

# Commencement of silver production at Wonawinta via enhanced processing strategy

## Highlights

- **Initial processing of 515,000t stockpiles grading 70g/t Ag<sup>1</sup> containing 1.16moz Ag**
- **Processing planned to continue to end-October 2022**
- **New processing approach expected to significantly enhance profitability of silver production through improved head grade & materially lower tonnage of ore throughput, required to meet silver production targets**
- **Wonawinta Silver Project Silver JORC resource currently stands at 50.94moz, excluding the stockpile**
- **Targeting announcement of JORC Reserve for Wonawinta Silver Project by mid-2022**

Following completion of the first phase of gold production from its 100% owned Mt Boppy Gold Project<sup>2</sup> in March 2022, Manuka advises it has now completed all the major capital upgrades, and wet commissioning is underway at its Wonawinta plant on the silver-bearing stockpiles included in its Mineral Resource Estimate (JORC 2012). This is the result of a combination of extensive metallurgical trials and test-work programs as well as a not insubstantial plant upgrade, specifically to ensure a significant improvement in efficiencies, silver recoveries, and performance through the plant versus historic levels, as well as improvements in plant operational safety specific to silver production.

Metallurgical test work has continued for the past 12 months as the Company strived to develop vastly improved material handling and processing procedures for the silver oxide stockpiles trials at Wonawinta. The knowledge gained from these trials has guided the company towards what it currently believes are the optimal means of processing the stockpiles (and also becomes highly relevant to the future mining of the oxide resource contained within the Wonawinta resource model).

<sup>1</sup> See ASX announcement 1 April 2021

<sup>2</sup> See ASX announcement 4 March 2022

The metallurgical test-work conducted utilised the internal skills and resources of the Manuka team, as well as specific expertise of AMML (Australian Minmet Metallurgical Laboratories), ALS (Australian Laboratory Services), CSIRO and COMO.

AMML helped to verify earlier findings from test work conducted by COMO and ALS. Together with QEMSCAN data from ALS and spectral core analysis performed by CSIRO based in WA, valuable geometallurgical insights were gained in terms of the silver distribution and leachability.

Laboratory findings to date indicated that ultrafine clay particles reduced Ag adsorption onto carbon particles and resulted in suboptimal total recovery of silver. This occurs as the ultrafine particles tend to clog the internal porous structure of carbon and cap maximum adsorption rates. Further analysis showed that desliming upgrades Ag and enhances dissolution and carbon recovery.

Manuka's new approach versus that of prior operators is expected to result in an upgrading of feed grades into the plant. The finer silver particles which are not fed into the mill will either be sent to the tails or stored elsewhere for later processing.

Simply put, by screening out the clays, Manuka expects to increase average grade through the plant to >85g/t Ag while reducing ore through the plant by some 30%, which significantly improves profitability and the overall robustness of the project.



Figure 1: Crusher circuit in operation at Wonawinta stockpiles

## About Manuka

Manuka Resources Limited (ASX: MKR) is an Australian mining and exploration company located in the Cobar Basin, central west New South Wales. It is the 100% owner of two fully permitted gold and silver projects which include the following:

- Mt Boppy Gold mine and neighbouring tenements. The Mt Boppy project has recently completed phase 1 mining and processing of gold through the Company's processing plant at Wonawinta. It will bring out an updated resource estimate in the June quarter 2022.
- Wonawinta silver project, with mine, processing plant and neighbouring tenements. The Wonawinta processing plant has a nameplate capacity of 850,000 tonnes per year. Processing of silver to commence end Q1 2022.



**This announcement has been approved for release by the Chairman of Manuka Resources Limited.**

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