28 October 2020

ASX Limited Level 40, Central Park 152-158 St George's Terrace Perth WA 6000

# LODGEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 2020 QUARTERLY REPORT AND PRESENTATION AND INVESTOR CONFERENCE CALL AND WEBCAST

I am pleased to attach the following items for immediate release to the market:

- 1. September 2020 Quarterly Report
- 2. September 2020 Quarterly Report Presentation

In addition, a teleconference and live webcast on the September 2020 Quarterly Report will be held for the investment community at 10.00am (AWST)/1.00pm (AEST) today. Investors, brokers, analysts and media can join the teleconference by clicking here.

The September Quarterly Report and accompanying slide presentation will be available via the ASX Company Announcements Platform (ASX Code: SFR) and Sandfire's website at <a href="https://www.sandfire.com.au">www.sandfire.com.au</a>.

A live webcast of the teleconference and synchronised slide presentation will also be available via the BRR Media service by <u>clicking here.</u>

Yours sincerely,

**Matthew Fitzgerald** 

**Chief Financial Officer** and Company Secretary

ASX Announcement 28 October 2020

# **SEPTEMBER 2020 QUARTERLY REPORT**

## **Highlights**

## **DeGrussa Operations**

Contained metal production	September 2020 Quarter	FY 2021 Guidance
Copper (t)	19,400	67,000 – 70,000
Gold (oz)	11,683	36,000 – 40,000
C1 cost (US\$/Ib)	0.53	0.85 - 0.90

- Strong mine production and milling rates maintained for the Quarter. C1 cash operating costs for the Quarter were US\$0.53/lb (June 2020 Quarter: US\$0.51/lb).
- FY2021 guidance: upper end of 67-70kt of contained copper and 36-40koz of contained gold; C1 costs reduced to US\$0.85-\$0.90/lb.
- Sandfire continues to maintain appropriate protocols to minimise the potential transmission of COVID-19, with no significant disruption to the Company's operations to date.
- Multi-pronged exploration programs continuing across Sandfire's Doolgunna Province with RC, diamond and AC drilling completed at the Doolgunna, Morck Well, Cheroona, Springfield and Enterprise Projects.
- Maiden Mineral Resource estimate for the Old Highway Gold Prospect on-track for delivery in the December 2020 Quarter following successful drilling programs. This will underpin a Scoping Study on the Company's gold development strategy at DeGrussa.

#### Tshukudu

- Optimised Feasibility Study on the T3 Copper-Silver Project nearing completion and scheduled for release in the December 2020 Quarter.
- Progressing towards applying for a Mining Licence for the T3 Project.
- The Botswana Minister for Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security expressed support for the T3 Project in an interview televised nationally, following a site visit in mid-July.
- Maiden Mineral Resource Estimate for the A4 Dome discovery located 8km from T3 is pending.
- Major expansion of drilling activities underway on priority targets within the T3 Expansion Project area and on Sandfire's extensive licence holdings across the Kalahari Copper Belt.

#### **Black Butte**

- Feasibility Study completed for the 85%-owned Black Butte Johnny Lee Copper Project in Montana, USA.
- The Feasibility Study is underpinned by a Maiden Ore Reserve for the Johnny Lee Deposit of 8.8Mt at 2.6% Cu for 226,100t of contained copper, underpinning an 8-year mine life for a state-of-the-art project that either meets or exceeds the stringent Mine Operating Permit conditions.
- Updated Inferred Mineral Resource of 8.3Mt at 2.4% Cu for 199,500t of contained copper completed for the Lowry Deposit, 3km south-east of the Johnny Lee Deposit.

#### **Corporate and Financial**

- Sale agreement signed to divest Sandfire's interest in the non-core Sams Creek Gold Project in New Zealand to Auris Minerals Ltd (ASX: AUR). Following completion of the transaction, Sandfire will hold a 19.9% cornerstone shareholding in Auris.
- FY2020 final dividend of 14cps paid on 29 September 2020.
- Group cash on hand at 30 September 2020 of \$304.1 million.

#### 1.0 COVID-19 BUSINESS RESPONSE

The health and well-being of our people, contractors and stakeholders is of paramount importance to us, with the Company continuing to maintain strict protocols across our operations to minimise the potential transmission of COVID-19.

While the global COVID-19 pandemic has required the Company to adjust some of its usual operating procedures, the direct impact to date has been limited to social distancing and additional risk mitigation strategies. The impact on operating costs has also been minimal, with C1 cost guidance for FY2021 assuming continued minimal impact on production and costs levels.

