

ELIXIR PETROLEUM LIMITED (EXR)

"I have some good news and some bad news"

Elixir Energy Limited ('EXR' or the 'Company') have released mixed drilling results over the past two months, and the volatility in the share price has reflected this. The objective of the two-core hole exploration programme was to prove up thick gassy coal seams in two separate sub-basins, below 300m. Unfortunately, the first core hole, Ugtaal-1, came in well below expectations. However, the disappointment of the initial Ugtaal-1 core hole, has now been superseded by an encouraging initial result at Nomgon-1.

At Ugtaal-1, both permeability and gas content results were lower than expected. The Ugtaal-1 result was a very disappointing start to the exploration campaign, we were particularly surprised with the low gas content given the company had undertaken extensive pre-drill analysis. Our 12-month target price of 10c at initiation (see our report "So twice five miles of fertile ground" (7th October 2019)) was based on both core holes having a positive outcome. Despite, the extensive pre-drill analysis undertaken by the Company, the location of these core holes (in a vast PSC) is still heavily reliant on historical third-party data that the Company has gathered. It would seem that the 3rd party data at Ugtaal-1, especially regarding the coal quality at this location, was incorrect or inaccurate. This is a general risk when exploring for unconventional oil or gas in a frontier basin. Thankfully, the initial results from the second core hole, Nomgon-1, have been encouraging. Nomgon-1 is in a different sub-basin within the PSC, 37km to the South-West of Ugtaal-1. The hole reached a TD of 491m. 82 metres of net coal was intersected, with the thickest coal seam of 51 metres (from 373-424m). Observable coal qualities are predominantly C3-C4, with 'visible' coal quality according to the Company encouraging for gas content and permeability. However, these cores have now to be tested for both. The initial result here is encouraging and obviously significantly better than Ugtaal-1. The Company is now undertaking testing for gas content with permeability testing to follow.

Downgrade to our 12-month forward valuation post Ugtaal-1.

The Company has just over \$2m in cash at the end of December, with expected March quarter outgoings of circa \$800,000. Therefore, a further capital injection will likely be required ahead of the planned 2020 work programme. Therefore, given the disappointment of Ugtaal-1, and the need for further capital, a positive outcome from the Nomgon-1 gas content and permeability testing is now obviously crucial. The failure of Ugtaal-1 has increased the pressure on EXR, both in terms of the reliance on a positive result from Nomgon-1, but also its ability to raise capital at a reasonable cost given the negative impact it had on its share price. We have lowered our 12month target price to 8c from 10c due to the greater risk of dilution and increased risk (reliance on a single well). Anything less than a positive outcome from testing (good gas content and permeability indicators) at Nomgon-1, given the need for additional capital for the 2020 exploration programme, will likely see significant downside again in the share price. We continue to see material upside in the event of a successful test, however, the risk for investors in EXR has obviously increased since our initiation report was published in October 2019. All eggs are now in the Nomgon-1 basket!

| | 12 Feb 2020 |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Share Price: | \$0.048 |
| 12mth Price Target: | \$0.080 |

Brief Business Description EXR is a CBM explorer focused on the Nomgon IX PSC in Mongolia.

Hartleys Brief Investment Conclusion

The Nomgon IX coal bed methane PSC (CBM production sharing contract) was entered into with the Mongolian Government in September 2018. The Company has drilled a two core hole drilling program, now awaiting testing results. The targeted coals seem to be laterally extensive, thick and with a high gas content. The local market opportunity is attractive and above ground risks seem manageable.

Key Personnel

 Richard Cottee
 Non-Executive Chairman

 Neil Young
 Managing Director

 Stephen Kelemen
 Non-Executive Director

 B. Byambasaikha
 Non-Executive Director

| Top Shareholders | |
|------------------|------|
| Neil Young | 3.9% |
| | |

Company Address: Level 10, 50 Pirie street Adelaide, SA, 5000

| Target Price: | \$0.08 |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Issued Capital: | 500.9m |
| - fully diluted | 654.1m |
| Market Cap: | \$24.0m |
| - fully diluted | \$31.4m |
| Current Cash (end March est) | \$1.2m |
| Current Debt | \$0m |
| Source: Hartlevs Research | |



Authors: Aiden Bradley Energy Analyst Ph: +618 9268 2876 E: aiden.bradley@hartleys.com.au Hartleys has assisted in the completion of a capital raisings

in the past 12 months for Elixir Energy Limited ("Elixir") for which it has earned fees.

