



# **Cautionary Statement**

Certain sections of this report contain forward looking statements that are subject to risk factors associated with, among others, the economic and business circumstances occurring from time to time in the countries and sectors in which the Astron Corporation Limited and its controlled subsidiaries ('Astron Group' or 'Astron') operates. It is believed that the expectations reflected in these statements are reasonable, but they may be affected by a wide range of variables which could cause results to differ materially from those currently.

# **Forward Looking Statements**

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This document may include "forward looking statements" within the meaning of securities laws of applicable jurisdictions. Forward looking statements can generally be identified by the use of the words "anticipate", "believe", "expect", "project", "forecast", "estimate", "likely", "intend", "should", "could", "may", "target", "plan", "guidance" and other similar expressions. Indications of, and guidance on, future earning or dividends and financial position and performance are also forward-looking statements.

Such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are beyond the control of Astron and its related bodies corporate, together with their respective directors, officers, employees, agents or advisers, that may cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statement. Actual results, performance or achievements may vary materially from any forward-looking statements and the assumptions on which those statements are based.

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Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward looking statements and Astron assumes no obligation to update such information. Specific regard should be given to the risk factors outlined in this report (amongst other things). This report is not, and does not constitute, an offer to sell or the solicitation, invitation or recommendation to purchase any securities and neither this report nor anything contained in it forms the basis of any contract or commitment.

# Corporate Governance Statement

Astron Corporation Limited's Corporate Governance Statement for 2024 can be found on Astron's website at: www.astronlimited.com.au

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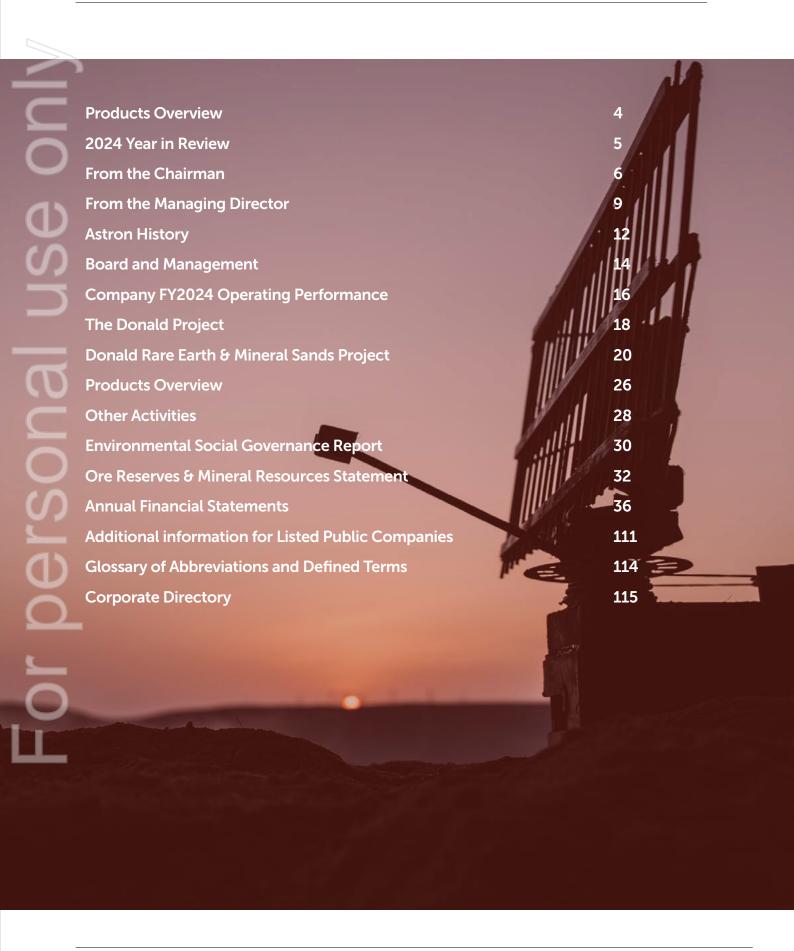
Rhenium

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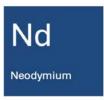
Zircon minerals are zirconium silicates (ZrSiO4). They are widely used in the manufacture of ceramics, such as tiles and sanitaryware; refractories and other coatings with casting  $\theta$  foundry applications; special coatings for glass and marine equipment; as well as in a range of other speciality applications.

Cutting-edge technology for solid state batteries, which will enable the use of long-range electric vehicles, is expected to use zirconium and lithium metal alloys.



Titanium is predominately used in the paint and pigment industry, titanium-based paint is safe and non-hazardous; titanium metal is used in aerospace and healthcare.

# Rare Earths – Critical for the Energy Transition









Rare earths, comprising of the lanthanide series and scandium and yttrium, are a group of chemically similar metallic elements. Rare earths have wide-ranging applications in energy transition, most notably in permanent magnets which are used in electric vehicles, or wind power generation.

Rare earths are also used in consumer electronics and strategic defence industries. The demand for rare earths is forecast to increase exponentially, most notably for the magnet elements of Neodymium, Praseodymium, Terbium, Dysprosium, which are found in monazite and xenotime minerals.

Astron's Donald Project holds the world's fourth largest, rare-earth resource.

#### Rehabilitated Land



Astron places the utmost importance on rehabilitating the land it mines, and recognises rehabilitated land as one of its core products. Mineral sands mining involves the progressive rehabilitation of excavated land back to its original land use, whether it be pastoral, cropping or native vegetation.

Through detailed planning and test-work (Astron has excavated and rehabilitated test pits, which now host productive agricultural crops), and adherence to stringent protocols for the restoration of areas excavated. Astron is confident that it can reinstate the soil to a condition that closely resembles its original state.



# **2024 YEAR IN REVIEW**



# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

#### **Dear Shareholder**

Astron's achievements in the financial year to 30 June 2024 have propelled the Donald Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project to a leading position globally among projects which are targeting the looming supply shortfalls in the valuable zircon and titanium feedstock markets, as well as those planning to meet the increasing demand for rare earths from western world supply chains.



These achievements are only possible through the commitment and hard work of the Company's growing team of professionals, and the support of its shareholders and the members of the communities in which it operates.

With the ability to produce both valuable heavy minerals and rare earths, and its potentially greater than 50-year life, the Donald Project will be strongly represented in two diverse and largely independent market sectors. This provides greater protection against adverse market demand and price cycles than is available to single sector minerals operations.

Furthermore, with its suite of light (neodymium and praseodymium) and heavy (terbium and dysprosium) rare earth elements, the project can support both the high volume and the high price segments of the rare earths market. These attributes place the Donald project in a unique position to grow value for Astron's shareholders.

Foremost among Astron's achievements during the year is the execution of a joint venture agreement with the US critical minerals company, Energy Fuels Inc. The agreement, whereby Energy Fuels can earn up to a 49% interest in the joint venture, is described more fully in this Annual Report. It provides for Energy Fuels to fund \$183 million of project development cost which is a substantial component of the total funding requirement for the first phase of the Donald Project.

In accordance with the agreement Energy Fuels issued US\$3.5 million of its stock to Astron when the conditions precedent to the joint venture were satisfied in September 2024, and a further US\$14 million will be issued when the final investment decision to proceed with project development is made by the joint venture partners.

Prior to the satisfaction of all conditions precedent to the joint venture agreement, Energy Fuels funded project expenditure by way of an interest-free loan which was then converted to joint venture equity. The final investment decision is expected in the first quarter of CY2025.

The Donald Project joint venture agreement also provides for Energy Fuels to purchase 100% of the project's rare earths product for processing at its plant in Utah. Importantly, this will establish a rare earths value chain between Australia and the United States which is aligned with the Australian Government's Critical Minerals Strategy.

Under the agreement, Astron has the option to purchase up to 100% of the projects' heavy minerals product (a concentrate containing zircon and titanium dioxide minerals) for further processing at its mineral separation plant in Yingkou, China or sale to third parties.

Other notable achievements during the year include the submission, towards the end of CY2023, of the draft Donald Project Work Plan to the Earth Resources Regulator within the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. The Victorian Government approval of the Work Plan is the final major regulatory approval required for the project to proceed to construction.

The Work Plan describes the nature and scale of the proposed mining activities, identifies and assesses all risks which the works may pose to the environment and to the public, details the nature of community engagement, and includes a risk management plan for the purpose of eliminating or minimising identified risks and monitoring performance. At the time of writing, Astron understands that the Work Plan approvals process is well-advanced with approval expected prior to the end of CY2024.

In February 2024, the Company announced the execution of an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) agreement, for the first phase of the Donald Project, with Sedgman Pty Ltd, a leading Australian engineering and construction firm with extensive experience in mineral processing solutions.



The ECI phase of the project is a vital step towards finalisation of the full project delivery contract for the processing plant and associated infrastructure. It involves the optimisation of the technical solution, the execution strategy, and other relevant services to progress the development of the project. The ECI will be followed by detailed design for the processing plant. Work under the ECI agreement is continuing into the second half of CY2024.

Subsequent to the 2024 financial year-end, the Company announced the conversion to equity of convertible notes with a face value of \$6 million and a corresponding reduction in the Company's borrowings.

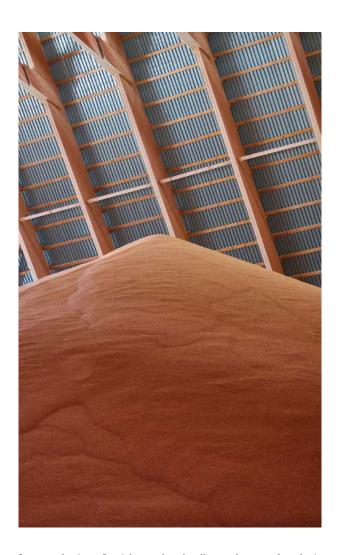
The Convertible notes had been issued to Collins Street Asset Management (CSAM) which has been a long-term supporter of the company and its business strategy. The conversion of the notes resulted in CSAM becoming a substantial shareholder of Astron Corporation Limited, with an interest of 6.3% in the issued capital of the Company.

Astron's Chinese operations were hampered by the shortage of suitable feedstocks throughout the year. However, successful testing of feedstocks from third parties, and subsequent discussions about long term processing arrangements, have the potential to support higher plant utilisation in the future.

Furthermore, evaluation of options to process part or all of the Donald Project heavy minerals concentrate at the Yingkou mineral separation plant, are continuing.

In other areas of the business, the Company has commenced negotiations with the Government of Senegal with a view to reinstatement of its Senegalese Mining Licence which the Company believes was invalidly withdrawn towards the end of CY2023. The Company is optimistic about achieving a positive outcome.

I wish to express my gratitude to my fellow board members who have made a significant contribution in terms of time, expertise and advice to the company's progress through the year. In particular, I note the contribution of Madam Kang Rong who stepped down from an executive director role, with responsibility for the Company's Chinese operations, to become a non-executive director. The Company has benefited greatly from Mdm Rong's capabilities and contributions over nearly 30 years.



In conclusion, I wish to thank all employees for their unstinting contribution to the Company's progress through the Financial Year and subsequently; it reflects their commitment, hard work, capability and collaborative approach.

In addition, I thank our corporate, financial and technical advisers who we also regard as key members of the team. The board values every member of the Astron team.

George Lloyd Chairman





# FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Donald Project is a long-life Tier 1 mining asset, comprising a world class reserve of rare earths, zircon and titanium minerals with the potential to generate significant value through low-risk conventional mining and heavy mineral processing operations.



In FY24, the Company undertook another significant step in its development journey. Most notably, in June, the company announced the execution of a binding Joint Venture agreement with Energy Fuels Inc., a United States-based and New York Stock Exchange listed critical minerals company,

to develop the Donald Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project and establish an independent rare earths supply value chain linking Australian minerals with U.S.-based processing facilities.

The Joint Venture will see Energy Fuels provide an equity investment of A\$183m, as well as issue to Astron Energy Fuels common shares to the value of US\$17.5m in two tranches. The investment in the Joint Venture is expected to satisfy most of the equity capital for the construction of the first phase of the Donald Project.

Energy Fuels is an ideal partner for Astron to bring the Donald Project to life. The companies have strongly complementary interests with Energy Fuels bringing technical excellence and knowledge as one of 3 companies in the Western world capable of producing rare earth oxides. Under the arrangement, Astron, with its long 35-year history in the mineral sands industry, will continue to focus on the zircon and titanium feedstocks and downstream markets while benefiting from the expansion of the global rare earths market.

#### **Donald Project**

With Joint Venture, funding and rare earths offtake secured, Astron will now focus on securing the project debt funding and delivering the Final Investment Decision (FID) for development to commence. To that end, a number of milestones were reached to facilitate an FID as early as the first quarter of FY25, these include:

- the submission of the Work Plan to the Victorian Earth Resources Regulator in October 2023 and on-going engagement;
- the appointment of Sedgman Pty Ltd as leading engineers to deliver the early contractor involvement package for the processing plant;
- the competitive tender and short-listing of key contract packages including earthworks, mining, transport and logistics; and
- the delivery of a detailed project execution plan and an operational readiness plan.

#### Market Outlook - Medium Term

The outlook for Mineral Sands products remains positive for the medium term as global demand for Zircon and Titanium Dioxide products remains stable and the existing sources of production continue to deplete. The traditional mainstays of zircon supply, notably those in Australia, are expected to deplete within the next 3-5 years.

The demand for rare earths in existing and emerging technology applications, as well as for energy transition, continues to increase against a backdrop where the Western world governments seek to secure an ex-China supply chain for these critical elements. Donald's proposed scale and development timing are crucial not only to meeting the supply requirements for the zircon industry but also to supply rare earths for the energy transition.



#### China

FY2024 was a challenging year for Astron's Chinese operations. Overcapacity in the Chinese mineral separation market, which will be be to the Donald Project's benefit, has proven to be a short-term detriment to operations at Yingkou.

During the financial year, heavy mineral concentrate prices remained high despite declining prices for the mineral sands products of ilmenite, rutile and zircon. Operating margins for mineral separation plants decreased across China, with many opting to produce at a loss to secure consistent feedstock supplies.

Under this market background, the Company carried out a number of significant changes to its Yingkou operations, these included:

- a strategic review of management and operations personnel;
- a review of the carrying value of assets; and
- the sale of non-core assets, including the return of land held in Bayuquan, China to the Liaoning government for RMB7.5 million which was received in H2 FY24.

# FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Despite the operations in China contributing to a gross loss of \$2.7 million for the year, the second half of the financial year saw improvements in operating efficiency and performance.

Post the financial year, the Company undertook a production trial of a new feedstock, which yielded positive results. This is expected to lead to a longer-term contract that will contribute towards turning the operations around in the coming financial year.

#### Senegal

In late 2023, prior to the election that saw the removal of the incumbent president, the government of Senegal issued an order purporting to withdraw the mining license granted to Senegal Mineral Resources SA (SMR), Astron's operating subsidiary.

Astron is of the view that the order is illegal and did not follow the necessary procedures as set out in the Mining Code of Senegal. Post the election, the Company is in discussions with the new government and is optimistic about achieving a positive outcome.

#### Gambia

As outlined in previous years, the republic of Gambia owes approximately A\$32 million to Astron by way of damages awarded by an International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) determination. This was a result of an illegal seizure of Astron's mining operation in the country.

While the recovery of the award is slow, the company remains determined to recover the award and will continue to pursue recovery with the help of its litigation funder.

# **Personnel Appointments / Changes**

As Astron continues to evolve, the company has added depth to its operational and project teams. Notable appointments include Grant Huggins, as General Manager of Operations, and Bruno Putrino, as Financial Controller.

Both, highly qualified, will bring decades of relevant mineral sands experience and make a significant contribution to the Astron team. In addition, the Company has appointed BG&E Resources Pty Ltd, as a dedicated project management office which will assist the Donald Project through the upcoming development phase.



"The Bourew women's section of Fongny Diabang Kounda supports the SMR company for the development of the mineral resources of Casamance. We ask the state and new government to support Senegal Mineral Resources for all resource exploitation."



# Integration

With Covid-19 in the rear-view mirror, the Company can once again leverage its global networks to achieve better outcomes. I wish to express my gratitude to members of our team and our contractors across the globe for their hard work over the previous year.

The operation of different divisions, however far apart, is interlinked through the aim of establishing Astron as a globally significant critical minerals producer.

#### **Next Steps**

I look forward, with great excitement, to the year ahead. Financial year 2025 is expected to be a pivotal year for Astron, with key targets of:

### **For Donald Project Phase 1**

- obtaining final approvals with all other key approvals received, the final outstanding approval is the approval is the project Work Plan, targeted for H2 CY24;
- finalising detailed project capital and operating estimates sufficient for a final investment decision to be taken;
- obtaining sufficient project financing most notably debt, where discussions are on-going and advanced; and
- 4. a positive final investment decision.

#### **For Donald Project Phase 2**

5. additional geological definition and delineation, to improve confidence in the existing resource, and target the finer 20–38-micron mineral fraction as well as the heavy rare earths containing xenotime mineral;

#### **For China Operations**

6. securing a long-term heavy mineral concentrate supply.

Along with our Chairman, I wish to thank our shareholders for their on-going support and commend the members of our team for their hard work. It is only with the benefit of your dedication and persistence, we are now much closer to realising the objective of establishing ourselves as a globally significant mineral sands producer.

Tiger Brown Managing Director





# **ASTRON HISTORY**

1987

Listed on ASX

Establishes zircon sales, marketing, chemical product processing in China

1988

Zirconium materials projects, China

1992

Shenyang Astron Mining Industries established Import of zircon sand into China, export of zircon chemicals

1996

Zircon flour, fused zirconium manufacturing facilities, China

1997

Zirconium chemical production JVs to expand zircon chemical production capacity

2000

Bayuchuan manufacturing facility, China - expanded fused zirconia production

2001

Advanced Materials UK established - sales and product service to European markets

2004

Acquired Donald Mineral Sands resource, Victoria Commencement of development evaluation

2007

Downstream zirconium production subsidiaries sold to Imerys S.A. Retained mineral sands trading activities, Shenyang Zircon, titanium, technical R&D operations, Yingkou, China

2009

Donald Project Environmental Effects Statement favourably assessed

2012

Ore Reserve Statement for part of Donald mining area Astron Corporation formed, ASX-listed, replacing Astron Limited Water rights for Donald project secured

2013

Completion of initial D.F.S for Donald project

2014

Construction of high purity zirconia production facility, China (completed 2017)

2015

Pilot plant treatment of Donald ore through wet concentrator plant

2017

Donald mine development and marketing studies progressed Initial detailed studies completed

2019

Excavation of second Donald bulk ore sample

2020

Donald HMC produced for further separation testing Hybrid mineral separation feasibility test work commenced

2022

Donald Project Mining Licence Mineral Resource updated, confirming the presence of significant rare earth elements







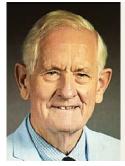
# **BOARD AND MANAGEMENT**



**George Lloyd** 

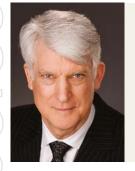
Chairman

George has over 40 years resource industry, corporate finance and business development experience. He has served as a senior executive and director of a number of listed and unlisted companies with interests in engineering services, industrial minerals, base and precious metals, energy, and corporate finance. His career included a number of years as a senior executive with the Australian company RGC Limited, which was a global leader in the mineral sands industry. George is also Chairman of Ausenco Pty Ltd, a global engineering services provider; Chairman of VBX Pty Ltd, a developer of Australian bauxite resources; and a non-executive director of Cemos Group Plc, a north African cement producer.



