong Mineral Resource Estimate at a 1% nickel cut-off, October 2022

Class	Tonnes (kt)	Ni (%)	Ni metal (t)	Au (ppm)	As (ppm)	Co (ppm)	Cu (ppm)	Fe (%)	MgO (%)	Pd (ppm)	Pt (ppm)	S (%)
Indicated	630	1.8	11,500	0.2	330	250	1,330	8.3	25	0.4	0.2	2.1
Inferred	15	4.7	700	0.2	260	500	2,220	9.4	19	0.6	0.1	1.3
Total	645	1.9	12,200	0.2	320	260	1,350	8.3	25	0.4	0.2	2.0

Note: totals may not sum due to rounding

The Mineral Resource Estimate followed Widgie completing a maiden scoping study for the Armstrong deposit (see ASX announcement dated 26 October 2022 - Scoping Study Highlights Potential of Armstrong Mine).

The scoping study detailed that at then spot assumptions of \$US22,000/t Ni and AUD/USD exchange rate of 0.63 Armstrong would deliver free cash flows between \$67.8 million and \$68.7 million. Even at conservative base case assumptions of \$US18,500/t Ni and 0.70 AUD/USD the project is robust with free cash flows between \$20.8 million and \$26.4 million. Current Nickel price compares favourably at approximately \$20,000US/t Ni and 0.65USD/AUD.



Figure 13 – An aerial view of the Armstrong open pit

#### Metallurgy and Marketing

The Company engaged WOOD Engineers to carry out metallurgical evaluation of both the Company's nickel and lithium assets.

Nickel work centred around the Armstrong deposit with work ongoing to determine the most appropriate flowsheet. Significant advancements have been made to maximise recovery using a bespoke flowsheet whilst having the added benefit of enabling unique processes to be tested to minimise contaminants that are considered penalties in mineral concentrates. Work remains ongoing with the intent of progressively testing each resource using this flowsheet to confirm the applicability of the chosen flowsheet to all Widgie resources.

Lithium testing has confirmed acceptable recoveries are readily achievable using Heavy liquid separation (a proxy for Heavy media separation). Initial results using flotation show great promise with excellent +80%



recoveries achievable at concentrate grades in excess of 6%. Further testwork is ongoing by the Company in addition to potential offtake discussions.

#### Future Work

The Company seeks to progress and complete offtake negotiations for its Faraday Lithium Resource. Subject to satisfactory completion of the foregoing and finalisation of the remaining approvals the Company is hopeful to commence mining of Faraday during the 2023/2024 financial year.

On the Nickel front, completion of the Scoping Study on an expanded and standalone mining and processing operation incorporating the Widgie South deposits, Armstrong and 132N is expected in the first half and subject to a positive outcome this will progress to a full feasibility study.

On completion of the final Resource development and infill drill programs re-estimation of calculation of Resources for all 6 Resources drilled during the previous 18 months will subsequently feed into the full feasibility study.

In addition, the Company will have an ongoing targeted exploration effort on both nickel and lithium.

#### Approvals

Government approvals are in place for planned exploration activities at prospects across Mt Edwards including; Armstrong, 132N, Munda and Widgie South (Widgie Townsite, Gillett and Widgie 3).

Government approvals allowing dewatering of the Armstrong pit and clearing requirements are also in place with approval for proposed mining of a "starter pit" at Faraday pending as at years end.

#### Fund raising - Strongly supported placement

A little under two years since the Company's listing on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX code: WIN) the Company completed its first additional capital raising in May 2023. The raising was a strongly supported \$12 million placement at \$0.26 per share to fund the continued growth and development of the Mt Edwards Project.

The placement received strong support from new and existing institutional and sophisticated investors including the introduction of Virtue Investments Corporation (VIC) as a 9.9% shareholder. VIC is a subsidiary of Ascend Global Investment Fund SPC (AGIF SPC) – Strategic SP.

#### **VIC Rights**

Whilst VIC holds at least a 5% equity, securities or convertible interest in Widgie, VIC will have a first right of refusal in relation to future debt financing. In addition, the Company will use its best endeavours to facilitate VIC's participation in future equity offers. These rights are subject at all times to prevailing ASX Listing Rules and compliance with applicable laws.

Where VIC holds at least a 9.5% interest in Widgie, and if Widgie seeks to expand its Board of Directors, the Company will consider in good faith the appointment of one VIC representative to the Board.

#### **Competent Person Statement**

The information in this report that relates to exploration results is based on and fairly represents information and supporting documentation compiled by Mr William Stewart, who is a full-time employee of Widgie Nickel Limited. Mr Stewart is a member of the Australian Institute of Metallurgy and Mining (member no 224335). Mr Stewart has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity 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 Stewart consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.



#### **Disclaimer**

The information in this report that relates to Mineral Resource Estimates and exploration results for the Mt Edwards Project are extracted from the ASX Announcements listed in the table below, which are also available on the Company's website at <a href="www.widgienickel.com.au">www.widgienickel.com.au</a>

04 August 2023	Faraday Mining Proposal Approved
02 August 2023	Faraday Metallurgical Testwork-Excellent Flotation Response
27 July 2023	Widgie Townsite Grows Legs High Grade Nickel Hits
20 July 2023	Unlocking Resource Growth at Widgie South
04 July 2023	New Lithium Discoveries Position Widgie for Resource Growth
26 June 2023	High Grade Nickel Results at Munda
08 May 2023	Nickel Discovery South of Gillett Resource Underpins Growth
04 April 2023	Widgie South Nickel Exploration Success
29 March 2023	Maiden Resource Proves Up Faraday DSO Starter Opportunity
14 February 2023	Widgie Fast-tracks Faraday Li20 Deposit for DSO Opportunity
13 February 2023	Growth Potential Enhanced Following Gillett Drill Results
23 January 2023	Gillett Mineral Resource Expands in Size and Confidence
17 January 2023	Regional Review Enhances Lithium Potential of Widgies Tenure
09 January 2023	Further Assays Reaffirm High-grade Lithium Discovery
08 December 2022	Assays Confirm High Grade Lithium Discovery at Faraday
21 November 2022	Upgrade to Armstrong Mineral Resource
26 October 2022	Scoping Study Highlights Potential of Armstrong Mine
03 October 2022	High Grade Lithium Discovery at Mt Edwards
08 September 2022	Confidence in Gillett Grows with Impressive Assay Results
28 July 2022	Resource growth potential confirmed at Gillett North
22 July 2022	Significant By-product assays for Gillett North discovery
·	

For full details, please refer to the announcement as referenced.

#### **Compliance Statement**

The Company confirms it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcement(s), and in the case of estimates of Mineral Resources that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the relevant announcement 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 announcement.

#### **Forward Looking Statement**

Caution regarding Forward Looking Information. This document contains forward looking statements concerning Widgie Nickel Limited. Forward looking statements are not statements of historical fact and actual events and results may differ materially from those described in the forward looking statements as a result of a variety of risks, uncertainties and other factors. Forward looking statements in this document are based on Widgie's beliefs, opinions and estimates as of the dates the forward looking statements are made, and no obligation is assumed to update forward looking statements if these beliefs, opinions or estimates should change or to reflect other future developments.



#### **ESG REPORT**

#### **FY23 Sustainability Achievements**

- Zero major health and safety incidents over the past year
- Strengthened our governance framework with new social and environment policies
- ✓ Landmark Heritage Agreement signed with the Marlinyu-Ghoorlie people
- Expanded our ESG reporting and completed our first materiality assessment
- ✓ Over \$8 million procurement spend from Western Australia
- ✓ All land cleared for exploration is now under rehabilitation

#### **Our Sustainability Approach & Scope**

Widgie Nickel is proud to deliver our second ESG Report as part of our annual reporting. As an emerging critical metals explorer and developer, we are committed to the responsible development of our projects and the principles of shared and sustainable value for all of our stakeholders.

This ESG Report provides an overview of Widgie Nickel's ESG strategy and performance from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, (FY23), focusing on the company's operations in the Eastern Goldfields, our core facility in Perth and our head office in Perth. It draws on disclosures from international best-practice standards, such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) 2021 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), as outlined in the Reporting Standards & Frameworks section. This ESG Report should be read in conjunction with the financial and governance information from this Annual Report.

#### Nickel and Lithium's Role in the Renewable Energy Transition

#### "Critical metals for a cleaner future"

Nickel and lithium are playing an increasingly important role in the global renewable energy transition as more industries seek to decarbonise their supply chains. The metals are a key component of renewable energy storage such as batteries, which are used to power electric vehicles (EVs). To illustrate this, the average Tesla EV contains 45 kilograms of nickel.1

Beyond EVs and battery storage, nickel is critical to the infrastructure development of other clean sources of energy, such as geothermal and hydrogen and is used to create the wind turbines and dam gates for renewable energy projects. Around 2,000 kilograms of nickel is required for a commercial-grade wind turbine.2

Additionally, potential critical metal by-products at Widgie's flagship Mt Edwards project, such as copper, cobalt, and platinum group metals, are also vital to the creation of renewable batteries.

#### **Materiality Assessment**

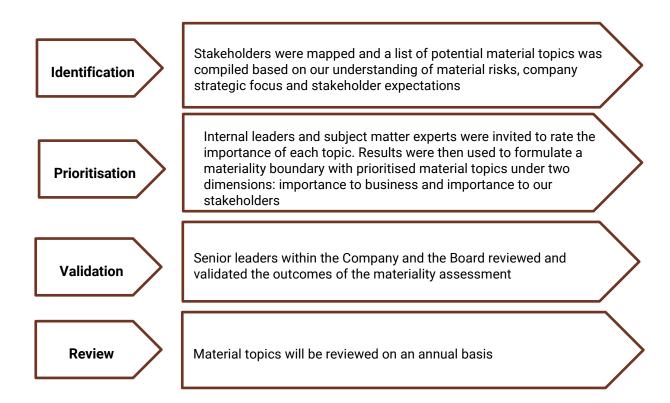
This report focuses on the economic, social and environmental topics identified as being of material value to our stakeholders and the Widgie Nickel business. Working with external ESG consultants, we conducted our first materiality assessment this year to identify and prioritise these topics.

A project team was formed with representatives from the leadership team and the Board. The team mapped key stakeholders and considered sustainability risks and opportunities across our operations, aligned with our strategic focus and reporting obligations. They were then asked to rate the importance of each topic. A materiality boundary was produced (see below) and the results were reviewed and approved by the Widgie Nickel executive team and the Board.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.mining.com/all-the-mines-tesla-needs-to-build-20-million-cars-a-year/

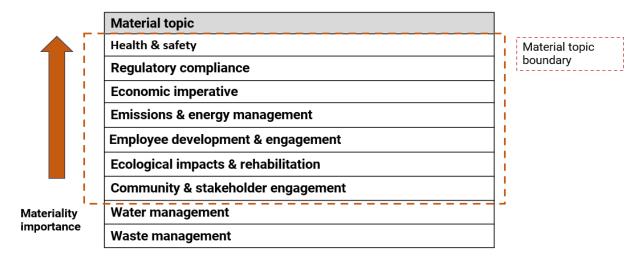
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://nickelinstitute.org/en/blog/2021/september/wind-and-water-nickel-in-clean-energy/





**Figure 1:** The results of the materiality assessment, showing the range and boundary of sustainability topics, listed by material priority

### **Materiality Boundary**



#### Widgie's Material Topics

Our materiality assessment identified nine relevant sustainability topics which were further refined to prioritise seven material topics for reporting in FY23. They are listed in the table below under their respective environment, social and governance pillars.



Environment	Social	Governance
Emissions & Energy Management	Health & Safety	Regulatory Compliance
Ecological Impacts & Rehabilitation	Employee Development & Engagement	Economic Imperative
-	Community & Stakeholder Engagement	-

#### **Reporting Standards**



Widgie Nickel has drawn on disclosure guidance from the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards. This report incorporates the GRI principles of organisational context, structure and materiality assessment and prioritisation. As we move towards construction and production, we will expand disclosures across our economic, environmental and social impacts.























#### **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals and 169 targets, representing a common language and shared purpose for positive social and environmental change. Widgie Nickel is determined to play our part to advance the progress of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). In the table below, we have mapped our contributions to the relevant SDGs, showing their alignment with Widgie Nickel's ESG pillars and material topics.

**Table 2:** Widgie Nickel contributions and material topics aligned to relevant SDG targets.

SDG	SDG Target	Widgie Nickel contributions	Widgie Nickel Pillars & Material Topic
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN DISERVY	7.2 Increase global percentage of renewable energy	Develop renewable energy capacity	Environment: Emissions & Energy Management
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe working environments	Healthy and safe environment for employees and contractors	Social: Health & Safety
10 REDUCED MICHAELIES	10.2 Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion	Cultural and heritage protection for the Marlinyu- Ghoorlie and Ngadju people	Social: Community & Stakeholder Engagement



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	12.6 Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting	Audit & Risk-Board oversight ESG Report	Governance: Regulatory Compliance
13 CLIMATE ACTION	13.3 Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change	Measuring emissions and energy to establish a baseline	Environment: Emissions & Energy Management
15 ON LIAND	15.5 Protect biodiversity and natural habitats	Develop environmental management plan; flora & fauna studies; rehabilitation program	Environment: Ecological Impacts & Rehabilitation
16 FACE JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision making	Strong governance framework; Transparent communication between Board and executive	Governance: Regulatory Compliance

#### Governance







Widgie Nickel recognises that building a culture of accountability starts with strong governance structures. While the Board has overall accountability for establishing and delivering an effective governance framework, all our team share responsibility for upholding our corporate governance standards. These

are outlined in the Code of Conduct within our Corporate Governance Charter.

The Board is responsible for corporate governance and management oversight, and delegates business strategy and executive decision-making to our senior management team. We regularly review governance practices and policies to incorporate best practice and legal reforms into our governance processes.

#### **Risk Management**

ESG forms part of our overall business risk framework. Formal risk management systems, outlined in our Corporate Governance Charter and Risk and Change Management Procedure, are in place to ensure strong lines of risk communication between the Board and management. Material risks are communicated to the Board and considered at regular Board meetings.

Please visit our website for our Corporate Governance Charter which includes information on our other specific governance policies and charters.

#### **Material Topic detail: Regulatory Compliance**



Widgie Nickel acknowledges the environmental, social and governance responsibilities that we must comply with to ensure our business meets stakeholder expectations. We are pleased to report that there were no material compliance or regulatory breaches in FY23. Listed below are some of the laws and regulations that we adhere to:

#### > Legal and regulatory framework

The ASX Listing Rules and ASX Corporate Governance Principles require us to address any corporate governance risk and report our progress.

#### > Taxation and audit

We provide a transparent approach to tax, financial reporting and full compliance with all tax regulations under the Corporations Act (2001).

#### Health and safety

Our policies and procedures accord with the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 and Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022. All employees and on-site contractors undertake mandatory health



and safety training as part of their induction to ensure they are aware of the Company's health and safety standards.

#### > Environmental regulation

We operate our mining sites in accordance with the policies, regulations and environmental requirements of the Commonwealth and Western Australian government, including WA's Mining Act 1978. We do not currently meet the threshold to submit emissions data to the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) and National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGERS) for reporting.

#### > Native Title & cultural heritage

We are committed to compliance with all State and Federal laws that govern Native Title and cultural heritage protection.

#### **Material Topic detail: Economic Imperative**

Delivering a strong financial performance helps generate long-term sustainable value and attracts confidence from our key stakeholders, such as employees, investors and our local community. This year we proudly contributed in excess of \$8 million to the regional Goldfields economy where our project is based.

Widgie Nickel's Managing Director and CFO are responsible for managing the Company's economic performance and strategy through prudent financial planning, risk management, financial reporting, cash flow management, regulatory compliance and circular feedback to employees. This is achieved through activities such as financial planning, audits, KPI's, risk management and assessment, and its corporate governance policies.

#### **FY23 Performance**

Some of the initiatives that we introduced this year included investing in capital to reduce fuel consumption, centralising power generation for our onsite accommodation and our drilling contractors, introducing batteries and solar to reduce onsite power generation from fossil fuels, improved rostering and replacing non-productive plane flights with a truck to move both drill core, equipment and staff to and from site to our Carlisle core processing facility. These changes resulted in cost efficiencies of over \$20,000 per month.

Our economic contributions to regional, state and national economies are outlined in the table below.

#### **Economic procurement and contributions**

Data indicator	Percentage of total spend FY23
Local contributions (Goldfields spend only)	64%
WA and interstate contributions (excluding Goldfields spend)	35%
Total Australian contributions (local, state & interstate spend)	99%
International contributions	1%

#### **Future focus**

Our business priorities next year include the development of a robust business continuity plan and expanding our use of batteries and solar to reduce power generation from fossil fuels.



#### **Social**



#### Material Topic detail: Health & Safety

Widgie Nickel believes that all employees, contractors and visitors have a fundamental right to a healthy and safe working environment.

We have several governance policies in place to prioritise health and safety across the business, including our overarching Health & Safety Policy, Risk Management Policy, Contractor Health & Safety Commitment Manual and Harassment & Discrimination Policy, among others.

We are very pleased to report that there were no fatalities or major safety incidents in FY23. There were two lost time injuries and three total recordable injuries across our employee and contractor workforce.

#### **Health & Safety Achievements in FY23**

Some of the key health and safety initiatives achieved in FY23 include:

- > Appointment of an Environment, Health & Safety, Stakeholder (EHSS) Manager
- > Introduction of a health and safety database to track risks, incidents and performance history
- Development of the Work Health & Safety (WHS) management system, comprising 15 process procedures
- Identification of 12 WHS Principal Mining Hazards, of which seven have been finalised as management plans
- Inclusion of health and safety commitments and responsibilities outlined in all position descriptions, including the Managing Director
- > Development of health, hygiene & psychosocial risk assessments
- > Three operational risk assessments comprising Exploration, Faraday Lithium Operational, Armstrong Nickel Operational
- Completion of statutory positions units of competency and the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) law exams by the EHSS Manager and introduction of a verification of competency program for employees
- > Promotion of Employee Assistance Program (EAP) via newsletters and webinars

#### **Future Focus**

In FY24, we aim to make further safety performance improvements to reduce lost days from Lost Time Injuries, Restricted Work injuries and reducing injury severity. In addition to the final development and rollout of the WHS Principal Mining Hazard management plans, we are working towards full incident reporting, investigation and a review of our operational risk assessment.

Widgie Nickel wants to ensure that all contractors are compliant with health and safety regulations. We will commence health and hygiene monitoring and reporting and are striving for full attendance at our interactive risk awareness, health and wellbeing training sessions.

