

# **Co-operation raises valuation**

#### Resources near boundary no longer sterilised

# Recommendation Strong BUY, High Risk

Price

13.0c

Valuation

44.5c

Commodity

Lithium

- On 25 August AJM announced that it had reached agreement with Pilbara Minerals (PLS), its neighbour at Pilgangoora, to co-operate in development.
- As well as some benefits in capital and operating costs,
   AJM will have access to mineralisation that was otherwise sterilised as too close to the tenements boundary.
- On 25 August, AJM also announced that it had secured High Pressure Grinding Rolls for crushing.
- The DFS has been delayed about 2 weeks; sterilisation drilling has been one issue.
- The DFS is expected to not include the extra mineralisation made available by the agreement with PLS.

#### **Snapshot**

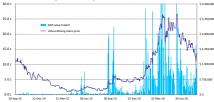
Market Cap	\$166m
Cash on hand (30 June 2016)	\$22.1m
Net cash (Debt)	Approx. \$8m
Shares on Issue	1,231.6m
52 Week High	28.2c
52 Week Low	1.4c
1 month / 6 month VWAP	14.1c / 18.1c

#### **Co-operation agreement with PLS**

The co-operation agreement has 3 major components

- Removal of objections to tenure applications made by either party against the other; and
- Sharing of site access roads, pipeline locations and proportionate distribution of costs; and
- Joint evaluation to exploit the pegmatite zones that cross the boundaries between AJM and PLS at Pilgangoora.

#### AJM: daily share price v. value traded



AJM listed in 2001 and focussed on Tantalum, initially at Bald Hills. It acquired Pilgangoora in November 2001.

AJM acquired Indonesian coal interests in 2007 and developed iron ore operations at Mt Webber, with Atlas Iron.

AJM produced a scoping study on Pilgangoora in November 2012.

AJM has exited its 30% of the Mt Webber iron ore operations and is seeking it list its Indonesian coal on the SGX, to focus on Pilgangoora spodumene.

The results of a PFS were announced in February 2016, and the DFS is expected soon, for first product in late 2-017.

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#### **DFS now first half of September**

In their presentation in late July, AJM stated that the DFS would be completed in August.

On 25 August, AJM announced that the company had purchased a High Pressure Grinding Rolls (HPGR) crushing unit. In testing, the unit indicates improved recovery and throughput at a lower operating cost.

The DFS has been delayed by about 2 weeks. One of the issues has been sterilisation drilling, with holes reporting mineralisation.

#### Beer & Co's risked valuation now 44.5c/share

The purchase of the HPGR should lead to both capital (due to shorter lead time) and operating cost savings and improved production. However, we are not reflecting this in our valuation at this time.

The co-operation agreement should also lead to lower capital and operating costs. Beer & Co does NOT expect that this will be reflected in the DFS and we are not incorporating this in to our valuation at this time.

However, Beer & Co is increasing our base case mining inventory from 18.5Mt, the present Reserves estimate, to 23.5Mt as more of the identified pegmatite is able to be exploited.

This increases our valuation to 44.5c/share.

#### **Beer & Co conclusions**

Beer & Co affirms our recommendation of Strong BUY, High Risk.

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## **Co-operation Agreement**

### **Access Agreement**

On 25 August 2016, PLS and AJM announced a co-operation agreement.

The first part is an Access Agreement which provides for AJM and PLS to

- Remove any objections to tenure applications made by either company; and
- Share site access roads and pipeline locations, distributing costs incurred proportionately.

Beer & Co expects that this agreement will increase the value of the Pilgangoora project for both parties.

However, at this stage we are not reflecting this in our projected cashflows.

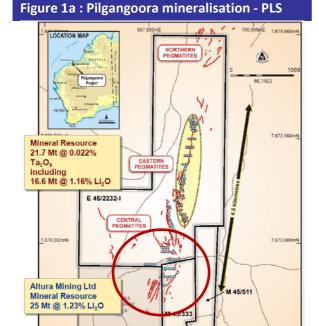
# On 25 August 2016, AJM and PLS, which have neighbouring tenement areas at Pilgangoora announced an agreement to co-operate on

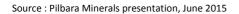
- Access; and
- Mineralisation that crosses their tenement boundaries.