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SUMMARY MODEL

| Elixir Energy Lim EXR | ited | | Share Price \$0.0480 | | | Specu | 12 Feb 2 Ilative Bu |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Key Market Informa | tion | | | Directors | | Com | pany Detail |
| Share Price | | | \$0.048 | Richard Co | ttee | Non-Execu | tive Chairma |
| Market Capitalisation | | | \$24m | Neil Young | | | aging Directo |
| Net Cash (est end Mar | ch 2020) | | \$1.2m | Stephen Ke | lemen | | utive Directo |
| Issued Capital | 0112020) | | 500.9m | | I Byambasaikha | | utive Directo |
| ITM options | | | 0.0m | Day angar go | , Dyanibaoanana | | |
| Options | | | 153.2m | Top Share | holders | m shs | % |
| ssued Capital (fully dil | uted ITM option | າຣ) | 500.9m | Neil Young | | 19.8 | |
| ssued Capital (fully dil | | | 654.1m | 5 | | | |
| EV | | , | \$22.8m | Unpaid Ca | pital No(m)\$(ı | m) Ave Pr | % Ord |
| Valuation* | | | \$0.08 | 31-Dec-20 | 110.7 7. | | 22.1% |
| 12Mth Price Target | | | \$0.08 | Variable | 10.0 0. | | 2.0% |
| | | | ••••• | Rights | | | 6.5% |
| * Valuation is based | on a risked va | alue for Mon | golian acreage. | righte | 02.0 | | 0.070 |
| Valuation Summary | | | | Investme | nt Summary | | |
| Asset | | Val | uation | The Nomgo | n IX coal bed methane PS | SC (CBM pro | oduction |
| | | A\$m | cps | Ŭ | ntract) was entered into v | | 0 |
| Nomgon IX CBM PSC (I | Mongolia) | 55 | 10.93 | | t in September 2018. The | 1 2 | |
| Other Assets - Corpor | ate | -12 | -2.49 | | ole drilling program, now | - | - |
| Total | | 42 | 8.44 | - | ed coals seem to be latera gas content. The local m | - | |
| | | | | Ŭ | nd above ground risks se | | |
| Key Permits / Prosp | ects | | | Expected | Newsflow | | Project |
| | | | alue based on | | | | |
| I | Net Interest | \$ | GJ multiples | CY18-19 | PSC executed | | Completed |
| Mongolia | | | | CY18-19 | Exploration License aw | | Completed |
| Nomgon IX CBM PSC | 100% | | A\$55m | CY18-19 | Detailed EIA and EMP a | pproved | Completed |
| France | | | | 3Q CY 19 | 2D Seismic acquisition | | Completed |
| Moselle Permit | 100% | | A\$0m | 3Q CY 19 | Seismic Interpretation | | Completed |
| USA | | | | 2H CY 19 | 2 core hole drilling prog | - | Completed |
| Petra project | 25% | | A\$0m | 1H CY20 | Gas Desorption and tes | • | Mongolia |
| | | | | 1H CY20 | Book Contingent Resou | urce | Mongolia |
| | | | | CY20-21 | Pliot Project | | Mongolia |
| | | | | CY20-21 | Farm Out | | Mongolia |
| | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |
| Analyst: Aiden Bradley Phone: 08 9268 2876 | / | | | | L | ast Updated | : 12/02/202 |

HIGHLIGHTS

Elixir Energy Limited ('EXR' or the 'Company') have released mixed drilling results over the past two months, and the volatility in the share price has reflected this. The objective of the two-core hole exploration programme was to prove up thick gassy coal seams at both locations, in two separate sub-basins, below 300m. Unfortunately, the first core hole, Ugtaal-1, came in well below expectations. However, the disappointment of the initial Ugtaal-1 core hole, has now been superseded by an encouraging initial result at Nomgon-1.