#### 2.0 SAFETY PERFORMANCE

The Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) for the Sandfire Group at the end of the September Quarter was 5.5 (June 2020 Quarter: 5.8). Recordable injuries include those that result in any days away from work (Lost Time Injuries), those where an employee or contractor cannot perform all or any part of their normal shift (Restricted Duty Injuries), as well as any injury that requires services that only a medical practitioner can provide (Medical Treatment Injuries).

Safety system developments continue to focus on the prevention of incidents and principal hazard management, with programs to assist in managing and improving the safety culture and the management of risk for both employees and contractors.

## 3.0 DEGRUSSA OPERATIONS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## 3.1 Overview

Copper production for the Quarter was a record 19,400 tonnes of contained copper (June 2020 Quarter: 19,313 tonnes). C1 cash operating costs for the Quarter were US\$0.53/lb (June 2020 Quarter: US\$0.51/lb).

September 2020 Production Statis		Tonnes	Grade (% Cu)	Grade (g/t Au)	Contained Copper (t)	Contained Gold (oz)
Concentrator	Mined – DeGrussa	243,050	4.4	1.9	10,688	14,635
	Mined – Monty	90,116	6.9	1.6	6,202	4,626
	Mined – Total	333,166	5.1	1.8	16,890	19,262
	Milled	408,810	5.1	1.8	20,711	23,311
	Production	81,887	23.7	4.4	19,400	11,683
	Sales	63,074	23.7	4.6	14,952	10,394

**Note:** Mining and production statistics are rounded to the nearest 0.1% Cu grade and 0.1 g/t Au grade. Errors may occur due to rounding. Production statistics are subject to change following reconciliation and finalisation subsequent to the end of the Quarter.

#### 3.2 Underground Mining

During the Quarter, production was sourced from the DeGrussa and Monty Mines with the mine remaining in balance between production and back-fill.

Mine production rates from DeGrussa were slightly lower than planned during the Quarter due to the timing of development ore and lower availability of production blasting equipment. Monty mine production rates continued to exceed forecast. This combined performance resulted in a total of 333,166 tonnes mined for the Quarter.

## 3.3 Processing

Processed ore tonnes of 408,810 for the Quarter was supported by higher plant utilisation associated with the timing of planned plant shutdowns. Mill throughput rates remained on target with strong copper recovery at 93.7%.

#### 3.4 Guidance - FY2021

FY2021 production guidance is expected to be at the upper end of 67-70,000 tonnes of contained copper and 36-40,000 ounces of contained gold. Headline C1 cash operating cost guidance is reduced to US\$0.85-\$0.90/lb.

FY2021 quarterly production is broadly expected to range between 16,000-19,000 tonnes of copper and 9,000-12,000 ounces of gold. Based on the current mining sequence, copper and gold production is expected to be at or above the upper end of these ranges in the September 2020 Quarter (reported here) and the June 2021 Quarter. Production is currently expected to be at or around the lower end of these ranges in the December 2020 and March 2021 Quarters.

Refer to Sandfire's September 2020 Quarterly Report Presentation (released today, 28 October 2020) for further detail and guidance on operating parameters, unit costs and capital expenditure for FY2021.

## 4.0 TSHUKUDU, BOTSWANA

Sandfire completed the acquisition of 100% of MOD Resources Ltd (MOD) on 23 October 2019, providing the Company with a large land-holding in the highly prospective Kalahari Copper Belt in Botswana, including the advanced T3 Copper-Silver Project.

## 4.1 T3 Copper-Silver Project Feasibility Study Optimisation

MOD completed a Feasibility Study for the T3 Project in March 2019 and Sandfire is now well advanced with detailed optimisation studies relating to the Feasibility Study (OFS). Following the completion of a COVID Impact Assessment during the Quarter, the updated Feasibility Study on the T3 Copper-Silver Project is expected to be delivered in the December 2020 Quarter.

Key areas of the Feasibility Study progressed during the September Quarter included:

- Refinement of the T3 geological interpretation and updated Mineral Resource modelling;
- Groundwater Studies:
- DFS level Process plant design and estimates;
- Tendering of all long-lead time process plant equipment;
- Tendering of a 750-person accommodation facility;
- Capital and operating cost updates;
- Final open pit design including staging; and
- Land acquisition for the mine, access road and accommodation village areas.

Early engineering works for the T3 Project development have commenced, and funding negotiations are continuing to progress with significant interest received from financial institutions.