**Gerard King A.M.** *Non Executive Director* 

Gerard is a former partner of Lavan  $\vartheta$  Walsh, which became Phillips Fox Perth. Experienced in commercial contracting, mining law and corporate and ASX compliance. A former member of the Australian Mining  $\vartheta$  Petroleum Lawyers Association. Served as a non-executive director for several companies.



**Dr Mark Elliott**Non Executive Director

Mark has 27 years experience in corporate roles, both as chairman and managing director on several ASX-listed and private companies. Involved in identifying and securing resource projects, capital raisings, marketing and completing commercial agreements, feasibility studies, mine development plans and their execution.



**Rong Kang**Non Executive Director

Rong joined Astron in 1995 and has been a key contributor to the establishment of Astron's downstream processing and global marketing and sales activities, with a deep knowledge of the mineral sands product market and its key participants. Board member since 2012.





**Tiger Brown** *Managing Director* 

Tiger joined Astron in 2018, holding various business development planning and executive roles in China and Australia prior to joining the board in 2019. Appointed managing director in February 2021 and has overseen the detailed planning for the commercialisation of the Donald project.



**Sean Chelius**Donald Project Director

Sean joined Astron in January 2022 as the Project Director for the Donald Mineral Sands and Rare Earth project. Sean has over 30 years international experience in mining project planning and implementation, including full responsibility for taking projects from concept through to commissioning and production. His experience involves project management and engineering roles in Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea and Fiji with BHP, Anglo American, Newcrest, Ausenco and Worley Parsons.



**Greg Bell**Chief Financial Officer

Greg's advisory and corporate experience spans more than 21 years, working initially in corporate advisory and assurance services with Deloitte, followed by 8 years with Mineral Deposits Limited (MDL) as Accounting Manager and then Chief Financial Officer. Subsequent to MDL, Greg held both consulting and executive roles with international mineral sands and resource companies, including in the critical minerals sector.



**Jessica Reid** General Manager Sustainability

Experienced environmental and social professional working across Australia and PNG on natural resource and major infrastructure projects for over 18 years as Principal at Teltra Tech (formerly Coffey). Previous experience includes the delivery of Donald Project ESS and Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone in VIC, environmental approvals for the Wafi-Golpu Project, OK Tedi Life Extension in PNG.

# **COMPANY FY2024 OPERATING PERFORMANCE**

### **Operating Performance**

Financial Year 2024 was a transformational year for Astron as the Company prepares for the start of construction of the Donald Project in FY2025. This has included a number of significant milestones being reached, notably:

- submission of the Donald Project Work Plan, which is the final major permit outstanding, to the Earth Resources Regulator;
- execution of a binding joint venture agreement between Astron and Energy Fuels Inc. which provides for the majority of the equity funding required; and
- initiation of the early contractor involvement (ECI) phase with Australian leading mining project engineering company Sedgman Pty Ltd.

The Company recorded a consolidated net loss before tax of \$22,324,614 (2023: \$6,039,121) on sales revenue of \$12,216,920 (2023: \$14,458,725). The reduction in profitability over the previous year is largely attributable to:

- increased expenses associated with the progression of the Donald Project
- the impairment of development assets relating to the Niafarang Project in Senegal following the withdrawal of the Company's mining licence in October 2023; and
- a review of the carrying values of the assets of the Company's Chinese operations.

#### **Financial Performance**

Actual cash outflows from operations were A\$7,864,174 (2023: \$1,647,745), reflecting the increase of corporate overheads and project expenditure as the Donald Project ramps up. The Yingkou operations continued to experience a negative gross margin due in part to the high cost of raw materials and lack of stable supply which persisted throughout the year.

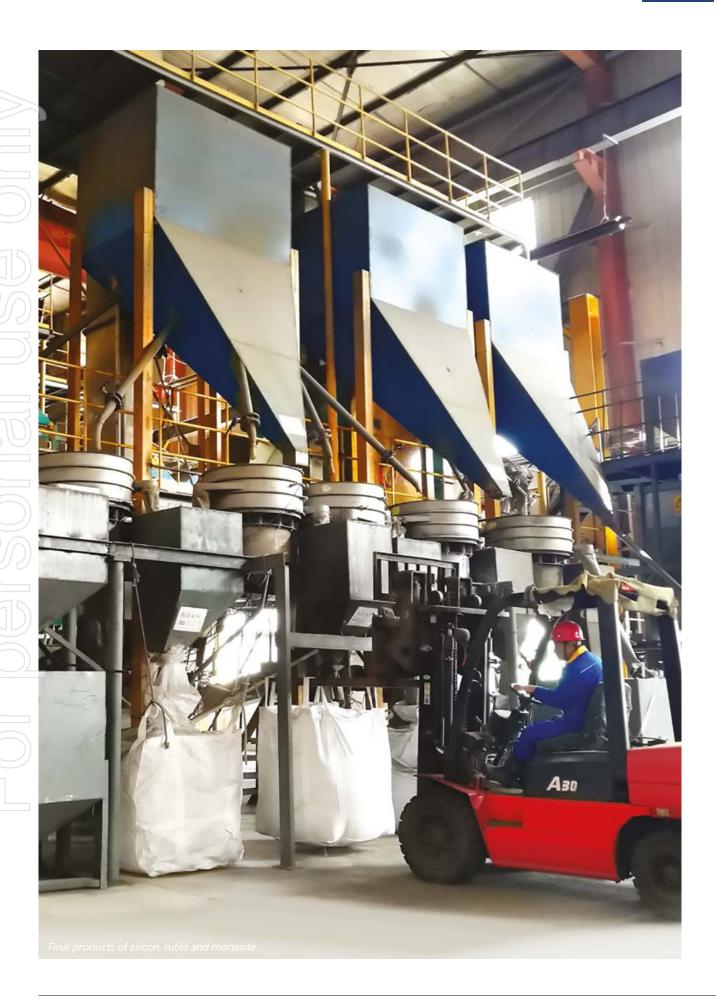
The Company's total borrowings including convertible notes at June 2024 totalled \$19,945,342 (2023: \$21,562,141). Borrowings include \$3,221,201 loans advanced by Energy Fuels as part of the initial project funding under the Joint Venture agreement, these loans have now been converted to joint venture equity.

Subsequent to year-end, \$6 million of convertible notes were redeemed as shares in the Company which reduced borrowings by approximately \$4.6 million.

Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June were \$2,745,799 (2023: \$7,204,674). Since June, Donald Project expenditure has been funded by Astron's joint venture partner Energy Fuels which reduces the Company's cash on hand requirements.

In the financial year 2024, \$7,639,145 was invested in exploration and evaluation (2023: \$5,855,362) of the Donald Project as pre-construction development activities ramped up.





# **The Donald Project**

# **KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- World's LARGEST zircon resource
- Globally 4<sup>th</sup> most significant rare earths resource
- Anticipated project life (over 40 years)
- Attractive economics for shareholders
- Generating wealth for the region and stakeholders
- Majority of equity funding secured

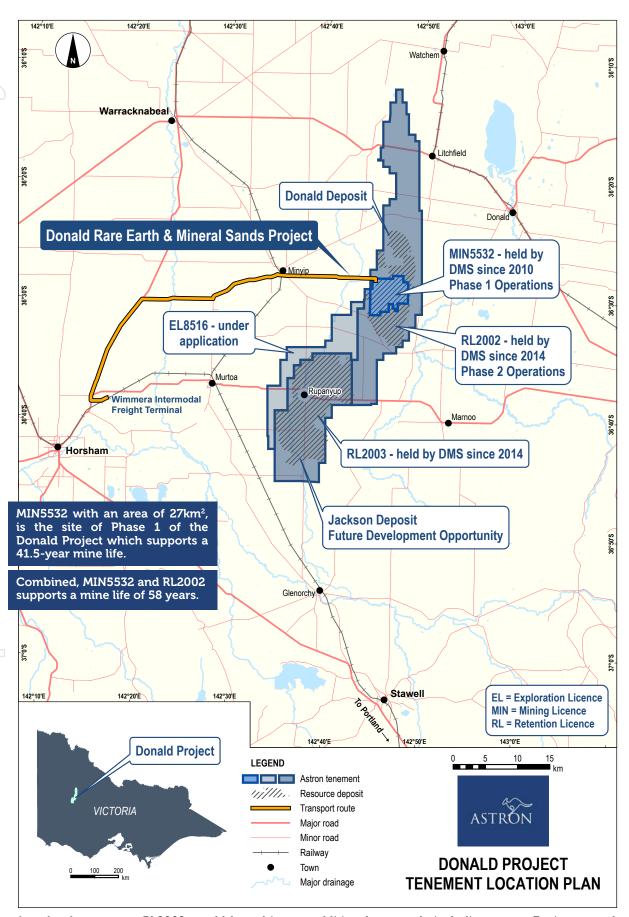
# **Overview**

The Donald Rare Earth & Mineral Sands Project (Donald Project) is a globally significant rare earth and mineral sands project located in the Wimmera region of Victoria, approximately 300kms north-west of Melbourne.

The project comprises the granted mining license MIN5532 (the site of the first phase development of the project), retention license RL2002 (which is the site of the second phase of project development), and retention license RL2003 covering a total project area of  $\sim 40,000$  hectares.

The area is mainly cleared land, used for cropping and grazing, and is located close to supporting infrastructure.





Any development on RL2002 would be subject to additional approvals including a new Environmental Effects Statement, and the conversion of a part of the RL2002 into a new mining licence.

# **DONALD RARE EARTH & MINERAL SANDS PROJECT**

The Donald Project will be developed in two-phases. Phase 1 activities are located on MIN5532, and Phase 2 is currently planned to be undertaken on RL2002

The Donald Project comprises two deposits, the Donald deposit and the Jackson deposit which, together contain a total Mineral Resource of 2.6 billion tonnes of ore at 4.6% heavy mineral (HM) content and includes the world's largest zircon resource with over 22Mt of in-situ zircon. The rare earth bearing monazite content alone, which equates to approximately 1.6Mt of total rare earth oxide (TREO) equivalents, ranks the Project as the fourth largest of its kind outside of China.

The Phase 1 and Phase 2 development activities will be carried out on the Donald deposit.

#### **Mining Operations**

Over the 41.5-year Phase 1 project life, mining operations will produce, on average, 7.5Mtpa of ore for processing to yield, on average, 229ktpa of heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) and 7.2ktpa of rare earth concentrate (REEC).

The key features of Phase 1 operations are:

- Conventional truck and shovel open-pit mining to be carried out by an independent contractor;
- Run of mine ore will be stockpiled and fed into a Mining Unit Plant (MUP) where it will be screened and slurried;
- Ore will be pumped to a Wet Concentrator Plant (WCP) to produce a mixed heavy mineral concentrate (HMC); and
- The mixed HMC will be fed to the concentrate upgrade plant (CUP) where it will be separated by flotation into final products consisting of a rare earth element concentrate (REEC) and an HMC containing zircon and titanium dioxide minerals.

Phase 2 will duplicate Phase 1 operations on RL2002 and approximately, double ore throughput and production of HMC and REEC, it will be subject to additional approvals and permitting requirements.

#### **Financials**

Phase 1 delivers strong returns based on the Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS), which was released on 26 April 2023.

- \$852 million After tax NPV8 based on an average annual forecast Revenue of \$314m and \$148m of EBITDA
- 25.8% internal rate of return
- **41.5**-year mine life and a 3.75 year payback of the capital investment

- Accesses only 17% of the total Donald Project Mineral Resource
- **\$392** million total Capital Requirement, including \$364m of capital expenditure and \$28m of working capital, at a 12% contingency (February 2023 values)
- **500** FTE jobs into the local region including 180 FTEs directly employed by the Company

The Current Phase 1 capital cost estimate is expected to be within the range \$450 - \$490 (August 2024 values)

The combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 operations are forecast to generate an after tax NPV of \$2.2 billion over a 58-year mine life, according to the Phase 2 prefeasibility study released on 27 June 2023. It is expected that Phase 2 equity requirements will be largely funded through internally generated cashflows from Phase 1.

#### **Project Finance**

On 6 June 2024, Astron executed a binding Joint Venture Agreement, for the development of the Donald Project with Energy Fuels Inc., a U.S.-based critical minerals company. This partnership was formed following approximately six months of discussion and due diligence after both parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding to investigate the joint development of the Project.

#### **Highlights**

- \$183 million investment satisfies majority of Phase 1 equity requirement
- 100% of rare earth offtake for Phase 1 and 2 secured by Energy Fuels
- Rare Earth offtake to feed Energy Fuel's rare earth processing facility at White Mesa Mill in Utah
- Astron appointed as joint venture manager
- Astron has right to 100% of HMC offtake with options to process at its Yingkou Mineral Separation Plant

Under the terms of the Joint venture, Astron will contribute 100% of the Donald deposit, which is contained within mining licence MIN5532 and retention licence RL2002. Energy Fuels will invest \$183 million to earn a 49% interest in the Venture. This earn-in amount comprises:

 \$1.5 million which has already been paid, by way of an exclusivity fee, and used for project development activities,



an immediately available interest-free loan to fund 100% of Project activities until the satisfaction (or waiver) of the Conditions Precedent, following which the loan was converted to equity in the joint venture company, and

• sole funding of the balance of Donald Project development costs up to the earn-in amount.

On expenditure of the full earn-in amount, Energy Fuels will earn a 49% interest in the joint venture and Astron will retain a 51% interest. It is expected that Energy Fuel's investment will satisfy most of the equity capital requirement for Phase 1 of the Donald Project. The remaining capital is expected to be debt-funded at the joint venture company level. If additional equity capital is required, it will be funded by the parties pro-rata to their Venture interests.

Energy Fuels will also issue its common stock with a value of US\$17.5 million to Astron in two tranches, US\$3.5 million upon the satisfaction of conditions precedent to the Venture becoming effective and US\$14.0 million upon approval of the Final Investment Decision (FID) for Phase 1 of the Donald Project. The first tranche was issued subsequent to financial year-end.

Astron will remain responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Project through its wholly owned subsidiary, Astron Mineral Sands Pty Ltd, which will be the manager of the Venture. After the start of Phase 1 commercial production, it is intended that the Venture will proceed to develop Phase 2 of the Project as soon as reasonably practical.

#### **Binding REEC Offtake**

The REEC Offtake Agreement provides for Energy Fuels to purchase all of Donald REEC from the joint venture on a take-or-pay basis for the life of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects (which indicatively is 58 years).

Energy Fuels will process the REEC at its White Mesa refinery in Utah to produce rare earth oxides for a wide range of uses including electric vehicle and wind turbine motors, defence systems, and sophisticated componentry in many domestic and industrial applications.

Historically, heavy rare earth elements have been sourced from mines in the south of China which are depleting. Processors have been turning to sources in lower regulatory and human rights control environments to meet the increasing heavy rare earth demand.

With a high content of heavy rare earths in the Donald REEC, the Astron/Energy Fuels joint venture will provide an ethical source of strategic heavy rare earth elements that is auditable from mine to final product.

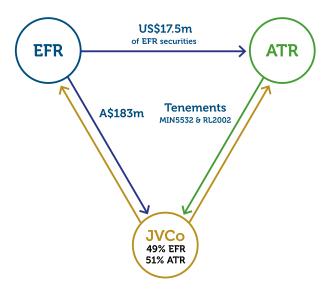
The joint venture will deliver between 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes per year of REEC to Energy Fuels over the life of the Phase 1 Project. Following the commissioning of the Phase 2 Project, Energy Fuels will purchase approximately 13,000 tonnes to 14,000 tonnes of REEC per year.

The REEC Offtake Agreement will come into effect following the Venture's Final Investment Decision for Phase 1 of the Donald Project.

The price of REEC will be based on a formula derived from the market price of the constituent rare earth oxides, a payability factor, and the actual assemblage of the REEC product. The Venture will be responsible for organising transport to Energy Fuels' White Mesa Mill in Utah.

#### **Joint Venture Transaction Structure**

See the following diagram for an overview of the Transaction between Energy Fuels (EFR) and Astron (ATR). See the ASX announcement dated 4th June 2024 for a detailed summary of Joint venture terms.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Conditions Precedent include the transfer of assets, comprising the Donald deposit tenements (MIN5532 and RL2002) and Astron's Donald Project water rights, to the joint venture company, and Energy Fuels obtaining Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) approval of its investment in the Project. The transfer of assets has been completed post year end and is detailed in the asx announcement dated 15/07/2024.

# **Donald Rare Earth & Mineral Sands Project**

#### **Transaction Rationale**

Energy Fuels is a leading US-based critical minerals company. The Company, as the leading producer of uranium in the United States, mines uranium and produces natural uranium concentrates that are sold to major nuclear utilities to produce carbon-free nuclear energy. Energy Fuels recently began the production of advanced rare earth element materials, including mixed REE carbonate, and plans to produce commercial quantities of separated REE oxides.

The entities, Astron and Energy Fuels, have strongly complementary interests. Energy Fuels' primary focus is the recovery and sale of rare earths products from the Donald Project, whereas Astron's primary focus is on the production and sale of the Donald Project's mineral sands products, being zircon and titanium feedstock.

The joint venture will develop the Donald Project as a long-life source of critical minerals and establish a Western rare earth value chain with Energy Fuel's rare earth processing facility in the U.S.

#### **Geological Evaluation**

A 20-hole sonic drilling program was conducted in the second half of the year on tenement MIN5532. Drilling targeted geotechnical investigations and additional bulk density analysis that was completed at ATC Williams laboratories. The drilling also provided additional bulk samples for processing into HMC and REEC samples that were sent to prospective customers for evaluation.

#### **Project Works Tenders**

As the project continues to ramp up towards the expected start of construction next year, tender proposals from a range of high calibre contractors across multiple work packages have been received and evaluated.