#### **Safety Performance**

Data Indicators FY23	FY23
Fatalities	0
Lost Time Injuries (LTI)	2
Days Lost to Lost Time Injuries	52
High Consequence Work Related Injuries	0
Days Restricted Work Injuries (RWI)	94
Medical Treatment Injuries (MTI)	1
First Aid Injuries (FAI)	0
Total Recordable Injuries (TRI)	3



#### Material topic detail: Employee Development & Engagement

As a growing exploration and development company, we want to build a work culture that values skills, knowledge and teamwork. We believe that investing in opportunities for employee development not only enhances job satisfaction, but improves productivity, initiative and employee retention.

Our Corporate Governance Charter sets out our responsibilities with respect to employee inductions, reviews and professional development. Employee development and performance reviews are managed by line managers and the EHSS Manager. Reviews were completed for all Widgie Nickel staff this year and 35 employees/contractors received inductions and onboarding.

#### **Training and development**

This year the Widgie Nickel team participated in 632 total hours of training, equating to an average of 18.1 hours per employee. Training programs included: Statutory Positions Units of Competency, WHS legislation, High Risk Work Licencing, Risk Management, Verification of Competency and Inductions.

#### **Future Focus**

Next year, Widgie Nickel plans to further develop our training program, study policy and introduce a training request procedure. We are aiming for full compliance in the Units of Competency and Legislation exams for appointed statutory positions and mandatory competency training for all employees who require a High Risk Work licence. We also plan to refine the schedule of our performance and development reviews and tailor them to be more employee-specific. A priority in FY24 will be the training of key management personnel in WHS legislation outlining the requirements for Persons Conducting Business Undertaking (PCBU) that engage with Widgie Nickel.

#### **FY23 Performance Data**

New employee hires and employee turnover	Number
Total new employee hires	20
Total employee turnover	13

New employee hires by gender	Number
Male	15
Female	5

Employee turnover by gender	Number
Male	11
Female	2

#### Material topic detail: Community & Stakeholder Engagement

We are committed to developing positive and long-term relationships with our local community stakeholders. We recognise that positive engagement with our stakeholders is vital to the success of our projects and our ability to establish a social license to operate. Our project tenement shares country with two Traditional Owner communities, the Marlinyu-Ghoorlie and the Ngadju people. We respect their deep connection to the land, their traditions, cultural sites and endeavour to foster a spirit of cooperation and understanding.



Our leadership team have regular communication with the Shire of Coolgardie, Traditional Owner communities, local contractors, suppliers and community residents. Please see the Stakeholder Engagement table below for a full description of the different ways we communicate with our communities.

We aim to buy local and give back to the community where possible. In FY23, as outlined in the Financial Imperative section, we contributed over \$8 million to the local Goldfields economy.

We were also proud supporters of the WA School of Mines (WASM) Sandgropers football team and the Kalgoorlie Enduro Club.

#### Heritage Agreement with Marlinyu-Ghoorlie

One of our community highlights this year was the successful completion of the Heritage Agreement with the Marlinyu-Ghoorlie Native Title Claimant Group. This was followed by the completion of a cultural heritage survey on our Faraday development after the end of the financial year. In FY24, we will participate in cultural awareness training to further deepen our understanding of the cultural heritage aspects of our project.

#### Native Title consultation with Ngadju

We progressed our consultation with the Ngadju people in FY23 and signed an agreement with the Title Holders subsequent to the end of the financial year.

#### **Future focus**

We are aiming to engage with schools, vocation students and community events such as the Western Australian Gem and Mineral Show. We also provide further ongoing support to the Western Australian School of Mines (WASM), the Kalgoorlie Enduro Club, WA Children's Christmas Party, and the Sandgropers Bowls team.

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	PRIORITIES	ENGAGEMENT
Internal stakeholders		
Employees and families	A safe and healthy work environment; job security; professional development and training opportunities	Regular communication and consultation; formal performance reviews; training and development programs
Board	Prudent governance oversight; risk management; shareholder value	Regular Board meetings; AGM; Annual Report; direct communication lines between executive and Board
External stakeholders		
Shareholders/investors/analysts	Return on investment and equity; finances; responsible allocation of risk and capital; transparent reporting of Company updates and ESG program	Investor briefings, annual and quarterly financial reports, direct engagement, AGM, Annual Report
Marlinyu-Ghoorlie and Ngadju people of the Eastern Goldfields and the Whadjuk Noongar community of Perth	Respect for local customs and laws of the Traditional Owners; Native Title and Heritage; preserving significant cultural heritage sites; land care	Regular consultation and engagement (cultural heritage surveys and mapping)
State, federal government and local shires	Compliance policies and frameworks; land access and approvals	Direct engagement and consultation
Regulatory organisations	Compliance reporting	Regular submission of data and requests for information; direct engagement
Contractors, suppliers and service providers	Productive relationships; prompt payment	Direct engagement; communications; training; Whistleblower Policy



Finance providers & insurers	Share price; business strategy; governance; risk management	Annual and quarterly financial reporting; regular briefings and correspondence
Local communities	Social investment with local community; environmental impact and performance; access to pastoral land	Community engagement; Direct engagement; Whistleblower Policy
Shared tenure holders	Project area consultation	Regular engagement; data sharing
General public and partners	Community engagement and support	Direct engagement; Whistleblower Policy
NGOs, activist groups, media	Risk management; environmental performance; community engagement	Transparent public reporting; consultation with NGOs
Community organisations and local businesses	Local procurement and support; social investment	Business procurement support; community engagement, meetings and correspondence as required. AMEC member
Peers and industry groups	Industry knowledge and peer networking	Regular engagement and collaboration
Educational institutions	Employment, training and industry pathways	Communication and consultation; research and collaboration

#### **Environment**





#### **Material topic detail: Emissions and Energy Management**

Widgie Nickel understands the contributions the mining industry makes to global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and recognise that we have a responsibility to reduce our emissions to address climate change. All employees and contractors play a role in minimising emissions and ensuring efficient energy use. This year we continued our work towards a lower carbon footprint by introducing batteries and solar to progressively increase our renewable energy mix and reduce the use of fossil fuels.

#### **Emissions and energy performance data**

Data	Unit	FY23
Scope 1 emissions*	Tonnes of CO₂e	234.15
Scope 2 emissions**	Tonnes of CO₂e	4.81
Total emissions (Scope 1 & 2)	Tonnes of CO₂e	238.96
Direct energy consumption	kWh	867,516
Indirect energy consumption	kWh	9,439

<sup>\*</sup>Scope 1 GHG emissions covers diesel consumption at our project site.

The assessment adopts calculations methods and factors detailed in the Australian National Greenhouse Accounts Factors 2022. Note: Widgie Nickel does not currently meet the thresholds for reporting its annual emissions to the *National Environmental Protection (National Pollution Inventory)* and the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007*.

#### **Future focus**

In FY24, we will continue to measure and report our GHG emissions and energy use to ensure an improvement in net efficiency. We also plan to consider ESG and emissions parameters in tendering assessments.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Scope 2 GHG emissions covers our purchased electricity consumption at our Carlisle processing facility and Perth head office.





#### Material topic detail: Ecological Impacts & Rehabilitation

We have a responsibility to not only achieve all legislative compliance requirements but to strive to meet the environmental expectations of the communities in which we operate. This year we developed an Environmental Policy outlining our sustainable development commitments to the wider community to minimise the impact of our operations on the environment. There were no material environmental incidents this year and no infringements were recorded.

#### **Environmental Management Plan**

We developed an Environmental Management Plan to guide our activities with respect to core values, environmental compliance, risk assessment, environmental monitoring and audits, rehabilitation, waste management and our collaboration with external stakeholders.

#### Flora and Fauna

Flora and fauna studies were first undertaken in 2021 and confirmed that there were no proposed or gazetted conservation reservations within the survey area. Furthermore, no environmentally sensitive areas were identified. We conducted a follow-up botanical survey in early FY24 and are awaiting results.

#### Water Management

We recognise that our project is located in a fragile environment where water is a precious resource. Our approach to water management is to responsibly conserve our water use and manage risks. This year potable water usage from our Goldfields site location was 883kL.

#### Rehabilitation

We endeavour to rehabilitate disturbed land on a regular basis to an area of the same size, or greater size, than any future disturbance. We are pleased to report that all areas of disturbed land are currently under rehabilitation and that the exploration activities conducted at our Armstrong site over the year have been fully rehabilitated with associated documentation to be lodged in FY24.

Land Disturbance	Unit	FY23
Gross land disturbed at the beginning of the reporting period	Hectare (ha)	195.1
Current land disturbed at the beginning of the reporting period	Hectare (ha)	195.1
Newly disturbed land	Hectare (ha)	9.1
Gross land disturbed at the end of the reporting period	Hectare (ha)	204.2
Newly rehabilitated land to agreed end use	Hectare (ha)	0
Total land rehabilitated to date	Hectare (ha)	0
Total current land disturbed (for future rehabilitation)	Hectare (ha)	204.2
Total land disturbance that has been rehabilitated to date	%	0

#### **Future Focus**

We plan to fully rehabilitate Munda and Lake Eaton exploration work areas and manage rehabilitation levels at Widgie South in concert with further exploration. We will limit our impact at the Faraday lithium deposit in accordance with our statutory commitments.



#### **Directors' Report**

The directors of Widgie Nickel Limited submit their report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The names and particulars of the directors of the Company during or since the end of the financial period are:

#### **Current Directors**

Name	Particulars
Andrew Parker	Non-executive Chairman (Independent)
	Andrew holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Western Australia and has significant experience in the exploration and mining industry and a wealth of expertise in corporate advisory, strategic consultancy and capital raisings.
	Andrew previously held various senior management roles, such as Director of Stadia Capital and co-founder of Trident Capital Pty Ltd, a corporate advisory and venture capital firm where he held the position of Managing Director until 2008. In both instances Mr Parker was the Responsible Manager under the relevant AFSL.
	He has also held senior legal roles, such as General Counsel of previously ASX listed B Digital Ltd, Senior Associate of Price Sierakowski and Senior Associate of Summers Partners.
	Appointed: 1 July 2021
	Directorships of other listed companies current and in the last 3 years: Non-executive Director of ASX listed Boab Metals Limited (ASX: BML) since October 2009.
Steve Norregaard	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer
	Steve is a mining engineer and member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. He has a successful track record in heading the development of base and precious metals mining projects, including nickel projects, encompassing the early exploration stage through to ensuring sustained commercial production.
	Steve is an experienced resources industry executive, company director with over 25 years of experience. Former roles include MD of ASX listed RED 5 Limited and Tectonic Resources Ltd, Director of Operations with Westgold Resources Ltd and Chief Operating Officer of TSX listed Trelawney Mining and Exploration. Mr Norregaard is a member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.
	Appointed: 1 July 2021
	Directorships of other listed companies current and in the last 3 years: Executive Director of Westgold Resources Limited (ASX:WGX) from December 2016 to June 2020.
Scott Perry	Non-executive Director (Independent)
	Scott has a Bachelor of Engineering from the Western Australian School of Mines and more than 25 years' experience in commercial, mining, and process engineering roles. This includes over 10 years' experience with BHP Nickel West Pty Ltd.
	Scott is currently a Director of Process Engineering Australia Pty Ltd, an engineering, commercial and marketing consulting business focused in the mining, industrial chemicals and agricultural sectors. He is also a board member of Pollinators Inc, a member-based social enterprise, which uses a mix of earned revenue and grant funding to achieve a social mission to grow innovative regional communities while remaining financially resilient. Scott is also the Technical Director for Austvolt, a



	private company working to become Australia's first battery pre-cursor manufacturer.	
	Appointed: 1 July 2021	
	Directorships of other listed companies current and in the last 3 years: None.	
Felicity Repacholi	Non-executive Director (Independent)	
	Felicity adds a strong geological background to the Board's composition, with over 20 years of experience as a geologist, manager and consultant within the field of mineral exploration and resource development. Ms Repacholi also possesses significant directorship experience at ASX-listed resources companies.  **Appointed*: 1 July 2021**	
	Directorships of other listed companies current and in the last 3 years: Non-Executive Director of Recharge Metals Limited (ASX: REC) from February 2021 and Managing Director since March 2023. Non-executive Director of Mamba Exploration Limited (ASX:M24) since July 2023. Formerly a Director of Indiana Resources Limited (ASX: IDA) since June 2021 until October 2022.	

#### **Company Secretary**

Graeme Scott	Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary
	Graeme is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (UK) (ACCA) and has worked in both Australia and the United Kingdom.
	Graeme has spent the last 18 years working as CFO in the resources sector and has specific expertise as a dual CFO and Company Secretary for both ASX and TSX listed companies. Prior to joining Widgie he was CFO and Company Secretary of ASX listed Peak Rare Earths, playing a critical role in progressing the Company's flagship project from the exploration stage to completion of definitive feasibility study.
	Appointed: 1 July 2021

#### **Review of operations**

A detailed review of the Company's operations during the financial year can be found on pages 5 to 20 of this Annual Report.

#### **Operating results**

The consolidated loss after income tax for the year attributable to members of Widgie Nickel Limited was \$2.056 million (2022: \$2.725 million).

#### **Changes in state of affairs**

During the financial year the Consolidated Entity's primary focus continued to be centred on advancing the Mt Edwards Nickel and Lithium Project with significant advances made as described in the Operation Review above.

At the end of May 2023 the Company raised additional funds to support and continue these exploration and development activities through a placement of 46,153,847 new fully paid ordinary shares at \$0.26 per share to raise \$12,000,000 before costs.



There have not been any other significant changes in the affairs of the Consolidated Entity other than as disclosed in the Director's Report.

#### **Financial position**

The net assets of the Group have increased to \$42,905,250 at 30 June 2023 (2022: \$33,235,646). The Group's working capital, being current assets less current liabilities, was \$8,569,898 at 30 June 2023 (2022: \$13,744,360). The Group had \$11,844,806 (2022: \$16,437,893) cash at bank at the end of the reporting period and is well funded going into the 2023/2024 financial year to fund its near-term exploration and evaluation activities and meet corporate and administration requirements.

#### **Dividends**

The Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend and no amount has been paid or declared by way of a dividend to the date of this report.

#### **Principal activities**

During the financial period, the principal continuing activities of the Group consisted of the exploration and evaluation of the Mt Edwards Nickel and Lithium Project.

#### **Events after the reporting period**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year that have significantly affected, or may significantly affect the operations, results of operations or state of affairs of the Group in subsequent financial years.

#### **Financial and Business Risks**

The business, assets and operations of the Group have the potential to influence the operating and financial performance of the Group in the future. The Board aims to manage these risks by carefully planning its activities and implementing risk mitigation measures. A list of the key business and financial risks of the Group, include:

Exploration - the tenements comprising the Mt Edwards Project are prospective for Nickel, Lithium and other critical metals, however the prospects within the Project are at various stages of exploration. Mineral exploration is a high-risk undertaking, and there is a risk that the contemplated extensional and infill resource drilling programs, or the regional exploration activities to generate new resources will not be successful;

Development Studies - there is a risk that contemplated metallurgical and process investigations on the known mineralisation types may not lead to a viable processing route. Furthermore, there is a risk that the contemplated development studies may not lead to a project that is economically viable;

Weather and climate change – an increase in adverse weather events and climate change have potential to impact and adversely affect the Group's future planned mining operations. In particular, access to sufficient water for processing operations may become a factor in the future. Process design and water recycling and management practices will seek to mitigate this risk.

Licences, permits and approvals - the Mt Edwards Project has the necessary statutory operational and environmental licences, permits and approvals to conduct current exploration activities at the project. However, the Group may be required to obtain certain authorisations in future to undertake new exploration and development on the Project tenements. These requirements include Program of Work (POW) approvals and Aboriginal heritage clearances (in certain circumstances). Delays in obtaining, or the inability to obtain, required authorisations may significantly impact on the Group's operations;

Management Team - the Company does not have a full management team and relies heavily on contractors and consultants to perform key technical and commercial services. The Company will continue to assess this structure as the Project develops;



Commodity prices and foreign exchange rate fluctuations - the value and profitability of the Mt Edwards Project and any other assets developed or acquired by the Company in the future may be adversely affected by fluctuations in commodity prices and foreign exchange rate fluctuations, in particular the price of Nickel;

Government Legislation changes - changes in state and federal legislation and regulations may adversely affect ownership of mineral interests, taxation, royalties, land access, native title, labour relations and the mining and exploration activities of the Group;

#### **Environmental regulations**

The operations of the Group are subject to State and Commonwealth laws and regulations concerning the environment. If such laws are breached, the Group could be required to cease its operations and/or incur significant liabilities including penalties due to past or future activities.

As with most exploration projects and mining operations, the Group's activities are expected to have an impact on the environment, particularly if advanced exploration or mine development proceeds. Such impact can give rise to substantial costs for environmental rehabilitation, damage, control and losses. It is the Group's intention to conduct its activities to the highest standard of environmental obligation, including compliance with all environmental laws.

The cost and complexity of complying with the applicable environmental laws and regulations may prevent the Group from being able to develop potentially economically viable mineral deposits. Further, the Group may require additional approvals from the relevant authorities before it can undertake activities that are likely to impact the environment. Failure to obtain such approvals will prevent the Group from undertaking its desired activities.

The Company is unable to predict the effect of additional environmental laws and regulations which may be adopted in the future, including whether any such laws or regulations would materially increase the Group's cost of doing business or affect its operations in any area.

As required by section 299(1)(f) of the Corporations Act the Company confirms that it has performed all of its environmental obligations in accordance with applicable environmental regulations. The Directors are not aware of any breach of environmental legislation during the period.

#### **Risk Management**

The Board is responsible for oversight of the Company's risk management framework and in determining the Company's tolerance and appetite to risk, with day to day risk identification and mitigation strategies delegated to the CEO and senior management team. Given the current size and activities of the Group the Board has not established a separate risk management committee at this time.

#### **Future developments**

The Company intends to progress its plans to monetise its Faraday lithium deposit following finalisation of all approvals and completion of offtake and commercial arrangements. In addition, the Company intends to complete the nickel infill and extensional drilling programs to facilitate design and technical evaluation of each resource set to be incorporated in the Scoping Study for the expanded nickel mining and standalone processing operation. These work streams will be complemented with greenfields exploration activities targeting both nickel and lithium to advance our understanding and expand the potential of the Company's tenure.

#### Indemnification of officers and auditors

During the financial period the Company paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the directors and officers of the Company and of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as a director or officer, to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001. The contract of insurance prohibits disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium.



The Company has not otherwise, during or since the end of the financial period, except to the extent permitted by law, indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer or auditor of the Group or of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such an officer or auditor.

# **Unissued shares under option**

Unissued ordinary shares of the Company under option to directors, employees and former employees:

Expiry Date	Exercise Price	Number under option
22 September 2024	\$0.20	2,700,000
22 September 2024	\$0.30	2,500,000
10 April 2024	\$0.30	150,000
22 September 2024	\$0.35	350,000
1 September 2024	\$0.38	100,000*
22 September 2024	\$0.40	2,850,000*

<sup>\*</sup> Vesting subject to length of service milestone criteria.