In parallel with the OFS, Sandfire is also evaluating an emerging Motheo Production Hub concept within the T3 Expansion Project area. Beyond the 3.2Mtpa base case processing operation being evaluated under the OFS (which comprises the T3 Pit), the Company is also reviewing expansion opportunities, including:

- A 5.2Mtpa expansion case, maintaining the current mine life (based on mining of the A4 Dome); and
- Extending mine life by pursuing mining opportunities at the A1, T1, T2W & T2E, A27 and A13 targets, all located within a ~30km radius of the proposed mine.

## 4.2 T3 Copper-Silver Project Permitting

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the T3 Project was approved by the Botswana Department of Environmental Affairs and the Company is progressing its Mining Licence Application.

On 13<sup>th</sup> July, the Botswana Minister for Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security visited the T3 Project, the A4 Resource Project and Tshukudu's community projects in Ghanzi. In an interview televised nationally, the Minister expressed support for the development of the T3 Project.

The Company is progressing towards applying for a Mining Licence for the T3 Project.

## 4.3 Tshukudu Exploration

The Company holds a dominant landholding of approximately 19,957km<sup>2</sup> of highly prospective licences surrounding the Company's T3 Copper-Silver Project in the Kalahari Copper Belt of Botswana extending to the Namibian border and south of the T7 prospect (Figure 1).

In addition, in May 2020, Sandfire acquired Trans-Kalahari Copper Namibia (Pty) Ltd, a subsidiary of Kopore Metals Ltd. This resulted in Sandfire owning 100% interest in nine prospecting licences with a total area of approximately 6,700km<sup>2</sup> covering a large area of the western extension of the Kalahari Copper Belt in Namibia.

Sandfire's 100% owned licences represent a rare belt-scale exploration opportunity globally, comprising an extensive and strategic position extending more than 300km along the centre of a major emerging sediment-hosted copper belt. Prior to MOD and Sandfire's involvement, there has been minimal drilling and no modern or systematic exploration such as airborne electromagnetics (AEM) or extensive soil sampling programs on the licences. Both the T3 and A4 deposits were discovered by drilling soil anomalies and AEM anomalies. Many other soil and AEM anomalies and structural targets remain to be tested within the Company's licences.

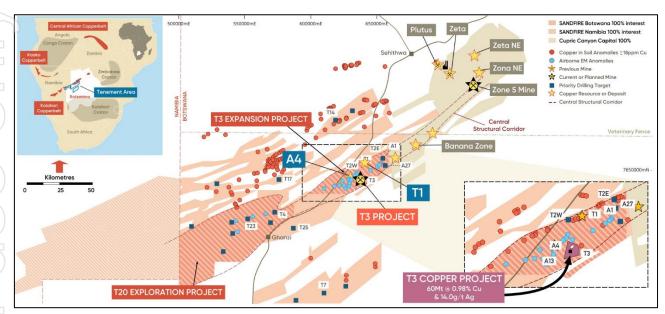


Figure 1: Sandfire's licence holding along the central part of the Kalahari Copper Belt.

Sandfire through its 100% owned subsidiary, Tshukudu Exploration (Pty) Ltd, has an expanded exploration program underway in the Kalahari Copper Belt, aimed at:

- Targeting high-grade satellite discoveries within the T3 Expansion Project area with the potential to increase the scale of T3;
- Delineating additional Resources with the potential to extend mine life; and
- Targeting major new regional discoveries to unlock the copper belt's broader potential.

## 4.4 A4 Dome and Regional Drilling Programs

Activity during the September Quarter focused on completing the first phase of resource definition drilling at the A4 deposit located 8km from T3. This should enable delivery of a maiden JORC Mineral Resource for the A4 deposit in the December 2020 Quarter. The second phase of resource drilling is now well advanced with up to six diamond rigs undertaking infill and extensional drilling at A4. High-grade vein-hosted and disseminated copper mineralisation has been intersected in many holes at shallow depth in the resource area.

Detailed geological and structural modelling of the T3 and A4 deposits and geological mapping of the wider region was well advanced during the Quarter. This has improved the understanding of the controls of the mineralisation and is also assisting in identifying additional targets for drilling. Once the resource drilling at the A4 Dome is completed, drilling is planned to focus on the potential for similar type mineralisation at the A1 Dome target, located 20km east of A4, with additional high-priority drilling targets including T1, T2W & T2E, A27 and A13.

In addition to testing the potential for high-grade discoveries to expand the scale of the emerging Motheo Production Hub, Sandfire is also conducting a substantial regional exploration program to open up the potential of previously untested targets spread along the Company's licence holdings. RC drilling is underway testing several regional targets and the Company expects to commence follow-up drilling at several of these targets in the December 2020 Quarter.

