

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

ASX : BSX

30 October 2024



## QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Blackstone completed the precursor cathode active material ("pCAM") NCM811 (nickel-cobalt-manganese in a ratio of 8-1-1) pilot program in October 2024. This is the last stage of outstanding testwork required to finalise the definitive feasibility studies ("DFS").
- Good progress has been made in advancing the Investment Certificate for the refinery project in Son La Province in northern Vietnam. The Son La provincial government seeks feedback from a number of key ministries on the project. The Investment Certificate is on track for approval in Q4 2024.
- The Company has agreed non-binding indicative terms with a potential Vietnamese partner, FECON Group ("FECON"). FECON has the option to acquire up to 10% in the refinery project. FECON is a leading engineering and construction group in Vietnam and can assist Blackstone considerably in advancing the studies and permitting of our projects.
- The Company is in the final stages of completing the Ta Khoa Refinery ("TKR") DFS. Outstanding DFS activities include pCAM pilot program analysis and reporting, residue handling testwork and facility design and finalising geotechnical assessments.
- In October 2024, the Company hosted a strategic and Joint Venture ("JV") investor tour of the Wabowden Project, Manitoba, Canada, showcasing the opportunities which exist within the region, being a long-term feedstock opportunity for the Company's flagship project, Ta Khoa Refinery, Vietnam.
- End of quarter cash position of \$1.85m.
- Listed investments of \$1.13m at the end of the quarter.

### PROJECT UPDATE

#### TA KHOA REFINERY COMPLETED pCAM PILOTING

After successful completion of both the Ta Khoa Nickel ("TKN") and Ta Khoa Refinery ("TKR") pilot campaigns to produce battery grade nickel and cobalt sulphates (Refer to ASX announcement 15 November 2022), Blackstone announced it completed the 12-week piloting program in early-October 2024. Blackstone will conclude the pilot program analysis and reporting within the next quarter.

The pCAM pilot program was the last stage of testwork required to allow the Company to finalise TKR DFS testwork activities. The pCAM pilot program utilised feedstock generated during the TKR pilot program to produce on-specification pCAM material in the chemistry of NCM811 to 'typical' lithium-ion battery standards for the EV market. The samples generated from the pCAM pilot program will now be distributed to JV partners and for marketing purposes.

In July 2024, the Company hosted a number of strategic investor and external technical personnel tours of the piloting facility to showcase the team's capability and technical viability of the Project. The tour allowed the Company to demonstrate its commitment to developing a vertically integrated flowsheet from pit to pCAM. Within the upcoming quarter the Company will complete the pCAM pilot report to support the conclusion of the TKR DFS.



Figure 1: pCAM testwork facility and Blackstone pCAM NCM811 sample

## TA KHOA REFINERY DEFINITIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY ACTIVITIES

The Company remains focused to finalise the remaining outstanding study activities for its flagship project, Ta Khoa Refinery. The outstanding DFS activities include finalising pCAM pilot program analysis and reporting, residue handling testwork and facility design and finalising geotechnical assessments.

## WABOWDEN PROJECT

In October 2024, the Company hosted a strategic and JV investor tour of the Wabowden Project, Manitoba, Canada. The tour allowed the Company to showcase the opportunities which exist within the region, being a long-term feedstock opportunity for the Company's flagship project, Ta Khoa Refinery, Vietnam. Key points of interest for the group included review of the existing core samples, site infrastructure and surrounding townships.

The tour concluded with a meeting with First Nations group, Norway House Cree Nation, where both parties pledged their commitment to collaborate on a pathway to allow the nickel project to be developed.

## LOCAL VIETNAM PARTNERSHIP PROCESS

There has been a strong preference from potential strategic partners that the Company have a local partner in the Vietnam projects. In parallel to the International strategic partnership process, Blackstone undertook a local partnership process for Vietnam and has successfully secured FECON Group under an option agreement in which FECON has the right to acquire up to 10% in the refinery project.

FECON is a highly regarded construction and engineering company and is listed on the HCM Stock Exchange. FECON has proven construction, procurement and engineering capability and strong network and relationships which is complementary to the Company to advance and construct the project. The agreement is non-binding and the parties have agreed to finalise negotiations and move to a binding agreement within 6 months from the execution of the option agreement.



Figure 2: Option Agreement signing ceremony, Blackstone Minerals, FECON and FECON Hai Dang

## PERMITTING UPDATE

### Ta Khoa Refinery Permitting Update – Son La Province

In April 2024, the Company re-submitted a revised Investment Policy Dossier for the Ta Khoa Refinery.