During the period 350,000 options were exercised at \$0.20. Details of options movements of KMP holdings during the financial period are detailed in the Remuneration Report.

Unissued ordinary shares of the Company under option to Euroz Hartleys (lead broker and manager to the Company's ASX listing and entitlement issue capital raising):

Expiry Date	Exercise Price	Number under option
22 September 2024	\$0.40	2,000,000

At the date of this report Performance Rights on issue to directors and employees are:

Vesting assessment date	Exercise Price	Number performance rights
30 September 2023	-	943,000*

<sup>\*</sup> Vesting subject to achievement of performance criteria.

Please refer to the Remuneration Report at page 23 below for details of Options and Performance rights issued as part of KMP remuneration.

## **Directors' security holdings**

The following table sets out each director's relevant interest in shares, debentures, and rights or options in shares or debentures of the Company or a related body corporate as at the date of this report:



Directors	Fully paid Ordinary Shares Number	Share Options Number	Performance rights Number
Andrew Parker	-	900,000	-
Steve Norregaard	448,039	3,900,000	625,000
Felicity Repacholi	-	600,000	-
Scott Perry	-	600,000	-

## **Directors' meetings**

The following table sets out the number of directors' meetings (including meetings of committees

of directors) held during the financial period and the number of meetings attended by each director. During the financial period the Company did not have separately formed Nomination, Remuneration, Risk or Audit Committees with the full Board considering those activities that might otherwise be carried out by the relevant Committee.

Directors		Board of Directors		
	Held	Attended		
Andrew Parker	14	14		
Steve Norregaard	14	14		
Felicity Repacholi	14	14		
Scott Perry	14	13		

Meeting numbers in the "Held" column are the number of meetings held whilst the relevant director was a member of the board.

#### Proceedings on behalf of the company

No person has applied for leave of the court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company or intervene in any proceedings to which the Company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or part of those proceedings. The Company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

#### **Corporate Governance Statement**

The Company is committed to high standards of corporate governance designed to enable the Company to meet its performance objectives and better manage its risks.

The Company has adopted a comprehensive governance framework in the form of a formal corporate governance charter together with associated policies, protocols and related instruments (together "Charter").

The Company's Charter is based on a template which has been professionally verified to be complementary to and in alignment with the ASX Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations 4th Edition 2019 ("ASX CGC P&R") in all material respects. The Charter also substantially addresses the suggestions of good corporate governance mentioned in the "Commentary" sections of the ASX CGC P&R.

The Charter was formally adopted by the board on 19 July 2021.



The Board of Widgie is responsible for the corporate governance of the Company and its subsidiaries. The Board has governance oversight of all matters relating to the strategic direction, corporate governance, policies, practices, management and operations of Widgie with the aim of delivering value to its Shareholders and respecting the legitimate interest of its other valued stakeholders, including employees, suppliers and joint venture partners.

Under ASX Listing Rule 4.10.3, Widgie is required to provide in its annual report details of where shareholders can obtain a copy of its corporate governance statement, disclosing the extent to which the Company has followed the ASX Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations in the reporting period. Widgie will publish its corporate governance statement on the Corporate section of its website:

https://www.widgienickel.com.au/site/about/corporate-governance1

# **Remuneration Report (audited)**

## **Key Management Personnel**

The following persons were deemed to be Key Management Personnel ("**KMP**") during or since the end of the financial period for the purpose of Section 300A of the Corporations Act 2001 and unless otherwise stated were KMP for the entire reporting period.

#### **Non-executive Directors**

Andrew Parker
 Non-executive Director/Chairman - from 1 July 2021

Felicity Repacholi Non-executive Director - from 1 July 2021
 Scott Perry Non-executive Director - from 1 July 2021

**Executive Directors** 

Steve Norregaard Managing Director and CEO – from 1 July 2021

Other executives

Graeme Scott Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary – from 1 July 2021

## **Remuneration policy for Key Management Personnel**

#### General

The remuneration policy for Directors and employees is developed by the board under the terms of the Company's Remuneration Policy taking into account market conditions and comparable salary levels for companies of a similar size and operating in similar sectors.

The Company adopted an Equity Incentive Plan (EIP) for its staff, executive KMP and Non-executive Directors in July 2021 and shareholders, by resolution, approved the issue of securities under the plan on 1 July 2021. The board believes that the STI and LTI schemes will assist the Consolidated Entity in remunerating and providing ongoing incentives to Directors and employees of the Group.

The rules of the EIP enable the Company to issue shares, options and performance rights to eligible personnel subject to performance and vesting conditions determined by the Company. Each option or performance right entitles the holder to one fully paid ordinary share in the Company for every option or performance right offered, if the applicable performance and vesting conditions set for that holder are satisfied and if applicable payment of the requisite exercise price (for options) is received by the Company.

The Company's remuneration is specifically designed to encourage loyalty and longevity of employment as well as aligning the Directors and employee's interests with those of the Company and the creation of genuine long term sustainable value for security holders.

The Company provides the KMP with performance based incentives in order to incentivise KMP to pursue strategies that are aligned with the overall business strategy and the interests of the shareholders. Where deemed appropriate the Company has set specific Key Performance Indicators as performance criteria for staff that have a direct role/responsibility in achieving a specific outcome. To ensure that KMP are also incentivised



to pursue longer term strategies that increase shareholder wealth a portion of the KMP's remuneration is linked to a comparative share price performance versus Peers which links the level of the KMP remuneration to the Company's performance against a group of comparable ASX listed entities.

KMP are also issued with options with service conditions as vesting criteria which assist the Company to retain staff as well as aligning the interests of the KMP with shareholders. The Company has deemed the issue of service based options as an appropriate form of remuneration due to the uncertain nature of the Group's business, that is, mineral exploration and mining development.

All remuneration provided to KMP in the form of share based payments are valued pursuant to AASB 2 Share-based Payment at fair value on grant date and are expensed on a pro rata basis over the vesting period of the relevant security.

During the financial year 859,000 performance rights were issued to KMP as detailed in the applicable tables below. No options were issued to KMP during the financial year.

During the prior period a 1,060,000 performance rights were issued to KMP as detailed in the applicable tables below. Of these 610,328 were vested and exercised into shares during the current year and the balance of 332,672 lapsed through failure to achieve the vesting criteria.

#### **Non-executive Directors**

The board's policy is to remunerate Non-executive Directors at market rates for comparable companies for time, commitment and responsibilities. The board under the terms of the Company's Remuneration Policy determines payments to the Non-executive Directors and reviews their remuneration annually, based on market practice, shareholder sentiment, board workload, company cashflow capacity and corporate performance generally. Independent external advice and/or benchmark comparisons may be sought when required. The maximum aggregate amount of fees that can be paid to Non-executive Directors is \$250,000 as approved by shareholders resolution on 1 July 2021. Fees for Non-executive Directors are not linked to the performance of the economic entity. However, to align Directors' interests with shareholder interests, the Directors have been invited to participate in the Company's Long Term Incentive (LTI) Scheme.

Currently Directors fees are set at \$80,000 per annum for the Non-executive Chairman and \$55,000 per annum for the Non-executive Directors inclusive of superannuation. In addition, as an initial sign-on and LTI, three tranches of options with exercise prices of \$0.20, \$0.30 and \$0.40 have been issued. Each respective tranche vests progressively over six months, eighteen months, and thirty months service to the Company.

#### **Executive KMP**

The Group's remuneration policy for executive KMP seeks to balance its desire to attract, retain and motivate high quality personnel with the need to ensure that remuneration incentivises them to pursue growth and success of the Company without taking undue risks and without it being excessive remuneration.

To align the interests of the executive with that of the Company, remuneration packages for executive KMPs may contain the following key elements:

- a) Fixed Base Salary salary, superannuation and non-monetary benefits;
- b) Short Term Incentives performance rights or cash incentives applied to a maximum percentage of Fixed Base Salary and structured against relative satisfaction (at the reasonable discretion of the board) of certain Company, corporate and personally related key performance indicators of the executive.
- c) Long Term Incentives the grant of options in the Company vesting progressively while the KMP remains in service with the Company.

#### Relationship between the remuneration policy and company performance

The table below sets out summary information about the Consolidated Entity's earnings and movements in shareholder wealth for the period to 30 June 2023:



	Year to 30 June 2023 \$	15 Mar 2021 to 30 June 2022 \$
Revenue	-	-
Net profit / (loss) before tax	(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
Net profit / (loss) after tax	(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
Share price at start of the period	0.32	0.20
Share price at end of year	0.22	0.32
Market capitalisation beginning of year / on ASX listing	80,104,000	50,025,000
Market capitalisation at year end (undiluted)	65,453,669	80,104,000
Basic profit / (loss) cents per share	(0.81)	(1.57)
Diluted profit / (loss) cents per share	(0.81)	(1.57)
Dividends Paid	-	-

# Key management personnel remuneration

The KMP received the following amounts during the Year and comparative period to 30 June 2022 as compensation for their services as directors and executives of the Company and/or the Group.

	Short term benefits		Post- employment benefits	Share based payments			Proport	ion related to:
	Salary & fees	Non- monetary <sup>2</sup>	Superannuation	Performance Rights	Options	Total	Equity	Performance
30-Jun-23	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	%
Non-executive [	Directors							
Andrew Parker	72,398	-	7,602	-	21,926	101,926	22%	0%
Felicity Repacholi	55,000	-	-	-	14,617	69,617	21%	0%
Scott Perry	55,000	-	-	-	14,617	69,617	21%	0%
	182,398	-	7,602	-	51,160	241,160		
Executive Direct	tors							
Steve Norregaard <sup>1</sup>	414,500	11,106	27,500	128,900	97,575	679,581	33%	19%
Executives								
Graeme Scott	250,000	-	26,250	48,004	36,543	360,797	23%	13%
Total remuneration	846,898	11,106	61,352	176,904	185,278	1,281,538		



- 1. A dependent (related party) of Mr Norregaard was employed as a casual employee of the Company during the period and received total remuneration of \$59,868 on normal arms length terms and rates for the role performed. This amount is not included in the table above.
- 2. Non-monetary benefits reflect the movement in leave provisions. In addition executives receive reimbursement for mobile phone and home internet plans which may include an element of private usage.

	Short te	rm benefits	Post- employment benefits	Share based payments			Proporti	ion related to:
	Salary & fees	Non- monetary <sup>3</sup>	Superannuation	Performance Rights	Options	Total	Equity	Performance
30-Jun-22	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	%
Non-executive [	Directors							
Andrew Parker	62,154	-	-	-	55,296	117,450	47%	0%
Felicity Repacholi	42,731	-	-	-	36,864	79,595	46%	0%
Scott Perry	42,731	-	-	-	36,864	79,595	46%	0%
	147,615	-	-	-	129,023	276,639		
Executive Direct	tors							
Steve Norregaard <sup>1</sup>	339,167	16,813	27,500	269,392	241,868	894,740	57%	30%
Executives								
Graeme Scott <sup>2</sup>	208,333	5,382	20,833	106,192	92,160	432,900	46%	25%
Total remuneration	695,115	22,195	48,333	375,584	463,051	1,604,278		

Entitlements to payment of salary and fees for all KMP's commenced in September 2021.

## Service agreements and performance based remuneration

The KMP of the Company, other than non-executive directors, are employed under service agreements. A summary of performance conditions for relevant KMP are detailed below:

Name: Steve Norregaard

Position: Managing Director & CEO

**Term:** Commencing 1 September 2021 with no defined term

**Termination:** 12 months notice period by the Company, 6 months notice period by the executive

**Base Salary:** \$400,000 per annum exclusive of superannuation

Other: Participation in LTI & STI scheme

<sup>1.</sup> A dependent (related party) of Mr Norregaard was employed as a casual employee of the Company during the period and received total remuneration of \$4,015 on normal arms length terms and rates for the role performed.

<sup>2.</sup> Mr Scott also received \$25,000 of shares at the \$0.20 entitlement issue raising price on completion of the Company's ASX listing process.

<sup>3.</sup> Non-monetary benefits reflect the movement in leave provisions. In addition executives receive reimbursement for mobile phone and home internet plans which may include an element of private usage.



#### Incentive based remuneration

#### Short Term Incentive (STI)

Each financial year during the term of his service agreement will award the KMP a STI target value of 50% of the KMP's base annual salary package (\$400,000 per annum exclusive of superannuation commencing 1 September 2021). The board, at its sole discretion determines the STI to take the form of either performance rights or a cash bonus. The basis for calculating the STI will be a range of criteria including both the KMP's personal performance and the Company's financial performance/position and share price.

The number of performance rights to which the KMP may be granted is based on the following calculation and vesting of the performance rights are subject to further criteria which are also set out below.

$$P = \frac{50}{100} \times \frac{S}{SP}$$

Where:

*P* is the performance rights entitlement

S is the KMP's annual salary package for the year at \$400,000

SP is the share price of ordinary shares in Widgie Nickel Limited at commencement of the assessment period (\$0.32).

The STI for Mr Norregaard for 2022-23 was set as performance rights under the Company's EIP at 625,000 performance rights (potential reward value of STI at time of setting \$200,000). Details of the performance measurement criteria are detailed below.

Performance rights issued to Mr Norregaard under the EIP were approved by shareholders at the Company's AGM on 25 November 2022.

#### Long Term Incentive (LTI)

Each financial year during the term of his service agreement the KMP is entitled to receive an LTI of up to 50% of the KMP's base annual salary package issued under the Company's EIP. In respect of the LTI the first award will be made in the fourth year of the executives employment.

Prior to ASX listing an award of options were made to Mr Norregaard as a signing on and LTI. Three equal tranches of options were issued as follows:

- Tranche 1 of 1,300,000 options vesting after 6 months continuous service to the Company exercisable at \$0.20 per share before expiry on 22 September 2024
- Tranche 2 of 1,300,000 options vesting after 18 months continuous service to the Company exercisable at \$0.30 per share before expiry on 22 September 2024
- Tranche 3 of 1,300,000 options vesting after 24 months continuous service to the Company exercisable at \$0.40 per share before expiry on 22 September 2024

All director options are subject to a two year escrow pursuant to the Company's ASX listing conditions.

Name: Graeme Scott

**Position:** CFO & Company Secretary

**Term:** Commencing 1 September 2021 with no defined term

**Termination:** 3 months notice period by the Company, 3 months notice period by the executive

**Base Salary:** \$250,000 per annum exclusive of superannuation

Other: Participation in LTI & STI scheme



#### Incentive based remuneration

#### Short Term Incentive (STI)

The STI for Mr Scott for 2022-23 was set at an STI target value of 30% of the KMP's base annual salary package (\$250,000 per annum exclusive of superannuation commencing 1 September 2021). The STI was set as performance rights under the Company's EIP at 234,000 performance rights (potential reward value of STI at time of setting \$74,880). Details of the performance measurement criteria are detailed above.

#### Long Term Incentive (LTI)

Prior to ASX listing an award of options were made to Mr Scott as a signing on and LTI. Three equal tranches of options were issued as follows:

- Tranche 1 of 500,000 options vesting after 6 months continuous service to the Company exercisable at \$0.20 per share before expiry on 22 September 2024
- Tranche 2 of 500,000 options vesting after 18 months continuous service to the Company exercisable at \$0.30 per share before expiry on 22 September 2024
- Tranche 3 of 500,000 options vesting after 30 months continuous service to the Company exercisable at \$0.40 per share before expiry on 22 September 2024

All options were subject to a one year escrow pursuant to the Company's ASX listing conditions. The options came out of escrow in September 2022.

#### Vesting criteria to be applied to the performance rights

The performance period relevant to the milestones for the performance rights commenced on 1 July 2022, being the start of the financial year and ran run until the end of the current financial period on 30 June 2023. The performance rights will either vest or lapse following the Board's assessment to be completed by 30 September 2023.

#### A. 20% of total STI award - Share price performance vs Peers

Vesting upon the Company achieving an appreciation in share price that is greater than a group of nominated Peer entities.

The highest and lowest share price movement will be eliminated and the average share price increase amongst the five remaining Peer entities will be calculated.

The vesting schedule for the Performance Rights is as follows:

Relative percentage	Performance Rights vesting
Same Share price percentage increase as the average of the Peer Entities	0%
Between the same Share price and Double the Share price percentage increase compared to the average of the Peer Entities	Straight-line pro-rata depending on the Company's Share price performance.
Double or more Share price percentage increase compared to average of the Peer Entities	100%

#### B. 20% of total STI award - Resources growth

Vesting upon the Company achieving step target increases in the global Ni or Ni equivalent Resources (inferred, indicated or measured) from the Company's Mt Edwards Project (in accordance with the JORC Code), based on completed drilling undertaken between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 at a cut-off grade of 1% Ni as follows:



Resource Target	Performance Rights vesting
Ni equivalent value exceeds 10,000 of Ni t value equivalent	50%
Ni equivalent value exceeds 20,000 of Ni t value equivalent	75%
Ni equivalent value exceeds 30,000 of Ni t value equivalent	100%

#### C. 20% of total STI award - Armstrong Development Progress

Vesting upon the Company achieving the following development milestones for the Armstrong deposit. The vesting schedule for the Performance Rights is as follows:

Armstrong Milestone	Performance Rights vesting
The Company completing all permitting and all technical, commercial and regulatory impediments to commencement of mine construction having been removed by 30 June 2023	50%
The Company commencing development of a mine on the Armstrong deposit by 30 June 2023	50%

#### D. 20% of total STI award (Mr Norregaard only) - Performance score of reporting employees

Vesting in accordance with the median percentage performance score of all line reports who are eligible to receive securities under the Plan.

The vesting schedule for the Performance Rights is set out below:

Median percentage employee score	Performance Rights vesting
100%	100%
75%	75%
50%	50%
25%	25%
0%	0%

Each of the line reports to the Managing Director, being:

- 1. the CFO;
- 2. the Exploration Manager; and
- 3. the Geology Manager.

Executive KMP performance is set and assessed through a balanced scorecard which includes a range of key measures that directly affect shareholder value. Each scorecard measure is weighted according to its importance, and is assessed quantitatively and qualitatively, and as is applicable to the Executive's role. At the start of the performance period, the Board determines the performance requirements and planned and maximum levels of performance that form the STI scorecard.

The levels of performance set by the Board are challenging and are determined by the extent to which the objectives of each scorecard are achieved. Achievement of the planned levels of performance will deliver an employee score between 0% and 100% on a linear basis consistent with the level of performance attained as determined by the Board.



#### E. 20% of total STI award - Executive's Performance

The Board will review the executive's performance in accordance with a scorecard. At the start of the performance period, the Board determines the performance requirements and planned and maximum levels of performance that form the STI scorecard. The levels of performance set by the Board are challenging and are determined by the extent to which the objectives of each scorecard are achieved.