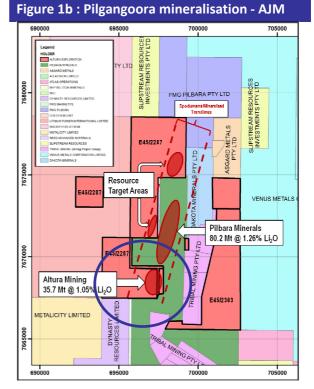
#### **MOU** on mineralisation

A non-binding MOU has been executed to jointly evaluate the potential to expand or combine lithium rich pegmatites that are now proven to cross the boundaries between AJM and PLS.

Figure 1 shows where the pegmatites cross from between the 2 tenement areas.







Source : AJM ASX announcement, 21 April 2016

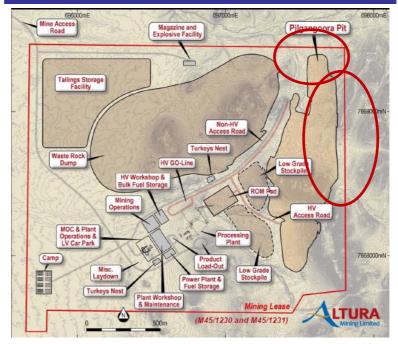
Figure 2 shows that the northern boundary of AJM's mining operations is constrained by the tenement boundary :

- The lip of the wall is at least 50m back from the tenement boundary; and
- Further mineralisation is sterilised by the slope of the pit wall.



Figure 2 : AJM's pit constrained to north and east

By being able to mine up to the tenement boundary, Beer & Co estimates that AJM will increase its high grade mining inventory by about 5Mt.



Source: AJM presentation, July 2016

Figure 3 shows the area of cooperation between AJM and PLS, which is focussed on AJM's eastern boundary.

Beer & Co estimates that the area of co-operation totals just over 100ha.

#### Increasing mine life

As shown in Figure 4, AJM's current Resource estimate is 35.7Mt, of which 18.4Mt is in Reserves, as shown in Figure 5.

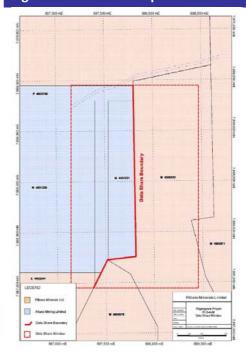
Given this area, and the extent of the mineralisation shown in Figure 6, Beer & Co estimates that AJM will be able to extract a further 5.2Mt of mineralisation, as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 4: AJM's current Resource Estimate

Resources	cut-off			Li <sub>2</sub> O
Category	Li <sub>2</sub> O		grade	contained
Measured	0.40 %			
Indicated	0.40 %	26.70 Mt	1.05 %	280,000 t
Inferred	0.40 %	9.00 Mt	1.02 %	92,000 t
TOTAL		35.70 Mt	1.04 %	372,000 t

Source : AJM ASX announcement, 11 February 2016

Figure 3: AJM-PLS Co-operative area



Source : AJM ASX announcement, 25 August 2016

Figure 5: AJM's Reserves

			Li <sub>2</sub> O
		grade	contained
Proven			
Probable	18.4 Mt	1.07 %	198,340 t
TOTAL	18.4 Mt	1.08 %	198,340 t

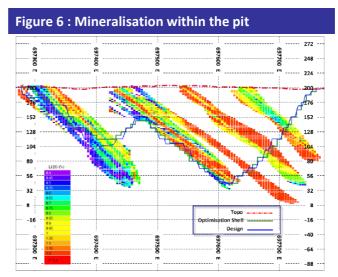
Source : AJM ASX announcement, 11 April 2016



For this analysis, Beer & Co assumes a mining inventory of 23.6Mt, grading 1.09% Li2O.

#### This compares with

- Resources of 35.7Mt, grading 1.04% Li2O; and
- Reserves of 18.4Mt, grading 1.08%



Source: AJM ASX announcement, 21 April 2016

Figure 7: Revised estimated Mining Inventory

Category	volume	Li <sub>2</sub> O grade	contained Li <sub>2</sub> O
Reserves	15.6 Mt	1.15 %	179 kt
Conversion	5.2 Mt	1.13 %	58 kt
Low grade / Stocks	2.9 Mt	0.69 %	20 kt
TOTAL	23.6 Mt	1.09 %	257 kt

Source: AJM announcement, 11 April 2016; Beer & Co estimates

# **DFS Progress**

In their July presentation, AJM showed that the DFS was expected to be announced in late August.