Source: EXR

At Ugtaal-1, both permeability and gas content results were lower than expected ('at lower end of expectations' according to the Company). The well was drilled to a TD of 752m. Net coal of 43m was logged, with the thickest seem of 20m

The gas content testing is ongoing but preliminary findings also reflect the lower than expected coal quality. The low gas content is of particular disappointment to us at this early stage of exploration (permeability is usually the key challenge at this stage).

The Ugtaal-1 result was a very disappointing start to the exploration campaign, we are particularly surprised with the low gas content given the company had undertaken extensive pre-drill analysis. Our 12-month target price of 10c at initiation (see our report "So twice five miles of fertile ground" (7th October 2019)) was based on both core holes being positive.

Additionally, two chip holes were also drilled in the Ugtaal sub-region and they were also disappointing (encountering net coal of 6 and 7 metres).

Despite, the extensive pre-drill analysis undertaken by the Company, the location of these core holes (in a vast PSC) is still heavily reliant on historical third-party data that the Company has gathered. It would seem that that the 3rd party data at Ugtaal-1, especially regarding the coal quality at this location, was incorrect or inaccurate. This is a general risk when exploring for unconventional oil or gas in a frontier basin.

Thankfully, the initial results from the second core hole, Nomgon-1, have been encouraging. Nomgon-1 in a different sub-basin within the PSC, 37km to the South-West of Ugtaal-1. The hole reached a TD of 491m. 82 metres of net coal was intersected, with the thickest coal seam of 51 metres (from 373-424m)

Observable coal qualities are predominantly C3-C4, with 'visible' coal quality according to the Company encouraging for gas content and permeability. However, these cores have now to be tested for both. The initial result here is encouraging and obviously significantly better than Ugtaal-1.

The Company is now undertaking testing for gas content with permeability testing to follow.

An exploration program for 2020 has recently been submitted to the petroleum regulator, the Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority of Mongolia (MRPAM). This comprises a flexible work program of further 2D seismic and drilling.

| -ig. 2: | | 1 | 1 | Bowen Basin) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PROPERTIES | BOWEN BASIN (QUEENSLAND) | SOUTH GOBI (MONGOLIA) | | COMMENTS |
| Seam thickness | Maximum single seam thickness 30m | >55m found in multiple locations | ~ | World class seam thickness and hence very high GIP per acre |
| Gas content | 7-14 m ³ /tonne in most productive areas | Up to 15m³/tonne at Tavan Tolgoi | ~ | High gas content |
| Permeability | Varies from 2-600MD | Unknown, but coal samples show good cleat formation with no calcite | ? | Requires corehole testing |
| Presence of coal at depth | Considered optimally productive down to 900-1,000m, with potential deeper | Vast acreage position and evidence of substantial area with thick coal seams < 1,000m | ~ | Compares favourably to world class CBM basins |
| Coal quality – ash content | Varies significantly but is ~30% in the most productive fields | ~24% ash content | ~ | Within ideal range |
| Coal quality – rank | Sub-bituminous to bituminous | Sub-bituminous to bituminous | ~ | Analysis shows VR consistent with coals that have undergone gasification |

Source: EXR Corporate Presentation, September 2019

The Company has just over \$2m in cash at the end of December, with expected March quarter outgoings of circa \$800,000. Therefore, a further capital injection (equity, sale or farm out) will likely be required ahead of the planned 2020 work plan.

Therefore, given the disappointment of Ugtaal-1, and the need for further capital, a positive outcome from the Nomgon-1 gas content and permeability testing is obviously crucial.