Mining tender commercial and technical adjudications have been finalised and site visits have been held. The tender package for earthworks was issued to several earthmoving contractors. In addition, tenders have been issued for pipe-line supply and installation, accommodation village supply and installation, product transport and logistics, water/sewage treatment plants and general communications infrastructure.

# **Regulatory approvals**

The Donald Rare Earth and Minerals Sands Project has been subject to detailed evaluation over many years, with all main regulatory approvals completed or well advanced. It is the only critical minerals project in Victoria that has the benefit of the positively assessed EES, a federal EPBC licence and a granted mining licence. In addition, it owns water rights which are sufficient to meet the requirements of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 operations.

The work plan is the major outstanding approval before construction. Astron has submitted a revised work plan after addressing formal feedback from government agencies. The final approval of the Work Plan is targeted in H2 CY2024 and will pave the way for construction commencement in early 2025.

Advanced Regulatory Approval Status				
Key Approval Requirement	Completed	Date	Expiry	
Environmental Effects Statement	✓	2008	N/A	
EPBC (federal)	✓	Mar-09	2034	
Cultural Heritage Management Plan	✓	Jan-14	Life of mine	
Mining Licence – MIN55321	✓	Aug-10	Aug-30	
Water Rights <sup>2</sup>	✓	Jan-12	Jan-41	
Radiation Licence <sup>3</sup>	✓	Dec-20	Dec-26	
Work Plan	Pending	Target H2 2024	Life of mine	

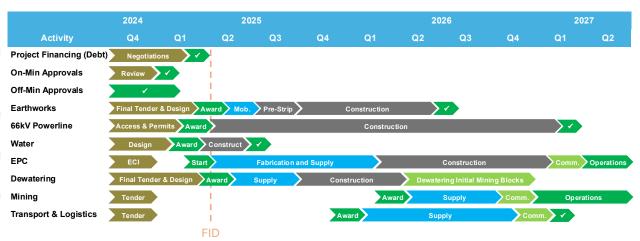
#### Notes

- 1. Renewal of a Mining Licence in Victoria involves an application to the government outlining the term of the licence renewal, the reasons for renewal (such as an operating mine), details of the proposed operations for the renewal term and estimated expenditure for the following five years. The maximum term for a mining licence in Victoria is 20 years.
- 2. Water Rights include a 6.975 GL water entitlement purchased with option to renewal from GWM Water in 2012 for A\$17m, sufficient for Phase 1 δ Phase 2.
- 3. Radiation Licence was first issued in 2014 and have since been renewed periodically, most recently renewed in December 2023.



# **Project Timeline**

The project has a dedicated and achievable timeline to first production and positive cash flows



Note: The above timetable is current as at the date of this report and is subject to change as the Venture continues pre-construction activities and signs definitive contracts with contractors and service providers for construction of the Project

This, combined, with the additional engineering work (see below) will form the basis for the Final Investment Decision planned in FY2025.

# **Process Plant Engineering**

Towards the end of CY2023, the Company executed an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) agreement with Sedgman Pty Ltd, a member of the CIMIC Group. Sedgman is a leading Australian engineering and construction firm with extensive experience in mineral processing solutions across the project lifecycle.

Sedgman has completed value optimisation exercises across the processing plant design. Finalised process design basis and criteria have been agreed; these have informed work on procuring the required materials and equipment for construction. All tenders relating to process plant equipment supply, pre-assembly and construction have been issued. Quantities for all major commodity and equipment requirements have been determined and are largely within DFS estimates.

#### Non-process infrastructure

#### Road

Integrated services, including the overhead powerline, water pipeline and road upgrades, will be installed along a road corridor between Minyip and the mine site. Evaluations of road alignment options and design were completed to minimise potential impacts on flora along the route. The preliminary road upgrade designs were submitted and subsequently endorsed by the Yarriambiack Shire Council.

#### **Power**

Astron has continued to work closely with Powercor to progress the design and approvals for the 66kV overhead

powerline from Horsham substation to the mine site. Work included preparing submissions for necessary approvals, design development and studies relating to earthing, heritage and ecology.

#### Water

A design package for the provision of raw water to the project was completed. In-principle approval of the water pipeline design was received by GWM Water, the local water system operator, following which, the Company entered into a developer agreement to commence design for permitting applications.

Plans for a tie-in operation to connect the project water pipeline to the existing GWM pipeline have been developed and approved by GWM. The tie-in is planned for the low-demand winter period. Two separate tenders have been issued for the tie-in works and pipeline supply and installation.

#### Accommodation

A suitable parcel of land for the accommodation village site was identified and leased. Several site studies have been completed including noise modelling, storm water and bush fire analysis. These studies helped form a submission to the local government for planning permits. Subsequent to financial year-end, the Company received the approval from the shire for the accommodation village.

Further activities over the accommodation village site included design of the village power supply.

#### **Transport and logistics**

HMC and REEC product transport tenders have been issued. The Company has received a number of conforming proposals from experienced and competent Australian logistic service providers.

# **Donald Rare Earth & Mineral Sands Project**

# **Approvals and Permitting**

#### Work plan

Under the Victorian Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990, authorisation of mining work is granted by a Work Plan approved by the Head of Earth Resources Regulation (ERR).

The Work Plan, sometimes referred to as a 'Mining Plan' or 'Permit of Works' in other jurisdictions, is the main regulatory approval outstanding prior to construction of Phase 1 of the Donald Project.

The Work Plan describes the nature and scale of the proposed mining activities, identifies and assesses all risks which the works may pose to the environment and to the public, details the plan for community engagement, and includes a risk management plan for the purpose of eliminating or minimising identified risks and monitoring performance.

The Work Plan is a culmination of environmental assessments undertaken by the Company on areas including but not limited to, flora and fauna, surface water, ground water, air quality, noise, visual impacts and radiation. The Donald project Work Plan included 17 detailed operational management plans.

In October 2023, the Company submitted its Work Plan proposal to the Earth Resources Regulator. Following the receipt of feedback, a revised submission was lodged in June 2024 and is now under assessment. Final approval of the Work Plan is targeted by the end of CY2024.

#### Other Items

- In December the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) confirmed that the only permit it required under the Environment Protection Act
   2017 for the Donald Project is the A18, relating to the inpit tailings cells. Preparation of this permit application is underway.
- Retention Licence RL2003, which covers Astron's Jackson deposit, was renewed to 9 October 2031.
- In April, the Company's radiation management licence, which expired in December 2023, was renewed until December 2026.

### **Operational Readiness**

Astron has developed a comprehensive operational readiness plan with the help of external consultants BG&E Pty Ltd for the eventual transition from construction into operations. In addition, post the Financial Year close, Astron made a number of key appointments including the General Manager of Operations, who will lead the Company into next phrase of its evolution.

# **Marketing and Sales**

#### Rare earths market

Donald's REEC, contains the rare earth bearing minerals monazite and xenotime. Total rare earth oxide (TREO) demand is forecast to increase from 2022 to 2035 at a CAGR of 6.0%, driven by the expansion of the permanent magnet sector, in line with increasing demand for electric vehicles, wind turbines and many emerging high technology applications.

China has historically dominated rare earth supply, accounting for 70% of world mine production in 2022. Increasing demand for rare earths has improved the economics of prospective mining projects, with numerous projects outside of China aiming to reach production over the next decade.

The second half of FY2024 saw a decline in rare earth prices, largely driven by the weakness in the consumer electronics sector, which remains the major area of demand, this was exacerbated by the less than anticipated demand for EVs and hybrid vehicles compared to forecast. The price is showing signs of recovery in the new financial year and structurally, the supply demand outlook remains favourable.

Very few new projects are expected to come online in time to meet forecast demand, which may lead to shortages for certain rare earth elements. The Donald Project, with its short development timeframe, is well placed to take advantage of this opportunity.

# Major Rare earth element applications

- Wind Turbines
- Battery Alloys
- Solar Arrays
- Electric Vehicles



# **Donald project REEC attributes**

An important characteristic of the Donald REEC, which differentiates the project from many of the western world rare earth producers, is its relatively high xenotime content.

Xenotime is a source of the valuable heavy rare earths Dysprosium and Terbium which are particularly important in the production of powerful, heat tolerant magnets with special applications in electric vehicles. The other main rare earth mineral in Donald REEC is Monazite which contains the less valuable lighter rare earths neodymium and praseodymium. The Donald Deposit has a high xenotime to monazite ratio of greater than 0.3:1.

#### **HMC** product

Extensive metallurgical test work undertaken by Astron, with the support of Mineral Technologies, has characterised the Donald HMC product. Following removal of the rare earth content, the Project will target a 95% heavy mineral grade, resulting in a higher proportion of valuable minerals and less waste than is typically found in heavy mineral concentrates.

In addition, given its favourable zircon assemblage, the Donald HMC is expected to contain higher zirconium dioxide (ZrO2) concentration than competitor HMCs, increasing its value to mineral sands processors.

The Company has conducted separation testing of Donald HMC into final products at laboratory and pilot plant scales. Zircon recovery was 85%, with 71% recovered as premium zircon and 14% as secondary zircon. Recovery of a combined titania product was 86%. The test work demonstrates the ability to achieve commercial recoveries of final products from Donald's HMC product.

#### **Zircon market**

Declining zircon supplies globally have created economic tailwinds for producers. The current global zircon consumption is approximately 1.2Mtpa. Ceramics is the major end-use for zircon, accounting for approximately half of the total demand. Demand is driven by urbanisation and consumption trends, which historically have been led by China.

In the short term, economic conditions in China are reducing demand. However, in the medium term, production will be insufficient to meet current levels of demand. Untill recently, zircon supply has been concentrated between a small number of key players who accounted for about 60% of global supply.

However, due to resource depletion and/or grade decline, these suppliers only accounted for 45% of global zircon production in 2021 and their position has continued to weaken. The increasing scarcity is projected to create supply shortages, and the Donald Project represents a timely source that will benefit from increasing prices.

#### **Zircon Attributes**

Metallurgical test work undertaken on Donald HMC indicates a high proportion of premium grade zircon can be commercially recovered. Furthermore, the test work shows Donald zircon has high whiteness levels and low levels of impurities in comparison with competing zircon products. This provides a distinct competitive advantage for supply to the ceramics market.

#### **Titania Attributes**

Titanium feedstocks are primarily used in the production of TiO2 pigment, which has a wide range of applications including paint, plastics, and coatings. To meet the requirements of the pigment production process, relatively low grade TiO2 minerals can be processed into intermediate products with higher TiO2 content, such as titanium slag.

Test work indicates that Donald Project titania is a desirable feedstock for producing titanium slag for the Chloride TiO2 pigment process, known as chloride slag. As a product, with high TiO2 content and low calcium content, Donald titania has particular application as a "sweetener" (or higher titanium dioxide content) for existing chloride slag feeds.

#### **HMC Offtake**

During the March quarter, Astron received formal letters of intent from several mineral separation plant operators in China which are interested in entering into Donald HMC offtake agreements, either for direct offtake or for toll-processing to produce marketable zircon and titanium dioxide products.

Astron has evaluated the responses and selected two prospective partners to which it has issued further HMC samples for separation testing and analysis. Negotiations are on-going and will be finalised prior to a positive final investment decision.

The Company is also in negotiations with several prospective end-user counterparties for offtake agreements. These include slag, pigment, ceramics, and zirconium chemicals producers.

#### **Project Finance**

The Company has engaged RPM Global as an independent technical expert to prepare project technical and environmental due diligence reports for provision to potential lenders to the project. The Company continues to work with its debt advisors, ICA Partners, on the roadmap to obtaining attractive project financing.

# **PRODUCTS OVERVIEW**

In addition to being a globally significant rare earths project, the Donald Project, with the largest zircon resources in the world, is a major potential source of zircon and titanium minerals. This diverse mineral characterisation distinguishes Donald from all other development-ready mineral sands and rare earth projects.

Based on the Phase 1 Donald Project Definitive Feasibility Study, which was released on 26 April 2023, the project has a revenue split of 57% rare earths and 43% mineral sands over its greater than 40-year mine life.

With over 35 years of market experience in mineral sands downstream processing, Astron is looking forward to leveraging its strong market connections and knowledge in the development of the Donald Project.

# **Titanium - Applications:**





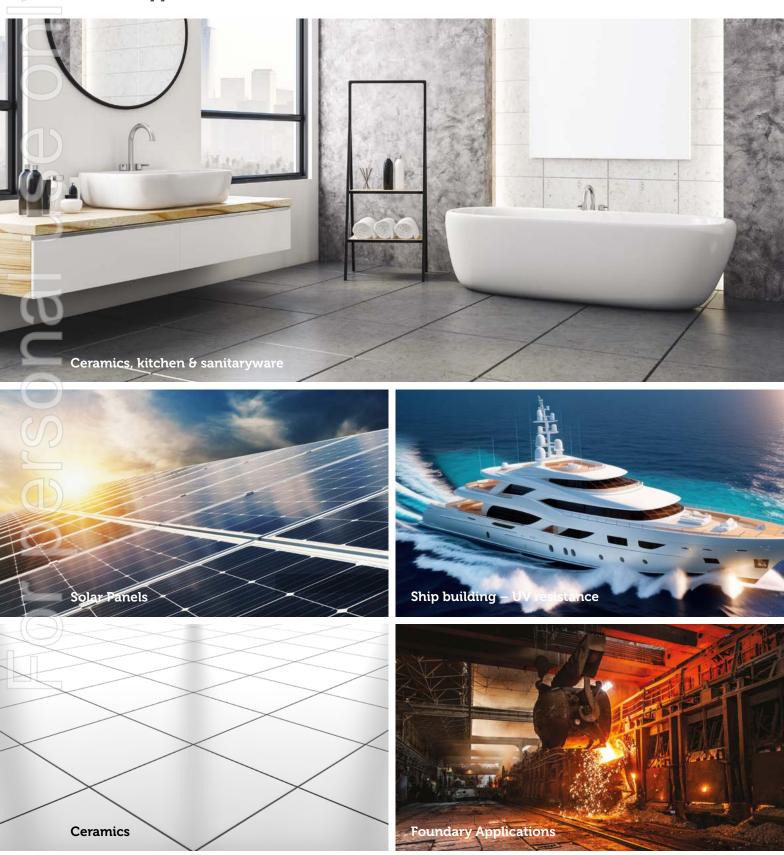








# Zircon – Applications:



# OTHER ACTIVITIES



# **Astron China Operations**

In Yingkou, Liaoning, Astron operates a mineral separation plant with an annual feed capacity of 150,000 tonnes. The company holds intellectual property and production capabilities in a range of minerals processing areas, including pure hafnium-free zirconia production; a method for reducing impurities in zircon; fine rutile recovery and agglomeration.

The Yingkou mineral separation plant undertakes two main commercial operations, the processing of concentrates and middlings (including zircon and rutile) to final products of zircon and rutile, as well as agglomeration technology to produce a pelletised rutile product from fine rutile feedstock and chloride slag fines.

At the beginning of the year the market supply for heavy mineral concentrates into China was tight, with many processing operations unable to obtain feedstocks and being idle or under-utilised. Astron experienced issues with the delivery of feedstock due to both availability and shipping delays.

Astron has been in negotiations with raw material suppliers to secure long-term feedstock supply to the Yingkou plant and has been provided a bulk sample for processing trials which involve the recommissioning and start-up of the Mineral Separation Plant.

If the outcome of the bulk trial is successful, it is anticipated that Astron will enter into a long-term supply contract for the raw material and will restart steady-state production, albeit at a less than full capacity through-put, at Yingkou.

#### Other opportunities

Astron's China team has been exploring options to facilitate processing of the Donald heavy mineral concentrate at the Yingkou mineral separation plant with minimal capital expenditure.

This included working with the Changsha Institute, the leading mineral sands process engineers in China, to re-evaluate the existing process flow diagram, which was designed by Mineral Technologies, and exploring equipment options with suppliers.

The Company has been able to negotiate the return of land it owned in BaYuQuan district, Yingkou, Liaoning to the government in exchange for RMB7.5m (~A\$1.6m), with proceeds received in the first half of 2024. Astron China will continue to rationalise its non-core asset holdings in China.



# West-African Business Update Niafarang Project

The Niafarang Project is located within a 397 square kilometre exploration licence area on the Casamance coast of Senegal, West Africa. Astron has the rights to a licence issued under Order Number 09042/MIM/TMG through its subsidiary company, Senegal Mineral Resources SA ("SMR"). Exploration and mining titles were granted to SMR in 2017, including a Small Mining Licence ("SML") which has been recently renewed with a term expiring in May 2027.

The Ministry of Mines and Geology in Senegal (Ministry) has now issued an order purporting to withdraw the authorisation granted to SMR to operate the SML.

SMR is of the view that the order issued by the Ministry is invalid on the basis that it does not comply with the procedures set out in the Mining Code of Senegal, as the requisite procedures (including certain requirements for formal notices) were not followed.

Further, the basis of the withdrawal is, in SMR's view, also invalid as one of the bases of the purported withdrawal is that the temporary resettlement of a small, localised population to allow mining activities to commence has not occurred. Under the mining code, resettlement depends on actions to be taken by the local and provincial officials in Senegal rather than by the holder of the licence.

SMR has commenced a mediation process under which an independent mediator has been appointed to seek resolution with the Ministry.

This is a mandatory process and, under the mediation process in Senegal, the mediator will make a decision based on his or her findings. This decision is subject to a right of appeal by either party under a more formal arbitration process.

Progress of the mediation process commenced by SMR in December 2023 has been slow due to the political uncertainty in Senegal caused by the initial delay of Presidential elections, and then the subsequent reinstatement of the elections. With the election now completed, the Company is optimistic about achieving a positive outcome with regard to the mediation. Local Astron representatives have commenced engaging with the new government led by Mr Ousmane Sonko, whose main electoral base is situated in the Project location. It is expected that the election of the new government will be beneficial to bringing the mediation process to a close

The cost of, and involvement of Astron's Australian personnel in, the mediation process is minimal.

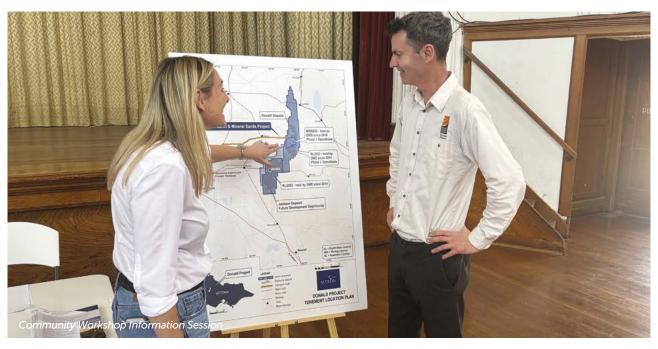
# **Gambian Litigation Progress**

As outlined in previous years, in 2015 Astron was awarded damages through an International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) determination in relation to the Gambian Government's seizure of the Astron-Carnegie minerals sands project in Gambia.