In their 25 August announcement, AJM revised the date for the DFS to the first half of September.

There have been a number of factors contributing to this small delay, including

- Sterilisation drilling, as drilling has continued to find potentially valuable mineralisation, rather than barren areas on which the plant and waste dumps are to be sited;
- Permitting issues;
- Change in the plant design, from using a cone crusher to using HPGR.

AJM has been able to secure a High Pressure Grinding Rolls (HPGR) crusher.

The HPGR is expected to give slightly better recoveries and throughput, as well as lower operating costs.

The HPGR is a long lead time item, of approximately 40 weeks, making it the critical path item for construction.

While the DFS is delayed, the time for first product remains October 2017.



# Spodumene price projection

Projecting the commodity price is complex; spodumene does not have a terminal market, while the end product, with can be lithium carbonate, but also can be lithium hydroxide, can be produced from other materials.

The average prices of spodumene concentrate exports from Australia in 2014 was USD 431/t. The average price for the period January to September in 2015 was USD 494/t.

Mitsubishi has an offtake agreement in place to pay USD 600/t, FOB, for minimum 5.55 Li2O spodumene concentrate.

This was the price used by AJM in its feasibility, even though on 8 March 2016, General Mining (GMM.ASX) announced that it had sold 60kt of 2016 production, with a minimum Li2O grade of 5.5%, for USD 600/t, FOB. This sale underpinned the (re-)development of Mt Caitlin.

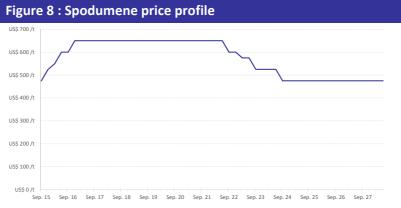
And is now taking product

Lithium supply is tight and more battery capacity is being added.

Figure 8 shows that Beer & Co has assumed that Spodumene prices of USD 650/t for about 5 years, which is how long it will take the threatened wall of potential supply that has recently gained exploration funding on the ASX.

Adjusting this market price to the grade expected from Pilgangoora gives USD 650/t

Beer & Co sees this as the price for some time, until the swarm of production from the current plethora of exploration projects comes on-stream



Source: Beer & Co estimates

Figure 8 shows that Beer & Co assumes a Long Run price for 6.0% spodumene concentrate of USD 475/t.

Then we expect prices to slip

There are both more bearish and more bullish projections.

Many potential producers of lithium feed-stocks report very strong interest from Chinese parties in securing feed, which gives us confidence that the bearish projections will prove to be too bearish.

#### **Beer & Co Valuation**

#### Revised, Risked base case

Beer & Co's base case valuation has increased from 41.5c/share to 44.5c/share, as shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9 shows that AJM has other parts to its valuation, to which Beer & Co has ascribed zero value.



Figure 9 : Beer	& Co revised val	luation of AJM
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discount rate = 12.0 %		3	30 June 2015					
	risk :	100%	Product	per share				
Pilgangoora Reserves	90 %	\$ 464m	\$ 418m	27.1 c	34.2 c			
franking credits	54 %	\$ 80m	\$ 43m	2.8 c	3.5 c			
Conversion	80 %	\$ 53m	\$ 43m	2.8 c	3.5 c			
Low grade / Stocks	90 %	\$ 11m	\$ 10m	0.6 c	0.8 c			
franking credits	30 %	\$ 15m	\$ 4m	0.3 c	0.4 c			
Indonesian Coal	90 %	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	0.0 c	0.0 c			
Mining Services	90 %	(\$ 2m)	(\$ 2m)	(0.1c)	(0.1c)			
Philippines Coal	90 %	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	0.0 c	0.0 c			
Mt Webber Iron Ore	90 %	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	0.0 c	0.0 c			
Lithium Corp	90 %	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	0.0 c	0.0 c			
Corporate	100 %	(\$ 11m)	(\$ 11m)	(0.7c)	(0.8c)			
Cash / Debt	100 %	(\$ 15m)	(\$ 15m)	(1.0c)	2.0 c			
Equity raisings	100 %	\$ 73m	\$ 73m	4.8 c	1.2 c			
TOTAL		\$ 668m	\$ 563m	36.6 c	44.6 c			
Shares on issue 837		F P O shares	197.7m	Options				
	308.8m	2015 - 16	197.7m	Ops. Ex'd				