Re-processing of AEM data is continuing to open up the wider potential within Sandfire's Kalahari Copper Belt exploration area, with a major AEM survey planned to cover other regional structural zones expected to commence in the December 2020 Quarter.

## 5.0 BLACK BUTTE COPPER PROJECT, MONTANA, USA

Sandfire holds an 85% interest, via North American-listed company Sandfire Resources America Inc. (TSX-V: SFR), in the premier, high-grade Black Butte Copper Project, located in central Montana in the United States. This high-quality project, which is one of the world's highest-grade undeveloped copper projects, has completed the final stage of permitting.

Located on privately-owned ranch land close to existing road, grid power and rail infrastructure with the ability to access a residential workforce located nearby, the project is being developed as a wholly-underground mine with minimal surface footprint. The planned mine development will utilise best-practice technology and modern mining techniques to extract the high-grade copper mineralisation while minimising environmental impact, protecting all water resources and setting mining best-practice standards in addressing Montana's strict "non-degradation" water standards.

#### 5.1 Feasibility Study and maiden Ore Reserve

Subsequent to the end of the Quarter, the Feasibility Study for the Black Butte Johnny Lee Copper Project in Montana, USA was completed by the Company's 85%-owned North American subsidiary, Sandfire Resources America Inc. (Sandfire America).

The Feasibility Study outlines a maiden Ore Reserve for the cornerstone Johnny Lee Deposit which underpins an 8-year mine life at a mine production rate of 1.2Mtpa.

Sandfire America has also completed an updated Mineral Resource for the nearby Lowry Deposit, located 3km south-east of the Johnny Lee Deposit.

Full details of the Feasibility Study and maiden Ore Reserve for the Johnny Lee Deposit and updated Mineral Resource for the Lowry Deposit are contained in Sandfire's ASX announcement titled "USA and Botswana Development Projects Update", dated 28 October 2020.

## 5.2 Final Mine Operating Permit Granted

On August 14, 2020, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ) issued a final approval for the Phase I Bonding for the Black Butte Copper Project and Sandfire America has posted a US\$4.65 million surety bond for the project. The MT DEQ has approved the bond posting and has issued a Final Mine Operating Permit allowing the Company the right to commence Phase I Development surface construction at the mine site.

The issuance of the Final Mine Operating Permit is the result of the Company meeting all the requirements of the Project Record of Decision as published by the MT DEQ on April 9, 2020. As previously advised, the project permit is the subject of a legal challenge which Sandfire intends to rigorously defend.

## 5.3 Commencement of Phase I Development Surface Earthworks

Sandfire America has signed a construction contract for the commencement of surface earthworks with MK Weeden, a Lewistown, Montana company. In addition, it has signed a fencing contract with a local Meagher County business, Menard Construction Inc. These two contractors will employ up to 30 Montanans on the early earthworks project this year.

## 5.4 Financing

During the Quarter, the Company provided a US\$5 million unsecured loan to Sandfire America to cover anticipated expenditures for early earthworks and to defend the Mine Operating Permit legal challenges.

#### 6.0 AUSTRALIAN EXPLORATION

#### 6.1 Doolgunna Province Exploration, Western Australia

Sandfire continues to progress a tightly focused, multi-disciplinary exploration campaign across the Doolgunna Province (see Figure 2) to test for extensions to the known cluster of Volcanogenic Massive Sulphide (VMS) deposits at DeGrussa and Monty, and to unlock the broader potential of the Doolgunna region for additional VMS and structurally-hosted copper deposits.

Key components of the Company's exploration activities during the September Quarter are listed below.

- Diamond, Reverse Circulation (RC) and Diamond Drilling (DDH) drilling at the Doolgunna Project to underpin Resource definition and Scoping Studies for the Old Highway Gold Prospect.
- Aircore (AC) drilling at the Morck Well Project to delineate stratigraphy and provide high-quality lithogeochemical data.
- AC drilling at the Cheroona Project to test the continuity of the Karalundi Formation stratigraphy in the south west of the basin.
- RC drilling at the Springfield Project to test the host sediment package along-strike from TLRC0100
  after the down-hole electromagnetic (DHEM) survey identified a weak off-hole anomaly coincident with
  the sediment package intersected in the hole.
- Diamond drilling at the Enterprise Project to test a geophysical target within the Homestead-Vulcan West area, as well as a magnetic and geophysical anomaly at Ruby Well.