Recovery of the initial award of approximately A\$32 million continues to be slow, however the Company has entered into a litigation funding agreement to expedite the recovery of this award at no further cost to the Company.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE REPORT**

#### Overview



# Safety

Astron is committed to responsible mining practices to promote the safety of its people and others involved in the development and operation of the project. There were no material safety incidents during the year ended 30 June 2024. Safe operations will continue to be prioritised in plans for the Donald Project going forward, especially as the project nears the construction phase.

#### Community

Aston has continued to build upon its local relationships and seek beneficial outcomes for local communities alongside the development of the Donald Project. Regular and transparent engagement with stakeholders through project updates, timely responses to queries and considering feedback is an important aspect of Astron's social licence to operate within the community.

Activities include regular coffee drop-in sessions and community events, in addition to formal project updates and presentations to shire councils and members of the community reference group.

Senior management personnel continue to undertake regular site visits to meet with local groups, council representatives, and community organisations. Astron team members regularly meet with affected landowners during field activities.

During the financial year, the Company renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with Yarriambiack Shire Council to include an additional focus on delivering housing through local partnerships. Astron has delivered on this through providing investment support to the Murtoa Housing Initiative, which aims to build affordable housing units in the nearby township of Murtoa.

Astron also sponsored a number of community organisations and worked with the local health service on the establishment of a new site office in the town of Minyip.

The Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) Corporation has hosted cultural awareness training for Astron personnel. We appreciate their generosity in dedicating their time and sharing valuable insights.

Consulting firm RPS has been engaged to support further development and implementation of the Company's stakeholder engagement strategy, strengthening Astron's ability to communicate regularly and widely, ensuring that such communications are tailored to the stakeholders' needs, and providing further capacity to act on community feedback.

#### **Environment**

Astron has committed significant resources to meeting the environmental regulatory requirements in developing the Donald Project. These include preservation of flora and fauna, collaboration with local indigenous groups to preserve culturally significant artifacts and a comprehensive rehabilitation plan.

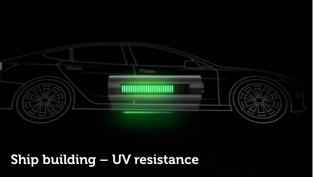


# Climate risk / Strategy

Rare earth mines in Australia such as the proposed Donald Project play an important role in the green energy transition by supplying essential minerals needed for renewable energy technologies.

These minerals, including neodymium, praseodymium, terbium and dysprosium that are contained in the Donald Project resource, are crucial for manufacturing the powerful magnets used in wind turbines and electric vehicles. Astron is also committed to establishing performance targets for greenhouse gas emissions for its operations that are aligned with State and Federal standards and targets.











# **ORE RESERVES & MINERAL RESOURCES STATEMENT**

The following provides an overview of the JORC 2012 compliant Ore Reserves and Mineral Resources for the Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project. The Ore Reserves and Mineral Resources Statement is based on, and fairly presents, information and supporting documentation prepared by a competent person and the Ore Reserves and Mineral Resources as a whole have been approved by a named competent person, as seen in the Competent Persons Statement on page 37.

#### **Ore Reserves**

Astron announced updated Ore Reserves totalling 309Mt at 4.4% HM for MIN5532 on 31 March 2023 (Table 1). The Ore Reserve estimate is based on the MIN5532 Mineral Resource estimate, announced to the ASX on 1 December 2022 that used heavy liquid separation analysis to estimate tonnes, HM, slimes and oversize plus valuable heavy mineral data. Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources were converted to Proved and Probable Ore Reserves respectively, subject to mine design, modifying factors and underlying economic evaluation.

Astron announced updated RL2002 Ore Reserves totalling 516Mt at 4.6% HM on 27 June 2023 (Table 1). The Ore Reserve estimate is based on the RL2002 Mineral Resource estimate, announced to the ASX on 7 April 2016. Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources were converted to Proved and Probable Ore Reserves respectively, subject to mine design, modifying factors and underlying economic evaluation.

Based on the announced updates to the Ore Reserves for MIN5532 and RL2002, total Ore Reserves of the Donald Deposit increased by 223Mt (37%). Total in-situ zircon reserves increased by 22.6% to 6.7Mt and in-situ monazite reserves increased by 32.0% to 648.2kt.

The Ore Reserve Statement is reported in accordance with the guidelines of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves, 2012 Edition and ASX Listing Rules (JORC Code (2012). The Statement includes a revised Ore Reserves estimate of the Donald project that complies with the requirements of the JORC Code (2012). There have been no changes to Ore Reserves or Mineral Resource Estimates during the year ended 30 June 2024.

Table 1: Ore Reserve for Donald Deposit (MIN5532 and RL2002) as at 30 June 2024

					% of total HM					
Classification	Tonnes (mt)	Total HM (%)	Slimes (%)	Oversize (%)	Zircon	Rutile	Ilmenite	Leucoxene	Monazite	Xenotime
MIN5532										
Proved	263	4.4	15.4	9.8	16.7	5.5	21.6	25.9	1.8	0.67
Probable	46	4.1	19.7	11.1	15.3	5.5	21.3	20.1	1.8	0.64
Total	309	4.4	16.1	10.0	16.5	5.5	21.6	25.1	1.8	0.66
Within RL2002 outside of MIN5532										
Proved	152	5.6	7.1	18.8	21.1	9.4	31.3	18.2	1.8	-
Probable	364	4.1	13.7	15.7	17.1	7.5	32.8	19.3	1.6	-
Total	516	4.6	11.7	16.6	18.6	8.2	32.3	18.9	1.7	-
Total Donald Deposit										
Proved	415	4.8	12.4	13.1	18.6	7.2	25.7	22.6	1.8	See Notes
Probable	410	4.1	14.4	15.2	16.9	7.3	31.5	19.4	1.6	See Notes
Total	825	4.5	13.4	14.1	17.8	7.2	28.4	21.2	1.7	See Notes

#### Notes to Table 1:

- 1. The ore tonnes have been rounded to the nearest 1Mt and grades have been rounded to one decimal place except for xenotime which is rounded to two decimal places.
- 2. The Ore Reserve is based on Indicated and Measured Mineral Resource contained within mine designs above an economic cut-off.
- 3. A break-even cut-off has been applied defining any material with product values greater than processing cost as Ore.
- 4. Mining recovery and dilution have been applied to the figures above.
- 5. The updated RL2002 Ore Reserve does not include an announced figure on xenotime due to historical samples used in the Ore Reserve calculation not being analysed for xenotime. Further drilling work consisting of a maximum of 958 drillholes may be undertaken to further define the Ore Reserve and delineate the xenotime content. Metallurgical test work confirms the existence of xenotime to be relatively consistent across the mineral deposit, which represents upside to the announced combined rare earth mineral figures. Thus, the xenotime content of the entire Donald Deposit has not been stated.
- 6. The rutile grades are a combination of rutile and anatase minerals.
- 7. The Ore Reserve estimates have been compiled in accordance with the guidelines defined in the 2012 JORC Code



The Ore Reserve estimate was prepared by AMC Consultants Pty Ltd, an experienced and prominent mining engineering consultancy with appropriate mineral sands experience in accordance with the JORC Code (2012 Edition). The Ore Reserve is estimated using all available geological and relevant drill hole and assay data, including mineralogical sampling and test work on mineral recoveries and final product qualities.

The Company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the Ore Reserve estimate and confirms that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimate continue to apply and have not materially changed.

#### **Mineral Resources**

Mineral Resources only used heavy liquid separation analysis to estimate tonnes, HM, slimes and oversize for the Donald Project using a 1%HM cut-off grade. Resources were last estimated for MIN5532 on 1 December 2022 with RL2002 and RL2003 on 7 April 2016. These Mineral Resources represent resource estimates with and without valuable heavy mineral (VHM) data to provide a guide to the total potential tonnes and HM% for the Donald and Jackson deposits. Resources without VHM data were not used in the Ore Reserve Estimation by AMC. The Mineral Resources for the Donald and Jackson deposits based on 1%HM cut-off grade is shown in Table 2.

Based on the updated Mineral Resource for MIN5532 as outlined above, total Mineral Resources reported above a 1% total HM cut-off increased by 69Mt (1.2%), highlighted by a 3.1% increase in inferred resources to 737Mt.

Table 2: Mineral Resource above a 1% total HM cut-off as at 30 June 2024

3	Classification	Tonnes (mt)	Total HM (%)	Slimes (%)	Oversize (%)	
١	Within MIN5532					
J	Measured	394	4.2	16	10	
1	Indicated	110	3.5	24	11	
I	Inferred	20	2.3	22	14	
•	Subtotal	525	4.0	18	10	
١	Within RL2002 outside of	MIN5532				
J	Measured	343	3.9	20	8	
I	Indicated	833	3.3	16	14	
]	Inferred	1,595	3.3	16	6	
9	Subtotal	2,771	3.4	16	9	
•	Total within Donald Depo	sit (RL2002)				
J	Measured	737	4.1	18	9	
1	Indicated	943	3.3	17	13	
I	Inferred	1,615	3.3	16	6	
•	Subtotal	3,296	3.5	17	9	
-	Total within Jackson Dep	osit (RL2003)				
I	Measured	-	-	-	-	
1	Indicated	1,903	2.8	19	6	
1	Inferred	584	2.9	17	3	
9	Subtotal	2,487	2.9	19	5	
•	Total Donald Project					
I	Measured	737	4.1	18	9	
1	Indicated	2,846	3.0	18	8	
1	Inferred	2,199	3.2	16	5	
•	Total	5,783	3.2	17	7	

#### Notes to Table 2

- 1. MRE is based on heavy liquid separation (HLS) analysis only.
- 2. The total tonnes may not equal the sum of the individual resources due to rounding.
- 3. The cut-off grade is 1% HM.
- 4. The figures are rounded to the nearest: 1M for tonnes, one decimal for HM and whole numbers for slimes and oversize.

The Australian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves, 2012 Edition, sets out minimum standards, recommendations and guidelines for public reporting in Australia of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves authored by the Joint Ore Reserves Committee of The Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Australian Institute of Geoscientists and Minerals Council of Australia.

# Table 3: Mineral Resource where VHM data is available reported above a 1% total HM cut-off as at 30 June 2024

					% of total HM					
Classification	Tonnes (mt)	HM (%)	Slimes (%)	Oversize (%)	Zircon	Rutile/ Anatase	Ilmenite	Leucoxene	Monazite	Xenotime
Within MIN5532										
Measured	394	4.2	16	10	16	7	21	24	1.8	0.66
Indicated	110	3.5	24	11	15	6	19	18	1.7	0.61
Inferred	20	2.3	22	14	13	7	19	20	1.4	0.55
Subtotal	525	4.0	18	10	16	7	21	23	1.8	0.65
Within RL2002 outside of MIN5532										
Measured	185	5.5	19	7	21	9	31	19	2.0	
Indicated	454	4.2	16	13	17	7	33	19	2.0	
Inferred	647	4.9	15	6	18	9	33	17	2.0	
Subtotal	1,286	4.8	16	9	18	8	33	18	2.0	
Total within Do	nald Dep	osit (RL2	2002)							
Measured	579	4.6	17	9	18	8	25	22	1.9	
Indicated	564	4.1	17	13	17	7	31	19	2.0	
Inferred	667	4.8	15	6	18	9	33	17	2.0	
Subtotal	1,811	4.6	16	9	18	8	30	19	1.9	
Total within Jackson Deposit (RL2003)										
Measured	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Indicated	668	4.9	18	5	18	9	32	17	2.0	
Inferred	155	4.0	15	3	21	9	32	15	2.0	
Subtotal	823	4.8	18	5	19	9	32	17	1.0	
Total Donald Project										
Measured	579	4.6	17	9	18	8	25	22	1.9	
Indicated	1,232	4.5	18	9	17	8	31	18	2.0	
Inferred	822	4.7	15	5	18	9	33	17	2.0	
Total	2,634	4.6	17	8	18	8	31	18	2.0	

#### Notes to Table 3

- 1. MRE is based on heavy liquid separation analysis and where valuable heavy minerals (VHM) have been determined.
- 2. The total tonnes may not equal the sum of the individual resources due to rounding.
- The cut-off grade is 1% HM.
- The figures are rounded to the nearest: 1Mt for tonnes, one decimal for HM, monazite, whole numbers for slimes, oversize, zircon, rutile + anatase, ilmenite and leucoxene and two decimals for xenotime.
- 5. Zircon, ilmenite, rutile+anatase, leucoxene, monazite and xenotime percentages are reported as a percentage of HM.
- 6. Rutile + anatase, leucoxene and monazite resource has been estimated using fewer samples than the other valuable heavy minerals outside MIN5532. The accuracy and confidence in their estimate is therefore lower.

#### **GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROLS**

Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve are compiled by qualified Astron personnel and / or independent consultants following industry standard methodology and techniques. The underlying data, methodology, techniques and assumptions on which estimates are prepared are subject to internal peer review by senior Company personnel, as is JORC compliance. Where deemed necessary or appropriate, estimates are reviewed by independent consultants.



Competent Persons named by the Company are members of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and / or the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and qualify as Competent Persons as defined in the JORC Code 2012.

#### **COMPETENT PERSONS STATEMENT**

The information in this document that relates to the estimation of the RL2002 Mineral Resources is based on information compiled by Mr Rod Webster, a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Webster is a full-time employee of AMC Consultants Pty Ltd and is independent of Astron Corporation Limited, the owner of the Donald Project Mineral Resources. Mr Webster has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not materially modified from the relevant original market announcement.

The information in this report that relates to the MIN5532 Mineral Resource estimate is based on, and fairly reflects, information and supporting documentation compiled by Mrs Christine Standing, a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mrs Standing is a full-time employee of Optiro Pty Ltd (Snowden Optiro) and is independent of Astron Corporation Limited, the owner of the Mineral Resources. Mrs Standing has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not materially modified from the relevant original market announcement.

The information in this document that relates to the estimation of the Ore Reserves for MIN5532 is based on information compiled by Mr Pier Federici, a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Federici is a full-time employee of AMC Consultants Pty Ltd and is independent of Astron Corporation Limited. Mr Federici has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not materially modified from the relevant original market announcement.

The information in this report that relates to the RL2002 Ore Reserve estimate is based on, and fairly reflects, information and supporting documentation compiled by Mr Pier Federici FAusIMM(CP), a Competent Person who is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Federici is a full-time employee of AMC Consultants Pty Ltd (AMC) and is independent of Astron Corporation Limited, the owner of the Ore Reserve. Mr Federici has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Federici consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER ASX LISTING RULES, CHAPTER 5

The supporting information below is required, under Chapter 5 of the ASX Listing Rules, to be included in market announcements reporting estimates of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves.

#### PREVIOUSLY REPORTED INFORMATION

This report includes information that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves prepared and first disclosed under the JORC Code 2012 and a Bankable Feasibility Study. The information was extracted from the Company's previous ASX announcements as follows:

- RL2002 Ore Reserve Update "RL2002 Ore Reserve Update and Project Financial Update" 27 June 2023
- MIN5532 Ore Reserve Update "Donald Project MIN5532 Ore Reserves Update" 31 March 2023
- MIN5532 Mineral Resource Update "Donald Project Mining Licence Mineral Resource Update" 1 December 2022
- RL2002 Mineral Resources "Donald Mineral Sands Project Mineral Resource Update" 7 April 2016

These announcements are available to view on Astron's website at www.astronlimited.com.au

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the relevant market announcements and, in the case of estimates of Mineral Resources, Ore Reserves and the Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project Definitive Feasibility Study and Phase 2 Pre-Feasibility Study, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the relevant market announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not been materially modified from the relevant original market announcements.



# **Astron Corporation Limited**

ARBN 154 924 553, Incorporated in Hong Kong, Company Number: 1687414

**Annual Financial Statements** 

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Hong Kong Company Number: 1687414, ARBN 154 924 553

# **Annual Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

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Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

The Directors of Astron Corporation Limited (Astron or the Company) present their report, together with the consolidated financial statements of the Company and its controlled entities (the Group), for the year ended 30 June 2024 and the audit report thereon.

#### **FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

Net tangible asset value per share	Down	1,036%	То	(7.72) cps
Revenue, Interest Income and Other Income	Down	(16.5%)	То	13,725,316
Net cash flow from operating activities	Down	\$6,218,284	То	(7,866,029)
Loss before tax	Down	\$16,285,493	То	\$(22,324,614)
Loss after tax attributable to members	Down	\$17,134,692	То	\$(24,865,684)
Total comprehensive loss	Up	\$16,438,138	To	\$(24,553,144)

# PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES / BUSINESS ENTITIES

Astron is a Hong Kong incorporated company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). The principal activities undertaken by wholly-owned subsidiary companies include:

- exploration, evaluation and development work through Astron Pty Limited and Donald Mineral Sands Pty Limited to advance the Group's holding of the Donald Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project in regional Victoria to a Final Investment Decision (FID). The project will consist of an initial phase involving the mining and concentrating of heavy mineral bearing ore to produce a rare earth element concentrate (REEC) and mineral sands heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) for sale to domestic and international processors;
- the operation of titanium-based materials processing activities, including a mineral separation plant at Yingkou, China, the evaluation and advancement of downstream applications for zircon and titanium, as well as procurement and trading activities through the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Ltd; and
- the evaluation and the progression of regulatory approvals in relation to the Niafarang mineral sands deposit in Senegal.

Revenue is currently generated from the Group's China-based processing operations. Both the Donald Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project (Donald Project) and the Niafarang mineral sands project are at a pre-execution and pre-production stage.

