

# LITHIUM-RICH PEGMATITES OF THE BYNOE FIELD, NT

#### David Rawlings AusIMM Lithium Conference

AusIMM Lithium – June 2018 | Core Exploration Ltd

ASX code: CXO

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#### BACKGROUND

- Bynoe Pegmatite Field
- 15 km south of Darwin
- Historic Sn-Ta Production from 1886 until late 1990's
- Now re-cast as a Lithium District
- Current activity dominated by Core Exploration Ltd
- NTGS Sn-Ta Studies
  - Ahmad, 1995
  - Frater, 2005



# CORE'S FINNISS LITHIUM PROJECT

- 500 km<sup>2</sup> of tenure
- Two of Australia's highest grade lithium resources Grants & BP33
- High grade Spodumene drill intersections at multiple prospects in first drill program in 2016
- 100's of historic pegmatite prospects/mines
- 100's more likely under thin cover
- Is it the "Tip of the Iceberg"?







# **GRANTS DEPOSIT**

- Discovery hole: 49m @ 1.78% Li<sub>2</sub>O from 71m (FRC006)
- >220m long and 20-40 m wide
- Single continuous body with consistent grade
- Resource of 2Mt at 1.5% Li<sub>2</sub>O, 60% Indicated
- Exploration upside down-plunge to south currently being tested
- PFS recently published with NPV<sub>10</sub> of A\$140m & IRR 142% (pre-tax)
- Development Feasibility Study & EIS underway aimed at production in 2019



#### **BP33 DEPOSIT**

- >140m long and 20-40 m wide
- Single continuous body with consistent grade
- Resource of 1.4Mt at 1.40% Li<sub>2</sub>O
- Open directly south of intersection of 75m @ 1.68% Li<sub>2</sub>O
- Connection to BP32 & BP32W?
- Current extension & infill drilling to expand resource and convert to largely Indicated

Exploration

target

Contribute to Project pipeline



#### **EXPLORATION HISTORY**

- Costeans, pits & shafts
- Mined/processed Sn-Ta in soft rock & alluvials
- Greenbushes centralised processing plant
- Lithium knowledge limited to amblygonite collectors
- No spodumene at surface
- Chemical weathering during Tertiary & recent
- Current slow exhumation of laterite/ferricrete









#### **GEOLOGICAL SETTING**

- 'LCT Type' (Li Cs Ta) pegmatites
- Source: Two Sisters Granite ~1850Ma
- Host: Burrell Creek Fmn turbidites (Pine Ck Province)
  - Greenschist facies
  - Isoclinal to tight folds
- Granite top dips east
- Regional fabric sub-vertical NNE







## MORPHOLOGY

- Narrow veins & lozenge shapes
- Up to 500m long & 60m wide
- Solitary or interconnected
- Most N to NNE trending & steep dip (~regional fabric)
- Discordant fault jogs & tension gashes with var dips/plunges





BP33 – NE striking sub-vertical lozenge



metres





#### SURFACE EXPRESSION

#### Clay saprolite (smectite-kaolinite)











# SURFACE EXPRESSION

- Quartz float & blows
- Laterite iso-surface
- Blacksoil drainage
- Vegetation
- Soils/RAB
  - Li, Cs, Rb, Sn, Ta





# **PEGMATITE MINERALOGY**

- 666 kg DDH Metallurgical sample, Petrology, QEMSCAN •
- Spodumene (15-40%) Lithium clinopyroxene  $LiAl(SiO_3)_2$ 
  - Poikilitic (quartz) & Massive (inclusion free) 2 to >10 cm
  - Pale green/grey & lesser pink (Grants vs BP33)
- Quartz (20-40%) translucent & inclusions in spodumene •
- Albite & Microcline (25-45%) pink & white







### **PEGMATITE MINERALOGY & FLUORESCENCE**



Natural light



UV light



## PEGMATITE MINERALOGY

- Muscovite (5%) pale green with minor Li in lattice
- No Lepidolite recognised
- Accessories: amblygonite, apatite, cassiterite, ilmenite & rutile
- Rare: columbite, tantalite, tourmaline (elbaite), fluorite, topaz & beryl

#### Quartz-mica-albite margin – Grants





# PEGMATITE ZONATION

- Limited or subtle zonation consistent Li grade
- Other geochemical trends not symmetrical
- Quartz-mica-albite margin 0.5-2 m thick



Na vs depth FRCD003





# PEGMATITE MODEL

- Injection of volatile-rich structurally-controlled
  pegmatite dykes into phyllite host
- Distal to Granite
- Crystallise at <500 degrees</li>
- Confining pressure & homogeneity of host critical in focussing the fertile magmatic fluids
- Structural regime related to granite emplacement?
- Rapid crystallisation
- Granite cupola and greisen



#### **EXPLORATION TECHNIQUES**

- Historic maps detailed
- Mapping <10% float + outcrop, costeans, pits</li>
- Geophysics no established rock property contrast
  - Trials of gravity, ground mag, passive seismic (Tromino), EM34, remote imagery & Hylogger
  - Detailed Airborne Magnetics



- Hymapper spectral data clays & quartz
- Soils geochem Laterite, Blacksoil & Lithium mobility
- Aircore/RAB/Auger define surface expression & shallow geometry
- Deep RC, then DDH Drilling



# **CURRENT EXPLORATION**

- Aggressive program supported by budget
- RC/DDH drilling at Grants & BP33 to expand resources
- RAB and RC drilling at dozens of historic pits and pegmatite occurrences:
  - inc BP32, Lee's, Booth's, Carlton, Hang Gong, Sandra's, Kelly's
- Mapping & prospecting/auger of Hymapper, geophysical & geochemical targets
- Objective: build a pipeline of high-grade resources to enable Finniss to be a robust project for 10 years plus.