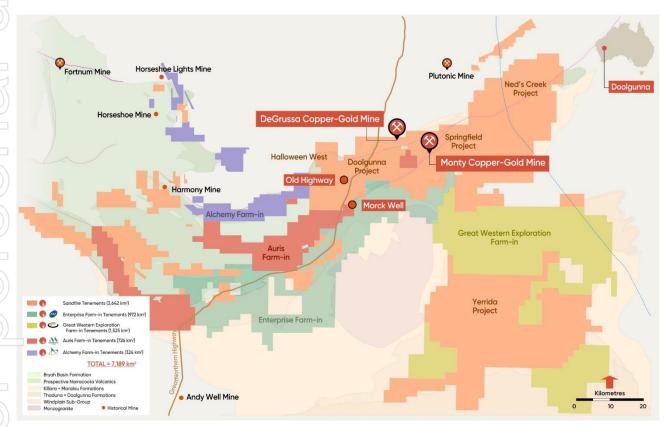


Figure 2: Sandfire's tenement holding in the Doolgunna-Bryah Basin region.

## **6.1.1 Greater Doolgunna Project**

The Greater Doolgunna Project, which includes 100% Sandfire tenure, Joint Venture and Farm in projects, covers an aggregate contiguous exploration area of 7,189km² (Figure 1). This includes over 90km of strike extent in host VMS lithologies. Much of this stratigraphy is obscured beneath transported cover and requires targeted AC drilling to test the bedrock geochemistry and identify prospective areas.

## **Doolgunna Project**

Seven diamond holes (OHMT0001 – OHMT0003 & OHST0001 – OHST0004) were completed during the Quarter, for a total of 2,423m, with all holes designed to provide additional information towards Scoping Studies for the Old Highway Gold Prospect. Three diamond holes were completed to provide material to conduct metallurgical test work, and four diamond holes were completed to provide structural geology information and geotechnical information to aid in potential future pit designs.

120 RC holes (OHRC0064 – OHRC0182 & OHWB0001) were completed for a total of 18,163m as part of the Resource Definition drilling program at the Old Highway Gold Prospect, designed to test areas proximal to existing gold mineralisation hosted in quartz-carbonate veining through Cow Hole Bore Member sediments. The majority of holes intersected quartz-carbonate veining with associated sericite alteration selvages and cubic pyrite.

23 AC holes (DGAC5897 – DGAC5919) were completed, with a further hole (DGAC5920) ongoing at the end of the Quarter, for a total of 3,627m. These holes are part of two small 200x100m patterns designed to test for extensions to shallow mineralisation along-strike to the east and structural repeats to the north of the main Old Highway Resource Definition drill area.

All holes drilled during the Quarter intersected Cow Hole Bore Member sediments consisting of siltstones, wackes, arenites and minor conglomerates. A majority of the holes intersected intervals of quartz-carbonate veining, some of which contained coarse-grained cubic pyrite and were associated with sericite alteration selvages. The integration of completed drilling and assay intersections into the existing modelling is currently ongoing.

The 50x50m phase of Resource Definition drilling at the Old Highway Gold Prospect has now been completed. Pegging and clearing of the 50x25m and 25x25m phases of drilling is ongoing and drilling will recommence early in the December 2020 Quarter. A maiden Inferred Resource for the Old Highway Gold Prospect is expected to be delivered in the December 2020 Quarter, which will underpin a Scoping Study on the Company's gold development strategy at DeGrussa.

#### **Enterprise Project**

Sandfire entered into a Farm-in Agreement with Enterprise Metals Ltd (ASX: ENT) in October 2016 to earn up to a 75% interest in Enterprise's Doolgunna Project, which adjoins Sandfire's Doolgunna tenements to the south. The Enterprise tenements cover over 60km of strike along the southern boundary of the Bryah Basin and the northern part of the Yerrida Basin. The southern Bryah Basin contains the Narracoota/Karalundi Formations which host the DeGrussa and Monty copper-gold deposits. The Company considers that the Enterprise tenements offer the potential for new copper-gold discoveries.

#### Ruby Well

One diamond hole (EFDD0063) was completed and a second (EFDD0011) was ongoing at the end of the Quarter, for a total of 288m. EFRC0063 was designed to test a large magnetic anomaly, but was abandoned due to excessive groundwater. EFDD0011 is designed to test a 250x250m geophysical plate derived from an anomalous response identified in moving-loop electromagnetic (MLEM) surveying. The diamond portion of this hole will be completed in the December 2020 Quarter.