- The Department of Planning & Investment (“DPI”) under the Son La Provincial Peoples Party (“PPC”) has completed two full rounds of review by all the key departments in Son La in charge of approving the refinery project.
- On the 17th August 2024, the DPI formally submitted their review and recommendation to the PPC. The DPI are strongly supportive of the project and were satisfied with the majority of the content, including environmental impact.
- The DPI has suggested that the Province seeks advice from a number of Ministries on four minor issues relating to land, finances and technology before granting approval. The Company will work closely with Son La officials to engage the respective ministries to get answers to the specific questions.
- The Company does not foresee any potential issues targeting Investment Certificate before the end of the year.
- The environmental baseline survey works for the TKR location have been completed and a baseline survey report was completed in September 2024. The drafting of the Environmental Impact Assessment can commence once the Investment Certificate has been issued.



## CORPORATE

Key Corporate matters include:

- \$1,289,000 on exploration activities (refer to Item 1.2(a) of Appendix 5B), relating to ongoing exploration, mine site and refinery activities at its Ta Khoa Nickel-Copper-PGE Project. Full details of exploration activity during the quarter are set out in this report (ASX Listing Rule 5.3.1),
- No substantive costs incurred on mining and development activities during the quarter (ASX Listing Rule 5.3.2), and
- \$106,345 of payments made to related parties or their associates (refer to Item 6.1 of Appendix 5B) including (ASX Listing Rule 5.3.5):
  - Directors' fees, salaries, superannuation, and consulting fees of \$106,345.

Authorised by the Managing Director on behalf of the Board of Blackstone Minerals Limited.

Ends.

**Scott Williamson**

Managing Director

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Investors are also encouraged to join and engage through the Blackstone Minerals Investor Hub, read a summary [here](#), post questions and feedback through the Q&A function accompanying each piece of content, and [engage directly](#) with the Blackstone team.

### How to join the Blackstone Minerals InvestorHub

1. Head to our [Investor Hub](#) or scan the QR code with your smart device
2. Follow the prompts to sign up for an Investor Hub Account
3. Complete your account profile and link your shareholdings if you are a current shareholder.



## COMPETENT PERSON DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

### Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves

No new Exploration Results, Minerals Resources or Ore Reserves are included in this report. Information in this report that refers to such items is taken from information previously presented to the public and remains relevant. Where previous information is re-stated or referred to, the original report and report data is referenced.

### New Information

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original announcements and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the original release continue to apply and have not materially changed. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person and Qualified Person's findings as presented have not been materially modified from the relevant original market announcement.

### Forward Looking Statements

This report contains certain forward-looking statements. The words "expect", "forecast", "should", "projected", "could", "may", "predict", "plan", "will" and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward looking statements. Indications of, and guidance on, future earnings, cash flow costs and financial position and performance are also forward-looking statements. Forward looking statements, opinions and estimates included in this announcement are based on assumptions and contingencies which are subject to change without notice, as are statements about market and industry trends, which are based on interpretations of current market conditions. Forward looking statements are provided as a general guide only and should not be relied on as a guarantee of future performance. Forward looking statements may be affected by a range of variables that could cause actual results or trends to differ materially. These variations, if materially adverse, may affect the timing or the feasibility of the development of the Ta Khoa Project.

## APPENDIX A: Tenements

### Mineral tenements held at the end of September 2024 quarter.

Project	Location	Tenement	Interest at September 2024
Gold Bridge	British Columbia, Canada	501174, 502808	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	503409, 564599	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	573344, 796483	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	844114, 1020030	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1047915, 1055449	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1046246, 1046253	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1050797, 1052563	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1052564, 1052989	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1052990, 1052991	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1052992, 1052993	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1055836, 1055837	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1055838, 1055839	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1055840, 1055859	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1055860, 1055861	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1055862, 1055863	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1055864, 1052630	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1052893, 1065892	100%
	British Columbia, Canada	1066580, 1066581	100%
Ta Khoa	Vietnam	ML 1211/GPKT-BTNMT	90%
		and 522 G/P	90%

### Mining tenements acquired and disposed during the September 2024 quarter.

Project	Location	Tenement	Interest at beginning of Quarter	Interest at end of Quarter
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#### Mining tenements relinquished

Nil

#### Mining tenements acquired

Nil

**Beneficial percentage interest in joint venture agreements at end of quarter.**

Project	Location	Tenement	Interest at end of Quarter
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Nil

