

# NiWest Nickel Laterite Project

## Direct Solvent Extraction (DSX)



### Highlights

- Metallurgical test program successful in demonstrating nickel/cobalt recovery is achievable through direct solvent extraction of Nickel Laterite Heap Leach Solutions.
- Results highlight the potential to develop simplified flow chart along similar lines to a copper heap leach project.
- DSX processing of nickel laterite heap leach solutions offers potential for significant savings in capital and operating costs.
- Company to proceed to larger scale DSX pilot test program
- Vastly improved operating conditions demonstrated for the GME Acid Regeneration Process

### Results

The company has recently completed column tests and DSX metallurgical test work on pregnant nickel solutions aimed at simplifying the downstream processing of nickel laterite heap leach liquors.

Solutions generated in the program using columns to simulate counter current movement through the heap leach pads resulted in suitably high metal strengths in Pregnant Leach Solutions (PLS). Solvent Extraction has been demonstrated to be able to recover nickel and cobalt directly from the Heap Leach PLS, which offers potential to do away with formation of intermediate products and redissolution for refining. The test program completed has again demonstrated high nickel extraction rates of up to 79% Ni are achievable on the NiWest nickel laterite ores.

GME has a patent application for an Acid Regeneration process applicable to heap leach solutions. Separate tests of the solutions generated above have been used to demonstrate that residence times can be reduced to 10 % of those prescribed previously. This has significant implications as to the size of acid regeneration equipment required to be slotted into the heap leach process and on reduction in overall acid consumption for heap leaching.

Iron removal and partial aluminium removal in preparation for Direct SX recovery was achieved from the heap leach PLS via pH modification using limestone. Potential was demonstrated to minimise limestone consumption using the final stage heap for partial neutralisation.

### About Resources

### GME

GME Resources is a Perth-based nickel exploration company focused on the development of its 100%-owned NiWest Project, located in the Leonora district of Western Australia.

GME has the potential to become a top 10-global nickel producer with its NiWest Project resource totalling over 100 million tonnes of ore containing over 1 million tonnes of nickel – making it one of the most exciting undeveloped laterite nickel projects in Australia.

The preferred process route for development of the NiWest project is laterite heap leaching and investigations are proceeding into simplification of the metal recovery circuits with consequent benefits in capital and operating costs.

GME owns a number of gold properties in the Murrin Murrin area with strong potential for development, including the Devon gold mine which is progressing towards a decision to mine.

The company has committed to the next stage of process development with large scale columns which will demonstrate continuous neutralisation with laboratory scale pilot SX units providing design data for an SX EW plant.

The company looks forward to updating the market on progress of this work.

**JAMIE SULLIVAN**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**

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*The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results and Mineral Resources is based on information compiled by Mr Stephen Hyland and Mr Mark Hill. Mr Hyland is a member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Hyland is a Principal Consultant with Ravensgate Minerals Industry Consultants who consults to the Company. Mr Hill is a consulting Geologist employed through Exman. Mr Hill and Mr Hyland have sufficient experience, which is relevant to the style of mineralization and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which they are undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Hill and Mr Hyland consent to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on information provided in the form and context in which it appears.*