During the year ended 30 June 2024, the Company entered into a joint venture agreement with Energy Fuels Inc (Energy Fuels) in relation to the Donald Project whereby Energy Fuels will contribute \$183 million in cash and US\$17.5 million in Energy Fuels stock in exchange for a 49% interest in the Donald Deposit (comprising the granted mining licence MIN5532 and retention licence RL2002) and an offtake agreement for 100% of the Donald Project's Phase 1 and Phase 2 rare earth element concentrate product (REEC). Completion of the joint venture is subject to customary conditions precedent which, at the date of this report, are yet to be satisfied. Other than the above, there were no other significant changes to the Group structure in the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

# DIRECTORS

The names of directors in office during the year and up to the date of this report are:

Mr George Lloyd

Mr Tiger Brown

Mr Gerard King

Dr Mark Elliott

Mdm Kang Rong

# **DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY'S SUBSIDIARIES**

During the year and up to the date of this report, all of the directors of Astron were also directors of certain subsidiaries of the Company. Other directors of the Company's subsidiaries during the year and up to the date of this report are:

Mdm Jian Ping

Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

# **INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS**

Mr George Lloyd	Chairman (non-executive director)
Qualifications	Bachelor of Engineering Science in Industrial Engineering, UNSW Master of Business Administration, UNSW Stanford Executive Management Programme, Stanford University
Experience	Board member since 20 July 2021
	<ul> <li>Professional career has encompassed executive roles with RGC Limited; Elders Resources Limited; Southern Pacific Petroleum NL, Central Pacific Minerals NL and Australian Gas Light Company.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mr Lloyd is Chairman of engineering services group Ausenco Pty Ltd and Chairman of bauxite development company VBX Limited. He has held numerous directorships of public listed and private companies, including Metro Mining Limited, Pryme Energy Limited, Cape Alumina Limited, Equatorial Mining Limited, Goldfields Limited and Aurion Gold Limited</li> </ul>
Interest in Shares <sup>1</sup>	675,926 CDIs 1,200,000 unlisted share options
	,,o,ooo aoo opiioo
Special Responsibilities	Audit, Nomination & Remuneration Committees
Special Responsibilities  Directorships held in other listed entities	
	Audit, Nomination & Remuneration Committees
Directorships held in other listed entities	Audit, Nomination & Remuneration Committees  Not currently a director of any other listed company
Directorships held in other listed entities  Mr Tiger Brown	Audit, Nomination & Remuneration Committees  Not currently a director of any other listed company  Managing director
Directorships held in other listed entities  Mr Tiger Brown  Qualifications	Audit, Nomination & Remuneration Committees  Not currently a director of any other listed company  Managing director  B.S. (Economics), Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania
Directorships held in other listed entities  Mr Tiger Brown  Qualifications	Audit, Nomination & Remuneration Committees  Not currently a director of any other listed company  Managing director  B.S. (Economics), Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania  • Board member since 4 December 2019  • Mr Brown has worked with Astron business entities in China and Australia before being appointed a director in the role of Executive Director, Business Development. He was appointed Managing Director effective 17 February
Directorships held in other listed entities  Mr Tiger Brown  Qualifications  Experience	Audit, Nomination & Remuneration Committees  Not currently a director of any other listed company  Managing director  B.S. (Economics), Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania  • Board member since 4 December 2019  • Mr Brown has worked with Astron business entities in China and Australia before being appointed a director in the role of Executive Director, Business Development. He was appointed Managing Director effective 17 February 2021

Interest in Shares includes directly, indirectly, beneficially or potentially beneficially held shares.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

Mdm Kang Rong	Non-Executive director & Chairwoman of Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Ltd
Qualifications	B.E. (Chem), Shanghai University; Executive MBA, Chungking Graduate School
Experience	<ul> <li>Board member since 31 January 2012 (prior to that of Astron Pty Limited from 21 August 2006)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mdm Kang Rong joined Astron in 1995, originally as marketing manager of Astron in Shenyang and has since held a number of leadership roles, including acting as the group's Chief Operating Officer for a number of years before Mr Tiger Brown became Managing Director.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>In addition to her board position, Mdm Kang Rong is actively involved in managing the company's Chinese operations.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Prior to her time at Astron, Mdm Kang Rong worked as a Chemical Production Engineer at Shenyang Chemical Company (a major Chinese company based in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China) before moving to Hainan Island to work in sales and administration roles for Japanese trading company, Nissei Ltd</li> </ul>
Interest in Shares <sup>1</sup>	3,000,100 CDIs
Special Responsibilities	Chairwoman of Astron's China-based processing and trading operations, Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Ltd
Directorships held in other listed entities	Not currently a director of any other listed company
Mr Gerard King	Non-executive director
Qualifications	LLB, University of Western Australia AICD
Experience	<ul> <li>Board Member since 6 December 2011 (Astron Pty Limited, 5 November 1985)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Former partner of law firm Phillips Fox with over 30 years of experience in corporate and business advisory roles including as a director of a number of Australian public companies</li> </ul>
Interest in Shares <sup>1</sup>	1,900,890 CDIs and 100 Ordinary shares 400,000 unlisted share options
Special Responsibilities	Audit Committee
Directorships held in other listed entities	Not currently a director of any other listed company
Interest in Shares includes directly, ind	irectly, beneficially or potentially beneficially held shares.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

Dr Mark Elliott	Non-executive director
Qualifications	Diploma in Applied Geology, Ballarat School of Mines; Ph.D, University of New South Wales, FAICD, FAusIMM (CP Geo), FAIG
Experience	Board member since 25 January 2021
	Chartered professional accreditation as a geologist
	Commenced his career as a senior geologist with Anaconda Australia Inc
	<ul> <li>Subsequently held roles as Chairman and Managing Director of ASX-listed and private companies including Mako Gold Ltd, Hot Rock Ltd, Chinalco Yunnan Copper Resources Limited and Zirtanium Limited</li> </ul>
Interest in Shares <sup>1</sup>	438,993 CDIs 800,000 unlisted share options
Special Responsibilities	Chair of the Audit, Nomination & Remuneration Committees
Directorships held in other listed entities	Chairman of AuKing Mining Limited (retired October 2022), Non-executive director of Nexus Minerals Limited (retired November 2022) and Aruma Resources Limited (retired August 2022)

Interest in Shares includes directly, indirectly, beneficially or potentially beneficially held shares.

# **DIRECTORS' MEETINGS**

Throughout the year ended 30 June 2024, there were 11 directors' meetings. Eligibility and attendances were as follows:

Director	Eligible	Attended
Mr George Lloyd	11	11
Mr Tiger Brown	11	11
Mr Gerard King	11	11
Dr Mark Elliott	11	9
Mdm Kang Rong	11	10

During the year ended 30 June 2024, there were three Audit and remuneration committee meetings and two Nomination and Remuneration Committee meeting. Eligibility and attendances were as follows:

2	-	Audit 8	k Risk	Nomination & Remuneration		
	Director	Eligible	Attended	Eligible	Attended	
	Mr George Lloyd	3	3	2	2	
	Mr Tiger Brown	NA	NA	2	2	
	Mr Gerard King	3	3	NA	NA	
	Dr Mark Elliott	3	3	2	2	

# **SHARE OPTIONS**

During the year, there were no options over issued shares or interests in the Group granted to directors or key executives. At 30 June 2024, there were 2,000,000 share options over issued shares outstanding. (2023: 2,000,000).

Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

#### **OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL REVIEW**

#### **Business Highlights**

- During the year ended 30 June 2024, the Company entered into a joint venture agreement with Energy Fuels Inc (Energy Fuels) in relation to the Donald Project whereby Energy Fuels will contribute \$183 million in cash and US\$17.5 million in Energy Fuels stock to earn a 49% interest in the Donald Deposit (comprising the granted mining licence MIN5532 and retention licence RL2002) and an offtake agreement for 100% of the Donald Project's Phase 1 and Phase 2 rare earth element concentrate (REEC). Completion of the joint venture is subject to customary conditions precedent which, at the date of this report, are yet to be satisfied.
  - In October 2023, the Company submitted a draft Donald Project Work Plan to the Earth Resources Regulator within the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. The Victorian Government approval of the Work Plan is the Final major regulatory approval required for the project to proceed to construction. The Work Plan describes the nature and scale of the proposed mining activities, identifies and assesses all risks which the works may pose to the environment and to the public, details the nature of community engagement, and includes a risk management plan for the purpose of eliminating or minimising identified risks and monitoring performance. The Company understands that the Work Plan approvals process is well-advanced with approval expected prior to the end of CY2024.
- In February 2024, the Company announced the execution of an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) agreement, for the first phase of the Donald Project, with Sedgman Pty Ltd, a leading Australian engineering and construction firm with extensive experience in mineral processing solutions. The ECI phase of the project is a vital step towards finalisation of the full project delivery contract for the processing plant and associated infrastructure. It involves the optimisation of the technical solution, the execution strategy, and other relevant services to progress the development of the project. The ECI will be followed by detailed design and procurement of long lead-time equipment for the processing plant. Work under the ECI agreement is continuing into the second half of CY2024.
- Astron's Chinese operations were hampered by the shortage of suitable feedstocks throughout the year. However, successful testing of feedstocks from third parties and subsequent discussions about long term processing arrangements have the potential to support higher plant utilisation in the future. Furthermore, evaluation of options to process part or all of the Donald Project heavy minerals concentrate at the Yingkou mineral separation plant, are continuing.
- In October 2023, The Ministry of Mines and Geology in Senegal (Ministry) issued an order purporting to withdraw the authorisation granted to SMR to operate the small mine licence. The Company has commenced negotiations with the Government of Senegal with a view to reinstatement of its Senegalese Mining Licence which the Company believes was invalidly withdrawn. The Company is optimistic about achieving a positive outcome.

#### Financial results - key features

The main features of the 2024 financial results are provided below. Segmental results are provided in Note 4 to these financial statements, which provide information on the financial performance for the main business entities and activities of the Group.

#### Net loss

The Company recorded a consolidated net loss before tax of \$22,324,614 (2023: \$6,039,121), an increase in the net loss of \$16,285,493 or 269.7%. The primary reason for the significant decrease in profitability of the Company related to the impairment of development assets relating to the Niafarang Project in Senegal of \$9.596,089 following the withdrawal of the Company's mining licence in October 2023. Other significant non-cash items included impairment of trade and other receivables of \$1.2 million and impairment of inventory of \$0.9 million. The Yingkou operations continued to experience a negative gross margin during the year due, in part, to the high cost of raw materials and lack of a stable raw materials supply which persisted throughout the year.

# Revenue

Sales revenue decreased by 15.5% to \$12,216,920 (2023: \$14,458,725) primarily as a result lack of stable supply of raw materials throughout the year which prevented the Yingkou operations from operating at efficient levels.

#### **Expenses**

The Company's general and administrative expenses increased by \$2.2 million for the year ended 30 June 2024 to \$8,315,395 reflecting an increase in corporate activity such as consulting, legal costs arising from negotiation of the joint venture agreement with Energy Fuels, and the preparation for the Final Investment Decision for the Donald Project.

#### Operating cash flow

Cash outflows from operations were \$7,866,029 (2023: Operating cash outflows of \$1,647,745) reflecting an increase in the loss before tax offset by non-cash impairment charges as outlined above.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

#### Net assets

The Group's net assets as at 30 June 2024 decreased to \$80,164,529 (2023: \$90,496,303) as a result of capital raising activities during the year of \$13,752,342 (net of costs) offset by the Company's total comprehensive loss for the year of \$24,553,144 (2023: \$8,115,006).

#### **OPERATIONS REVIEW**

#### Donald

The Donald Rare Earth & Mineral Sands Project (Donald Project) is a globally significant rare earth and mineral sands project located in the Wimmera region of Victoria, approximately 300kms north-west of Melbourne. The project comprises the granted mining license MIN5532 (the site of the first phase development of the project), retention license RL2002 (which is the site of the second phase of project development) and retention license RL2003 covering a total project area of almost 43,000 hectares.

A number of key milestones were achieved during the year, including:

#### Joint venture with Energy Fuels

On 6 June 2024, Astron executed binding Joint Venture documents to develop the Donald Project with Energy Fuels, a U.S. based critical minerals company. This joint venture was formed following approximately six months of discussions and due diligence, after both parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding to investigate the joint development of the Project.

The key terms of the joint venture transaction include:

- Energy Fuels to earn a 49% interest in the joint venture and Astron to retain a 51% interest
- \$183 million investment by Energy Fuels which is expected to satisfy the majority of Phase 1 equity requirement
- 100% of rare earth offtake for Phase 1 and 2 secured by Energy Fuels
- Rare Earth offtake to feed Energy Fuel's rare earth processing facility at White Mesa Mill in Utah
- Astron appointed as joint venture manager
- Astron has right to up to 100% of HMC offtake with options to process at its Yingkou Mineral Separation Plant or provide it to third parties

Under the terms of the Joint venture, Astron will contribute 100% of the Donald deposit, which is contained within mining licence MIN5532 and retention licence RL2002. Energy Fuels will invest \$183 million in the project to earn a 49% interest in the joint venture. This earn-in amount comprises:

- \$1.5 million which has already been paid, by way of an exclusivity fee, and used for project development activities,
- an immediately available interest-free loan to fund 100% of Project activities until the satisfaction (or waiver) of the Conditions Precedent, following which the loan will be converted to equity in the joint venture company, and
- sole funding of the balance of Donald Project development costs up to the earn-in amount.

On expenditure of the full earn-in amount, Energy Fuels will have earned a 49% interest in the joint venture and Astron will retain a 51% interest. It is expected that Energy Fuel's investment will satisfy most of the equity capital requirement for Phase 1 of the Donald Project. The remaining capital is expected to be debt-funded at the joint venture company level. If additional equity capital is required, it will be funded by the parties pro-rata to their joint venture interests.

Energy Fuels will also issue to Astron common stock with a value of US\$17.5 million in two tranches, US\$3.5 million upon the satisfaction of conditions precedent to the joint venture agreement becoming effective and US\$14.0 million upon approval of the Final Investment Decision (FID) for Phase 1 of the Donald Project.

Astron will remain responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Project through its wholly owned subsidiary, Astron Mineral Sands Pty Ltd, which will be the manager of the joint venture. After the start of Phase 1 commercial production, it is intended that the joint venture will proceed to develop Phase 2 of the Project as soon as reasonably practical.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

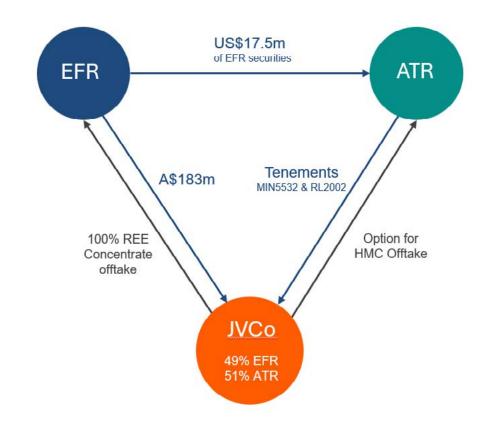
The REEC Offtake Agreement provides for Energy Fuels to purchase all of Donald REEC from the joint venture on a take-or-pay basis for the life of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects (which indicatively is 58 years). Energy Fuels will process the REEC at its White Mesa refinery in Utah to produce rare earth oxides for a wide range of uses including electric vehicle and wind turbine motors, defence systems, and sophisticated componentry in many domestic and industrial applications.

Historically, heavy rare earth elements have been sourced from mines in the south of China which are depleting. Processors have been turning to sources in lower regulatory and human rights control environments to meet the increasing heavy rare earth demand. With a high content of heavy rare earths in the Donald REEC, the Astron/Energy Fuels joint venture will provide an ethical source of strategic heavy rare earth elements that is auditable from mine to final product.

The joint venture will deliver between 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes per year of REEC to Energy Fuels over the life of the Phase 1 Project. Following the commissioning of the Phase 2 Project, Energy Fuels will purchase approximately 13,000 tonnes to 14,000 tonnes of REEC per year.

The REEC Offtake Agreement will come into effect following the joint venture's Final Investment Decision for Phase 1 of the Donald Project. The price of REEC will be based on a formula derived from the market price of the constituent rare earth oxides, a payability factor, and the actual assemblage of the REEC product. The joint venture will be responsible for organising transport to Energy Fuels' White Mesa Mill in Utah.

The below diagram provides an overview of the joint venture transaction structure:



Energy Fuels is a leading US-based critical minerals company. The Company, which is the leading producer of uranium in the United States, mines uranium and produces natural uranium concentrates that are sold to major nuclear utilities to produce carbonfree nuclear energy. Energy Fuels recently began the production of advanced rare earth element materials, including mixed REE carbonate, and plans to produce commercial quantities of separated REE oxides

The entities, Astron and Energy Fuels, have strongly complementary interests. Energy Fuels' primary focus is the recovery and sale of rare earths products from the Donald Project, whereas Astron's primary focus is on the production and sale of the Donald Project's mineral sands products, being zircon and titanium feedstock.

The joint venture will develop the Donald Project as a long-life source of critical minerals and establish a Western rare earth value chain with Energy Fuel's rare earth processing facility in the U.S.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

# Approvals and Permitting

Work plan

Under the Victorian Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990, authorisation of mining work is granted by a Work Plan approved by the Head of Earth Resources Regulation (ERR).

The Work Plan, sometimes referred to as a 'Mining Plan' or 'Permit of Works' in other jurisdictions, is the main regulatory approval outstanding prior to construction of Phase 1 of the Donald Project.

The Work Plan describes the nature and scale of the proposed mining activities, identifies and assesses all risks which the works may pose to the environment and to the public, details the plan for community engagement, and includes a risk management plan for the purpose of eliminating or minimising identified risks and monitoring performance. The Work Plan is a culmination of recent environmental assessments undertaken by the Company on areas including but not limited to, flora and fauna, surface water, ground water, air quality, noise, visual impacts and radiation. In total, the Work Plan included 17 detailed operational management plans.

In October, the Company submitted its Work Plan proposal to the Earth Resources Regulator in the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). In April, the Company received formal Victorian Government feedback on its Work Plan submission and has commenced activities to address the matters raised. These include consulting with government agencies to address the climate change, air quality, groundwater and noise aspects of the project to ensure that the Work Plan meets expectations. A revised submission was subsequently prepared and submitted to the government in June 2024 and is under assessment.

Final approval of the Work Plan is targeted prior to the end of CY2024.

#### Other Items

- In December the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) confirmed that the only permit it required under the Environment Protection Act 2017 for the Donald Project is the A18, relating to the in-pit tailings cells. Preparation of this permit application is underway.
- Retention Licence RL2003, which covers Astron's Jackson deposit, was renewed to 9 October 2031.
- In April, the Company's radiation management licence, which expired in December 2023, was renewed until December 2026.

# Geological Evaluation

A 20-hole sonic drilling program was conducted in the second half of the year on tenement MIN5532. Drilling targeted geotechnical investigations and additional bulk density analysis that was completed at ATC Williams laboratories. The drilling also provided additional bulk samples for processing into HMC and REEC samples that were sent for evaluation by prospective customers.

# **Project Works Tenders**

As the project continues to ramp up towards the expected start of construction early next year, adjudication of submissions from a range of high calibre contractors were received during the period across multiple work packages.