Achievement of planned levels of performance delivers the award of 50% of maximum opportunity for the relevant scorecard category. Awards from 50% to 100% of opportunity are on a linear basis consistent with the level of performance attained.

#### F. 20% of total STI award (Mr Scott only) - Executive's Performance

Performance rights vest based on the overall CFO and Company Secretarial performance of Mr Scott as determined by the Board at its discretion.

#### **Valuation**

AASB 2 Share-based payment requires that options and performance rights are valued at date of grant with reference to the Company's share price at that time. Performance rights with market based performance milestones have been independently valued by a third party using a Monte Carlo simulation model, other performance rights are valued based on the underlying share price at the date of valuation and adjusted for a probability factor estimate of the number that will vest. The Company has valued options using the black-scholes option pricing model. The Board set the quantum maximum number of performance rights to be issued based on the targeted STI percentage of base remuneration divided by Company's share price at the commencement of the measurement period.

The accounting valuation basis leads to a distorted view of individual remuneration, the ultimate realised reward to the participant being the market value of the Company's shares should the options or performance rights vest, less any exercise price at the point of exercise.

During the financial period the Company's share price has ranged from a low of \$0.20 to a high of \$0.58 including the prices observed below on the following relevant dates:

- 30 June 2022 commencement of the measurement period and bases of setting the performance rights and options award: \$0.32
- 25 November 2022 AGM date and approval date for the grant and date for valuation of performance rights: \$0.47
- 30 June 2023 end of measurement period and financial period end: \$0.22



# No Options were issued as part of KMP remuneration during the year ended 30 June 2023

Options issued during the period ended 30 June 2022:

30-Jun-22	Date of issue	Number of options issued	Value per Option¹	Total value of issue \$	Vesting Date	Exercise Price	Expiry Date	Number vested during the year
Non-executive Direct	tors							
	13-Aug-21	300,000	\$0.1070	32,103	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	300,000
Andrew Parker	13-Aug-21	300,000	\$0.0879	26,360	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	300,000	\$0.0869	26,061	22-Mar-24	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.1070	21,402	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	200,000
Felicity Repacholi	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.0879	17,573	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.0869	17,374	22-Mar-24	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.1070	21,402	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	200,000
Scott Perry	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.0879	17,573	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.0869	17,374	22-Mar-24	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
		2,100,000		197,221				700,000
<b>Executive Directors</b>								
	13-Aug-21	1,300,000	\$0.1070	139,113	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	1,300,000
Steve Norregaard	13-Aug-21	1,300,000	\$0.0879	114,226	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	1,300,000	\$0.0744	96,775	22-Sep-23	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
		3,900,000		350,113				1,300,000
Executives								
	13-Aug-21	500,000	\$0.1070	53,505	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	500,000
Graeme Scott	13-Aug-21	500,000	\$0.0879	43,933	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	500,000	\$0.0869	43,434	22-Mar-24	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
		1,500,000		140,872				500,000
Total		7,500,000		688,206				2,500,000

<sup>1.</sup> Options are valued using the Black-Scholes method on date of grant.

# Performance rights issued as part of KMP remuneration during the year ended 30 June 2023

The following tables summarises information relevant to the current financial year in relation to the grant of performance rights to KMP as part of their remuneration. Performance rights are issued by Widgie Nickel Limited.



30-Jun-23	Date of issue	Number of performance rights issued	Value per performance right¹	Total value of issue \$	Vesting Date <sup>2</sup>	Exercise Price	Expiry Date	Number vested during the year
Non-executive Direc	ctors							
Andrew Parker		-		-				-
Felicity Repacholi		-		-				-
Scott Perry		-		-				-
		-		-				-
Executive Directors								
Steve Norregaard	30-Nov-22	625,000	\$0.3281/\$0.47	276,013	30-Sep-23	\$0.0000	30-Sep-25	-
Executives								
Graeme Scott	30-Nov-22	234,000	\$0.3281/\$0.47	103,339	30-Sep-23	\$0.0000	30-Sep-25	-
Total		859,000		379,352				-

<sup>(1)</sup> Performance rights with Market based performance milestones are valued using a Monte Carlo simulation model \$0.3281, Other Performance rights are valued based on the underlying share price at the date of valuation \$0.47 and adjusted for the expectation of the number that will vest.

<sup>(2)</sup> Performance rights to vest on achievement of performance criteria to 30 June 2023, as determined by the Company's Board, by 30 September 2023.

30-June-22	Date of issue	Number of performance rights issued	Value per performance right <sup>1</sup>	Total value of issue \$	Vesting Date <sup>2</sup>	Exercise Price	Expiry Date	Number vested during the year
Non-executive Direct	ctors							
Andrew Parker		-		-				-
Felicity Repacholi		-		-				-
Scott Perry		-		-				-
		-		-				-
<b>Executive Directors</b>								
Steve Norregaard	6-Apr-22	770,000	\$0.3909/\$0.48	269,392	30-Sep-22	\$0.0000	30-Sep-24	-
Executives								
Graeme Scott	6-Apr-22	290,000	\$0.3909/\$0.48	106,192	30-Sep-22	\$0.0000	30-Sep-24	-
Total		1,060,000		375,584				-

<sup>(1)</sup> Performance rights with Market based performance milestones are valued using a Monte Carlo simulation model \$0.3909, Other Performance rights are valued based on the underlying share price at the date of valuation \$0.48 and adjusted for the expectation of the number that will vest.

The performance rights granted entitle the grantee to one fully paid ordinary share in Widgie Nickel Limited for nil cash consideration on satisfaction of the vesting criteria.

<sup>(2)</sup> Performance rights to vest on achievement of performance criteria to 30 June 2022, as determined by the Company's Board, by 30 September 2022.



# Option Holdings of KMP's including performance rights

30-Jun-23	Opening Balance 1- Jul-22	Options Granted as Remunerati on	Performance rights Granted as Remuneration	Exercise of Options & PRs	Expired/ Cancelled	Market Transac tions	Closing Balance	Ve sted at 30-Jun-23
Directors								
Andrew Parker	900,000	-	-	-	-	-	900,000	600,000
Felicity Repacholi	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
Scott Perry	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
	2,100,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,100,000	1,400,000
Executive Direct	tors							
Steve Norregaard	4,670,000	-	625,000	(436,328)	(333,672)	-	4,525,000	2,600,000
Executives	-							
Graeme Scott	1,790,000	-	234,000	(174,000)	(116,000)	-	1,734,000	1,000,000
Total	8,560,000	-	859,000	(610,328)	(449,672)	-	8,359,000	5,000,000

30-Jun-22	Opening Balance	Options Granted as Remunerati on	Performance rights Granted as Remuneration	Exercise of Options & PRs	Expired/ Cancelled	Market Transac tions	Closing Balance	Vested at 30-Jun-22
Directors								
Andrew Parker	-	900,000	-	-	-	-	900,000	300,000
Felicity Repacholi	-	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	200,000
Scott Perry	-	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	200,000
	-	2,100,000	-	-	-	-	2,100,000	700,000
Executive Direct	tors							
Steve Norregaard	-	3,900,000	770,000	-	-	-	4,670,000	1,300,000
Executives								
Graeme Scott	-	1,500,000	290,000	-	-	-	1,790,000	500,000
Total	-	7,500,000	1,060,000	-	-	-	8,560,000	2,500,000



# Shareholdings of key management personnel

30-Jun-23	Opening Balance	Granted as Remuneration	Exercise of Options/PRs <sup>1</sup>	Cancelled	Market/ Other Movements	Closing Balance
Directors						
Andrew Parker	-	-	-	-	-	-
Felicity Repacholi	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scott Perry	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Executive Directors						
Steve Norregaard	11,711	-	436,328	-	-	448,039
Executives						
Graeme Scott	125,000	-	174,000	-	-	299,000
Total	136,711	-	-	-	-	747,039

<sup>1.</sup> Exercise of 2021/2022 Performance Rights Award following vesting on 23 September 2022.

30-Jun-22	Opening Balance	Granted as Remuneration	Exercise of Options/PRs	Cancelled	Market/ Other Movements	Closing Balance
Directors						
Andrew Parker	-	-	-	-	-	-
Felicity Repacholi	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scott Perry	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Executive Directors						
Steve Norregaard <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-	11,711	11,711
Executives						
Graeme Scott <sup>2</sup>	-	125,000	-	-	-	125,000
Total	-	125,000		-	11,711	136,711

<sup>1.</sup> Acquired as a shareholder of Neometals Limited on demerger of Widgie Nickel Limited and participation in the Entitlement Offer.

## Use of remuneration consultants

During the year no remuneration consultants were used by the Company.

This is the end of the audited remuneration report.

<sup>2.</sup> Acquired on completion of Widgie Nickel Limited's listing on the ASX and are subject to escrow until 22 September 2022.



The Company confirms that Auditors, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu have not been engaged by the Company during the year to provide any non-audit services.

# **Auditor's Independence Declaration**

The auditor's independence declaration is included on page 50 of this Financial Report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of directors made pursuant to s.298(2) of the Corporations Act 2001. On behalf of the Directors of Widgie Nickel Limited.

Mr. Steve Norregaard

**Managing Director** 

Perth, WA

15 September 2023



Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu ABN 74 490 121 060

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Board of Directors Widgie Nickel Limited Level 4, 220 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6000

15 September 2023

**Dear Board Members** 

# Auditor's Independence Declaration to Widgie Nickel Limited

In accordance with section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of Widgie Nickel Limited.

As lead audit partner for the audit of the financial report of Widgie Nickel Limited for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- The auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- Any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Yours faithfully

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

**Ian Skelton**Partner

**Chartered Accountants** 



Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu ABN 74 490 121 060

Tower 2 Brookfield Place 123 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6000 GPO Box A46 Perth WA 6837 Australia

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# Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Widgie Nickel Limited

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Widgie Nickel Limited (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (the "Group") which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the consolidated statement of profit or loss, statement of comprehensive income the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Group is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- Giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- Complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note 2 in the financial report, which indicates that the Group has incurred losses of \$2,056,459 (30 June 2022: \$2,724,933) and experienced net cash outflows from operating and investing activities of \$15,878,201 (30 June 2022: \$7,365,006) for the year ended 30 June 2023. These conditions, along with other matters set forth in Note 2, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt over the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial report for the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

# Deloitte.

# Key Audit Matter How the scope of our audit responded to the Key Audit Matter

# Carrying value of capitalised exploration and evaluation expenditure

At 30 June 2023, the carrying value of capitalised exploration and evaluation (E&E) assets amounts increased by \$14.0 million to \$33.2 million as disclosed in Note 14.

The carrying value of exploration and evaluation expenditure is assessed for impairment when facts and circumstances indicate the capitalised exploration and evaluation expenditure may exceed its recoverable amount.

The determination as to whether there are any indicators of impairment involves judgement, including whether:

- the Group has tenure;
- the Group's ability and intention to continue to evaluate and develop the project; and
- the results of exploration and evaluation work to date are sufficiently progress for a decision to be made as to the commercial viability or otherwise of the project.

Given the value of the balance and the judgemental nature of impairment indicator assessments associated with E&E assets, we consider this a key audit matter.

Our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- on a sample basis, testing the nature of additions being capitalised and whether these are in accordance with AASB 6; and
- assessing the Group's considerations of the existence of any indicators of impairment at 30 June 2023 by:
  - assessing whether the Group retained rights of tenure for all of its exploration licence areas by obtaining and assessing relevant documentation such as license agreements and licence status records from relevant state government online databases; and
  - considering the Group's intention and ability to carry out significant exploration and evaluation activities in the relevant exploration area which included an assessment of the Group's cash-flow forecast models and discussions with senior management and Directors of the Group.

We also assessed the adequacy of the disclosures included in Note 14 to the financial statements.

#### Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Review of Operations and the Directors' Report, which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, and also includes the following information which will be included in the Group's annual report (but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon): Chairman's Letter, ESG Report, Annual Mineral Resource Statement, Schedule of Mining Tenements, Shareholder Information and Corporate Directory, which is expected to be made available to us after that date.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

# Deloitte.

When we read Chairman's Letter, ESG Report, Annual Mineral Resource Statement, Schedule of Mining Tenements, Shareholder Information and Corporate Directory, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to the directors and use our professional judgement to determine the appropriate action.

#### Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the ability of the Group to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are
  appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of
  the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

# Deloitte.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with the directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

#### Report on the Remuneration Report

Opinion on the Remuneration Report

We have audited the Remuneration Report included in pages 37 to 49 of the Directors' Report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

In our opinion, the Remuneration Report of Widgie Nickel Limited for the year ended 30 June 2023, complies with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

#### Responsibilities

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Remuneration Report in accordance with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Remuneration Report, based on our audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

**DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU** 

itte Touche Tohmatsu

Ian Skelton

Partner

Chartered Accountants
Perth, 15 September 2023



#### **Directors' declaration**

The Directors declare that:

- (a) in the Directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable;
- (b) the attached financial statements are in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards as stated in note 2 to the financial statements;
- (c) in the Directors' opinion, the attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including compliance with accounting standards and giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the consolidated entity; and
- (d) the Directors have been given the declarations required by s.295A of the Corporations Act 2001.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors made pursuant to s.295(5) of the Corporations Act 2001.

On behalf of the directors of Widgie Nickel Limited,

Mr. Steve Norregaard

Managing Director

Perth, WA

15 September 2023



# Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 \$	15 Mar 2021 to 30 June 2022 \$
Continuing operations			
Other income	5	217,547	48,145
Employee benefits expenses	5	(804,308)	(508,530)
Share based payments expenses	9	(346,400)	(1,203,292)
Administration expenses	5	(511,420)	(581,809)
Other expenses	5	(209,681)	(127,780)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	13 & 17	(387,988)	(92,309)
ASX Listing expenses	18	-	(251,971)
Finance costs	17	(14,209)	(7,387)
Loss before income tax		(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
Income tax (expense)/benefit	7	-	-
Loss for the period after tax		(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
Other Comprehensive Income/(loss)		-	-
Total Comprehensive Loss for the period		(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
Loss attributable to:			
Owners of the Company		(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
Total Comprehensive Loss attributable to:			
Owners of the Company		(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
Loss per share			
From continuing operations			
Basic and fully diluted (cents per share)	21	(0.81)	(1.57)

The consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# Consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023

	Note	30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	11(a)	11,844,806	16,437,893
Trade and other receivables	12	136,787	174,001
Prepayments		131,321	42,160
Total current assets		12,112,914	16,654,054
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	13	1,309,812	476,473
Exploration and evaluation assets	14	33,151,232	19,185,048
Other assets	11(b)	89,028	88,695
Right of use assets	17	294,696	361,072
Total non-current assets		34,844,768	20,111,288
Total assets		46,957,682	36,765,342
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	15	(3,303,320)	(2,727,174)
Provisions	16	(72,746)	(46,150)
Lease liability	17	(166,950)	(136,370)
Total current liabilities		(3,543,016)	(2,909,694)
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions for tenement rehabilitation costs	16	(398,000)	(398,000)
Lease liability	17	(111,416)	(222,002)
Total non-current liabilities		(509,416)	(620,002)
Total liabilities		(4,052,432)	(3,529,696)
Net assets		42,905,250	33,235,646
Equity			
Issued capital	18	35,488,771	23,751,467
Reserves	19	12,197,871	12,209,112
Accumulated losses		(4,781,392)	(2,724,933)
Total equity		42,905,250	33,235,646

This consolidated statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# Consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	Issued Capital \$	Restructuring reserve	Share based payments reserve \$	Accumulated losses	Total \$
Balance as at 15 Mar 2021		-	-	-	-	-
Loss for the period		-	-	-	(2,724,933)	(2,724,933)
Other comprehensive income, net of tax		-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the period		-	-	-	(2,724,933)	(2,724,933)
Equity issued	18	25,065,001	-	-	-	25,065,001
Corporate restructure reserve created on demerger	6,19	-	10,948,600	-	-	10,948,600
Recognition of share-based payments	19	-	-	1,269,631	-	1,269,631
Transfer to issued capital on exercise of options	18	9,119	-	(9,119)	-	-
Share issue costs	18	(1,322,653)	-	-	-	(1,322,653)
Balance at 30 June 2022		23,751,467	10,948,600	1,260,512	(2,724,933)	33,235,646
Loss for the year		-	-	-	(2,056,459)	(2,056,459)
Other comprehensive income, net of tax		-	-	-	-	
Total comprehensive loss for the year		-	-	-	(2,056,459)	(2,056,459)
Equity issued	18	12,070,001	-	-	-	12,070,001
Recognition of share-based payments	19	-	-	346,400	-	346,400
Transfer to issued capital on exercise of options and performance rights	18	357,641	-	(357,641)	-	_
Share issue costs	18	(690,338)	-	-	-	(690,338)
Balance at 30 June 2023		35,488,771	10,948,600	1,249,271	(4,781,392)	42,905,250

This consolidated statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# Consolidated statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 \$	15 Mar 2021 to 30 June 2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,327,570)	(1,180,593)
Payment for exploration and evaluation costs		(13,594,702)	(5,602,910)
Net cash used in operating activities		(14,922,272)	(6,783,503)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payment for property, plant & equipment		(1,154,950)	(661,775)
Cash acquired on acquisition of Mt Edwards Lithium Pty Ltd	6	-	45,634
Interest received		199,021	34,638
Net cash used in investing activities		(955,929)	(581,503)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from issue of shares	18	12,070,000	25,040,001
Payments for costs of share issues	18	(690,338)	(1,231,315)
Payment for security deposits	11(b)	(333)	(88,695)
Proceeds from finance leases		68,616	154,038
Payments on lease liability		(148,622)	(63,743)
Interest and finance costs paid		(14,209)	(7,387)
Net cash provided by financing activities		11,285,114	23,802,899
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(4,593,088)	16,437,893
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		16,437,893	-
Effects of exchange rate changes on the balance of cash held in foreign currencies		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	11(a)	11,844,806	16,437,893

This consolidated statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



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#### 1. General information

Widgie Nickel Limited presents its financial results for the year ended 30 June 2023. Widgie Nickel Limited was incorporated on 15 March 2021 and changed its company type to a limited public company on 14 August 2021. Accordingly, Widgie Nickel Limited's comparative financial results reflect the period from 15 March 2021 to 30 June 2022. The Company is incorporated in Western Australia, Australia and is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange under the code WIN. The principal activities of the Consolidated Entity are mineral exploration. Widgie Nickel Limited is the ultimate parent of the Group.

#### Registered office and principal place of business

Level 4, 220 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

### 2. Significant accounting policies

#### Statement of compliance

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act* 2001, Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and complies with other requirements of the law. The financial statements comprise the consolidated financial statements of the Consolidated Entity, comprising Widgie Nickel Limited and its controlled entities. For the purpose of preparing the financial statements the consolidated entity is a for-profit entity.

Accounting Standards include Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board. Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards ensures that the financial statements and notes of the Company and the Group comply with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS").