**Beneficial percentage interest in farm-in or farm-out agreements acquired or disposed of during the quarter.**

Project	Location	Tenement	Interest at beginning of Quarter	Interest at end of Quarter
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**Mining tenements relinquished**

Nil

**Mining tenements acquired**

Nil

## Appendix 5B

### Mining exploration entity or oil and gas exploration entity quarterly cash flow report

Name of entity

Blackstone Minerals Limited

ABN

96 614 534 226

Quarter ended ("current quarter")

30 September 2024

Consolidated statement of cash flows		Current quarter \$A'000	Year to date (3 months) \$A'000
<b>1.</b>	<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
1.1	Receipts from customers	-	-
1.2	Payments for		
	(a) exploration & evaluation	(1,289)	(1,289)
	(b) development	-	-
	(c) production	-	-
	(d) staff costs	(374)	(374)
	(e) administration and corporate costs	(640)	(640)
1.3	Dividends received (see note 3)	-	-
1.4	Interest received	8	8
1.5	Interest and other costs of finance paid	-	-
1.6	Income taxes paid	-	-
1.7	Government grants and tax incentives	-	-
1.8	Other (provide details if material)	-	-
<b>1.9</b>	<b>Net cash from / (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(2,295)</b>	<b>(2,295)</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
2.1	Payments to acquire or for:		
	(a) entities	-	-
	(b) tenements	-	-
	(c) property, plant and equipment	-	-
	(d) exploration & evaluation	-	-
	(e) investments	-	-
	(f) other non-current assets	-	-



## Mining exploration entity or oil and gas exploration entity quarterly cash flow report

Consolidated statement of cash flows		Current quarter \$A'000	Year to date (3 months) \$A'000
2.2	Proceeds from the disposal of:		
	(a) entities	-	-
	(b) tenements	-	-
	(c) property, plant and equipment	-	-
	(d) investments	-	-
	(e) other non-current assets	-	-
2.3	Cash flows from loans to other entities	-	-
2.4	Dividends received (see note 3)	-	-
2.5	Other (provide details if material)	-	-
2.6	<b>Net cash from / (used in) investing activities</b>	-	-

<b>3.</b>	<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
3.1	Proceeds from issues of equity securities (excluding convertible debt securities)	-	-
3.2	Proceeds from issue of convertible debt securities	-	-
3.3	Proceeds from exercise of options	-	-
3.4	Transaction costs related to issues of equity securities or convertible debt securities	(2)	(2)
3.5	Proceeds from borrowings	-	-
3.6	Repayment of borrowings	-	-
3.7	Transaction costs related to loans and borrowings	-	-
3.8	Dividends paid	-	-
3.9	Other— R&D Advance net of costs.	-	-
3.10	<b>Net cash from / (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(2)</b>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents for the period</b>		
4.1	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	4,162	4,162
4.2	Net cash from / (used in) operating activities (item 1.9 above)	(2,295)	(2,295)
4.3	Net cash from / (used in) investing activities (item 2.6 above)	-	-
4.4	Net cash from / (used in) financing activities (item 3.10 above)	(2)	(2)

## Mining exploration entity or oil and gas exploration entity quarterly cash flow report

Consolidated statement of cash flows		Current quarter \$A'000	Year to date (3 months) \$A'000
4.5	Effect of movement in exchange rates on cash held	(15)	(15)
4.6	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>1,850</b>

5.	Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents at the end of the quarter (as shown in the consolidated statement of cash flows) to the related items in the accounts	Current quarter \$A'000	Previous quarter \$A'000
5.1	Bank balances	1,850	4,162
5.2	Call deposits	-	-
5.3	Bank overdrafts	-	-
5.4	Other (provide details)	-	-
5.5	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of quarter (should equal item 4.6 above)</b>	<b>1,850*</b>	<b>4,162</b>

\*Excludes market value of listed equity investments held at 30 September 2024 of \$1.13m.