RECOMMENDATION & RISKS

INVESTMENT THESIS & RECOMMENDATION

EXR has secured the first unconventional PSC (for CBM) in Mongolia under the updated Petroleum Law and with-it a circa 7m acre land position. The Directors have been operating in the CBM industry for over 20 years and in Mongolia since 2011. The local Mongolian management have an equivalent deep history of operating in the coal sector within Mongolia. The acreage surrounds a world scale coal mine and the Company has an independently certified prospective risked resource of over 7Tcf. EXR intended to start converting this to a contingent resource through an initial 2 core hole programme. If successful a larger pilot project in 2H20 is the objective. Getting a commercial CBM project up and running in Mongolia will not be quick or easy, however the local and export market opportunities if successful are material (high demand and high price potential). At the moment, EXR seem to be as advanced as any competing local CBM project and with an experienced management team, large gas in place footprint and an active funded appraisal programme is an interesting play on North East Asian gas demand (at the right price).

Fig. 3: Timetable of Events **Calendar Year** 3Q CY19 CY18-19 2H CY19 1H CY20 CY20-21 **PSC** executed Exploration License aw arded Detailed EIA and EMP approved 2D Seismic acquisition Seismic Interpretation 2 core hole drilling program Gas Desorption and testing **Book Contingent Resource Pliot Project** Farm Out

Source: Hartleys and EXR.

We believe successful E&P companies have a combination of a focused, well thought out strategy combined with the competitive advantages to pursue it and the right management (with incentives aligned with shareholders) in place to implement it.

Strategy

EXR's strategy is currently focused exclusively on the CBM opportunity in the South Gobi region of Mongolia. The long-term goal is to develop a commercially viable CBM project to supply both the local and potentially the export markets. The nearer term objective is to maximise the value of the acreage through a staged development. Stage 1 is to drill 2 core holes to test the CBM production potential of the vast coal deposit in their acreage. If the testing is successful this should allow EXR to convert a proportion of their gas to a contingent resource. Stage 2 would likely involve further wells / a small scale pilot to test the producibility of the coals. At this stage the Company would likely need significant funding and a farm out of their current 100% holding is a possibility. Stage 3 would be a broader field development with a gas contract with a local customer key at this stage of

development. It is our opinion that smaller E&P companies are likely to be more successful if they have a strategy focused on one particular area or play type.

Competitive Advantage

EXR currently has 100% ownership of the PSC covering circa 7m acres. The coal in the PSC is known to have a high gas content (data from wells within the Tavan Tolgoi mine indicate gas contents of up to 15m3/tonne (480 cf/ton) at depths of 467 metres below surface). The Directors have been operating in the CBM industry for over 20 years and in Mongolia since 2011. The local Mongolian management have an equivalent deep history of operating in the coal sector within Mongolia. The acreage surrounds a world scale coal mine and the Company has an independently certified risked prospective resource of over 7Tcf. Mongolia is a proven major producer of coal and has a mature (if inefficient) local power market and export routes to China.

EXR has gained considerable experience operating in Mongolia since its foundation and has an experienced team on the ground, supported by a similarly qualified Board. The decision to focus exclusively on CBM in Mongolia has allowed it to focus all their resources on trying to be successful in what is a frontier market with considerable risk and challenges.

Management & Alignment

EXR's Board and Management team includes very experienced Oil & Gas Executives, including a number who have spent most of their careers focused on the CBM sector or operating in Mongolia. However, it is a small Board and the Company is likely to require additional appointments as they move towards becoming a production company. Beyond the Directors, management and staff (appropriately) tend to be locally based.

While again, additional staff will be required as EXR's activity ramps up, the relatively modest fixed cost corporate overheads have been appropriate during what turned out to be prolonged period of negotiations and preparation. The Company spent \$586,000 on Staff Costs in the 12 months to the end of June 2019 and a further \$572,000 on Administration and Corporate Costs.