One RC pre-collar (EFDD0011) and one RC hole (EFRC0065) were completed for a total of 674m. EFRC0065 was designed to test the area approximately 1km along-strike to the south west of EFDD0011 in the Ruby Well prospect area.

EFRC0063 intersected an interval of peperitic basalts and siltstone containing fine chalcopyrite stringers and associated trace sphalerite, in the DeGrussa Member of the Karalundi Formation. The magnetic, Fe-oxide rich dolerite may well represent the coincident magnetic anomaly. EFRC0065 intersected a thick package of Narracoota Formation basalts along-strike from the geophysical plate being targeted by EFDD0011, with no significant mineralisation observed.

## Vulcan West

One diamond hole (EFDD0009A) was completed for a total of 1,192m. EFDD0009A was designed to test an extensive series of geophysical plates derived from an anomalous response identified in MLEM surveying through the Vulcan West prospect area.

The hole intersected a significant zone of fractured massive siltstone with graphite on fracture faces coincident with the position of the plates. Weak potentially VMS-related chlorite alteration and trace stringer sulphide mineralisation was observed from 644-717m.

Two RC pre-collars (EFDD0009 & EFDD0010) were completed for a total of 524m. Both holes are designed to test the series of geophysical plates in the Vulcan West prospect area. EFDD0009 had to be abandoned as swelling clays in the regolith profile prohibited the diamond rig from entering the pre-collar. This hole was subsequently drilled as EFDD0009A. The diamond portion of EFDD0010 will be completed in the December 2020 Quarter.

#### **Cheroona Project**

Sandfire has the right to earn up to a 70% interest in the Cheroona Project tenements (E51/1391, E51/1837 and E51/1838) through a farm-in agreement with Auris Minerals Ltd (ASX: AUR) and Northern Star Resources Ltd (ASX:NST). The Cheroona Project lies immediately along strike to the west of the Cashman JV (also in JV with Auris), where Sandfire is exploring in the same stratigraphy that hosts the DeGrussa and Monty coppergold deposits.

256 AC holes (CHAC1607 – CHAC1859) were completed for a total of 15,513m. All holes are part of the 1,600x100m spaced first-pass pattern through the Mick Well and Lefeuvre Well prospect areas, north-west of the 400x100m-spaced AC drilling completed over the Orient and Cashman prospect areas. The program is designed test the continuation of the Karalundi Formation stratigraphy in the south-west of the basin.

Drilling of the regional first-pass AC program has identified Johnson Cairn Formation, Doolgunna Formation, Karalundi Formation, Narracoota Formation and Wilthorpe Formation lithologies. Drilling to date suggests Karalundi Formation stratigraphy pinches out in the Cheroona Project, to the south of the Mick Well prospect area, where the Johnson Cairn Formation is unconformably in contact with the Narracoota Formation.

Integration with significant field mapping and geophysical datasets indicates that structural complexity exists throughout the project area with possible stratigraphic repeats, which has an effect on interpretation and targeting.

Geological interpretation through the Cheroona Project is ongoing.

## **Morck Well Project**

Sandfire entered into a farm-in agreement with Auris Minerals Ltd (ASX: AUR) and Fe Ltd (ASX: FEL) in relation to their Morck Well JV Project (Auris 80%: Fe 20%), located 22km south-west from the DeGrussa Copper-Gold Mine and Auris' 100%-owned Doolgunna Project, in February 2018. Sandfire can earn up to a 70% interest in five exploration tenements in the eastern portion of the Bryah Basin.

529 AC holes (MWAC2873 – MWAC2900, MWAC3001 – MWAC3506) were completed during the Quarter for a total of 43,381m. The majority of these holes (515) are part of a 1,600x100m spaced first-pass pattern through the Dead Horse Well, McLean Well and No 26 Well prospect areas. The final 14 holes are part of the 800x100m in-fill pattern in the Bitter Well prospect area. These programs are designed to help with delineating stratigraphy and provide high quality lithogeochemical data.

Drilling of the regional first-pass 1,600x100m AC programme has identified lithologies from the Narracoota, Red Bore and Wilthorpe Formations as have been interpreted along-strike to the northeast in E52/1715. Mt Leake Formation has also been identified as a thin cap unconformably overlying the stratigraphy over the southern sections of the drill lines.

Geological interpretation thought the Morck Well Project is ongoing.

Approximately 600 AC holes remain to be drilled as part of the in-fill 800x100m spaced program. RC drilling, designed to follow-up some of the geochemical anomalism observed in the first pass program, will be planned in the December 2020 Quarter.