Mining tender commercial and technical adjudications have been finalised and site visits have been held. The tender package for earthworks was issued to several earthmoving contractors. In addition, tenders have also been issued for pipe-line supply and installation, accommodation village supply and installation, mining product transport and logistics, water/sewage treatment plants and general communication infrastructure.

This combined with the additional engineering work (see below) will form the basis for the Final Investment Decision planned in FY2025.

## **Process Plant Engineering**

Towards the end of CY2023, the Company executed an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) agreement with Sedgman Pty Ltd, a member of the CIMIC Group. Sedgman is a leading Australian engineering and construction firm with extensive experience in mineral processing solutions across the project lifecycle.

Sedgman has completed value optimisation exercises across the processing plant design. Finalised process design basis and criteria have been agreed; these have informed work on procuring the required materials and equipment for construction. All tenders relating to process plant equipment supply, pre-assembly and construction have been issued. Quantities for all major commodity and equipment requirements have been determined and are largely within DFS estimates.

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# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

#### Non-process infrastructure

#### Road

Integrated services including the overhead powerline, water pipeline and road upgrades will be installed along a road corridor between Minyip and the mine site. Evaluations of road alignment options and design were completed to minimise potential impacts on flora along the route. The preliminary road upgrade designs were submitted and subsequently endorsed by the Yarriambiack Shire Council during the period.

# Power

Astron has continued to work closely with Powercor to progress the design and approvals for the 66kV overhead powerline from Horsham substation to the mine site. Work during the quarter included preparing submission for necessary approvals, design development and studies relating to earthing, heritage and ecology.

#### Water

A design package for provision of raw water to the project was completed during the period. 'In-principle' approval of the water pipeline design was received from GWM Water (GWM), the local water system operators, following which the Company has entered into a developer agreement to commence design for permitting applications.

Plans for a tie-in operation to connect the project water pipeline to the existing GWM pipeline have been developed and approved by GWM. The tie-in is planned for the low-demand winter period to allow connection. Two separate tenders have been issued for the tie-in works and pipeline supply and installation.

#### Accommodation

A suitable parcel of land for the accommodation village was identified located and leased. Several site studies have been completed including noise modelling, storm water and bush fire analysis. These studies helped form a submission to the local government for planning permits. Subsequent to financial year end, the Company received approval from the shire with regards to the accommodation village.

Further activities over the accommodation village site included design of the village power supply.

#### Transport and logistics

HMC and REEC product transport tenders have been issued. The Company received a number of conforming proposals from experienced and competent Australian logistic service providers.

## Operational Readiness

Astron has developed a comprehensive operational readiness plan with the help of external consultants BG&E Pty Ltd for the eventual transition from construction into operations. In addition, post the Financial Year close, Astron made a number of key appointments including the General Manager of Operations, who will lead the Company into the natural next phrase of its evolution.

## Project Finance

The Company engaged RPM Global as an independent technical expert to prepare project technical and environmental due diligence reports for provision to potential lenders to the project. The Company continues to work with our debt advisors, ICA Partners, on the roadmap for obtaining attractive project financing. This included a recent workshop to finalise the debt process schedule following the equity commitment from Energy Fuels.

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# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

#### **China operations**

FY24 remained a challenging year at the Yingkou Mineral Separation Plant. Market supply for heavy mineral concentrates into China continued to be tight, operating well below optimum utilisation.

Astron has been in negotiations with raw material suppliers for the purpose of obtaining long-term feedstock supply to the Yingkou plant. In the fourth quarter, the operations received a bulk sample for processing trials. If the outcome of the bulk trial is successful, it is anticipated that Astron will enter into a long-term supply contract for the raw material.

# Other activities

Astron's China team has been exploring options to facilitate processing of the Donald heavy mineral concentrate at the Yingkou mineral separation plant with minimal capital expenditure. Activities included working with the Changsha Institute, the leading mineral sands process engineers in China, to re-evaluate the existing process flow diagram, which was designed by Mineral Technologies, and to conduct discussions with equipment suppliers to explore equipment options.

The Company has been able to negotiate the return of land it owned in BaYuQuan district, Yingkou, Liaoning to the government in exchange for RMB7.5m (~A\$1.6m), with funds received in July 2024. Astron China will continue to rationalise its non-core asset holdings in China.

# Senegal

The Niafarang Project is located within a 397 square kilometre exploration licence area on the Casamance coast of Senegal, West Africa. Astron has the rights to a licence issued under Order Number 09042/MIM/TMG through its subsidiary company, Senegal Mineral Resources ("SMR"). Exploration and mining titles were granted to SMR in 2017, including a Small Mining Licence ("SML") which has been recently renewed with a term expiring in May 2027.

The Ministry of Mines and Geology in Senegal (Ministry) has now issued an order purporting to withdraw the authorisation granted to SMR to operate the SML.

SMR is of the view that the order issued by the Ministry is invalid on the basis that it does not comply with the procedures set out in the Mining Code of Senegal, as the requisite procedures (including certain requirements for formal notices) were not followed. Further, the basis of the withdrawal is, in SMR's view, also invalid as one of the bases of the purported withdrawal is that the temporary resettlement of a small, localised population to allow mining activities to commence has not occurred. Under the mining code, resettlement depends on actions to be taken by the local and provincial officials in Senegal rather than by the holder of the licence.

SMR has commenced a mediation process under which an independent mediator will be appointed to seek resolution with the Ministry. The independent mediator will meet with both parties individually and will also facilitate a joint meeting of the parties. This is a mandatory process and, under the mediation process in Senegal, the mediator will make a decision based on his or her findings. This decision is subject to a right of appeal by either party under a more formal arbitration process.

The mediation process commenced by SMR in December 2023. Progress has been slow due to political uncertainty in Senegal caused by the initial delay of Presidential elections, and then the subsequent reinstatement of the elections.

With the election now completed, the Company is optimistic about achieving a positive outcome from the mediation. Local Astron representatives have commenced engaging with the new government. It is expected that the election of the new government will be beneficial to bringing the mediation process to a close.

The cost of, and involvement of Astron's Australian personnel in, the mediation process is minimal.

# **BUSINESS RISKS**

## Supply risk

The Company is dependent on renewing its existing supply contracts for rutile and zircon middlings to be processed through its plants in China. The Company is currently in advanced discussions with additional feedstock suppliers.

# **Funding risk**

The Donald Project is expected to require a significant capital investment. The Company may seek to raise funds through equity or debt financing or other means. The terms of such financing cannot be determined at this point and may result in delays in execution timelines for the project.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

#### Project execution risk

Project timeframes, capital expenditure, equipment availability, ability to access key personnel or a combination of these and other factors have been captured as potential risks in the risk matrix. Where foreseeable delays, which may cause either a delay in the completion of the Donald Project or an overrun in terms of capital expenditure or operational costs, are identified they will be allowed for in the risk matrix revisions and mitigated at that point.

#### Geopolitical risk

The Company intends to export its products from the Donald Project to various markets. There is a risk that geopolitical risks could adversely impact the proposed sales including intended sales to third parties or the Company's subsidiary operations in

#### Commercial and contract risk

Potential future earnings, profitability and growth are dependent on the Company's ability to successfully implement its business plans. The Company's ability to do so depends on a number of different factors, including matters which may be beyond the control of the Company.

# Commodity price risk

The Company's future revenues are expected to be derived mainly from mineral sands products, rare earth concentrate sales and royalties gained from potential joint ventures or other arrangements. Consequently, the Company's potential future earnings will likely be closely related to the price of such minerals which may fluctuate and exchange rate risks for products sold when denominated in currencies other than the Australian dollar.

## **Exchange rate risk**

The revenue, earnings, assets and liabilities of the Group may be exposed adversely to exchange rate fluctuations. The Company's revenue may be denominated in a foreign currency, and as a result, fluctuations in exchange rates could result in unanticipated and material fluctuations in the financial results of the Group.

#### **Environmental regulation**

The Group's operations and projects are subject to the laws and regulations regarding environmental compliance and relevant hazards of the jurisdictions in which it has interests and carries on business.

The Environmental Effects Statement for the Donald Project has been approved in Australia. The Group complies with all environmental regulations in relation to its operations and there were no reportable environmental incidents from its Australian operations.

In China, the Group continues working closely with the local authorities to maintain high standards. In relation to the manufacturing processes in China, there are no outstanding exceptions as noted by regular local government environmental testing and supervision.

To the best of the directors' knowledge, the Group has adequate systems in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of all environmental legislation within the jurisdictions in which it operates and is not aware of any breach of those requirements during the financial year and up to the date of the Directors' Report.

# Occupational health and safety

During the year there were 3 minor lost time injuries at the company's operations in Yingkou, China. The Company has undertaken steps, including a health and safety audit of the plant and plant operations, to improve employee safety.

# Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the Group's state of affairs during the financial year.

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# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

# **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

On 31 July 2024, the Company announced that all the convertible notes on issue had been converted into ordinary shares in the Company through the issue of 11,500,000 ordinary shares (including 11,111,111 shares relating to \$5,000,000 in principal notes and \$1,000,000 in interest notes and 388,889 ordinary shares as an early conversion fee). The ordinary shares issued to the convertible note holder are subject to a voluntary escrow period of twelve months from issue.

The Group has funding options available to provide support for ongoing operations. These funding options could be a mix of third parties or director/shareholder support and will be pursued as required.

No other matters or circumstances that have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Group, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Group in future financial years.

# **Likely Developments**

During the next financial year, the Group expects to:

- satisfy all conditions precedent to the Donald Project joint venture agreement with Energy Fuels becoming effective;
- receive final approval of the Victorian Mining Work Plan for the Donald Project;
- negotiate and confirm offtake agreements for HMC produced by the Donald Project;
- secure appropriate financing for the Donald Project through the most efficient mix of debt and equity funding;
- undertake a Final Investment Decision (FID) for the Donald Project; and
- continue engagement with the local community and regulators in relation to both the Donald Project and the Senegal Project;
- Chinese heavy mineral processing plant production expected to increase as supply agreements are realised.

For the Donald Project, the following represent the key work streams:

- finalisation of early contractor involvement to confirm engineering and design ready for construction commencement;
- complete final design and tender packages for key off-site infrastructure including overhead powerline, water and road upgrades and accommodation village;
- complete tender packages for key operating contracts including mining services and transport and logistics;
- complete final capital and operating cost estimates for Phase 1 construction and operations; and
  - collaborate with advisors and potential financiers to secure appropriate construction funding and undertake FID.

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# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

#### REMUNERATION REPORT

# Policy for determining the nature and amount of Key Management Personnel (KMP) remuneration

The remuneration policy of the Group has been designed to align director and executive objectives with shareholder and business objectives by providing a fixed remuneration component and offering potential long-term incentives based on key performance areas affecting the Group's financial results. The Board of Astron Corporation Limited believes the remuneration policy to be appropriate and effective in its ability to attract and retain the best executives and directors to run and manage the Group, as well as create goal congruence between directors, executives and shareholders.

The Board's policy for determining the nature and amount or remuneration for the board members and senior executives of the Group is as follows:

- The remuneration policy for executive directors and other KMP was developed by the Nomination & Remuneration committee and approved by the Board after seeking professional advice from an independent external consultant.
- All executives receive a market-related base salary (which is based on factors such as length of service and experience), other statutory benefits and potential performance incentives.
- The Nomination & Remuneration committee reviews executive packages annually by reference to the Group's performance, executive performance and comparable information from industry sectors.

The performance of executives is measured against criteria agreed with each executive and is based predominantly on the forecast growth of the Group's profits and shareholders' value. All bonuses and incentives are linked to the performance of the individual and are discretionary. The objective is designed to attract the highest calibre of executives and reward them for performance that results in long term growth in shareholder wealth.

At the discretion of the Committee from time to time shares are issued to executives to reflect their achievements. The Board has approved the Employee Share Option Plan (ESOP) and, subsequent to shareholder approval, options were issued to directors and other employees and consultants.

Where applicable executive directors and executives receive a superannuation guarantee contribution required by the government, which was 11.0% during the year ended 30 June 2024 increasing to 11.5% in the year ending 30 June 2025, and do not receive any other retirement benefits.

Some individuals, however, have chosen to sacrifice part of their salary to increase payments towards superannuation.

If shares are given to directors and/or executives, these shares are issued at the market price of those shares.

The board policy is to remunerate non-executive directors at market rates for time, commitment and responsibilities. The Board determines payments to the non-executive directors and reviews their remuneration annually, based on market practice, duties and accountability. Independent external advice is sought when required. The maximum aggregate amount of fees that can be paid to non-executive directors is subject to approval by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting. Fees for non-executive directors are not linked to the performance of the Group. However, to align director's interests with shareholder interests, the directors are encouraged to hold shares in the Group.

# Performance based remuneration

As part of each executive director and executive's remuneration package there is a discretionary short term incentive element. This program intends to align the interests of directors and executives with those of the business and shareholders.

In determining whether or not each executive director and executive's bonus is due, the Nomination & Remuneration committee bases the assessment on audited figures and independent reports where appropriate.

The Nomination & Remuneration committee reserves the right to award bonuses where performance expectation has prima facie not been met but it is considered in the interests of the Group to continue to reward that individual.

Discretionary bonuses of Nil (2023: Nil) were paid during the year.

The Company is formalising a short term incentive program that will be based on key performance indicators (KPIs) set at the beginning of the performance period and assessed at the end of the performance period. KPIs for each employee will be set with overall Group business, operating and financial objectives in mind and will be a combination of Group and individual performance measures. The terms of the short term inventive program are currently being defined for review and approval by the Nomination & Remuneration committee.

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# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

#### Company performance, shareholder wealth and directors' and executives' remuneration

The remuneration policy has been tailored to increase goal congruence between shareholders, directors and executives. This has been achieved by awarding discretionary bonuses to encourage the alignment of personal and shareholder interests. The Group believes this policy to have been effective in increasing shareholder wealth and the Group's consolidated statement of financial position over the past five years.

The following table shows the sales revenue, profits and dividends for the last five years for the listed entity, as well as the share price at the end of the respective financial years.

A\$'000	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sales revenue	8,430	16,418	19,000	14,459	12,217
Net Loss	(6,293)	(2,968)	(9,038)	(7,731)	(24,866)
Share Price at Year-end	0.17	0.58	0.50	0.49	0.76
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	_	-

# **Key Management Personnel**

The following persons were KMP of the Group during the financial year:

Name	Position Held
Directors	
Mr George Lloyd	Chairman – non-executive
Mr Tiger Brown	Managing director
Mdm Kang Rong	Non-executive director
Mr Gerard King	Non-executive director
Dr Mark Elliott	Non-executive director
Key executives	
Mr Tim Chase	General Manager of global operations (resigned 17 July 2023)
Mr Sean Chelius	Donald project director
Mr Greg Bell	Chief Financial Officer
Mr Joshua Theunissen	General counsel and Australian company secretary

# Shareholdings

Details of equity instruments (other than options and rights) held directly, indirectly, beneficially or potentially beneficially by KMP and their related parties are as follows:

30 June 2024	Balance 1 Jul 2023	Shares purchased	Options Exercised	Other	Balance 30 Jun 2024
Directors					
Mr George Lloyd	675,926	-	-	-	675,926
Mr Tiger Brown	96,017,824	-	-	-	96,017,824
Mdm Kang Rong	4,000,100	-		(1,000,000)	3,000,100
Mr Gerard King	1,900,990	-	-	-	1,900,990
Dr Mark Elliott	438,993	-	-	-	438,993
Key executives					
Mr Sean Chelius	-	-	-	99,425	99,425
Mr Greg Bell	93,188	-	-	-	93,188
Mr Joshua Theunissen	37,138	15,726	-	-	52,864
	103,164,159	15,726	-	(900,575)	102,280,310

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# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

# Options held

Details of options held directly, indirectly, beneficially or potentially beneficially by KMP and their related parties are as follows:

30 June 2024	Balance 1 Jul 2023	Options issued	Options exercised	Balance 30 Jun 2024
Directors				
Mr George Lloyd	1,200,000	-	-	1,200,000
Mr Tiger Brown	-	-	-	-
Mdm Kang Rong	-	-	-	-
Mr Gerard King	400,000	-	-	400,000
Dr Mark Elliott	800,000	-	-	800,000
Key executives				
Mr Tim Chase <sup>1</sup>	500,000	-	(500,000)	-
Mr Sean Chelius	600,000	-	-	600,000
Mr Greg Bell	600,000	-	-	600,000
Mr Joshua Theunissen	200,000	-	-	200,000
	4,300,000	-	(500,000)	3,800,000

T. Chase resigned on 17 July 2023 and ceased to be a member of KMP.

# **Details of Remuneration**

Details of compensation by key management personnel of Astron Corporation Limited Group are set out below:

Short term benefits				Post-employment benefits				
Year ended 30 June	Cash, fees salary & commission s A\$	Cash Bonus A\$	Non-cash benefits/ other A\$	Share- based payment expenses <sup>1</sup> A\$	Termination payments	Superannuation A\$	Total A\$	% of remuneration that is performance based
2024								
Directors								
Mr George Lloyd	120,000	-	-	-	-	13,200	133,200	-
Mr Tiger Brown	268,752	50,000	1,920	-	-	27,424	348,096	14.4
Mdm Kang Rong <sup>2</sup>	234,160	-	-	-	-	-	243,160	-
Mr Gerard King	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	-
Dr Mark Elliott	60,000	-	-	-	-	6,600	66,600	-
Key executives								
Mr Sean Chelius	326,752	153,800	16,071	-	-	27,424	524,047	29.3
Mr Greg Bell	331,133	105,532	-	13,345	-	27,399	477,409	24.9
Mr Joshua Theunissen	135,318	-	-	-	-	-	135,318	
	1,536,115	309,332	17,991	13,345	-	102,047	1,978,830	

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# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

**Details of Remuneration (cont'd)** 

% emuneratio that performan baso		Superannuation			rt term bene	Sho	
		A\$	Termination payments A\$	Share-based payment expenses <sup>1</sup> A\$	Non-cash benefits/ other A\$	Cash, fees salary & commissions A\$	
							Year ended 30 June 2023
							Directors
4	243,053	-	-	102,453	-	140,600	Mr George Lloyd
	110,500	10,500	-	-	-	100,000	Mr Tiger Brown
	250,000	-	-	-	-	250,000	Mdm Kang Rong <sup>2</sup>
6	162,453	-	-	102,453	-	60,000	Mr Gerard King
	66,300	6,300	-	-	-	60,000	Dr Mark Elliott
							Key executives
	370,951	33,921	-	-	10,876	326,154	Mr Tim Chase <sup>3</sup>
	360,651	27,500	-	-	14,151	319,000	Mr Sean Chelius
3	385,726	18,969	-	125,845	-	240,912	Mr Greg Bell <sup>4</sup>
	94,575	-			-	94,575	Mr Joshua Theunissen <sup>1</sup>
1	2,044,209	97,190	-	330,751	25,027	1,591,241	
	360,651 385,726 94,575 <b>2,044,209</b> ancial period. The	27,500 18,969		330,751	14,151 - - 25,027	319,000 240,912 94,575 <b>1,591,241</b>	Mr Tim Chase <sup>3</sup> Mr Sean Chelius Mr Greg Bell <sup>4</sup> Mr Joshua Theunissen <sup>1</sup> Notes:

- The figures provided in 'Share-based payment expenses' were not provided in cash to the KMP during the financial period. These amounts are calculated in accordance with accounting standards and represent the amortisation of accounting fair values of performance rights that have been granted to KMP in this or prior financial years. The fair value of performance rights have been valued as at their date of grant and in accordance with the requirements of HKFRS 2 Share-Based Payments. The fair value of options is measured using a generally accepted valuation model. The fair values are then amortised over the entire vesting period of the equity instruments. Total remuneration shown in 'Total' therefore includes a portion of the fair value of unvested equity compensation during the year. The amount included as remuneration is not related to or indicative of the benefit (if any) that individuals may ultimately realise should these equity instruments vest and be exercised.
- Paid or payable to management company.
- During the year ended 30 June 2023, Mr Tim Chase entered into an agreement with the Company to pay out a portion of the annual leave liability owing to him from past service. A total amount of \$61,154 (before taxes and superannuation) was paid under the agreement which was included in the Group's provision for annual leave at 30 June 2022.
- Mr Greg Bell was appointed as the Chief Financial Officer of the Group on 3 October 2022 and, as such, become a member of KMP from this date. Mr Bell received 600,000 share options as part of his agreement to hold the position, with various vesting conditions as outlined in Note 27 of the financial statements. These share options have been valued in accordance with HKFRS 2 and will be amortised in accordance with the vesting conditions.