Board and management alignment with other shareholders are equally important to us when evaluating E&P companies. The Board at EXR have material exposure to the share price through their respective holdings.

| Fig. 4: Dir | ectors' Beneficial Interes | st in Shares | and Opt | ions |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Economic Exposur | e of Board and Key management | | | |
| Directors | Position | Ord Shares | Options / Perf Shares | Total |
| Richard Cottee | Non-Executive Chairman | 250,000 | 22,500,000 | 22,750,000 |
| Neil Young | Managing Director | 19,760,809 | 17,500,000 | 37,260,809 |
| Stephen Kelemen | Non-Executive Director | 290,000 | 4,000,000 | 4,290,000 |
| Total | | 20,010,809 | 44,000,000 | 64,300,809 |
| | Percentage of issued capital | 4% | | 10% |

Source: EXR and Hartleys

Overall, we rate EXR an 'Above Average' (versus our coverage universe) on our indicative measures of performance. The focused strategy on Mongolia is a positive

as is their prior management experience in CBM. Management also have alignment with shareholders through their material shareholdings.

VALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Valuing early stage CBM companies is generally difficult, especially before drilling as a large number of key parameters for success remain unknown. This is especially true for a new frontier region such as the South Gobi, where there is no existing oil and gas industry at all (never mind CBM). Global comparisons are difficult as each region can be vastly different (different coal, access to infrastructure, services, market opportunity, regulatory and fiscal risk, realisable prices etc.). There is a growing CBM industry in China, which is now dominated by the large SOE's. However, smaller players have targeted new projects with varying degrees of success. ASX listed players such as DTE.asx and TNP.asx both tried to develop CBM/CMM projects in China, with limited success. Perhaps the best known international junior CBM player in China is G3 Exploration. Despite investing over US\$270m and their large booked developing resource base, their market capitalisation has collapsed in recent years to less than 20m Sterling.

We looked at valuing CBM/CSG companies in our research on SXY, see "Two-up' - A Transformational Year of Growth' (6th May 2019). We value undeveloped reserves and resources based upon historical transaction values for CBM assets.

Transaction values can be unreliable as the price paid for specific assets can be influenced by a multitude of factors. Negative influences on EXR's acreage would likely be the perceived high sovereign risk and lack of infrastructure. On the positive side there is the potential low cost and high realisable prices. On balance, EXR's resource would we expect be likely valued at the lower end of the EV/GJ range by ASX investors. The first step in a re-rating will be to book a contingent resource. Based on historical transaction values and current ASX listed peers we would expect the market to value a contingent resource in the PSC at less than the peer group average of 20c/GJ. Assuming 5-10c/GJ, the current market capitalisation of EXR implies a potential contingent resource of circa 250-500PJ (compared to a risked BPR of 7.6Tcf). If the core testing is successful, then this is obviously a conservative assumption. Post a successful flow test and the booking of reserves, the valuation would increase dramatically as shown. As a relevant example, Lone Star acquired Sino Gas and Energy (SEH.asx) in 2018 for close to \$1.50/GJ per 3P reserve.



Source: Hartleys and Industry Releases. * Transactions include STO/Kogas, QGC/BG, Pure Energy, Bow Energy, Arrow/Shell, ORG/Conoco and STO/Petronas.



Source: Hartleys and Industry Releases.

Over the next 6-12 months the key objective will be to book an initial contingent resource. If the current core testing is successful (in highlighting the potential producibility of the coal bed) then the next stage will be to drill further step out core holes or move directly to a pilot production test. Further capital will be required for any 2020 drilling campaign. With a current market capitalisation of circa \$25m, the market is factoring in a very low conversion of the large current best prospective resource to contingent resources. While acknowledging that early stage CBM explorers are extremely difficult to value we forecast an increase in project value towards \$40m over the next 12 months (based on a conversion of just 10% of the BPR to contingent resources and a greater than 50% EV/GJ valuation versus ASX peers and comparable transaction multiples). Subtracting a valuation for corporate costs and potential future equity dilution, results in a 12-month target price of 8c per

share (down 2c per share). Based on the current share price discount to this target and near-term catalysts as outlined we rate EXR as a Speculative Buy.

RISKS

The key risks for EXR (like most junior oil & gas Companies including those with unconventional assets) is a combination of exploration/development success and performance of the production assets (if any).