#### **Springfield Project**

Two RC holes (TLRC0101 – TLRC0102) were completed during the Quarter for a total of 878m. Both holes are part of a three-hole program in the Monty South prospect area, designed to test the host sediment package along-strike from TLRC0100 after the DHEM survey identified a weak off-hole anomaly coincident with the sediment package intersected in the hole.

Both TLRC0101 and TLRC0102 intersected dolerite from surface to the end-of-hole depth, with no significant mineralisation observed. Neither of the holes intersected the sediment horizon identified in TLRC0100.

One further hole remains in the program to test the sediment package along-strike to the south of TLRC0100 in the Monty South prospect area. DHEM surveys of the two completed holes will be completed in the December 2020 Quarter.

## 6.2 Eastern Australian Exploration

Sandfire has a number of exploration interests and joint ventures around Australia exploring for base and precious metals. The exploration programs are focused on prospective terranes with the potential for discovery of a significant new deposit that can be developed.



Figure 3: Sandfire's Eastern Australian Projects.

#### 6.2.1 New South Wales Projects

A number of 100%-owned project areas are held in the Lachlan Fold Belt of New South Wales which are prospective for porphyry copper-gold mineralisation as found at Northparkes (China Moly), Cadia (Newcrest) and Cowal (Evolution). New 100%-owned tenements have been granted in the Cobar district.

Exploration plans for the Temora Project are nearing completion for the upcoming field season. The works will include significant geophysical and drilling programs and the proposed program will focus on epithermal-style gold mineralisation encountered in AC and diamond drilling at the Fields prospect. The gold anomaly currently extends over a strike length of 400m and requires additional ground electrical geophysics and an AC program to fully define its extent. Deep diamond drilling will also be planned based on the results of this work.

Exploration will also focus on discovering further porphyry-style mineralisation in the Temora region with a number of targets highlighted for drill testing during the next field season.

In the Cobar region, the Company continued to review the results from drilling in the previous quarter and commenced planning of regional geophysical surveys over its landholding.

#### 6.2.2 Northern Territory – Borroloola Project

The Borroloola Project is located north of the McArthur River Mine (Xstrata), and is prospective for base metals and sedimentary manganese. Sandfire has signed farm-out agreements to advance the Borroloola Project. The Borroloola West JV covering the western portion is under an agreement with Pacifico Minerals Ltd, which has now earned a 51% interest in the Project and Sandfire is a contributing 49% JV partner. The new North Batten Property Option and Joint Venture agreement allows Teck Australia Pty Ltd (Teck) to earn a 75% interest in the project.

Teck has continued planning and review work over the North Batten Property in the Northern Territory as part of the Joint Venture. No field activities were undertaken.

## 6.2.3 Queensland Projects

A number of projects are held in the eastern succession of the Mount Isa region south and east of Cloncurry in northwest Queensland which are prospective for Broken Hill type (BHT) lead-zinc-silver deposits such as the Cannington deposit (South 32) and the Ernest Henry iron oxide-copper-gold (IOCG) deposits (Xstrata). A Joint Venture (60% interest) is held over the Altia project with Minotaur Exploration Ltd (ASX: MEP).

A recent new Breena Plains JV has been signed with Minotaur's and OZ Minerals Ltd's (ASX: OZL) in which the Cloncurry Alliance can earn up to a 75% over 5 years in a large tenement package held by Sandfire near Cloncurry, Queensland.

The Cloncurry Alliance has now commenced work on the Breena Plains Project with ground geophysics taking place during the Quarter.

#### 7.0 CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL

## 7.1 Divestment of Sams Creek Gold Project

Sandfire reached agreement to sell its interest in the Sams Creek Gold Project in New Zealand to Auris Minerals Ltd (ASX: AUR; Auris).

The Sams Creek Gold Project, held by the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, Sams Creek Gold Ltd (SCGL), is located in the northwest of the South Island of New Zealand and comprises two exploration tenements, EP 40 338 (subject to joint venture with OceanaGold Corporation (20%) and SCGL (80%)) and EP 54 454 (SCGL 100%).

Sandfire inherited the Sams Creek Gold Project through its acquisition of MOD Resources Ltd in October 2019. The Sams Creek Gold Project is non-core for Sandfire in terms of scale and development as Sandfire focuses on development of its advanced base metal development projects in Botswana and in Montana, USA.

Under the terms of the sale agreement, Auris will acquire 100% of Sandfire's wholly-owned subsidiary, SCGL. The estimated up to \$23.2 million transaction value and structure fits well with the Company's Sandfire Ventures strategy, whereby Sandfire holds strategic shareholdings in companies that offer exposure to high-quality exploration and development assets around the world.