6.	Payments to related parties of the entity and their associates	Current quarter \$A'000
6.1	Aggregate amount of payments to related parties and their associates included in item 1	106
6.2	Aggregate amount of payments to related parties and their associates included in item 2	-
<i>Note: if any amounts are shown in items 6.1 or 6.2, your quarterly activity report must include a description of, and an explanation for, such payments.</i>		

## Mining exploration entity or oil and gas exploration entity quarterly cash flow report

7.	<b>Financing facilities</b> <i>Note: the term "facility" includes all forms of financing arrangements available to the entity. Add notes as necessary for an understanding of the sources of finance available to the entity.</i>	<b>Total facility amount at quarter end \$A'000</b>	<b>Amount drawn at quarter end \$A'000</b>
7.1	Loan facilities	-	-
7.2	Credit standby arrangements	-	-
7.3	Other (please specify)	-	-
7.4	<b>Total financing facilities</b>	-	-
7.5	<b>Unused financing facilities available at quarter end</b>		-
7.6	Include in the box below a description of each facility above, including the lender, interest rate, maturity date and whether it is secured or unsecured. If any additional financing facilities have been entered into or are proposed to be entered into after quarter end, include a note providing details of those facilities as well.		

8.	<b>Estimated cash available for future operating activities</b>	<b>\$A'000</b>
8.1	Net cash from / (used in) operating activities (item 1.9)	(2,295)
8.2	(Payments for exploration & evaluation classified as investing activities) (item 2.1(d))	-
8.3	Total relevant outgoings (item 8.1 + item 8.2)	(2,295)
8.4	Cash and cash equivalents at quarter end (item 4.6)	1,850
8.5	Unused finance facilities available at quarter end (item 7.5)	-
8.6	Total available funding (item 8.4 + item 8.5)	1,850
8.7	<b>Estimated quarters of funding available (item 8.6 divided by item 8.3)</b>	0.81
<i>Note: if the entity has reported positive relevant outgoings (ie a net cash inflow) in item 8.3, answer item 8.7 as "N/A". Otherwise, a figure for the estimated quarters of funding available must be included in item 8.7.</i>		
8.8	If item 8.7 is less than 2 quarters, please provide answers to the following questions:	
8.8.1	Does the entity expect that it will continue to have the current level of net operating cash flows for the time being and, if not, why not?	
	Answer: No, the company expects to continue to decrease its overheads and continue its 50% equity in lieu of salary scheme for executives, together with a decrease in employees across the business.	
8.8.2	Has the entity taken any steps, or does it propose to take any steps, to raise further cash to fund its operations and, if so, what are those steps and how likely does it believe that they will be successful?	
	Answer: Yes, ongoing discussions with major shareholders regarding funding strategies. The company has \$1.13m of listed investments and 12m shares in the Acuity Capital ATM facility.	

## Mining exploration entity or oil and gas exploration entity quarterly cash flow report

8.8.3 Does the entity expect to be able to continue its operations and to meet its business objectives and, if so, on what basis?

Answer: Yes, the company expects to continue to fund its activities which are regularly reviewed and adjusted according to available funding.

*Note: where item 8.7 is less than 2 quarters, all of questions 8.8.1, 8.8.2 and 8.8.3 above must be answered.*

## Compliance statement

- 1 This statement has been prepared in accordance with accounting standards and policies which comply with Listing Rule 19.11A.
- 2 This statement gives a true and fair view of the matters disclosed.

Date: .....30 October 2024.....

Board of Directors

Authorised by: .....  
(Name of body or officer authorising release – see note 4)

## Notes

1. This quarterly cash flow report and the accompanying activity report provide a basis for informing the market about the entity's activities for the past quarter, how they have been financed and the effect this has had on its cash position. An entity that wishes to disclose additional information over and above the minimum required under the Listing Rules is encouraged to do so.
2. If this quarterly cash flow report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the definitions in, and provisions of, *AASB 6: Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources* and *AASB 107: Statement of Cash Flows* apply to this report. If this quarterly cash flow report has been prepared in accordance with other accounting standards agreed by ASX pursuant to Listing Rule 19.11A, the corresponding equivalent standards apply to this report.
3. Dividends received may be classified either as cash flows from operating activities or cash flows from investing activities, depending on the accounting policy of the entity.
4. If this report has been authorised for release to the market by your board of directors, you can insert here: "By the board". If it has been authorised for release to the market by a committee of your board of directors, you can insert here: "By the [name of board committee – eg Audit and Risk Committee]". If it has been authorised for release to the market by a disclosure committee, you can insert here: "By the Disclosure Committee".
5. If this report has been authorised for release to the market by your board of directors and you wish to hold yourself out as complying with recommendation 4.2 of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations*, the board should have received a declaration from its CEO and CFO that, in their opinion, the financial records of the entity have been properly maintained, that this report complies with the appropriate accounting standards and gives a true and fair view of the cash flows of the entity, and that their opinion has been formed on the basis of a sound system of risk management and internal control which is operating effectively.