Sovereign risk of operating in Mongolia is also important to consider. We also note that there no local gas producers within Mongolia (PetroChina and Sinopec do produce crude in the country) and it would force EXR to be a pioneer in the region. Although some disappointments can be short term and are only a timing issue, other disappointments can be materially value destructive and can sometimes overhang stocks for a long period of time (for example over-estimating long-term flow rates). Such disappointments can be very difficult to predict and share price reactions can be severe and immediate upon disclosure by the company. High financial leverage (as exists at this time) would add to the problem. Investing in unconventional explorers/developers is very risky given the value of the company assumes that the market will recognise a portion of potential future value of wells not yet drilled before

| Assumption | Risk of not realising assumption | Downside risk to share price if assumption is incorrect | Comment |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Unsuccessful core tests. Inability to convert BPR to a contingent resource. | Medium | High | There remains a number of key parameters we do not know, that will determine whether the coals in the South Gobi region could support a CBM development. Poor results from the current drill program would obviously be a setback. Different seams/locations would need to be selected and tested. |
| Funding Risk | Medium | High | EXR looks to be funded for the current stage of exploration (~A\$2m in estimated cash at the end of December). However, the next phases of appraisal will likely require additional funding, securing this at not too high a cost will obviously depend on success in the preceding stage. |
| Sovereign Risk | Medium | High | Mongolia ranks as a high-risk country to do business in. However, EXR have secured the country's first unconventional PSC under the updated Petroleum Law and we assume Mongolia remains a relatively stable country for foreign investment. |
| Equipment Risk | Low | Medium | To date EXR has secured the necessary equipment to undertake its appraisal and testing with relative ease. Perhaps surprising to some given Mongolia's lack of an oil and gas industry. We assume this continues to be a non-issue. |
| We Conclusion | | source and relative valuation a aller unconventional explorer | assumptions are reasonable, however EXR like is is a high-risk investment. |

Fig. 7: Key assumptions and risks for valuation

the results are known.

Source: Hartleys Research

| SIMPLE S.W.O.T. TABLE | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strengths | Extensive acreage position of circa 7m acres (100% held) in the South Gobi basin, Mongolia. Substantial coal deposits in the region with proven contained methane. Potential local demand and Chinese export market opportunity. Relatively low-cost appraisal. Access to local service industry (seismic and drilling). PSC environment lowers regulatory risk. Strong in country relationships built up since 2011. Experienced CBM Board. Operating in Mongolia since 2011 and with strong local management. |
| Weaknesses | Unproven commercial flow rates. No local gas production in Mongolia, would be the pioneer in the industry. Further funding required. Lack of infrastructure. CBM developments can have a long lead time to development. |
| Opportunities | Location to Chinese gas market M&A potential. Strong domestic political desire to replace high emission coal power and heat generation with low emission clean-burning gas fired generation. 100% ownership provides flexibility. |
| Threats | High Sovereign risk. Market price for any gas produced remains uncertain. Conflict with the domestic coal sector a possibility. Conflict with other domestic stakeholders (including environmental) a possibility. Shifting regulatory environment. |
| Source: Hartleys Research | 0 0 |

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HARTLEYS CORPORATE DIRECTORY

Research

| Trent Barnett | Head of Research | +61 8 9268 3052 |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Mike Millikan | Resources Analyst | +61 8 9268 2805 |
| John Macdonald | Resources Analyst | +61 8 9268 3020 |
| Paul Howard | Resources Analyst | +61 8 9268 3045 |
| Aiden Bradley | Research Analyst | +61 8 9268 2876 |
| Oliver Stevens | Research Analyst | +61 8 9268 2879 |
| Michael Scantlebury | Associate Analyst | +61 8 9268 2837 |
| Janine Bell | Research Assistant | +61 8 9268 2831 |
| Corporate Finance | | |

| Dale Bryan | Director & Head of Corp Fin. | +61 8 9268 2829 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Richard Simpson | Director | +61 8 9268 2824 |
| Ben Crossing | Director | +61 8 9268 3047 |
| Ben Wale | Director | +61 8 9268 3055 |
| Scott Weir | Director | +61 8 9268 2821 |
| Scott Stephens | Associate Director | +61 8 9268 2819 |
| Rhys Simpson | Associate Director | +61 8 9268 2851 |
| Michael Brown | Executive | +61 8 9268 2822 |