Post completion of the transaction, Sandfire will hold a 19.9% cornerstone shareholding in Auris, allowing it to retain leveraged exposure to the future upside arising from the exploration and potential development of the Sams Creek Gold Project and other assets.

Sandfire has an existing relationship with Auris through its Mork Well and Doolgunna Joint Venture exploration projects in the Bryah Basin of Western Australia, where it is managing exploration activities targeting new VMS discoveries in close proximity to the DeGrussa Copper-Gold Mine.

Full details of the transaction are contained in Sandfire's ASX announcement titled "Divestment of Sams Creek Gold Project, NZ" released 1 October 2020.

## 7.2 Cash position

Group cash on hand as at 30 September 2020 totalled \$304.1 million.

#### 7.3 Final Dividend

On 27 August 2020, Sandfire announced its annual financial results for FY2020, including a net profit attributable to members of \$74.1 million on total sales revenue of \$656.8 million. The Company declared a final fully franked dividend of 14 cents per share for FY2020 and the dividend was paid on 29 September 2020.

## 7.4 Finance Facility

ANZ continues to hold security via a fixed and floating charge over the Company's assets. Aside from minor borrowings under a bonding facility there is no other debt drawn under financing facilities and no amounts available to be drawn.

#### **Investor Call and Webcast**

A teleconference on the Quarterly results will be held for the investment community on Wednesday 28th October commencing at 10.00am (AWST)/1.00pm (AEDT). Investors, brokers, analysts and media can join the teleconference by clicking here.

The September Quarterly Report and accompanying slide presentation will be available via the ASX Company Announcements Platform (ASX Code: SFR) and Sandfire's website at www.sandfire.com.au.

A live webcast of the teleconference and synchronised slide presentation will also be available via the BRR Media service by clicking here.

#### **ENDS**

For further information, please contact:

Sandfire Resources Ltd Karl Simich - Managing Director/CEO

Office: +61 8 6430 3800 This announcement is authorised for release by Sandfire's Managing Director and CEO, Karl Simich.

**Media Inquiries:** 

Read Corporate Nicholas Read

Mobile: +61 419 929 046

This report should be read in conjunction with the September 2020 Quarterly Report Presentation released today.

#### **Exploration Results - Doolgunna**

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results at Doolgunna is based on information compiled by Mr Shannan Bamforth who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Bamforth is a permanent employee of Sandfire and has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Bamforth consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

#### Exploration Results - Tshukudu Exploration Project

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results at the Tshukudu Exploration Project, Botswana is based on information compiled by Mr Julian Hanna who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Hanna is a permanent employee of Sandfire and has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Hanna consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

#### **Exploration and Resource Targets**

Any discussion in relation to the potential quantity and grade of Exploration Targets is only conceptual in nature. While Sandfire is continuing exploration programs aimed at reporting additional JORC compliant resources for the Company's Projects, there has been insufficient exploration to define mineral resources in addition to the current JORC compliant Mineral Resource inventory and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in the determination of additional JORC compliant Mineral Resources.

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

Certain statements made during or in connection with this report contain or comprise certain forward-looking statements regarding Sandfire's Mineral Resources and Reserves, exploration and project development operations, production rates, life of mine, projected cash flow, capital expenditure, operating costs and other economic performance and financial condition as well as general market outlook. Although Sandfire believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, such expectations are only predictions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties which could cause actual values, results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed, implied or projected in any forward looking statements and no assurance can be given that such expectations will prove to have been correct. There is continuing uncertainty as to the full impact of COVID-19 on Sandfire's business, the Australian economy, share markets and the economies in which Sandfire conducts business. Given the high degree of uncertainty surrounding the extent and duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not currently possible to assess the full impact of COVID-19 on Sandfire's business or the price of Sandfire securities.

Accordingly, results could differ materially from those set out in the forward-looking statements as a result of, among other factors, changes in economic and market conditions, delays or changes in project development, success of business and operating initiatives, changes in the regulatory environment and other government actions, fluctuations in metals prices and exchange rates and business and operational risk management.

Except for statutory liability which cannot be excluded, each of Sandfire, its officers, employees and advisors expressly disclaim any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the material contained in these forward-looking statements and excludes all liability whatsoever (including in negligence) for any loss or damage which may be suffered by any person as a consequence of any information in forward-looking statements or any error or omission. Sandfire undertakes no obligation to update publicly or release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after today's date or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events other than required by the Corporations Act and ASX Listing Rules. Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on any forwardlooking statement.