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors of Widgie Nickel Limited on 15 September 2023.

#### Basis of preparation

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis. The accounting policies adopted are detailed below. These accounting policies are consistent with Australian Accounting Standards and with IFRS.

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost except for financial instruments which are measured at FVTPL or FVTOCI. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. All amounts are presented in Australian dollars, unless otherwise noted.

#### Going concern

The directors believe that Widgie Nickel Limited will continue as a going concern, and as a result the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates the continuity of normal business activity and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the normal course of business.

The Group incurred losses of \$2,056,459 (30 June 2022: \$2,724,933) and experienced net cash outflows from operating and investing activities of \$15,878,201 (30 June 2022: \$7,365,006) for the year ended 30 June 2023. As at 30 June 2023 the Group had cash and cash equivalents of \$11,844,806 (30 June 2022: \$16,437,893).

The directors recognise that additional funding is required to meet the Group's budgeted ongoing exploration and evaluation activities. The directors have prepared a cash flow forecast for the period ending 30 September 2024 which indicates minimum funding of \$4.5 million will be required progressively over the period commencing from February 2024 by way of debt, equity or other forms of funding to continue to progress its projects through to 30 September 2024. The forecast assumes expenditure on programmes required to advance the Mt Edwards Nickel and Faraday Lithium deposits towards a final investment decision. However, the cash flow forecast does not assume that development activities at the Mt Edwards project commence in the period ending 30 September 2024. The Group has the ability to defer discretionary expenditure should adequate funding not be secured by February 2024, however, additional funding will still be required during the period to 30 September 2024. Should a final investment decision be made with respect to the Mt Edwards Nickel and Faraday Lithium deposits, the cash flow forecast will be updated to identify any additional funding required for development, be this in the form of debt, equity or other forms of funding, or a combination of these options.

The directors reasonably believe that they will achieve the matters set out above and therefore the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate.

Should the Group be unable to achieve the additional funding above, there is a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt as to whether the Group will be able to continue as a going concern and, therefore, whether it will realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. No adjustments have been made to the financial report relating to the recoverability and classification of recorded asset amounts or to the amounts and classification of liabilities that might be necessary should the Group not continue as a going concern.



#### Standards and interpretations adopted in the current year

The Group has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Boards ("AASB") that are relevant to its operations and effective for an accounting period that begins on or after 1 July 2022. The adoption of these new and amended accounting standards or interpretations during the year did not have a material impact on the Group's financial report and hence, have not been disclosed.

#### Critical accounting judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Group's

accounting policies, management is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Refer to note 3 for a discussion of critical judgments in applying the entity's accounting policies, and key sources of estimation uncertainty.

#### Significant accounting policies

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report:

#### (a) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand and term deposits with a 30 day cancellation policy. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### (b) Employee benefits

A liability is recognised for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave, and sick leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Liabilities recognised in respect of short-term employee benefits, are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Liabilities recognised in respect of long term employee benefits are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the Group in respect of services provided by employees up to reporting date.

#### (c) Foreign currency translation

#### **Functional and presentation currency**

Items included in the financial statements of each of the group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ('the functional currency'). The consolidated financial statements are presented in Australian dollar (\$), which is Widgie's functional and presentation currency.

#### Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at year end exchange rates are generally recognised in profit or loss. They are deferred in equity if they relate to qualifying cash flow hedges and qualifying net investment hedges or are attributable to part of the net investment in a foreign operation.

All other foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in the statement of profit or loss on a net basis within other income or other expenses.

#### (d) Financial instruments issued by the company

#### **Debt and equity instruments**

Debt and equity instruments are classified as either liabilities or as equity in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangement.

#### Financial assets

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except where the instrument is classified 'at fair value through profit or loss' in which case transaction costs are expensed immediately.



Financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL), amortised cost using the effective interest rate method or at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI). Fair value represents the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value where possible.

Financial assets at amortised cost are financial assets that are held within a business model whose objective is to hold the financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows and the contractual terms of the financial assets give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

By default, all other debt investments and equity investments are measured subsequently at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).

The Group classifies its financial assets into the following categories: those to be measured subsequently at fair value (either through other comprehensive income 'FVOCI' or through the income statement 'FVTPL') and those to be held at amortised cost. The classification depends on the Group's business model for managing its financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

#### Impairment of financial assets

The Group recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on investments in debt and equity instruments that are measured at amortised cost, FVTPL or at FVTOCI. The amount of expected credit losses is updated at each reporting date to reflect changes in credit risk since initial recognition of the respective financial instrument. The Group recognises lifetime ECL (expected credit loss) when there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition. However, if the credit risk on the financial instrument has not increased significantly since initial recognition, the Group measures the loss allowance for that financial instrument at an amount equal to 12-month ECL. Lifetime ECL represents the expected credit losses that will result from all possible default events over the expected life of a financial instrument. In contrast, 12-month ECL represents the portion of lifetime ECL that is expected to result from default events on a financial instrument that are possible within 12 months after the reporting date.

There has been no change in the estimation techniques or significant assumptions made during the current reporting period in assessing the loss allowance for these financial assets.

#### **Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or at amortised cost.

#### Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial liabilities are classified as at fair value through profit or loss where the financial liability is either held for trading or it is designated as at fair value through profit or loss.

A financial liability is held for trading if:

- It has been incurred principally for the purpose of repurchasing in the near future; or
- It is a part of an identified portfolio of financial instruments that the Group manages together and has a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking; or
- It is a derivative that is not designated and effective as a hedging instrument.

A financial liability other than a financial liability held for trading is designated as at fair value through profit or loss upon initial recognition if:

- such designation eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise; or
- the financial liability forms part of a group of financial assets or financial liabilities or both, which is managed and its
  performance evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with the Group's documented risk management or
  investment strategy, and information about the grouping is provided internally on that basis; or
- it forms part of a contract containing one or more embedded derivatives, and AASB 9 'Financial Instruments' permits the entire combined contract (asset or liability) to be designated as at fair value through profit or loss.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are stated at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest paid on the financial liability.



#### Other financial liabilities at amortised cost

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or financial liability to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset or to the amortised cost of a financial liability.

#### Transaction costs on the issue of equity instruments

Transaction costs arising on the issue of equity instruments are recognised directly in equity as a reduction of the proceeds of the equity instruments to which the costs relate. Transaction costs are the costs that are incurred directly in connection with the issue of those equity instruments and which would not have been incurred had those instruments not been issued.

#### Interest and dividends

Interest and dividends are classified as expenses or as distributions of profit consistent with the balance sheet classification of the related debt or equity instruments or component parts of compound instruments.

#### (e) Goods and service tax

Other income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax ("GST"), except:

- i) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- ii) for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

#### (f) Impairment of non-financial assets (other than exploration and evaluation expenditure)

At each reporting date, the consolidated entity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where the asset does not generate cash flows that are independent from other assets, the consolidated entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (cash-generating unit) in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

#### (g) Income tax

#### **Current tax**

Current tax is calculated by reference to the amount of income taxes payable or recoverable in respect of the taxable profit or tax loss for the period. It is calculated using tax rates and tax laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by reporting date. Current tax for current and prior periods is recognised as a liability (or asset) to the extent that it is unpaid (or refundable).



#### **Deferred tax**

Deferred tax is accounted for using the comprehensive balance sheet liability method in respect of temporary differences arising from differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax base of those items.

In principle, deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that sufficient taxable amounts will be available against which deductible temporary differences or unused tax losses and tax offsets can be utilised. However, deferred tax assets and liabilities are not recognised if the temporary differences giving rise to them arise from the initial recognition of assets and liabilities (other than as a result of a business combination) which affects neither taxable income nor accounting profit. Furthermore, a deferred tax liability is not recognised in relation to taxable temporary differences arising from goodwill.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for taxable temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries, branches, associates and joint ventures except where the consolidated entity is able to control the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the temporary differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future. Deferred tax assets arising from deductible temporary differences associated with these investments and interests are only recognised to the extent that it is probable that there will be sufficient taxable profits against which to utilise the benefits of the temporary differences and they are expected to reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period(s) when the asset and liability giving rise to them are realised or settled, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by reporting date. The measurement of deferred tax liabilities and assets reflects the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the consolidated entity expects, at the reporting date, to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when they relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority and the Company/Consolidated Entity intends to settle its current tax assets and liabilities on a net basis.

#### Current and deferred tax for the period

Current and deferred tax is recognised as an expense or income in the profit and loss statement, except when it relates to items credited or debited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is also recognised directly in equity, or where it arises from the initial accounting for a business combination, in which case it is taken into account in the determination of goodwill or gain on a bargain purchase.

#### (h) Exploration and evaluation expenditure

Exploration and evaluation expenditures, excluding general overhead, in relation to separate areas of interest are capitalised in the year in which they are incurred and are carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses where the following conditions are satisfied;

- i) the rights to tenure of the area of interest are current; and
- ii) at least one of the following conditions is also met:
  - the exploration and evaluation expenditures are expected to be recouped through successful development and exploration of the area of interest, or alternatively, by its sale; or
  - exploration and evaluation activities in the area of interest have not at the reporting date reached a stage which
    permits a reasonable assessment of the existence or otherwise of economically recoverable reserves, and active and
    significant operations in, or in relation to, the area of interest are continuing.

Capitalised exploration costs for each area of interest (considered to be the cash generating unit) are reviewed each reporting date to test whether an indication of impairment exists. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the capitalised exploration costs is estimated to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). The recoverable amount for capitalised exploration costs has been determined as the fair value less costs to sell by reference to an active market. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in previous years.

Where a decision is made to proceed with development, accumulated expenditure is tested for impairment and transferred to capitalised development and then amortised over the life of the reserves associated with the area of interest once mining operations have commenced.



#### **Development expenditure**

Development expenditure is recognised at cost less any impairment losses. Where commercial production in an area of interest has commenced, the associated costs are amortised over the life of the reserves associated with the area of interest. Changes in factors such as estimates of proved and probable reserves that effect unit-of-production calculations are dealt with on a prospective basis.

#### (i) Payables

Trade payables and other accounts payable are recognised when the Consolidated Entity becomes obliged to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods and services.

#### (j) Principles of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements are prepared by combining the financial statements of all the entities that comprise the Consolidated Entity, being the Company (the parent entity) and its subsidiaries as defined in Accounting Standard AASB 10 'Consolidated Financial Statements'. Consistent accounting policies are employed in the preparation and presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

On acquisition, the assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities of a subsidiary are measured at their fair values at the date of acquisition. Any excess of the cost of acquisition over the fair values of the identifiable net assets acquired is recognised as goodwill. If, after reassessment, the fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired exceeds the cost of acquisition, the excess is credited to profit or loss in the period of acquisition. The consolidated financial statements include the information and results of each subsidiary from the date on which the Company obtains control and until such time as the Company ceases to control such entity. In preparing the consolidated financial statements, all inter-company balances and transactions, and unrealised profits arising within the consolidated group are eliminated in full.

#### (k) Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the item. In the event that settlement of all or part of the purchase consideration is deferred, costs are determined by discounting the amounts payable in the future to their present value as at the date of acquisition.

Depreciation is calculated on either a straight line or a diminishing value basis so as to write off the net cost or other re-valued amount of each asset over its expected useful life to its estimated residual value. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period with the effect of any changes recognised on a prospective basis.

The following estimated useful lives are used in the calculation of depreciation:

Furniture & Fittings 3-10 years

Plant and Equipment 3-10 years

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in profit and loss.

#### (I) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the consolidated entity has a present obligation, the future sacrifice of economic benefits is probable, and the amount of the provision can be measured reliably.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, it's carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows. When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, the receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that recovery will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

#### (m) Income recognition

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.



#### Dividend and interest revenue

Dividend revenue from investments is recognised when the shareholder's right to receive the payment has been established. Interest revenue is recognised on a time proportionate basis that takes into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

#### (n) Share-based payments

Equity-settled share-based payments to employees and others providing services to the Group are measured at fair value at the date of grant.

The fair value determined at the grant date of the equity-settled share-based payments is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period, based on the Consolidated Entity's estimate of shares that will eventually vest, with a corresponding increase in equity.

Equity-settled share-based payments transactions with parties other than employees are measured at the fair value of the goods or services received, except where the fair value cannot be estimated reliably, in which case they are measured at the fair value of the equity instruments granted, measured at the date the entity obtains the goods or the counter party renders the service. Equity settled share based payments with employees are measured at the fair value of the equity instruments at grant date using appropriate valuation models.

#### (o) Leased assets

The Group assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease, at inception of the contract. The Group recognises a right-ofuse asset and a corresponding lease liability with respect to all lease arrangements in which it is the lessee.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted by using the rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Group uses its incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise fixed lease payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable.

The lease liability is presented as a separate line in the consolidated statement of financial position. The lease liability is subsequently measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liability (using the effective interest method) and by reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability, lease payments made at or before the commencement day, less any lease incentives received and any initial direct costs. They are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation. Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the shorter period of lease term and useful life of the underlying asset. The depreciation starts at the commencement date of the lease. The right-of-use assets are presented as a separate line in the consolidated statement of financial position.

#### 3. Critical accounting judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, which are described in note 2, management is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstance, the results of which form the basis of making the judgments. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

#### 3.1 Critical judgments in applying the entity's accounting policies

The following are the critical judgments that management has made in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

#### (a) Recovery of capitalised exploration and evaluation expenditure

The Group capitalises exploration and evaluation expenditure incurred on ongoing projects. The recoverability of this capitalised exploration expenditure is entirely dependent upon returns from the successful development of mining operations or from surpluses from the sale of the projects or the subsidiary companies that control the projects. At the point that it is determined that any capitalised exploration expenditure is definitely not recoverable, it is written off.



#### (b) Share-based payments

Equity-settled share-based payments granted are measured at fair value at the date of grant. The fair value of share options is measured by use of an appropriate option pricing model and requires substantial judgement.

The fair value of performance rights issued during the period was made with reference to the Company's closing share price on the date of grant. Management has been required to estimate the probability that the Company will meet the performance criteria determined by the board.

# 4. Parent entity disclosure

	2023	2022
Financial Position	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets	11,442,809	15,923,376
Non-current assets	23,859,389	9,218,905
Total assets	35,302,198	25,142,281
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	653,097	402,787
Non-current liabilities	46,246	123,036
Total liabilities	699,343	525,823
Net Assets	34,602,855	24,616,459
Equity		
Issued capital	35,488,771	23,751,467
Retained earnings	(4,377,611)	(2,637,944)
Reserves		
Share based payments	1,249,271	1,260,512
Corporate restructure reserve created on demerger	2,242,424	2,242,424
Total equity	34,602,855	24,616,459
Financial Performance		
loss for the period	(1,739,667)	(2,637,944)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(1,739,667)	(2,637,944)

The parent entity had no capital or contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2023.

# 5. Loss for the year continuing operations

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
(a) Income			
Income from operations consisted of the following items:			
Interest income		216,934	48,145
Other income		613	-
		217,547	48,145



(b) Loss before income tax  Loss before income tax has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
Employee benefits expense:		
Employee salaries	(2,435,587)	(1,255,093)
Directors fees	(182,398)	(156,263)
Superannuation expense	(225,327)	(109,374)
Other employee costs and taxes	(161,266)	(47,058)
Capitalised to project exploration and evaluation asset	2,200,270	1,059,258
	(804,308)	(508,530)
Administration expenses:		
Company secretarial	(155,933)	(144,723)
Corporate costs	(126,213)	(119,873)
Recruitment costs	(7,905)	(149,486)
Insurances	(132,811)	(67,704)
Other administration expenses	(88,558)	(100,023)
	(511,420)	(581,809)
Other expenses:		
Project expenses, investor relations and marketing costs	(209,681)	(127,780)

### 6. Group Restructure – Asset Acquisition

The Company has determined that the restructuring transactions completed during the comparative period whilst the Company was under the control of Neometals Ltd do not constitute a business combination in accordance with AASB 3 Business Combinations. The acquisition of the assets meets the definition of, and has been accounted for, as an asset acquisition under common control resulting in the assets acquired and liabilities assumed being recorded at their respective book values. No deferred tax will arise in relation to the acquired assets and assumed liabilities as the initial recognition exemption for deferred tax under AASB 112 Income Taxes is applied. No goodwill arises on the acquisition and transaction costs of the acquisition are included in the capitalised cost of the asset.

On 1 June 2021 the Company acquired 100% of Mt Edwards Lithium Pty Ltd (MELPL) for a consideration of \$2,242,424 by way of an intercompany loan transaction with Neometals Ltd. The loan was subsequently forgiven by Neometals Ltd as part of the demerger process. The following table illustrates the apportionment of the acquisition cost to the assets and liabilities of MELPL at their relative fair values at the acquisition date.

	1 June 2021
	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	45,634
Trade and other receivables	9,765
Exploration and evaluation expenditure	2,247,449
Provisions	(37,500)
Trade and other payables	(22,924)
Fair value of net assets acquired	2,242,424

On 19 July 2021 the Company acquired 100% of Neometals Ltd's remaining tenement interests over the Mt Edwards Project for a consideration of \$8,609,583 by way of an intercompany loan transaction with Neometals Ltd. The loan was subsequently



forgiven by Neometals Ltd as part of the demerger process. The following table illustrates the apportionment of the acquisition cost to the assets and liabilities acquired at their relative fair values at the acquisition date.

	19 July 2021 \$
Exploration and evaluation expenditure	8,970,083
Rehabilitation provision	(360,500)
Total cost acquisition	8,609,583

## 7. Income taxes

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
(a) Major components of income tax expense / (benefit) recognised in profit or loss are:		
Current income:		
Current income tax expense (benefit)	(5,131,017)	(3,323,661)
Current income tax charge not recognised	5,131,017	3,323,661
Deferred income tax:		
Relating to origination and reversal of temporary differences	(819,142)	(1,432,843)
Deferred tax expense (benefit) not recognised	819,142	1,423,843
Total tax expense / (benefit)	-	-
The prima facie income tax expense on pre-tax accounting profit from continuing operations reconciles to the income tax benefit in the financial statements as follows:		
Loss before income tax	(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
Income tax calculated at 30%	(616,938)	(817,480)
Add:		
Non-deductible share based payments	103,920	360,988
Non-deductible expenses (Non-assessable income)	-	2,905
Uplift in tax base of exploration upon consolidation	-	(578,702)
Temporary differences and tax losses not recognised	513,018	1,032,289
Income tax (benefit) / expense recognised	-	-

The tax rate used in the above reconciliation is the corporate tax rate of 30% payable by Australian corporate entities on taxable income under Australian tax law. There has been no change in the corporate tax rate during the reporting period.