Registered Office

| Level 6, 141 St Georges To | e Postal Address: |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Perth WA 6000 | GPO Box 2777 |
| Australia | Perth WA 6001 |
| PH:+61 8 9268 2888 | FX: +61 8 9268 2800 |
| www.hartleys.com.au | info@hartleys.com.au |
| Note: personal email addres | ses of company employees are structured |
| in the following manner: first | name.lastname@hartleys.com.au |

Hartleys Recommendation Categories

| Buy | Share price appreciation anticipated. |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accumulate | Share price appreciation anticipated but the risk/reward is not as attractive as a "Buy". Alternatively, for the share |
| | price to rise it may be contingent on the outcome of an uncertain or distant event. Analyst will often indicate a price level at which it may become a "Buy". |
| Neutral | Take no action. Upside & downside risk/reward is evenly balanced. |
| Reduce / | It is anticipated to be unlikely that there will be gains over |
| Take profits | the investment time horizon but there is a possibility of some price weakness over that period. |
| Sell | Significant price depreciation anticipated. |
| No Rating | No recommendation. |
| Speculative | Share price could be volatile. While it is anticipated that, |
| Buy | on a risk/reward basis, an investment is attractive, there |
| | is at least one identifiable risk that has a meaningful |
| | possibility of occurring, which, if it did occur, could lead to |
| | significant share price reduction. Consequently, the investment is considered high risk. |
| | in control of conclusion of inght hold |

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| institutional Sales | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Carrick Ryan | +61 8 9268 2864 |
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| Simon van den Berg | +61 8 9268 2867 |
| Digby Gilmour | +61 8 9268 2814 |
| Veronika Tkacova | +61 8 9268 2836 |
| Wealth Management | |
| Nicola Bond | +61 8 9268 2840 |
| Bradley Booth | +61 8 9268 2873 |
| Adrian Brant | +61 8 9268 3065 |
| Nathan Bray | +61 8 9268 2874 |
| Sven Burrell | +61 8 9268 2847 |
| Simon Casey | +61 8 9268 2875 |
| Tony Chien | +61 8 9268 2850 |
| Tim Cottee | +61 8 9268 3064 |
| David Cross | +61 8 9268 2860 |
| Nicholas Draper | +61 8 9268 2883 |
| John Featherby | +61 8 9268 2811 |
| Ben Fleay | +61 8 9268 2844 |
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| John Goodlad | +61 8 9268 2890 |
| Andrew Gribble | +61 8 9268 2842 |
| David Hainsworth | +61 8 9268 3040 |
| Murray Jacob | +61 8 9268 2892 |
| Gavin Lehmann | +61 8 9268 2895 |
| Shane Lehmann | +61 8 9268 2897 |
| Steven Loxley | +61 8 9268 2857 |
| Andrew Machaughtan | +61 8 9268 2898 |
| Scott Metcalf | +61 8 9268 2807 |
| David Michael | +61 8 9268 2835 |
| Jamie Moullin | +61 8 9268 2856 |
| Chris Munro | +61 8 9268 2858 |
| Michael Munro | +61 8 9268 2820 |
| lan Parker | +61 8 9268 2810 |
| Matthew Parker | +61 8 9268 2826 |
| Charlie Ransom | +61 8 9268 2868 |
| Heath Ryan | +61 8 9268 3053 |
| Tom Shackles | +61 8 9268 2802 |
| David Smyth | +61 8 9268 2839 |
| Greg Soudure | +61 8 9268 2834 |
| Sonya Soudure | +61 8 9268 2865 |
| Dirk Vanderstruyf | +61 8 9268 2855 |
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