# **PROJECT ADVANTAGES**

- 100% holding in Unexplored Lithium district
  - 100's of historically-known pegmatites
  - Many un-recorded low Ta/Sn ≠ low Li
  - New geochemical and geophysical targets
  - Drilling hit rate for fertile pegmatites is >50%
- High grade >1.5% Li<sub>2</sub>O
- Simple coarse mineralogy & no petalite or lepidolite to date
  - Almost exclusive Li deportment to Spodumene
  - Minor amblygonite
  - Simple liberation & concentrate processing
  - DSO potential
- Infrastructure nearness to road, port, grid power & stable workforce
  - Logistics chain to China







The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results and Mineral Resources is based on information compiled by Stephen Biggins (BSc(Hons)Geol, MBA) an employee of Core Exploration Ltd who is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and is bound by and follows the Institute's codes and recommended practices. He has sufficient experience which is relevant to the styles of mineralisation and types of deposits under consideration and to the activities 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 Biggins consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears. This report includes results that have previously been released under JORC 2012 by Core.

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results is based on information compiled by Dr David Rawlings (BSc(Hons)Geol, PhD) an employee of Core Exploration Ltd who is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and is bound by and follows the Institute's codes and recommended practices. He has sufficient experience which is relevant to the styles of mineralisation and types of deposits under consideration and to the activities 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". Dr Rawlings consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears. This report includes results that have previously been released under JORC 2012 by Core.

The information in this release that relates to the Estimation and Reporting of Mineral Resources has been compiled by Dr Graeme McDonald. Dr McDonald acts as an independent consultant to Core Exploration Limited on the Grants Deposit Mineral Resource estimation. Dr McDonald is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and has sufficient experience with the style of mineralisation, deposit type under consideration and to the activities 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" (The JORC Code). Dr McDonald consents to the inclusion in this report of the contained technical information relating to the Mineral Resource Estimation in the form and context in which it appears.

Core confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in this announcement and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the Mineral Resource estimates in the announcements "Grants Lithium Resource Upgrade" dated 8 May 2018 and "Maiden Resource Estimate at BP33" dated 23 May 2018 continue to apply and have not materially changed. The Mineral Resources underpinning the production target have been prepared by a Competent Person in accordance with the requirements of the JORC code.

Core confirms that all material assumptions underpinning production target and forecast financial information derived from the product target announced on 25 June 2018 continue to apply and have not materially changed.

The report includes results that have previously recently been released under JORC 2012 by Core as listed in the table below. The Company is not aware of any new information that materially affects the information included in this announcement.

25-Jun-18	Finniss Pre-Feasibility Study Points to Low-Cost Lithium Operation
	Generating Significant Surplus Cashflow
23-May-18	Maiden Estimate at BP33 increases Lithium Resources at Finniss Project
	by 70%
8-May-18	Grants Lithium Resource Upgrade marks major step towards Feasibility
6-Apr-18	High-Grade Lithium Assays to Upgrade Resource Confidence
8-Mar-18	Multiple High-grade Lithium Intersections at Grants
1-Mar-18	Wide High-grade Lithium Intersections Positive for BP33
19-Feb-18	86m Spodumene Pegmatite Intersected at BP33 Prospect
14-Feb-18	BP33 Extended by High Grade Lithium Intersections
5-Feb-18	High-Grade Lithium Intersected in New Spodumene Pegmatites
01-Feb-18	CXO Drilling Commenced to Upgrade Grants Lithium Resource
23-Jan-18	CXO Core Re-Commences Lithium Resource Drilling at BP33
19-Dec-17	Significant Widths and Grades of Spodumene at Sandras
13-Dec-17	New Assays Extend BP33 Intersection
1-Dec-17	Core Enters into Lithium Offtake and Prepayment Agreements
27-Nov-17	Wide High-Grade Lithium Drill Intersections at BP33
20-Nov-17	Bynoe Lithium Project Drilling Update
16-Nov-17	Widest Spodumene Pegmatite Intersections at BP33
9-Nov-17	Applies for Approval to Develop High-Grade Lithium Deposit
19-Oct-17	Core Applies for Mineral Lease to Develop Lithium Mine
29-Sep-17	Placement to Yahua to advance Finniss Lithium Project
14-Sep-17	Core acquires Bynoe Lithium Project from Liontown Resources
8-May-17	Core defines first Lithium Resource in the NT
30-Mar-17	Test work produces high quality 6% spodumene concentrate