### (b) Unrecognised deferred tax assets

Deferred tax assets have not been recognised in respect of the following items:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Deferred tax liabilities	(4,497,319)	(2,443,678)
Deferred tax assets	5,316,461	3,871,572
Net deferred tax balance not brought to account	819,142	1,423,843



#### (c) Tax losses

At 30 June 2023 the amount of tax losses carried forward was \$28,476,090 (2002: \$11,078,870).

The tax losses do not expire under current legislation. Deferred tax assets have not been recognised in respect of these items because at this point it is not probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the Company can utilise the benefits.

#### Tax Consolidation

#### Relevance of tax consolidation to the consolidated entity

The Company and its wholly-owned Australian resident entities have formed a tax-consolidated group and are therefore taxed as a single entity. The head entity within the tax-consolidated group is Widgie Nickel Limited. The members of the tax-consolidated group are identified at note 22.

## Nature of tax funding arrangements and tax sharing agreements

Entities within the tax-consolidated group have entered into a tax funding arrangement and a tax sharing agreement with the head entity. Under the terms of the tax funding arrangement, Widgie Nickel Limited and each of the entities in the tax consolidation group has agreed to pay a tax equivalent payment to or from the head entity, based on the current tax liability or current tax assets of the entity. Such amounts are reflected in amounts receivable from or payable to each entity in the tax consolidated group, and are eliminated on consolidation. The tax sharing agreement entered into between the members of the tax-consolidated group provides for the determination of the allocation of income tax liabilities between the entities should the head entity default on its payment obligations or if an entity should leave the tax-consolidated group. The effect of the tax sharing agreement is that each member's tax liability for tax payable by the tax-consolidated group is limited to the amount payable to the head entity under the tax funding arrangement.

# 8. Key management personnel compensation

Full details of key management personnel compensation are provided in the Remuneration Report within the Directors' Report.

The aggregate compensation made to key management personnel of the Group is set out below:

Short-term employee benefits – salary and fees
Short-term employee benefits – non-monetary
Post-employment benefits
Share-based payments – performance rights
Share-based payments – options

2022 \$
695,115
22,195
48,333
375,584
463,051
1,604,278

## 9. Share based payments

Widgie Nickel Limited has established an Equity Incentive Plan (EIP) to assist in the motivation, reward and retention of directors, senior executives and other employees that may be invited to participate in the plan from time to time. The EIP is designed to align the interests of employees with the interests of Shareholders, by providing an opportunity for directors and employees to receive an equity interest in the Company. The rules of the EIP provide flexibility for the Company to grant performance rights, share options and/or restricted shares as incentives, subject to the terms of individual offers and the satisfaction of performance and vesting conditions determined by the Board from time to time.

In accordance with the provisions of the EIP, as approved by shareholders on 1 July 2021, employees, Non-Executive Directors and consultants may be offered performance rights, share options and/or restricted shares at such times and on such terms as the board considers appropriate.

General terms of securities granted under the EIP:

• EIP securities will not be quoted on the ASX.



- EIP securities not exercised on or before the expiry date will lapse.
- All shares allotted upon the vesting of EIP securities rank equally in all respects to all previously issued shares.
- EIP securities confer no right to vote, attend meetings, participate in a distribution of profit or a return of capital or another participating rights or entitlements on the grantee unless and until the performance rights vest.

#### Valuation

AASB 2 Share-based payment requires that options and performance rights are valued at date of grant with reference to the Company's share price at that time. The value of options and performance rights granted are expensed over the vesting period. Performance rights with Market based performance milestones have been independently valued by a third party using a Monte Carlo simulation model, other performance rights are valued based on the underlying share price at the date of valuation and adjusted for a probability factor estimate of the number that will vest. The Company has valued options using the black-scholes option pricing model. The Board set the quantum maximum number of performance rights to be issued based on the targeted STI percentage of base remuneration divided by Company's share price at the commencement of the measurement period.

During the financial year the Company's share price has ranged from a low of \$0.20 to a high of \$0.58 including the prices observed below on the following relevant dates:

- 30 June 2022 commencement of the measurement period and bases of setting the performance rights and options award: \$0.32
- 25 November 2022 AGM date and approval date for the grant and date for valuation of performance rights: \$0.47
- 30 June 2023 end of measurement period and financial period end: \$0.22

The total expense recognised for the year arising from share-based payment transactions and accounted for as equity-settled share-based payment transactions is \$346,400 (performance rights \$130,387, options to directors and employees \$216,013).

Prior period 30 June 2022: \$1,203,292 (performance rights \$483,765, options to directors and employees \$595,577, broker options \$98,950, and \$25,000 representing shares issued as a bonus on successful listing of the Company on ASX). A further share-based payment amount of \$91,339 has been recognised in equity as share issue costs related to the broker options.

## LTI - Options

# Options granted during and as at year ended 30 June 2023:

	Issue Date	Number	Price	ercise /weighted Avg.	llue per option	Vested at 30 June 2023
Balance at the beginning of the year	-	11,550,000		-		
Granted during the year:						
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 9/3/2023	7-Sep-22	400,000	\$	0.300	\$ 0.111	Cancelled
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 22/3/2024	7-Sep-22	400,000	\$	0.400	\$ 0.114	Cancelled
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 9/5/2023	7-Nov-22	350,000	\$	0.350	\$ 0.116	Yes
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 22/3/2024	7-Nov-22	350,000	\$	0.400	\$ 0.136	No
Unlisted Retention Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 10/4/2023	5-Oct-22	330,000	\$	0.300	\$ 0.094	Yes
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 1/9/2023	23-Feb-23	100,000	\$	0.380	\$ 0.144	No
Exercised during the period	10-Mar-23	(350,000)	\$	0.200		
Expired/cancelled during the period		(2,480,000)	\$0.3	30-\$0.40		
Outstanding at 30 June 2023		10,650,000				
Exercisable at 30 June 2023		7,880,000	\$0.3	30-\$0.35	-	



The Options have been valued using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following inputs:

Underlying share price: \$0.265 to \$0.37 Risk-free interest rate: 2.90% to 3.77%

Dividend yield: 0%
Expected volatility: 100%

The expected volatility reflects the assumption that historical volatility for companies of a similar type to Widgie over a period similar to the life of the options is indicative of future trends, which may not necessarily be the case.

The Company's share price on 10 March 2023, the date of the issue of shares on exercise of the options during the period was \$0.33 per share.

## Options granted during the period and as at 30 June 2022:

During the period, Widgie's first as an ASX listed Company an award of options were made to directors and executives as a signing on Long Term Incentive (LTI). Three equal tranches of options were issued as follows:

- Tranche 1 vesting after 6 months continuous service to the Company exercisable at \$0.20 per share before expiry on 22 September 2024
- Tranche 2 vesting after 18 months continuous service to the Company exercisable at \$0.30 per share before expiry on 22
   September 2024
- Tranche 3 vesting after 24 and 30 months continuous service to the Company exercisable at \$0.40 per share before expiry on 22 September 2024

on 22 deptember 202 i						
	Issue Date	Number	Price	xercise /weighted Avg.	alue per option	Vested at 30 June 2022
Balance at the beginning of the period	-	-		-		
Granted during the period:						
Unlisted Options issued to Directors & Executives vesting subject to continuous service on 22/3/2022	13-Aug-21	2,500,000	\$	0.200	\$ 0.106	Yes
Unlisted Options issued to Directors & Executives, vesting subject to continuous service on 22/3/2023	13-Aug-21	2,500,000	\$	0.300	\$ 0.087	No
Unlisted Options issued to Director, vesting subject to continuous service on 22/9/2023	13-Aug-21	1,300,000	\$	0.400	\$ 0.074	No
Unlisted Options issued to Directors & Executives, vesting subject to continuous service on 22/3/2024	13-Aug-21	1,200,000	\$	0.400	\$ 0.086	No
Broker Options - Euroz Hartleys <sup>1</sup>	17-Sep-21	2,000,000	\$	0.400	\$ 0.095	Yes
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 7/4/2022	7-0ct-21	400,000	\$	0.200	\$ 0.091	Yes
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 22/3/2023	7-0ct-21	400,000	\$	0.300	\$ 0.083	No
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 22/3/2024	7-0ct-21	400,000	\$	0.400	\$ 0.097	No
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 1/5/2022	1-Nov-21	350,000	\$	0.200	\$ 0.113	Yes
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 22/3/2023	1-Nov-21	350,000	\$	0.300	\$ 0.099	No
Unlisted Options issued to Employee, vesting subject to continuous service 22/3/2024	1-Nov-21	350,000	\$	0.400	\$ 0.117	No
Exercised during the period	6-May-22	(200,000)	\$	0.200		
Expired/cancelled during the period		-				
Outstanding at 30 June 2022		11,550,000				
Exercisable at 30 June 2022		5,050,000	\$0.:	20-\$0.30		



1. Options issued to broker Euroz Hartleys for services related to the Company's entitlement issue capital raising and ASX listing as disclosed in the Company's prospectus.

The Options have been valued using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following inputs:

Underlying share price: \$0.20 to \$0.25

Risk-free interest rate: 0.56% to 1.56%

Dividend yield: 0%

Expected volatility: 100%

The expected volatility reflects the assumption that historical volatility for companies of a similar type to Widgie over a period similar to the life of the options is indicative of future trends, which may not necessarily be the case.

The Company's share price on 6 May 2022, the date of the issue of shares on exercise of the options during the period was \$0.44 per share.

## STI - Performance Rights

During the period an award of performance rights were made to an executive director and executives as a Short term Incentive (STI).

## Performance Rights granted during the year and as at 30 June 2023:

	<b>Grant Date</b>	Number	Grant date share price	Probability factor	Fair value at grant date	Vested at 30 June 2023
Balance at the beginning of the year		1,400,000				
Expired/ Lapsed during the year 2021/2022 Award <sup>1</sup>		(712,172)				
Exercised during the year - 2021/2022 Award <sup>2</sup>		(687,828)				
Granted during the year - 2022/2023 Award:						
Steve Norregaard - market performance based criteria <sup>3</sup>	25-Nov-22	125,000	0.47	n/a	0.33	No
Steve Norregaard - non-market performance based criteria <sup>3</sup>	25-Nov-22	500,000	0.47	68.75%	0.32	No
Graeme Scott - market performance based criteria	25-Nov-22	46,800	0.47	n/a	0.33	No
Graeme Scott - non-market performance based criteria	25-Nov-22	187,200	0.47	68.75%	0.32	No
Other employees - market performance based criteria	25-Nov-22	49,800	0.47	n/a	0.33	No
Other employees - non-market performance based criteria	25-Nov-22	199,200	0.47	68.75%	0.32	No
Cancelled during the year - 2022/2023 Award		(165,000)				
Outstanding at 30 June 2023		943,000				_

1. The 2021/2022 Performance Rights Award achievement of performance and vesting criteria were assessed by the Board in September 2022 with 712,172 lapsing through failure to meet the vesting criteria and 687,828 vesting.

- 2. The vested performance rights were all exercised into fully paid ordinary shares in September 2022. The share price on day of exercise was \$0.235 per share.
- 3. Issues to Steve Norregaard were approved by shareholders at the Company's AGM on 25 November 2022.
- 4. Performance rights with Market based performance milestones have been independently valued by a third party using a Monte Carlo simulation model, other performance rights are valued based on the underlying share price at the date of valuation and adjusted for a probability factor estimate of the number that will vest
- 5. Performance rights to vest on achievement of performance criteria to 30 June 2023, as determined by the Company's Board, by 30 September 2023. Refer to the Remuneration Report within the Directors Report for further details.
- ${\bf 6.\ Vested\ performance\ rights\ have\ a\ nil\ exercise\ price}.$



# Performance Rights granted during the period and as at 30 June 2022:

	Grant Date	Number	Grant date share price	Probability factor	Fair value at grant date	Vested at 30 June 2022
Steve Norregaard - market performance based criteria <sup>1</sup>	31-Mar-22	154,000	0.48	n/a	0.39	No
Steve Norregaard - non-market performance based criteria <sup>1</sup>	31-Mar-22	616,000	0.48	70.75%	0.34	No
Graeme Scott - market performance based criteria	31-Mar-22	58,000	0.48	n/a	0.39	No
Graeme Scott - non-market performance based criteria	31-Mar-22	232,000	0.48	75.00%	0.36	No
Other employees - market performance based criteria	31-Mar-22	68,000	0.48	n/a	0.39	No
Other employees - non-market performance based criteria	31-Mar-22	272,000	0.48	62.50%	0.30	No
Outstanding at 30 June 2022		1,400,000				

<sup>1.</sup> Issues to Steve Norregaard were approved by shareholders at the Company's AGM on 31 March 2022.

# 10. Dividends on equity instruments

No dividends were paid or declared to the holders of fully paid ordinary shares during the period.

# 11. Cash and cash equivalents

## (a) Cash at bank

Cash at bank and in hand
Short term deposits – maturities of less than 3 months

30 June 2023	30 June 2022
\$	\$
2,844,806	3,937,893
9,000,000	12,500,000
11,844,806	16,437,893

# (b) Funds not available for use

Restrictions exist on bank deposits with a total value of \$89,028. These deposits are classified as other assets.

Of the \$89,028 held in restricted bank deposits \$49,028 is held as security for a bank guarantee for Company's Perth office lease rental. The additional \$40,000 is held on deposit as security for the Company's credit card facility.

<sup>2.</sup> Performance rights with Market based performance milestones have been independently valued by a third party using a Monte Carlo simulation model, other performance rights are valued based on the underlying share price at the date of valuation and adjusted for a probability factor estimate of the number that will vest.

<sup>3.</sup> Performance rights to vest on achievement of performance criteria to 30 June 2022, as determined by the Company's Board, by 30 September 2022. Refer to the Remuneration Report within the Directors Report for further details.

<sup>4.</sup> Vested performance rights have a nil exercise price.



# (c) Reconciliation of profit / (loss) for the period to net cash flows from operating activities

	30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
(Loss) / Profit for the year	(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
Adjustments for:		
Project expenditure capitalized to exploration and evaluation asset	(14,150,996)	(7,898,175)
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	387,988	92,309
Equity settled share-based payment	346,400	1,203,292
(Increase) / decrease in assets:		
Trade and other receivables	37,215	(164,236)
Other - prepayments	(89,162)	(42,160)
Increase / (decrease) in liabilities:		
Trade and other payables	576,146	2,704,250
Provisions	26,596	46,150
Net Cash used in operating activities	(14,922,272)	(6,783,503)

# 12. Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables
GST refundable
Accrual for term deposits interest receivable

30 June 2023	30 June 2022
\$	\$
3,823	-
101,544	160,494
31,420	13,507
136,787	174,001

Receivables are non-interest bearing, unsecured and are generally receivable in under 90 days.



# 13. Property, plant and equipment

	Consolidated Plant and equipment at cost 30 June 2023 \$	Consolidated Plant and equipment at cost 30 June 2022 \$
Gross carrying amount		
Opening carrying value	504,907	-
Additions	1,087,295	504,907
Disposals	-	-
Impairments	-	-
Balance at year end	1,592,202	504,907
Accumulated depreciation		
Opening accumulated depreciation	(28,434)	-
Disposals and write offs	-	-
Depreciation expense	(253,957)	(28,434)
Balance at year end	(282,391)	(28,434)
Net book value		
As at year end	1,309,812	476,473

# 14. Exploration and evaluation assets

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Opening carrying value	19,185,048	-
Acquisition of Mt Edwards Lithium Pty Ltd	-	2,247,449
Acquisition of tenement interests from Neometals Ltd	-	8,970,083
Additions	13,990,680	7,967,516
Written off during the year	(24,496)	-
Closing carrying value	33,151,232	19,185,048

The recovery of exploration expenditure carried forward is dependent upon the discovery of commercially viable mineral and other natural resource deposits, their development and exploration, or alternatively their sale.

# 15. Trade and other payables

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Trade payables	(1,762,009)	(1,748,434)
PAYG taxes and superannuation contributions	(258,237)	(178,724)
Accruals	(1,283,074)	(800,016)
	(3 303 330)	(2 727 174)

Payables are non-interest bearing, unsecured and are generally payable in 30 - 90 days.



# 16. Provisions

## Current

Annual leave

## Non-current

Rehabilitation provision(i)

(i) Refer to note 6 for further details

30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
(72,746)	(46,150)
(72,746)	(46,150)
(398,000)	(398,000)
(398,000)	(398,000)

# 17. Leases

# Leasing arrangements as a lessee

Leases relate to the following:

- Property lease for the Company's head office at level 4, 220 St Georges Terrace, Perth. Lease term of 36 months commencing 1 February 2022 and expiring on 31 January 2025.
- Property lease for the workshop and storage premises in Carlisle, Western Australia. Lease term of 36 months commencing 1 July 2021 and expiring on 30 June 2024
- Finance leases for four leases over three Toyota Hilux motor vehicles and an Isuzu truck. The lease for the motor vehicles are for periods of 36 months completing in October 2024, January 2025, March 2025 and November 2025 respectively.
- Lease of a photocopier for a period of 36 months expiring in October 2024. The commitments are based on the fixed monthly lease payments.

	30	0 June 2023	
Right-of-use assets	Buildings	Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Cost	260,611	231,991	492,602
Accumulated Depreciation	(131,606)	(66,300)	(197,906)
Carrying Amount	129,005	165,691	294,696
Lease liability	Buildings	Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Current	89,858	77,092	166,950
Non-current	45,378	66,038	111,416
Total	135,236	143,130	278,366



		30 June 2022	
Right-of-use assets	Buildings	Plant & Equipment	Total
_	\$	\$	\$
Cost	260,611	164,336	424,948
Accumulated Depreciation	(44,736)	(19,139)	(63,875)
Carrying Amount	215,875	145,197	361,072
Lease liability	Buildings	Plant & Equipment	Total
Lease liability	Buildings \$		Total \$
Lease liability	-	Equipment	
Lease liability  Current	-	Equipment	
<u>-</u>	\$	Equipment \$	\$

	30 June 2023 \$	15 Mar 2021 to 30 June 2022 \$
Amounts recognised in profit or loss		
Depreciation expense on right-of-use asset	134,031	63,875
Interest expense on lease liabilities	14,209	7,387
	148,240	71,262

# 18. Share capital

During the reporting period, Widgie Nickel Limited issued the following share capital:

	-	Number	\$
Issued on incorporation	15 March 2021	1	1
Issued on share split	1 July 2021	124,999,999	-
Issued on receipt of \$1,000,000 seed funding	9 July 2021	5,000,000	1,000,000
Issued on completion of entitlement offer	17 September 2021	120,000,000	24,000,000
Issued on completion of ASX listing process	17 September 2021	125,000	25,000
Issued on exercise of share options	6 May 2022	200,000	40,000
Transferred from share based payments reserve on exercise of options	6 May 2022	-	9,119
Share issue costs		-	(1,322,653)
Balance at end of the period 30 June 2022		250,325,000	23,751,467
Issued on exercise of performance rights	6 October 2022	687,828	-
Transferred from share based payments reserve on exercise of performance rights	6 October 2022	-	308,506
Issued on exercise of share options	10 March 2023	350,000	70,000
Transferred from share based payments reserve on exercise of share options	10 March 2023	-	49,137
Issued on completion of Placement	29 May 2023	46,153,847	12,000,000
Share issue costs	_	-	(690,338)
Balance at end of the period 30 June 2023	- -	297,516,675	35,448,771



## 29 May 2023

Placement Issue of 46,153,847 shares Placement at \$0.26 per share.