2016 - 17

9.1m Perf Rights

Given recent strength in thermal coal pricing,

Beer & Co is revising its base case valuation of AJM to 44.5c/share

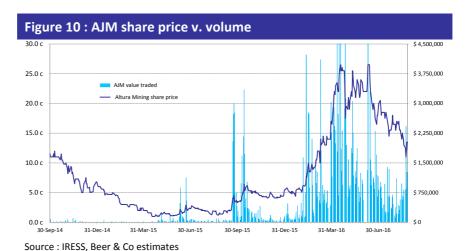
our valuation of those parts of AJM outside of Pilgangoora is probably too pessimistic.

Source: Beer & Co estimates

185.8m

#### **Conclusions**

Figure 10 shows that the AJM share price has pulled back sharply over the last month.



The AJM share price has been hit b a major holder exiting the stock, nervous about spodumene pricing.

There is significant upside potential to our valuation

There will be upside that will not be reflected in the DFS.

Beer & Co affirms our Strong BUY, High Risk, recommendation Beer & Co understands that this has been due to an institutional investor being spooked by bearish views on spodumene process and dumping its holding.

Beer & Co belies that there is significant upside potential to our valuation from

- Lower capital and operating costs, only some of which we expect will be in the DFS, with further benefits from the presently sterilised mineralisation; and
- Improved coal prices.

Also, Beer & Co's previous research has shown our valuation and recommendation are robust with respect to prospective prices.

As our base case valuation is nearly 3x the share prices, and our valuation is not very sensitive to a range of parameters, Beer & Co affirms our Strong BUY, High Risk recommendation.