#### 10 March 2023

Issue of 350,000 shares on exercise of options at \$0.20 per share.

#### 6 October 2022

Issue of 687,828 shares on exercise of performance rights at nil cost.

#### 6 May 2022

Issue of 200,000 fully paid ordinary shares on exercise of 200,000 options at \$0.20 pers share pursuant to the Company's EIP.

Ordinary shares have the right to receive dividends as declared, and in the event of winding up the Company, to participate in the proceeds from the sale of all surplus assets in proportion to the number of and amounts paid upon on shares held. Ordinary shares entitle their holder to one vote, either in person or by proxy, at a meeting of the Company.

## 17 September 2021

Issue of 120,000,000 fully paid ordinary shares under the Company's 0.923 for 1 share entitlement Offer. Shares were issued at \$0.20 per share to raise gross proceeds before costs of \$24,000,000. An additional 125,000 shares at \$0.20 per share were issued to an executive of the Company on completion of ASX listing process.

# 9 July 2021 and 26 August 2021

Issue of 5,000,000 fully paid ordinary shares at \$0.20 per share to Neometals Limited for seed funding prior to the Company completing its ASX listing and capital raising.

The Company was demerged from Neometals Ltd on 26 August 2021 via an 100% in-specie distribution of the Company's shares to Neometals Ltd shareholders.

## 15 March 2021 and 1 July 2021

Issue of 1 fully paid ordinary share on incorporation. On 1 July 2021 the Company undertook a 125,000,000 fully paid ordinary shares for 1 share split.

## ASX listing expenses and share issue costs

## Year ended 30 June 2023

The Company incurred a total of \$690,338 share issue costs related to the Placement capital raising completed in May 2023 including Brokers fees, Share Registry and ASX fees.

## Period ended 30 June 2022

The Company incurred a total of \$1,673,574 on ASX listing and capital raising costs, including a share based payment of \$190,289 related to share Options issued to Euroz Hartleys for services associated with the ASX listing process and entitlement issue capital raising. These costs have been apportioned to ASX listing fees and Share issue costs respectively depending on the specific nature of the activity or as otherwise apportioned on the ratio of shares on issue relative to new shares issued pursuant to the entitlement offer as follows:

ASX listing fees	-	\$251,971
Share based payments expense	-	\$98,950

Total share issue costs	\$690,338	\$1,322,653
Share based payments allocated to share issue costs	_	\$91,339
Share Issue costs	\$690,338	\$1,231,314



## **Options over ordinary shares**

## Options

The Company has 10,650,000 (2022:11,550,000) unlisted Options on issue at the end of the year. Some of the options are subject to vesting conditions and have exercise prices ranging from \$0.20 to \$0.40 and expiry dates ranging from 10 April 2024 to 22 September 2024.

# Performance rights

The Company has 943,000 (2022:1,400,000) unlisted Performance rights on issue at the end of the year. The performance rights are unvested and will either vest or lapse following the Board's determination by 30 September 2023. If the performance rights vest they must be exercised before 30 September 2025 or they will expire. Vested performance rights are exercisable at nil cost.

## 19. Reserves

The share based payments reserve arises on the grant of share options and performance rights for the provision of services by Directors, employees and consultants under the Company's Equity Incentive Plan, and to brokers and others, and to other parties for services provided. Amounts are transferred out of the reserve and into issued capital when the options are exercised or when shares are issued pursuant to the terms of the performance rights. Further information about share-based payments to employees is provided in note 9 to the financial statements.

## Share based payments reserve:

Balance at the beginning of the year/period

Share based payments expense for the year/period

Share based payments recognized in share issue costs

Amounts transferred to share capital on exercise of options

Amounts transferred to share capital on exercise of performance rights

# Balance at the end of the year/period

3	0 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
	1,260,512	-
	346,400	1,203,292
	-	91,339
	(49,135)	(34,119)
	(308,506)	-
	1,249,271	1,260,512

The restructuring reserve arises on the acquisition and demerger of the Mt Edwards project from Neometals Ltd.

## Restructuring reserve:

Balance at the beginning of the year/period

Forgiveness of borrowings due to Neometals Ltd

Balance at the end of the year/period

30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
10.040.600	
10,948,600	10,948,600
10,948,600	10,948,600

The forgiveness of borrowings by Neometals Ltd relates to the forgiveness of the purchase consideration of \$2,242,424 and \$8,609,583 on the acquisition of MELPL and tenement interests from Neometals Ltd respectively (refer Note 6). In addition, Neometals Ltd, on demerger, forgave a further \$96,593 for costs incurred by the Company funded by Neometals Ltd.



# 20. Commitments for expenditure

## (a) Exploration and evaluation and associate commitments

Annual Tenement expenditure commitments for the group total \$2,029,080 (2022: \$1,977,140). These costs do not include the annual statutory rent and rates commitments which are expected to be met in the ordinary course of business. The annual expenditure commitment is expected to be met by the Company and other third party tenement interest holders.

## (b) Capital commitments

At 30 June 2023 the Company had agreed to purchase additional used accommodation units at a cost of \$166,000. In addition, the Company is in the process of completing solar power and battery installation for its accommodation and messing facilities at site. The solar battery will be the subject of a lease agreement over a 5 year term at approximately \$33,000 per annum.

## (c) Royalties

Various royalty agreements exist over certain of the Company's tenement interests. The payment and amount of the royalties is contingent on commodity produced, levels of production and other factors. Royalties are brought to account by the Company when they are confirmed as likely due and payable.

# 21. Earnings per share

	2023 Cents per share	2022 Cents per share
Basic loss per share:		
Continuing operations	(0.81)	(1.57)
Diluted loss per share:		
Continuing operations	(0.81)	(1.57)

## Basic and diluted loss per share

The loss and weighted average number of ordinary shares used in the calculation of basic and diluted loss per share are as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Loss (a)		
Continuing operations	(2,056,459)	(2,724,933)
	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purpose of basic loss per share	254,981,913	173,143,922
Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purpose of diluted loss per share	254,981,913	173,143,922

- (a) Loss used in the calculation of profit / (loss) per share reconciles to net loss in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income.
- (b) As at 30 June 2023 the Company has on issue 7,700,000 vested options, 2,950,000 unvested options and 943,000 unvested performance rights which may convert into additional ordinary shares at a future date. These are not recognised in the loss per share calculations as their effect would be anti-dilutive.



# 22. Subsidiaries

Name of entity	Country of incorporation	Ownership Interest 2022 & 2023 %
Parent entity		
Widgie Nickel Limited	Australia	
Subsidiary		
Mt Edwards Critical Metals Pty Ltd	Australia	100%

All of these companies are members of a tax consolidated group. Widgie Nickel Limited is the head entity of the tax consolidated group.

# 23. Segment information

## **Basis for segmentation**

AASB 8 Operating Segments requires the presentation of information based on the components of the entity that management regularly reviews for its operational decision making. This review process is carried out by the Chief Operating Decision Maker ("CODM") for the purpose of allocating resources and assessing the performance of each segment. The amounts reported for each operating segment is the same measure reviewed by the CODM in allocating resources and assessing performance of that segment.

For management purposes, the Group operates under one operating segments comprised of exploration and development activities over the Mt Edwards Project.

# For the year ended 30 June 2023

Reportable operating segments	Exploration & Development	Corporate and unallocated	Total	
	\$	\$	\$	
Total revenue – Interest received and other income	-	217,547	217,547	
Project expenses	(6,106)	-	(6,106)	
Other expenses	-	(1,519,303)	(1,519,303)	
Share based payments expense	-	(346,400)	(346,400)	
Depreciation and amortisation	(302,240)	(85,748)	(387,988)	
Finance costs	(8,526)	(5,683)	(14,209)	
Profit/(loss) before tax	(316,872)	(1,739,587)	(2,056,459)	
Loss for the year from discontinued operations	(316,872)	(1,739,587)	(2,056,459)	
Income tax expense	-	-		
Consolidated profit/(loss) after tax	(316,872)	(1,739,587)	(2,056,459)	

Reportable operating segments	Exploration & Development \$	Corporate and unallocated	Total \$
Total segment assets	35,266,900	11,690,781	46,957,681
Total segment liabilities	(3,353,088)	(699,343)	(4,052,431)
Total net assets	31,913,812	10,991,438	42,905,250



# For the period ended 30 June 2022

Reportable operating segments	Exploration & Development	Corporate and unallocated	Total	
	\$	\$	\$	
Total revenue – Interest received		48,145	48,145	
Project expenses	(6,361)	-	(6,361)	
Other expenses	-	(1,463,730)	(1,463,730)	
Share based payments expense	-	(1,203,292)	(1,203,292)	
Depreciation and amortisation	(55,274)	(37,035)	(92,309)	
Finance costs	(4,231)	(3,156)	(7,387)	
Profit/(loss) before tax	(65,865)	(2,659,068)	(2,724,933)	
Loss for the year from discontinued operations	(65,865)	(2,659,068)	(2,724,933)	
Income tax expense	<u>-</u>	<del>-</del>	<u>-</u>	
Consolidated profit/(loss) after tax	(65,865)	(2,659,068)	(2,724,933)	

Reportable operating segments	Exploration & Development \$	Corporate and unallocated	Total \$	
Total segment assets	20,531,149	16,234,193	36,765,342	
Total segment liabilities	(3,003,873)	(525,823)	(3,529,696)	
Total net assets	17,527,276	15,708,370	33,235,646	

## **Geographical information**

The Group operates in a single geographical area being Australia (country of domicile).

# 24. Related party disclosures

# (a) Key management personnel remuneration

Details of Key Management Personnel remuneration are disclosed in the Remuneration Report within the Directors Report.

A dependent (related party) of Mr Norregaard was employed as a casual employee of the Company during the period and received total remuneration of \$59,868 on normal arms length terms and rates for the role performed. This amount is not reflected in Mr Norregaard's remuneration disclosures.



# (b) Key management personnel equity holdings

# Shares:

30-Jun-23	Opening Balance	Granted as Remuneration	Exercise of Options/PRs <sup>1</sup>	Cancelled	Market/ Other Movements	Closing Balance				
Directors	Directors									
Andrew Parker	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Felicity Repacholi	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Scott Perry	-	-	-	-	-	-				
	-	-	-	-	-	1				
<b>Executive Directors</b>										
Steve Norregaard	11,711	-	436,328	-	-	448,039				
Executives										
Graeme Scott	125,000	-	174,000	-	-	299,000				
Total	136,711	-	-	-	-	747,039				

<sup>1.</sup> Exercise of 2021/2022 Performance Rights Award following vesting on 23 September 2022.

30-Jun-22	Opening Balance	Granted as Remuneration	Exercise of Options/PRs	Cancelled	Market/ Other Movements	Closing Balance
Directors						
Andrew Parker	-	-	-	-	-	-
Felicity Repacholi	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scott Perry	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	1	1	-
<b>Executive Directors</b>						
Steve Norregaard <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	1	11,711	11,711
Executives						
Graeme Scott <sup>2</sup>	-	125,000	-	-	-	125,000
Total	-	125,000	-	-	11,711	136,711

<sup>1.</sup> Acquired as a shareholder of Neometals Limited on demerger of Widgie Nickel Limited and participation in the Entitlement Offer.

<sup>2.</sup> Acquired on completion of Widgie Nickel Limited's listing on the ASX and are subject to escrow until 22 September 2022.



# Options and performance rights:

30-Jun-23	Opening Balance 1-Jul-22	Options Granted as Remuner ation	Performance rights Granted as Remuneration	Exercise of Options & PRs	Expired/ Cancelled	Market Transacti ons	Closing Balance	Vested at 30-Jun-23
Directors								
Andrew Parker	900,000	-	-	-	-	-	900,000	600,000
Felicity Repacholi	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
Scott Perry	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
	2,100,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,100,000	1,400,000
Executive Direct	tors							
Steve Norregaard	4,670,000	-	625,000	(436,328)	(333,672)	-	4,525,000	2,600,000
Executives								
Graeme Scott	1,790,000	-	234,000	(174,000)	(116,000)	-	1,734,000	1,000,000
Total	8,560,000	-	859,000	(610,328)	(449,672)	-	8,359,000	5,000,000

# No Options were $\,$ issued to KMP $\,$ during the year ended 30 June 2023.

Performance rights issued as part of KMP remuneration during the year ended 30 June 2023:

30-Jun-23	Date of issue	Number of performance rights issued	Value per performance right¹	Total value of issue \$	Vesting Date <sup>2</sup>	Exercise Price	Expiry Date	Number vested during the year
Non-executive Direct	ctors							
Andrew Parker		-		-				
Felicity Repacholi		-		-				-
Scott Perry		-		1				-
		-		1				-
<b>Executive Directors</b>								
Steve Norregaard	30-Nov-22	625,000	\$0.3281/\$0.47	276,013	30-Sep-23	\$0.0000	30-Sep-25	-
Executives								
Graeme Scott	30-Nov-22	234,000	\$0.3281/\$0.47	103,339	30-Sep-23	\$0.0000	30-Sep-25	-
Total		859,000		379,352				-



- (1) Performance rights with Market based performance milestones are valued using a Monte Carlo simulation model \$0.3281, Other Performance rights are valued based on the underlying share price at the date of valuation \$0.47 and adjusted for the expectation of the number that will vest.
- (2) Performance rights to vest on achievement of performance criteria to 30 June 2023, as determined by the Company's Board, by 30 September 2023.

30-Jun-22	Opening Balance	Options Granted as Remuneration	Performance rights Granted as Remuneration	Exercise of Options & PRs	Expired/ Cancelled	Market Transactions	Closing Balance	Vested at 30-Jun-22
Directors								
Andrew Parker	-	900,000	-	-	-	-	900,000	300,000
Felicity Repacholi	-	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	200,000
Scott Perry	-	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	200,000
	-	2,100,000	-	-	-	-	2,100,000	700,000
Executive Direct	tors							
Steve Norregaard	-	3,900,000	770,000	-	-	-	4,670,000	1,300,000
Executives								
Graeme Scott	-	1,500,000	290,000	-	-	-	1,790,000	500,000
Total	-	7,500,000	1,060,000	-	-	-	8,560,000	2,500,000

Options issued as part of KMP remuneration during the period ended 30 June 2022:

30-Jun-22	Date of issue	Number of options issued	Value per Option <sup>1</sup>	Total value of issue \$	Vesting Date	Exercise Price	Expiry Date	Number vested during the year
Non-executive Direct	tors							
	13-Aug-21	300,000	\$0.1070	32,103	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	300,000
Andrew Parker	13-Aug-21	300,000	\$0.0879	26,360	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	300,000	\$0.0869	26,061	22-Mar-24	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.1070	21,402	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	200,000
Felicity Repacholi	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.0879	17,573	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.0869	17,374	22-Mar-24	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.1070	21,402	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	200,000
Scott Perry	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.0879	17,573	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	200,000	\$0.0869	17,374	22-Mar-24	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
		2,100,000		197,221				700,000
<b>Executive Directors</b>	I				L	1		



	13-Aug-21	1,300,000	\$0.1070	139,113	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	1,300,000
Steve Norregaard	13-Aug-21	1,300,000	\$0.0879	114,226	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	1,300,000	\$0.0744	96,775	22-Sep-23	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
		3,900,000		350,113				1,300,000
Executives								
	13-Aug-21	500,000	\$0.1070	53,505	22-Mar-22	\$0.2000	22-Sep-24	500,000
Graeme Scott	13-Aug-21	500,000	\$0.0879	43,933	22-Mar-23	\$0.3000	22-Sep-24	
	13-Aug-21	500,000	\$0.0869	43,434	22-Mar-24	\$0.4000	22-Sep-24	
		1,500,000		140,872				500,000
Total		7,500,000		688,206				2,500,000

<sup>1.</sup> Options are valued using the Black-Scholes method on date of grant.

Performance rights issued as part of KMP remuneration during the period ended 30 June 2022:

30-Jun-22	Date of issue	Number of performance rights issued	Value per performance right¹	Total value of issue \$	Vesting Date <sup>2</sup>	Exercise Price	Expiry Date	Number vested during the year		
Non-executive Directors										
Andrew Parker		-		-				-		
Felicity Repacholi		-		-				-		
Scott Perry		-		-				-		
		-		-				-		
Executive Directors										
Steve Norregaard	6-Apr-22	770,000	\$0.3909/\$0.48	269,392	30-Sep-22	\$0.0000	30-Sep-24	-		
Executives										
Graeme Scott	6-Apr-22	290,000	\$0.3909/\$0.48	106,192	30-Sep-22	\$0.0000	30-Sep-24	-		
Total		1,060,000		375,584				-		

<sup>(1)</sup> Performance rights with Market based performance milestones are valued using a Monte Carlo simulation model \$0.3909, Other Performance rights are valued based on the underlying share price at the date of valuation \$0.48 and adjusted for the expectation of the number that will vest.

## (c) Controlling entities

The ultimate parent entity of the Group is Widgie Nickel Limited, a company incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

Neometals Ltd was the parent company of Widgie from the date of incorporation on 15 March 2021 until the date of demerger in August 2021. During this period, Neometals Ltd entered into the following transactions with Widgie:

<sup>(2)</sup> Performance rights to vest on achievement of performance criteria to 30 June 2022, as determined by the Company's Board, by 30 September 2022. The performance rights granted entitle the grantee to one fully paid ordinary share in Widgie Nickel Limited for nil cash consideration on satisfaction of the vesting criteria.



- (a) In June 2021 Widgie acquired 100% of Mt Edwards Lithium Pty Ltd for a consideration of \$2,242,424 by way of an
  intercompany loan transaction with Neometals Ltd. The loan was subsequently forgiven by Neometals Ltd as part of the
  demerger process;
- (b) In July 2021, Neometals Ltd (NMT) provided Widgie with seed funding of \$1,000,000 for 5,000,000 fully paid ordinary shares at \$0.20 per share; and
- (c) In July 2021 Widgie acquired 100% of Neometals Ltd's remaining tenement interests over the Mt Edwards Project for a consideration of \$8,609,583 by way of an intercompany loan transaction with Neometals Ltd. The loan was subsequently forgiven by Neometals Ltd as part of the demerger process.

As at 30 June 2023, Neometals Ltd did not hold an equity interest in Widgie. There were no other transactions with Widgie subsequent to the demerger date and up to 30 June 2023.

# 25. Auditors remuneration

Details of the amounts paid or payable to the auditor for the audit and other assurance services during the year are as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Audit services - Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu		
Fees to the group auditor for the audit or review of the statutory financial reports of the Company and subsidiaries	68,566	60,500
Fees for investigating accountants report of the Company's listing prospectus	-	40,950
Total remuneration of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	68,566	101,450

## 26. Financial instruments

# (a) Financial risk management objectives

The Consolidated Entity does not enter into derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes. See (d) interest rate risk below for a table of the Company's financial instruments. All financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

# (b) Significant accounting policies

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in note 2 to the financial statements.

# (c) Commodity price risk

The Group's exposure to commodity price risk is minimal at this stage of the operation.

# (d) Interest rate risk

The following tables detail the Group's exposure to interest rate risk



#### Financial instruments and interest rate risk table:

2023	Weighted Variable average interest		Maturity dates				Total
	effective interest rate	rate %	Less than 1 year	1-5 years	More than 5 years	Non interest bearing – less than 1 year \$	\$
Financial assets:	J						
Cash and cash equivalents	4.44%	-	10,019,765	-	-	1,852,041	11,844,806
Other financial assets – security deposits	3.73%	-	40,000	49,028	-	-	89,028
Trade and other receivables	0.00%	-	-	-	-	132,964	132,964
Financial liabilities:							
Trade payables	-	-	-	-	-	3,303,320	3,303,320
Lease liability	3.50%	-	166,950	111,416	-	-	278,366

2022	Weighted average			Maturity dates			
	effective interest rate		Less than 1 year	1-5 years	More than 5 years	Non interest bearing – less than 1 year	
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets:							
Cash and cash equivalents	1.34%	-	15,505,265	-	-	932,628	16,437,893
Other financial assets – security deposits	0.38%	-	40,000	48,695	-	-	88,695
Trade and other receivables	0.00%	-	-	-	-	174,001	174,001
Financial liabilities:							
Trade payables	-	-	-	-	-	2,717,174	2,717,174
Lease liability	3.50%	-	136,370	222,002	-	-	358,372

# (e) Credit risk management

The group's credit risks arise from potential default of trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, other financial assets. The maximum credit exposure is limited to the carrying amount of trade and other receivables \$132,964 (2022: \$174,001) at reporting date.

As at 30 June 2023, the receivable balances consist primarily of GST credits. Management does not consider the GST receivable to be at risk of default as these are receivable from the Government agencies.

Credit risk from balances with banks and financial instruments is mitigated by holding balances with banks with a high credit rating. The maximum exposure for cash and cash equivalents is the carrying amount shown in the balance sheet. There were no significant concentrations of credit risks.



## (f) Liquidity risk management

The Group manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate reserves and banking facilities, and by continuously monitoring forecast and actual cash flows and matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities.

The undiscounted lease liabilities balance is \$278,366 (2022: \$358,372), split between \$166,950 (2022 \$136,370) with a maturity date of less than 1 year and \$111,416 (2022: \$222,002) with a maturity date of 1-5 years.

In addition to financial liabilities in note 15, the Company is required to meet minimum spend commitments to maintain the tenure over the Company's mineral exploration areas as described in note 20.

## (g) Fair value

The carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortised cost recorded in the financial statements approximates their respective fair values.

## (h) Capital management

The board's policy is to endeavour to maintain a strong capital base so as to maintain investor, creditor and market confidence and to sustain future development of the business. The Group sources any additional funding requirements from either debt or equity markets depending on the market conditions at the time the funds are sourced and the purpose for which the funds are to be used. The Group is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

# (i) Interest rate risk management

Interest rate risk is the risk that fair values and cash flows of the Group's financial instruments will be affected by changes in the market interest rates. The Group's cash and cash equivalents are impacted by interest rate risks. Other receivables and payables have short maturities and are non-interest bearing. Management believes that the risk of interest rate movement would not have a material impact of the Group's operations. Management does not closely monitor the interest rates offered on cash and cash equivalents as the Group's primary objective is exploration of resources rather than earning interest income. The cash balances are invested at the prevailing short term market interest rates with credit worthy financial institutions.

The sensitivity analysis below has been calculated based on the exposure to interest rates at the end of the reporting period. A 100 basis point increase and decrease has been used when reporting the interest rate risk and represents management's assessment of the potential change in interest rates.

If interest rates had been 100 basis points higher/lower and all other variables were held constant, the Group's profit for the period ended 30 June 2023 would decrease/increase by \$118,448 (2022: \$164,379). This is mainly attributable to the Group's exposure to interest rates on the maturity of its term deposits.

# 27. Events after the reporting period

No matters have arisen since 30 June 2023 that would be likely to materially affect the operations of the Group, or its state of affairs which has not otherwise been disclosed in this financial report.



# **Annual Mineral Resources Statement as at 30 June 2023**

# Nickel

	Indicated		Inferred		TOTAL Resources		
Deposit	Tonne (kt)	Nickel (%)	Tonne (kt)	Nickel (%)	Tonne (kt)	Nickel (%)	Nickel Tonnes
Gillett	915	1.6	643	1.3	1,558	1.5	23,400
Widgie 3			626	1.5	626	1.5	9,160
Widgie Townsite	1,183	1.69	1,293	1.5	2,476	1.6	39,300
Munda			508	1.9	508	1.9	9,398
Armstrong	630	1.8	15	4.7	645	1.9	12,200
132N	34	2.9	426	1.9	460	2.0	9,050
Cooke			154	1.3	154	1.3	2,003
Inco Boundary			464	1.2	464	1.2	5,590
McEwen			1,133	1.4	1,133	1.4	15,340
McEwen Hangingwall			1,916	1.4	1,916	1.4	26,110
Mt Edwards 26N			871	1.4	871	1.4	12,400
Zabel	272	1.94	53	2.0	325	2.0	6,360
TOTAL	3,034	1.7	8,102	1.4	11,136	1.5	170,311

Nickel Mineral Resources quoted using a 1% Ni block cut-off grade. Small discrepancies may occur due to rounding.

# Lithium

	Indica	Indicated Inferred		red	TOTAL Resources			
Deposit	Tonne (kt)	Li <sub>2</sub> O (%)	Tonne (kt)	Li₂O (%)	Tonne (kt)	Li₂O (%)	Li <sub>2</sub> O Tonnes	
Faraday	105	0.65	376	0.58	481	0.59	2,939	
TOTAL	105	0.65	376	0.58	481	0.59	2,939	

Lithium Mineral Resources quoted using a 0.3% Li<sub>2</sub>O block cut-off grade. Small discrepancies may occur due to rounding.

# As at 30 June 2022

	Indic	cated	Infe	erred	TOTAL	_ Mineral I	Resources*
Deposit	Tonne (kt)	Nickel (%)	Tonne (kt)	Nickel (%)	Tonne (kt)	Nickel (%)	Nickel Tonnes
Widgie 3			626	1.5	626	1.5	9,160
Gillett			1,306	1.7	1,306	1.7	22,500
Widgie Townsite	1,183	1.7	1,293	1.5	2,476	1.6	39,300
Munda			320	2.2	320	2.2	7,140
Mt Edwards 26N			871	1.4	871	1.4	12,400
132N	34	2.9	426	1.9	460	2.0	9,050
Cooke			154	1.3	154	1.3	2,000
Armstrong	526	2.1	107	2.0	633	2.1	13,200
McEwen			1,133	1.4	1,133	1.4	15,340
McEwen Hangingwall			1,916	1.4	1,916	1.4	26,110
Zabel	272	1.9	53	2.0	325	2.0	6,360
Inco Boundary			464	1.2	464	1.2	5,590
TOTAL	2,015	1.9	8,669	1.5	10,684	1.6	168,150

Mineral Resources quoted using a 1% Ni block cut-off grade, except Munda at 1.5% Ni. Small discrepancies may occur due to rounding \*refer to the Widgie Nickel Prospectus: https://www.widgienickel.com.au/site/investor-centre/prospectus and ASX release of 9 March 2022 titled Widgie grows Mt Edwards Nickel Resource



## Increase to Mineral Resources Statement since 30 June 2022

During 2022-2023 the Company has marginally increased the total nickel resource base from 168,150 to 170,311 tonnes of contained nickel. With a significant increase to indicated resources via the conversion of 915kt of inferred resources to indicated resources at Gillett and 104kt increase of indicated resources at Armstrong. The increase to the Munda's contained nickel was attributed to lowering the reported cut-off grade from 1.5% as of 30 June 2022 to 1% as of 30 June 2023.

The maiden mineral resource estimate at Faraday lithium deposit was completed in this period containing 2,939t of Li<sub>2</sub>O.

# **Annual Mineral Resources Review**

The Company's Mineral Resources Statement has been compiled in accordance with the Australian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (The JORC Code 20212 Edition) and Chapter 5 of the ASX Listing Rules and ASX Guidance Note 31.

An annual review was completed of Mineral Resources on 15 September 2023. It was concluded there was no movements in resource estimation except for resource updates for Gillett, Armstrong and inclusion of the Faraday lithium resource as outlined above.

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the relevant market announcements and, in the case of estimates of Mineral Resources, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the relevant market announcements continue to apply and have not materially changed.

# **Governance and Quality Control**

The Company ensure all resources estimates were derived by independent consulting organisations whose staff are highly competent and professional. Competent Persons named by the Company are Members or Fellows of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and/or the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and qualify as Competent Persons as defined in the JORC Code. The Mineral Resource consultant carried out rigorous reviews of the quality of the database and geological models prior to estimation. Internal technical reviews are carried out systematically.

All drill hole data is stored externally in a commercially available purpose designed database management system and subjected to industry standard validation procedures. Quality control on resource drill programs have been undertaken to industry standards with implementation of appropriate drilling type, survey data collection, assay standards, sample duplicates and repeat analyses.

# **Competent Person's Statement - Geology**

The information in this report that relates to exploration results is based on and fairly represents information and supporting documentation compiled by Mr William Stewart, who is a full-time employee of Widgie Nickel Limited. Mr Stewart is a member of the Australian Institute of Metallurgy and Mining (member no 224335) and Australian Institute of Geoscientists (member no 4982). Mr Stewart has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity 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 Stewart consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.



# **Schedule of Mining Tenements**

As at the date of this report the Company has an interest in the following projects and tenements in Western Australia all held through the 100% owned subsidiary company, Mt Edwards Critical Metals Pty Ltd:

Project Name	Licence Name	Beneficial Interest	Status
Mt Edwards	M15/87	100% (**)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/699	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	P15/5905	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	P15/5906	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/1899	100% (#)	Pending
Mt Edwards	P15/6362	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	P15/6387	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	E15/1665	100% (#)	Pending
Mt Edwards	P15/6408	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	P15/6539	100% (#)	Pending
Mt Edwards	E15/1749	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	E15/1929	100% (#)	Pending
Mt Edwards	E15/1864	100% (#)	Pending
Mt Edwards	P15/6570	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	P15/6612	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	L15/0426	100%	Pending
Mt Edwards	M15/45	100% (^)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/46	100% (^)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/48	100% (^)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/74	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/75	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/77	100% (*/)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/78	100% (^)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/79	100% ( )	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/79	100% (^)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/94	100% (^)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/96	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/97	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/99	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/100	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/100	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/102	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/103	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/105	100% (*)	Live
Mt Edwards	L15/102	100%	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/478	100%	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/633	100% (*)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/653	100% ( )	Live
Mt Edwards			
	M15/693 M15/698	100% (*)	Live
Mt Edwards	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	M15/1271	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards Mt Edwards	L15/254 E15/989		Live
		100% (^) 100%	Live
Mt Edwards	L15/280		Live
Mt Edwards	E15/1505	100%	Live
Mt Edwards	E15/1507	100%	Live
Mt Edwards	E15/1576	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	E15/1583	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	P15/6092	100% (#)	Live
Mt Edwards	E15/1553	100% (#)	Live

<sup>\*\*</sup>Lithium and Nickel Mineral rights only

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Nickel Mineral rights only

<sup>#</sup> No gold interest



# Shareholder information as at 25 September 2023

# **Corporate Governance Statement**

Under ASX Listing Rule 4.10.3, Widgie is required to provide in its annual report details of where shareholders can obtain a copy of its corporate governance statement, disclosing the extent to which the Company has followed the ASX Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations in the reporting period. Widgie has published its corporate governance statement on the Corporate section of its website:

https://www.widgienickel.com.au/site/about/corporate-governance1

## **Use of Proceeds**

In accordance with ASX Listing Rule 4.10.19, the Company confirms that it has used cash and assets in a form readily convertible to cash in a way consistent with its business objectives during the period from the Company's admission to quotation on the ASX ending 30 June 2023.

# **Stock Exchange Listing**

Widgie Nickel Limited shares are listed on the Australian Securities Exchange Limited. The Company's ASX code is WIN.

Substantial Shareholders (Holding Not Less Than 5%) in accordance with notices provided to the Company

Name of Shareholder	Total Number of Voting Shares in Widgie Nickel Limited in which the Substantial Shareholders and its Associates Hold Relevant Interests	Percentage of Total Number of Voting Shares (%)
Virtue Investments Corporation	29,454,151	9.90%
Farjoy Pty Ltd	14,954,210	5.03%

# **Class of Shares and Voting Rights**

Ordinary shares of the Company have the following voting rights in accordance with the Company's constitution being that:

- a. each Shareholder entitled to vote may vote in person or by proxy, attorney or Representative;
- b. on a show of hands, every person present who is a Shareholder or a proxy, attorney or Representative of a shareholder has one vote; and
- c. on a poll, every person present who is a Shareholder or a proxy, attorney or Representative of a Shareholder shall, in respect of each fully-paid share held by him, or in respect of which he is appointed a proxy, attorney or Representative have one vote for the share, but in respect of partly-paid shares, shall have such number of votes as bears the proportion which the paid amount (not credited) is of the total amounts paid and payable (excluding amounts credited).

There are no voting rights attached to unquoted equity securities (if applicable). Voting rights will be attached to the issued Ordinary shares when the unquoted equity securities have been exercised.

# **Unmarketable Shares**

The number of parcels of shares with a value of less than \$500 was 1,083.



# **Distribution of Shareholders**

Number of Shares Held	Number of Shareholders	Number of Fully Paid Shares
1 - 1,000	292	110,480
1,001 - 5,000	2,176	6,853,306
5,001 - 10,000	1,104	8,294,232
10,001 - 100,000	1,997	64,355,225
100,001 and over	398	218,331,810
Total	5,967	297,945,053

# **Listing of 20 Largest Shareholders**

	Name of Ordinary Registered Shareholder	Number of Shares Held	Percentage of Shares Held %
1.	CITICORP NOMINEES PTY LIMITED	41,757,505	14.02
2.	FARJOY PTY LTD	15,129,838	5.08
3.	MR DAVID JOHN REED	14,500,761	4.87
4.	BNP PARIBAS NOMS PTY LTD <drp></drp>	6,599,137	2.21
5.	MR KENNETH JOSEPH HALL <hall a="" c="" park=""></hall>	4,993,686	1.68
6.	HAREWOOD PTY LTD	4,815,000	1.62
7.	BNP PARIBAS NOMINEES PTY LTD <ib AU NOMS RETAILCLIENT DRP&gt;</ib 	4,604,723	1.55
8.	MR FRANCIS JAMES ROBINSON	3,647,796	1.22
9.	BNP PARIBAS NOMINEES PTY LTD ACF CLEARSTREAM	3,177,044	1.07
10.	HSBC CUSTODY NOMINEES (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED	2,726,141	0.91
11.	BOND STREET CUSTODIANS LIMITED <hp0dhh -="" a="" c="" v04614=""></hp0dhh>	2,723,075	0.91
12.	SEAFORD NOMINEES PTY LTD <seaford a="" c="" nominees="" pl="" sf=""></seaford>	2,500,000	0.84
13.	HSBC CUSTODY NOMINEES (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED - A/C 2	2,030,738	0.68
14.	MR RICHARD ARTHUR LOCKWOOD	2,000,000	0.67
15.	MR JUSTIN MICHAEL POWER + MS YESSICA CAROLINA POWER <j m<br="">POWER SUPER FUND A/C&gt;</j>	2,000,000	0.67
16.	PESYAN PTY LTD <pars a="" c="" family=""></pars>	1,941,028	0.65
17.	MR PETER CHAMPION + MRS LEE-ANNE CHAMPION < CHAMPION S/F A/C>	1,883,845	0.62
18.	LINFOOT TWO SUPER PTY LTD <linfoot 2="" a="" c="" no="" plan="" super=""></linfoot>	1,597,734	0.54
19.	WESTERN MINING CORPORATION PTY LIMITED <two a="" boys="" c=""></two>	1,531,555	0.51
20.	PERRIWINKLE INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	1,495,324	0.50
TOTA	AL .	121,604,930	40.81

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# **Unquoted Equity Securities**

Class of securities	Number of Options	Exercise Price	Expiry Date
Unlisted Options	2,700,000	\$0.20	22 September 2024
Unlisted Options	150,000	\$0.30	10 April 2024
Unlisted Options	2,500,000	\$0.30	22 September 2024
Unlisted Options	350,000	\$0.35	22 September 2024
Unlisted Options	100,000	\$0.38	1 September 2024
Unlisted Options	2,850,000	\$0.40	22 September 2024
Unlisted Broker Options on issue to Euroz Hartleys Limited	2,000,000	\$0.40	22 September 2024

Other than the issues of the Unlisted Broker Options all unquoted securities have been issues made under the Company's Equity Incentive Plan.

# **Restricted Securities**

The Company has no restricted securities.

# CORPORATE DIRECTORY

# **WIDGIE NICKEL LIMITED**

ABN: 77 648 687 094

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Andrew Parker** 

Non-Executive Chairman

# **Steve Norregaard**

Managing Director & CEO

# Felicity Repacholi

Non-Executive Director

# **Scott Perry**

Non-Executive Director

# **COMPANY SECRETARY**

**Graeme Scott** 

# **REGISTERED OFFICE**

Level 4, 220 St Georges Terrace, Perth, Western Australia, 6000

# Postal:

PO Box 7713

Cloisters Square,

Perth, Western Australia, 6850

T: +61 8 6381 7250

W: www.widgienickel.com.au

## **AUDITOR**

# **Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu**

Level 9, Tower 2 Brookefield Place, 123 St Georges Terrace Perth, Western Australia, 6000

## **BANKER**

# National Australia Bank

100 St Georges Terrace Perth, Western Australia, 6000

## **SHARE REGISTRY**

# **Computershare Investor Services**

Level 17, 221 St Georges Terrace Perth, Western Australia, 6000

# STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING

**Australian Securities Exchange Limited** 

annual.

# Home Exchange:

Perth, Western Australia, 6000

ASX Code: WIN



Critical metals for a cleaner future

# **Widgie Nickel Limited**

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