Beer& Co Rese	arch																
Altura Mining (AJM.ASX)							Αι	ıgust 2016									
Year ended June		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21								
Section 1 - P&L										Commodity price a	ssumption	S					
Sales revenue	\$A m	5	3	5	110	198	198	198	198	Year ended June		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Interest revenue	\$A m	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	5	AUD/USD	and annual a	0.725	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.700
Other revenue	\$A m	5 10	3	5	110	0	200	0	0	Spodumene, Chemic	cal grade	538	638	650	650	650	650
Total Revenue	\$A m	10	3	5	110	199	200	202	203	Mine Production / S	Sales conta	ined produc	·t				
Cost of Goods Sold	\$A m	(4)	(4)	(5)	(42)	(64)	(64)	(65)	(65)	Spodumene, chemic			0	7,300	13,363	13,363	13,363
Royalties	\$A m	0	0	0	(5)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	Spodumene, industr			0	7,500		15,505	15,505
Corporate Costs	\$A m	(5)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	.,							
Exploration Expense	\$A m	(0)	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Resources, Reserv	es and ass	umed minin	g inventory				
Other Operating Expenses	\$A m	(16)	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Pilgangoora Minera	al Resource	<u>s</u>					
Total Operating Expenses	\$A m	(25)	(7)	(7)	(48)	(75)	(75)	(75)	(76)	Resources	cut-off		Li20	)			
										Category	Li2O		grade	contained			
EBITDA	\$A m	(16)	(4)	(2)	62	124	125	127	127	Measured	0.80 %	0 Mt		0 t			
Dep'cn & Amort'sn	\$A m	(1)	(0)	0	(5)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	Indicated	0.80 %	19.77 Mt	1.21 %	239,000 t			
EBIT	\$A m	(17)	(4)	(2)	57	116	117	119	119	Inferred	0.80 %	6.29 Mt	1.20 %	76,000 t			
Interest Expense	\$A m	(0)	(0)	0	(4)	(6)	(5)	(4)	(2)	TOTAL		26.06 Mt	1.21 %	315,000 t			
Other	\$A m	(13)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
Pre-Tax Profit	\$A m	(30)	(4)	(2)	53	110	112	115	117	Beer & Co estimate	ed mining ir	ventory, Pil		_			
Tax Expense	\$A m	(0)	0	0	(16)	(33)	(34)	(34)	(35)				Li20				
NPAT	\$A m	(30)	(4)	(2)	3/	77	79	80	82					contained			
Section 2 - Key Data										High grade Reserves	5	15.6 Mt	1.15 %	179 kt			
		9277	1 222	1 /11	1 415	1.415	1 415	1 /15	1.415	Conversion Low grade / Stocks		5.2 Mt	1.13 %	58 kt			
Ordinary shares - year end Fully diluted shares on issue	m m	837.7 1,028.7	1,222 1,234	1,411 1,415	1,415 1,415	1,415 1,415	1,415 1,415	1,415	1,415	Low grade / Stocks Near Pit		2.9 Mt 0.0 Mt	0.69 %	20 kt 0 kt			
Weighted # shares	m m	489.8	975	1,415	1,415	1,415	1,415	1,415 1,415	1,415 1,415	TOTAL		23.6 Mt	1.07 % 1.09 %	257 kt	-		
Earnings per Share		(3.5c)	(0.3c)	(0.1c)	2.6 c	5.4 c	5.6 c	1,415 5.7 c	1,415 5.8 c	IOIAL		23.0 IVIL	1.03 /0	237 KL			
Dividends Per Share		(3.3C) 0.0 c	0.0 c	0.1c)	0.0 c	Asset based Valua	tion										
Dividends rei Share		0.0 0	0.0 C	0.0 C	0.0 C	0.0 0	0.0 0	0.0 c	0.0 0	7.000t Babba Yalida							
Section 3 - Balance Sheet										discount rate = 12	2.0%	3	0 June 2015			29-Aug-16	
Cash	\$A m	2	22	4	55	146	227	308	390	albedant rate = 11	2.0 /0	risk :	100%		per share	23 7108 20	
Receivables	\$A m	3	1	1	22	25	25	25	25	Pilgangoora Reserve	es	90 %	\$ 464m	\$ 418m	27.1 c	34.2 c	
Other	\$A m	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	franking credits		54 %	\$ 80m	\$ 43m	2.8 c	3.5 c	
CURRENT ASSETS	\$A m	7	23	4	77	170	251	333	415	Conversion		80 %	\$ 53m	\$ 43m	2.8 c	3.5 c	
										Low grade / Stocks		90 %	\$ 11m	\$ 10m	0.6 c	0.8 c	
Receivables	\$A m	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	franking credits		30 %	\$ 15m	\$ 4m	0.3 c	0.4 c	
P, P & E	\$A m	1	1	64	122	114	107	100	92	Indonesian Coal		90 %	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	0.0 c	0.0 c	
Mining Properties / Exploration	1 \$A m	15	16	16	16	16	16	15	15	Mining Services		90 %	(\$ 2m)	(\$ 2m)	(0.1c)	(0.1c)	
Other	\$A m	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Philippines Coal		90 %	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	0.0 c	0.0 c	
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$A m	39	18	80	138	130	123	115	107	Mt Webber Iron Ore	e	90 %	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	0.0 c	0.0 c	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$A m	46	41	84	215	301	374	448	522	Lithium Corp		90 %	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	0.0 c	0.0 c	
										Corporate		100 %	(\$ 11m)	(\$ 11m)	(0.7c)	(0.8c)	
Payables	\$A m	3	1	1	7	7	8	8	8	Cash / Debt		100 %	(\$ 15m)	(\$ 15m)	(1.0c)	2.0 c	
Debt	\$A m	0	5	0	14	16	17	19	9	Equity raisings		100 %	\$ 73m	\$ 73m	4.8 c	1.2 c	
Other	\$A m	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TOTAL			\$ 668m	\$ 563m	36.6 c	44.6 c	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$A m	4	6	1	21	23	25	26	16	Shares on issue		837.7m	FPO shares	197.7m	Options		
												308.8m	2015 - 16	197.7m	Ops. Ex'd		
Long Term Debt	\$A m	17	9	74	60	45	28	9	0			185.8m	2016 - 17	9.1m	Perf Rights		
Other	\$A m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Financial Ratios							
Provisions	\$A m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Year ended June		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$A m	17	9	74	60	45	28	9	0	Revenue	\$A m	3	5	110		200	202
TOTAL LIABILTIES	\$A m	21	15	75	82	68	52	35	16	EBITDA	\$A m	(16)	(4)	(2)	62	124	125
NET ASSETS	\$A m	26	26	9	133	233	322	413	505	EBIT	\$A m	(17)	(4)	(2)	57	116	117
Assessment to the second	**	te c	(50)	(00)	(22)		432	242	205	NPAT (reported)	\$A m	(30)	(4)	(2)	37	77	79
Accumulated Profit (Loss)	\$A m	(54)	(58)	(60)	(22)	55	133	213	295	Adjusted EPS (cps) EPS Growth (%)		(3.5c)	(0.3c)	(0.1c)	2.6 c	5.4 c	5.6 c
Reserves	\$A m	0	(53)	(95)	(8)	14	25	35	46			0.00	90 %	63 %		106 %	2 %
Contributed Equity	\$A m	79	137	164	164	164	164	164	164	DPS (c)		0.0 c	0.0 c	0.0 c	0.0 c	0.0 c	0.0 c
Minority Interest	\$A m \$A m	25 0	26 0	9	133 0	233	322 0	413 0	505 0	Dividend Yield (%) PE adj. (x)	x	0 % (0.7)	0 % (41)	0 % (109)	0 % 5.1	0 % 2.5	0 % 2.4
Total Equity	\$A m	26	26	9	133	233	322	413	505	EV / EBITDA (x)	x x	(0.7)	(41)	(109)		0.8	0.1
rotal Equity	yn ill		20	,	133	233	344	413	503	EV / EBIT (x)	x x	(2)	(38)	(155)		0.8	0.1
Section 4 - Cashflow										EV / EBIT (x) Gearing (%)	x	(2) 35 %	(38) 88 %	(155) 35 %		0.9 12 %	0.1 6 %
Net Cashflow from operations	¢A m	0	(3)	(2)	62	124	125	127	127	Return on Assets		(10%)	(2%)	35 % 27 %		31 %	26%
Net Cashflow from operations Net Interest Paid	\$A m \$A m	(0)	(0)	(2)	(4)	(5)	(3)	0	3	Return on Assets Return on Equity		(10%)	(19%)	27 %		31 % 24 %	26 % 19 %
Taxes Paid	\$A m	0	0	0	(4) 0	(13)	(23)	(24)	(24)	EBITDA Margin (%)		(333%)	(19%)	(35%)	56 %	24 % 63 %	63 %
Change in Working Capital	\$A m	(0)	0	0	(15)	(2)	0	0	0	Interest Cover (x)	x	(62.4)	(115%)	(35%) n/a		18.0	22.8
OPERATING CASHFLOW	\$A m	(0)	(3)	(1)	43	104	100	103	106	25t 20 TC1 (A)		(02.1)	(201)	/ u	2-1.1	10.0	22.0
		(0)	(J)	(*)	-73	154	100	200	200	Shareholdings							
Exploration + Feasibility	\$A m	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Board & Managem	ent			Others			
Maintenace Capex	\$A m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	146.411m	11.9 %		Maxwell Sn	nith	139.387m	11.3 %
Expansion Capex	\$A m	0	0	62	62	0	0	0	0	Paul Mantell	25.363m	2.1%		Farjoy Pty L		45.336m	3.7%
PPE Acquisitions (Total Cape)		0	2	62	62	0	0	0	0	James Brown	20.018m	1.6 %		Lionergey		37.037m	3.0 %
PPE Divestments	\$A m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Beng Kuan	15.183m	1.0 %		Navibell Se	rvices I td.	34.892m	2.8 %
INVESTING CASHFLOW	\$A m	0	2	62	62	0	0	0	0	Dennis O'Neill	10.778m	0.9 %		TOTAL		256.652m	20.8 %
				J2	J.L	<u> </u>	J			TOTAL	217.754m	17.7 %	-			200.032111	23.0 /0
Change in Equity	\$A m	0	58	27	0	0	0	0	0			2,,,,0					
Dividends Paid	\$A m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
Change in Debt	\$A m	17	(3)	60	0	(14)	(16)	(17)	(19)								
FINANCING CASHFLOW	\$A m	17	55	87	0	(14)	(16)	(17)	(19)								
	yn III	- 1/	33	37	J	(14)	(10)	(1/)	(10)								
Free Cashflow	\$A m	(0)	(2)	61	106	104	100	103	106								
Net Cashflow	\$A m	17	53	148	106	90	84	86	88								
	g 11			2-10	100	50			50	-							



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The analyst responsible for this research report certifies that all of the views expressed reflect his personal views about the securities and the issuer.

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