#### Use of remuneration consultants

The Board has previously employed external consultants to review and provide recommendations regarding the amount and elements of executive remuneration, including short-term and long-term incentive plan design. No remuneration consultants were employed during the year.

# **Termination payment**

No termination payments were paid during the year to KMP.

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# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

#### **Share-based payments**

During the 2024 year, there were no (2023: 1,400,000) options granted to directors or KMP. (2023: \$346,349). The value of share options issued to KMP will be amortised in accordance with their vesting conditions to comply with HKFRS 2 Share based payments.

# Voting and comments at the Company's 2023 Annual General Meeting

The Company received 91.45% of "yes" votes on its remuneration report for the 2023 financial year.

The Company did not receive any specific feedback at the AGM on its remuneration report.

#### Service contracts

Service contracts (or letters of engagement) have been entered into, or are in the process of being entered into, by the Group with all KMP and executives, describing the components and amounts of remuneration applicable on their initial appointment including terms, other than non-executives who have long established understanding of arrangements with the Group. These contracts do not fix the amount of remuneration increases from year to year. Remuneration levels are reviewed generally each year by the Nomination & Remuneration Committee to align with changes in job responsibilities and market salary expectations.

Other key management personnel have ongoing contracts with a notice period of three months for key management personnel. There are no non-standard termination clauses in any of these contracts.

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee considers the appropriate remuneration requirements. In August 2012, the Group engaged external consultants to review the Group's salary and incentive benchmarks. No consultants were engaged to review Group remunerations during the year ended 30 June 2024.

#### END OF REMUNERATION REPORT

# INDEMNIFYING OFFICERS OR AUDITOR

## Insurance premiums paid for directors

During the year, the Group paid a premium in respect of a contract indemnifying directors, secretaries and executive officers of the Company and its controlled entities against a liability incurred as director, secretary or executive officer. The contract of insurance prohibits disclosure of the nature of the cover.

The Company has not otherwise, during or since the end of the financial year, except to the extent permitted by law, indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer or auditor of the Company or any of its controlled entities against a liability incurred as such an officer or auditor.

## NON-AUDIT SERVICES

During the financial year, the following fees for non-audit services were paid or payable to the auditor BDO Limited or its related practices:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Other Services		
Taxation services	-	-
Other assurance services	-	-

The directors are satisfied that the provision of non-audit services during the year by the auditor (or by another person or firm on behalf of the auditor) is compatible with the general standard of independence for auditors imposed by the Corporations Act 2001.

The directors are satisfied that the provision of non-audit services by the auditor, as set out above, did not compromise the auditor independence requirements of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA) for the following reasons:

- all non-audit services have been reviewed by the Board to ensure that they do not impact the integrity and objectivity of the auditor; and
- none of the non-audit services undermine the general principles relating to auditor independence as set out by the HKICPA.

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# **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

# **AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION**

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2024 has been received and can be found on page 56 of the financial report.

# **DIRECTORS' DECLARATION REGARDING HKFRS COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

The directors declare that these annual financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards.

#### **DIVIDENDS PAID AND PROPOSED**

No final dividend was proposed for the year ended 30 June 2024 (2023: Nil).

# PROCEEDINGS ON BEHALF OF COMPANY

No person has applied to the Court for leave to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company, or to intervene in any proceedings to which the Company is a party, for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or part of those proceedings.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the board of directors and is signed for and on behalf of the directors by:

Chairman:

Mr George Lloyd

Date: 16 September 2024

Company Number: 1687414

# **Declaration of Independence** to the Directors of Astron Corporation Limited

As lead auditor of Astron Corporation Limited for the year ended 30 June 2024 I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements in the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

**BDO Limited** 

Certified Public Accountants

Chiu Wing Cheung Ringo

Practising Certificate Number P04434

Hong Kong, 16 September 2024

Company Number: 1687414

# **Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

			lidated ended
•		30 Jun 2024	30 Jun 2023
	Note	A\$	A\$
Sales revenue	5	12,216,920	14,458,725
Cost of sales		(14,935,159)	(14,244,971)
Gross (loss)/profit		(2,718,239)	213,754
Interest income	5	1,074	474
Other income	5	1,507,322	1,970,774
Distribution expenses		(86,221)	(152,140
Marketing expenses		(12,810)	(179,332
Occupancy expenses		(1,549)	(21,195
Administrative expenses		(8,315,395)	(6,076,128
Provision for impairment on receivables	6	(166,240)	(118,716
Write-off of sundry receivables and prepayments		(1,014,155)	-
Fair value (loss) /gain on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		(5,519)	744
Impairment of inventories		(855,495)	-
Net impairment of Niafarang project	6	(9,596,089)	-
Costs associated with Gambian litigation	6	-	(47,655
Share based payments expenses	6	(13,345)	(285,522
Finance costs	6	(729,571)	(1,185,794
Other expenses		(318,382)	(158,385
Loss before income tax expense	6	(22,324,614)	(6,039,121
Income tax expense	7	(2,541,070)	(1,691,871
Net loss for the year		(24,865,684)	(7,730,992
Other comprehensive income			
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:			
Foreign currency translation differences (tax: Nil)		312,540	(384,014
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		312,540	(384,014
Total comprehensive income for the year		(24,553,144)	(8,115,006
Loss for the year attributable to:			
Owners of Astron Corporation Limited		(24,865,684)	(7,730,992
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to:			
Owners of Astron Corporation Limited		(24,553,144)	(8,115,006)
Loss per share			
Basic and diluted loss per share (cents)	8	(15.74)	(5.98)

The above Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes included on pages 61 to 105.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**

As at 30 June 2024

			lidated	
	*1	30 Jun 2024	30 Jun 2023	
-	Note	A\$	A\$	
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	10	2,745,799	7,204,674	
Term deposits greater than 90 days	10	139,209	46,112	
Trade and other receivables and prepayments	11	5,752,850	6,261,343	
Inventories	12	1,266,900	2,217,845	
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	14	42,800	8,319	
Total current assets		9,947,558	15,738,293	
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	16	19,882,759	22,831,507	
Exploration and evaluation assets	17	93,372,759	82,590,196	
Development costs	18	30,012,100	8,901,965	
Right-of-use assets	19	1,799,990	2,773,422	
	19			
Total non-current assets		115,055,508	117,097,090	
TOTAL ASSETS		125,003,066	132,835,383	
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	20	9,248,421	6,578,001	
Contract liabilities	21	98,508	656,001	
Borrowings – current	22	8,891,356	14,627,740	
Convertible notes	23	4,622,273	5,365,323	
Lease liabilities	35	85,256		
Provisions	24	151,123	126,666	
Total current liabilities		23,096,937	27,353,73	
Non-current liabilities				
Deferred tax liabilities	25	15,161,890	12,620,82	
Borrowings – non-current	22	6,431,713	1,569,078	
Lease liabilities	35	147,997	1,000,07	
Long-term provisions	24	-	795,450	
Total non-current liabilities	<b>-</b> '	21,741,600	14,985,349	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		44,838,537	42,339,080	
			90,493,303	
NET ASSETS		80,164,529	90,493,303	
EQUITY				
Issued capital	26	102,985,548	89,233,205	
Reserves	28	18,864,215	18,082,648	
Accumulated losses		(41,685,234)	(16,819,550	
TOTAL EQUITY		80,164,529	90,493,303	
		)		
J.//				
4				
Mr Tiger Brown	Mr Ge	Mr George Lloyd		

The above Consolidated Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes included on pages 61 to 105.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Issued capital A\$	Accumulated losses A\$	Share based payment reserve A\$	Foreign currency translation reserve A\$	Convertible notes equity reserve A\$	Capital reserve A\$	Total equity A\$
Balance at 1 July 2022		76,549,865	(9,088,558)	1,832,735	14,212,420	546,818	1,450,005	85,503,285
Loss for the year		-	(7,730,992)	-	-	-	-	(7,730,992)
Other comprehensive income								
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations		-	-	-	(384,014)	-	-	(384,014)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year		-	(7,730,992)	-	(384,014)	-	-	(8,115,006)
Issue of ordinary shares		12,995,003	-	-	-	-	-	12,995,003
Share issue costs		(172,501)	-	-	-	-	-	(172,501)
Recognition of equity settled share-based payments expense	26	(139,162)	-	424,684	-	-	-	285,522
Total transactions with owners recognised directly in equity		12,683,340	-	424,684	-	-	-	13,108,024
Equity as at 30 June 2023		89,233,205	(16,819,550)	2,257,419	13,828,406	546,818	1,450,005	90,496,303
Balance at 1 July 2023		89,233,205	(16,819,550)	2,257,419	13,828,406	546,818	1,450,005	90,496,303
Loss for the year		-	(24,865,684)	_	-	_	-	(24,865,684)
Other comprehensive income								
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations		-	-	-	312,540	-	-	312,540
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year		-	(24,865,684)	-	312,540	-	-	(24,553,144)
Issue of ordinary shares		12,727,724	-	-	=	-	=	12,727,724
Share issue costs		(66,517)	-	-	-	-	-	(66,517)
Conversion of 10,000 convertible notes		1,091,136	-	-	-	(91,136)	-	1,000,000
Extension of convertible note		-	-	-	-	546,818	-	546,818
Recognition of equity settled share-based payments expense	26		-	13,345	-	-	-	13,345
Total transactions with owners recognised directly in equity		13,752,343	-	13,345	-	455,682	-	14,221,370
Equity as at 30 June 2024		102,985,548	(42,485,694)	2,270,764	14,140,946	1,002,500	1,450,005	80,164,529

The above Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes included on pages 61 to 105.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

		Consolidated Year ended		
_	Note	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Cash flows from operating activities:	11010	7.4	7.4	
Receipts from customers		14,221,951	22,376,537	
Payments to suppliers and employees		(22,089,125)	(25,567,857)	
Net cash outflows from operations	•	(7,864,174)	(3,191,320)	
Refundable Australian R&D tax offsets received		-	1,543,575	
Net cash outflows from operating activities	33	(7,864,174)	(1,647,745)	
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(194,638)	(1,484,650)	
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		297,750	-	
Investment in community housing initiative	14	(40,000)	-	
Investment in financial assets – terms deposits greater than 90 days		(93,097)	-	
Capitalised exploration and evaluation expenditure		(7,639,145)	(5,855,362)	
Net cash outflows from investing activities		(7,669,130)	(7,340,012)	
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Interest received		1,074	474	
Interest paid		(723,835)	(362,641)	
Contribution from joint venture activities		3,221,201	-	
Proceeds from the issue of ordinary shares net of transaction costs		12,613,482	11,822,502	
Principal paid on lease liabilities		(75,503)	-	
Net proceeds from/(repayment of) borrowings	_	(4,139,430)	2,611,311	
Net cash inflows from financing activities	33	10,896,989	14,071,646	
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(4,636,315)	5,083,889	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		7,204,674	2,447,986	
Net foreign exchange differences		177,440	(327,201)	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	33	2,745,799	7,204,674	

The above Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes included on pages 61 to 105.

Company Number: 1687414

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### **General Information**

The consolidated financial statements of Astron Corporation Limited for the year ended 30 June 2024 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the directors on 16 September 2024 and relate to the consolidated entity consisting of Astron Corporation Limited ("the Company") and its subsidiaries (collectively "the Group").

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars (\$).

Astron Corporation Limited is a for-profit company limited by shares incorporated in Hong Kong whose shares are publicly traded through CHESS Depository Interests on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

# Basis of preparation and material accounting policy information

#### Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards and Interpretations (hereinafter collectively referred to as the ("HKFRS") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and the provisions of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance which concern the preparation of financial statements.

The consolidated financial statements have also been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for certain financial instruments which are measured at fair value as explained in the accounting policies set out below.

# Going concern basis

As at 30 June 2024, the Group had a deficit of current assets over current liabilities of \$13,149,379 including current bank borrowings of \$5,608,292 while cash held by the Group is recorded to be \$2,745,799. For the year ended 30 June 2024, the Group incurred a gross loss and net loss after tax of \$2,718,239 and \$24,865,684 respectively and recorded net cash outflows from operating activities of \$7,864,174. The deficit of current assets over current liabilities, gross loss, continued operating losses and net cash outflows from operating activities, are conditions, along with the matters set out below, that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes the continuity of normal business activity and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the normal course of business. The directors are of the view that based on cash flow forecasts covering 18 months from the end of the reporting period and consideration of the plans and measures stated below, the business remains a going concern.

The directors are confident the Group will have sufficient funds to meet its ongoing needs for at least the next 12 months from the date of this report based on the following:

- The completion of the joint venture agreement with Energy Fuels will provide sufficient new funding to continue progression of development activities relating to the Donald Project and continue to meet its primary milestones in relation to the Project.
- The directors anticipate that the Group will be able to renew certain borrowings and raise further funding, through capital raisings, private placement or otherwise, to fund any head office corporate costs and cash shortfall experienced in
- The Group has agreed in principle terms for stable supply of appropriate raw materials for the Group's mineral separation plant in China. Agreement for a stable supply of raw materials is imperative to the sustainability and profitability of the mineral separation plant as not only will it ensure consistent production volumes (and, by extension, sales volumes), it will also allow the Group to increase production efficiencies through reducing the volatility of plant settings and consequently increase profit margins. The Group has received and processed shipments of raw materials in the third quarter of 2024. Notwithstanding the above agreement, it is not expected that the plant will operate at full capacity in this timeframe.
- An undertaking by the majority shareholder to provide financial support where necessary to enable the Group to meet its obligations and commitments until the Company is adequately financed.
- The undertaking by a director not to demand repayments due to her and her related entities of approximately \$4.8 million until such time when any repayment will not affect the Group's ability to repay other creditors in the normal course of business (refer note 31).

Assuming the plans and measures in the forecast can be successfully implemented as scheduled, the directors are of the opinion that the Group will have sufficient working capital to finance its operations and fulfil its financial obligations as and when they fall due. Accordingly, the directors of the Group consider that it is appropriate to prepare the consolidated financial statements on a going concern basis notwithstanding that there is a material uncertainty relating to the above events or

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

conditions that may cast significant doubt as to the Group's ability to continue as a going concern and, therefore, that it may be unable to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business.

Notwithstanding the above, significant material uncertainties exist as to whether the directors of the Company will be able to achieve its plans and measures as described above. Whether the Group will be able to continue as a going concern would depend upon the Group's ability to generate adequate financing and operating cash flows in the near future, and to obtain continuous financial support from its related parties.

Should the Group fail to achieve the plans and measures as scheduled, it might not be able to continue as a going concern, and adjustments would have to be made to reduce the value of assets to their net realisable amounts, to reclassify noncurrent assets and non-current liabilities as current assets and current liabilities respectively and to provide for any further liabilities which might arise. The effect of these adjustments has not been reflected in these consolidated financial statements.

# Material accounting policy information

The following material accounting policy information have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

#### Basis of consolidation

The Group financial statements consolidate those of the Company and all of its subsidiaries as at 30 June 2024. The Company controls a subsidiary if it is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the subsidiary and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the subsidiary.

All transactions and balances between Group companies are eliminated on consolidation, including unrealised gains and losses on transactions between Group companies. Where unrealised losses on intra-group asset sales are reversed on consolidation, the underlying asset is also tested for impairment from a Group perspective. Amounts reported in the financial statements of subsidiaries have been adjusted where necessary to ensure consistency with the accounting policies adopted by the Group.

Profit or loss and other comprehensive income of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are recognised from the effective date of acquisition, or up to the effective date of disposal, as applicable.

# Foreign currency translation

The functional and presentation currency of the Company and its Australian subsidiaries is Australian dollars (\$).

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from settling foreign currency transactions, as well as from restating foreign currency denominated monetary assets and liabilities, are recognised in profit or loss except when they are deferred in other comprehensive income as qualifying cash flow hedges or where they relate to differences on foreign currency borrowings that provide a hedge against a net investment in a foreign entity.

Non-monetary items measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when fair value was determined.

The functional currency of the overseas subsidiaries is primarily Chinese Renminbi (RMB). The assets and liabilities of these overseas subsidiaries are translated into the presentation currency of the Company at the closing rate at the end of the reporting period and income and expenses are translated at the weighted average exchange rates for the year. All resulting exchange differences are recognised in other comprehensive income as a separate component of equity (foreign currency translation reserve). On disposal of a foreign entity, the cumulative exchange differences recognised in foreign currency translation reserves relating to that particular foreign operation are recognised in the profit or loss.

#### Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of returns, trade allowances and duties and taxes paid. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

# Sale of goods

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when control of goods is transferred to the customers at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Group expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods, excluding those amounts collected on behalf of third parties. Revenue excludes value added tax or other sales taxes and is after deduction of any trade discounts.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Depending on the terms of the contract and the laws that apply to the contract, control of the goods may be transferred over time or at a point in time. Control of the goods is transferred over time if the Group's performance:

- provides all of the benefits received and consumed simultaneously by the customer;
- creates or enhances an asset that the customer controls as the Group performs; or
- does not create an asset with an alternative use to the Group and the Group has an enforceable right to payment for performance completed to date.

If control of the goods transfers over time, revenue is recognised over the period of the contract by reference to the progress towards complete satisfaction of that performance obligation. Otherwise, revenue is recognised at a point in time when the customer obtains control of the goods.

Customers obtain control of the goods when the goods are delivered to and have been accepted. Revenue is thus recognised upon when the customers accepted the goods. There is generally only one performance obligation.

#### Contract liabilities

A contract liability represents the Group's obligation to transfer goods to a customer for which the Group has received consideration (or an amount of consideration is due) from the customer.

#### Interest income

Interest income is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest method. The effective interest method uses the effective interest rate which is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash receipts over the expected life of the financial asset.

#### Rental income

Rental income is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Contingent rentals are recognised as income in the periods when they are earned.

#### Income tax

The income tax expense for the year is the tax payable on the current year's taxable income based on the national income tax rate for each jurisdiction adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences between the tax base of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements, and to unused tax losses.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognised for all temporary differences, between carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and their respective tax bases, at the tax rates expected to apply when the assets are recovered or liabilities settled, based on those tax rates which are enacted or substantively enacted for each jurisdiction. Exceptions are made for certain temporary differences arising on initial recognition of an asset or a liability if they arose in a transaction, other than a business combination, that at the time of the transaction did not affect either accounting profit or taxable profit.

Deferred tax assets are only recognised for deductible temporary differences and unused tax losses if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not recognised for temporary differences between the carrying amount and tax bases of investments in subsidiaries, associates and interests in joint ventures where the parent entity is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

The Group has implemented the tax consolidation legislation for the whole of the financial year. The stand-alone taxpayer within a group approach has been used to allocate current income tax expense and deferred tax balances to wholly owned subsidiaries that form part of the tax consolidated group where the head entity has assumed all the current tax liabilities and the deferred tax assets arising from unused tax losses for the tax consolidated group via intercompany receivables and payables because a tax funding arrangement has been in place for the whole financial year. The amounts receivable/payable under tax funding arrangements are due upon notification by the head entity, which is issued soon after the end of each financial year. Interim funding notices may also be issued by the head entity to its wholly owned subsidiaries in order for the head entity to be able to pay tax instalments. These amounts are recognised as current intercompany receivables or payables.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

# Financial instruments

Financial assets

A financial asset (unless it is a trade receivable without a significant financing component) is initially measured at fair value plus, for an item not at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL), transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue. A trade receivable without a significant financing component is initially measured at the transaction price.

All regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on the trade date, that is, the date that the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Regular way purchases or sales are purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the period generally established by regulation or convention in the market place.

# Equity instruments

On initial recognition of an equity investment that is not held for trading, the Group could irrevocably elect to present subsequent changes in the investment's fair value in other comprehensive income. This election is made on an investmentby-investment basis. Equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income are measured at fair value. Dividend income are recognised in profit or loss unless the dividend income clearly represents a recovery of part of the cost of the investments. Other net gains and losses are recognised in other comprehensive income and are not reclassified to profit or loss. All other equity instruments are classified as FVTPL, whereby changes in fair value, dividends and interest income are recognised in profit or loss.

#### Impairment loss on financial assets

The Group recognises loss allowances for expected credit loss (ECL) on trade receivables, other receivables, and other financial assets measured at amortised cost. The ECLs are measured on either of the following bases: (1) 12 months ECLs: these are the ECLs that result from possible default events within the 12 months after the reporting date: and (2) lifetime ECLs: these are ECLs that result from all possible default events over the expected life of a financial instrument. The maximum period considered when estimating ECLs is the maximum contractual period over which the Group is exposed to credit risk.

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the difference between all contractual cash flows that are due to the Group in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Group expects to receive. The shortfall is then discounted at an approximation to the assets' original effective interest rate.

For trade receivables, the Group applies the simplified approach and has calculated ECLs based on lifetime ECLs. The Group has established a provision matrix that is based on the Group's historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forwardlooking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

For other debt financial assets, the ECLs are based on the 12-months ECLs. However, when there has been a significant increase in credit risk since origination, the allowance will be based on the lifetime ECLs.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating ECL, the Group considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information analysis, based on the Group's historical experience and informed credit assessment and including forward-looking information.

The Group assumes that the credit risk on a financial asset has increased significantly if it is more than 30 days past due.

The Group considers a financial asset to be credit-impaired when: (1) the borrower is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Group in full, without recourse by the Group to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or (2) the financial asset is more than 90 days past due.

Interest income on credit-impaired financial assets is calculated based on the amortised cost (i.e. the gross carrying amount less loss allowance) of the financial asset. For non credit-impaired financial assets interest income is calculated based on the gross carrying amount.

# Financial liabilities

The Group classifies its financial liabilities, depending on the purpose for which the liabilities were incurred. Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially measured at fair value and financial liabilities at amortised costs are initially measured at fair value, net of directly attributable costs incurred.

Company Number: 1687414

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

# Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities at amortised cost including trade and other payables, borrowings and the debt element of convertible notes issued by the Group are subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest method. The related interest expense is recognised in profit or loss.

Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the amortisation process.

#### Convertible notes

Convertible notes issued by the Group that contain both the liability and conversion option components are classified separately into their respective items on initial recognition. Conversion option that will be settled by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the Company's own equity instruments is classified as an equity instrument.

On initial recognition, the fair value of the liability component is determined using the prevailing market interest rate of similar non-convertible debts. The difference between the proceeds of the issue of the convertible notes and the fair value assigned to the liability component, representing the conversion option for the holder to convert the notes into equity, is included in equity (convertible notes equity reserve).

In subsequent periods, the liability component of the convertible notes is carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The equity component, represented by the option to convert the liability component into ordinary shares of the Company, will remain in convertible notes equity reserve until the embedded option is exercised (in which case the balance stated in convertible notes equity reserve will be transferred to issued capital). Where the option remains unexercised at the expiry dates, the balance stated in convertible notes equity reserve will be released to the retained earnings. No gain or loss is recognised upon conversion or expiration of the option.

Transaction costs that relate to the issue of the convertible notes are allocated to the liability and equity components in proportion to the allocation of the proceeds. Transaction costs relating to the equity component are charged directly to equity. Transaction costs relating to the liability component are included in the carrying amount of the liability portion and amortised over the period of the convertible notes using the effective interest method.

# Effective interest method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or financial liability and of allocating interest income or interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts or payments through the expected life of the financial asset or liability, or where appropriate, a shorter period.

# Equity instruments

Equity instruments issued by the Company are recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs.

The Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, Cap. 622 (the Ordinance), came into operation on 3 March 2014. Under the Ordinance, shares of the Company do not have a nominal value. Consideration received or receivable for the issue of shares on or after 3 March 2014 is credited to share capital. Commissions and expenses are allowed to be deducted from share capital under s. 148 and s. 149 of the Ordinance.

# Derecognition

The Group derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the future cash flows in relation to the financial asset expire or when the financial asset has been transferred and the transfer meets the criteria for derecognition in accordance with HKFRS 9.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation specified in the relevant contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

## Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and at banks, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short term, highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less, that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts.

For the purpose of the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, movements in term deposits with maturity over three months are shown as cash flows from investing activities.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

# Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises all direct materials, direct labour and an appropriate portion of variable and fixed overheads. Fixed overheads are allocated on the basis of normal operating capacity. Costs are assigned to inventories using the weighted average cost basis. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated selling cost of completion and selling expenses.

#### Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

All other plant and equipment is stated at historical cost, including costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management, less depreciation and any impairments.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Depreciation on other assets is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

Class of Asset	
Leasehold buildings	10-50 years
Freehold land	Indefinite
Plant and equipment	3-10 Years

The assets' residual value and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the asset's carrying amount and are included in profit or loss in the year that the item is de-recognised.

The cost of fixed assets constructed within the Group includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs (if any) and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Additional costs incurred on impaired capital works in progress are expensed in profit or loss.

#### Leases

All leases (irrespective of whether they are operating leases or finance leases) are required to be capitalised in the consolidated statement of financial position as right-of-use assets and lease liabilities, but accounting policy choices exist for an entity to choose not to capitalise (i) leases which are short-term leases and/or (ii) leases for which the underlying asset is of low-value. The Group has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for which at the commencement date have a lease term of 12 months or less. The lease payments associated with those leases have been expensed on straight-line basis over the lease term.

#### Right-of-use asset

The right-of-use asset should be recognised at cost and would comprise: (i) the amount of the initial measurement of the lease liability; (ii) any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, less any lease incentives received; (iii) any initial direct costs incurred by the lessee and (iv) an estimate of costs to be incurred by the lessee in dismantling and moving the underlying asset to the condition required by the terms and conditions of the lease, unless those costs are incurred to produce inventories. Except for right-of-use asset that meets the definition of an investment property or a class of property, plant and equipment to which the Group applies the revaluation model, the Group measures the right-of-use assets applying the cost model. Under the cost model, the Group measures the right-of-use assets at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liability. Lease assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their expected useful lives on the same basis as owned assets, or where shorter, the term of the relevant lease.

The following payments for the underlying right-of-use asset during the lease term that are not paid at the commencement date of the lease are considered to be lease payments: (i) fixed payments less any lease incentives receivable; (ii) variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as the commencement date; (iii) amounts expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees; (iv) the exercise price of a purchase

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

option if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option and (v) payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the lessee exercising an option to terminate the lease.

#### Intangibles

# Research and development costs

Research costs are expensed as incurred. Development costs incurred on an individual project is capitalised if the product or service is technically feasible, adequate resources are available to complete the project, it is probable that future economic benefits will be generated and expenditure attributable to the project can be measured reliably. Expenditure capitalised comprises costs of services and direct labour. Other development costs are expensed when they are incurred. The carrying value of development costs is reviewed annually when the asset is not yet available for use, or when events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired.

Capitalised development costs are amortised over the periods the Group expects to benefit from selling the products developed. The amortisation expense is recognised in profit or loss.

Exploration and Evaluation Expenditure

# Costs carried forward

Costs arising from exploration and evaluation activities are carried forward provided that the rights to tenure of the area of interest are current and such costs are expected to be recouped through successful development, or by sale, or where exploration and evaluation activities have not, at reporting date, reached a stage to allow a reasonable assessment regarding the existence of economically recoverable reserves. Expenditure incurred is accumulated in respect of each identifiable area of interest.

# Water rights

The Group has capitalised water rights. The water rights are amortised over the term of the right. The carrying value of water rights is reviewed annually or when events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired.

#### Costs abandoned area

Costs carried forward in respect of an area of interest that is abandoned are written off in the year in which the decision to abandon is made.

#### Regular review

A regular review is undertaken of each area of interest to determine the appropriateness of continuing to carry forward costs in relation to that area of interest.

#### Costs of site restoration

Costs of site restoration are to be provided once an obligation presents. Site restoration costs include the dismantling and removal of mining plant, equipment and building structures, waste removal and rehabilitation of the site in accordance with clauses of the mining permits. Such costs will be determined using estimates of future costs, current legal requirements and technology on a discounted basis.

# Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Group assesses whether there is any indication that individual assets are impaired. Where impairment indicators exist, recoverable amount is determined and impairment losses are recognised in the profit or loss where the asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purpose of assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pretax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate recoverable amount for an individual asset, recoverable amount is determined for the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs.

# **Borrowing costs**

Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to prepare for their intended use or sale, are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale.

All other borrowing costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

# **Provisions**

Provisions for employee entitlements and relocation are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that that an outflow of economic resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount can be reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where the effect of the time value of money is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pretax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

#### **Employee benefit provisions**

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are recognised in respect of employees' services rendered up to the end of the reporting period and measured at amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when leave is taken and measured at the actual rates paid or payable. Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are included as part of Other Payables.

# Bonus plan

The Group recognises an expense and a liability for bonuses when the entity is contractually obliged to make such payments or where there is past practice that has created a constructive obligation.

#### Retirement benefit obligations

The Group contributes to employee superannuation funds in accordance with its statutory obligations. Contributions are recognised as expenses as they become payable.

# **Share-based payments**

The Group may provide benefits to employees (including directors) of the Group in the form of share-based payment transactions, whereby employees render services in exchange for shares (equity settled transactions). Such equity settled transactions are at the discretion of the Nomination & Remuneration Committee.

The fair value of options or rights granted is recognised as an employee benefit expense with a corresponding increase in equity (share-based payment reserve). The fair value is measured at grant date and recognised over the period during which the employees become unconditionally entitled to the options. Fair value is determined using a Black-Scholes option pricing model. In determining fair value, no account is taken of any performance conditions other than those related to the share price of Astron Corporation Limited (market conditions). The cumulative expense recognised between grant date and vesting date is adjusted to reflect the directors' best estimate of the number of options or rights that will ultimately vest because of internal conditions of the options or rights, such as the employees having to remain with the Group until vesting date, or such that employees are required to meet internal KPI. No expense is recognised for options or rights that do not ultimately vest because internal conditions were not met. An expense is still recognised for options or rights that do not ultimately vest because a market condition was not met.

Where the terms of options or rights are modified, the expense continues to be recognised from grant date to vesting date as if the terms had never been changed. In addition, at the date of the modification, a further expense is recognised for any increase in fair value of the transaction as a result of the change.

Where options are cancelled, they are treated as if vesting occurred on cancellation and any unrecognised expenses are taken immediately to profit or loss. However, if new options are substituted for the cancelled options or rights and designated as a replacement on grant date, the combined impact of the cancellation and replacement are treated as if they were a modification.

When shareholders' approval is required for the issuance of options or rights, the expenses are recognised based on the grant-date fair value according to the management estimation. This estimate is re-assessed upon obtaining formal approval from shareholders.

Where equity instruments are granted to persons other than employees, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income is charged with the fair value of goods and services received.

#### Dividends/Return of capital

No dividends were paid or proposed for the years ended 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023. There is no Dividend Reinvestment Plan in operation.

Company Number: 1687414

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Segment reporting

Segment revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities are those that are directly attributable to a segment and the relevant portion that can be allocated to the segment on a reasonable basis. Segment assets include all assets used by a segment and consist primarily of operating cash, receivables, inventories, property, plant and equipment and other intangible assets. Segment liabilities consist primarily of trade and other creditors, employee benefits and provisions.

#### Earnings/Loss per share

Basic earnings/losses per share

Basic earnings/loss per share is calculated by dividing the profit/loss attributable to owners of the Company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the financial year, adjusted for bonus elements in ordinary shares during the year.

Diluted earnings/losses per share

Earnings/Losses used to calculate diluted earnings/losses per share are calculated by adjusting the basic earnings/losses by the after tax effect of dividends and interest associated with dilutive potential ordinary shares. The weighted average number of shares used is adjusted for the weighted average number of ordinary shares that would be issued on the conversion of all the dilutive potential ordinary shares into ordinary shares.

#### Goods and Services Tax (GST)/Value Added Tax (VAT)

Revenues, expenses are recognised net of GST/VAT except where GST/VAT incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the taxation authority, in which case the GST/VAT is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense item.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST/VAT included. The net amount of GST/VAT recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables in the consolidated statement of financial position.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST/VAT recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority.

#### Government grant

Government grants are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the Group will comply with the conditions attaching to them and that the grants will be received. Grants that compensate the Group for expenses incurred are recognised as income or deducted in the related expenses, as appropriate, in profit or loss on a systematic basis in the same periods in which the expenses are incurred.

Grants that compensate the Group for the cost of an asset are recognised as deferred income in the consolidated statement of financial position and transferred to profit or loss on a systematic and rational basis over the useful lives of the related assets.

Government grants that are receivable as compensation for expenses or losses already incurred or for the purpose of giving immediate financial support to the Group with no future related costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they become receivable and are recognised as other income, rather than reducing the related expense.

#### Adoption of HKFRS

Adoption of new or revised HKFRSs - effective on 1 July 2023

The HKICPA has issued a number of new or amended HKFRSs that are first effective for the current accounting period of the Group:

HKFRS 17 **Insurance Contracts** 

Amendments to HKAS 8 **Definition of Accounting Estimates** 

Amendments to HKAS 12 Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a

Single Transaction

International Tax Reform - Pillar Two Model Rules Amendments to HKAS 12

None of these new or amended HKFRSs has material impact on the Group's results and financial position for the current or prior period and/or accounting policies.

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

New or revised HKFRSs that have been issued but are not yet effective

The following new or revised HKFRSs, potentially relevant to the Group's consolidated financial statements, have been issued, but are not yet effective and have not been early adopted by the Group. The Group's current intention is to apply these changes on the date they become effective.

Amendments to HKAS1

Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKFRS Practice

Statement 2

HK Interpretation 5 (2020)

Amendments to HKFRS 16 Amendments to HKAS21

Amendments to HKRS9 and HKFR7

**HKRS 18** HKRS 19

Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current<sup>1</sup>

Disclosure of Accounting Policies<sup>1</sup>

Presentation of Financial Statements - Classification by the Borrower of a Term Loan that Contains a Repayment on

Demand Clause<sup>1</sup>

Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback<sup>1</sup>

Lack of Exchangeability<sup>2</sup>

Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments<sup>3</sup> Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements<sup>4</sup> Subsidiaries without Public Accountability: Disclosures<sup>4</sup>

- Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024
- Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025
- Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2026
- Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2027

The directors anticipate that all of the relevant pronouncements will be adopted in the Group's accounting policy for the first period beginning after the effective date of the pronouncement. The directors are currently assessing the possible impact of these new or revised standards on the Group's results and financial position in the first year of application. The directors of the Company anticipate that the application of HKFRS 18 has no impact on the Group's financial positions and performance in foreseeable future, but has impact on presentation of the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. All the other new or revised HKFRSs that have been issued but are not yet effective are unlikely to have material impact on the Group's results and financial position upon application.

# Critical accounting estimates and judgments

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

# Impairment assessment of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment (PPE)

The Group assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluating conditions specific to the Group that may lead to impairment of intangible assets and PPE. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Fair value less costs to dispose and value in use calculations are performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates and judgements.

The Group has used a combination of independent and director valuations to support the carrying value of intangible assets while the Group also uses bankable feasibility status reports where these are available. The Group's main intangible assets are its exploration and evaluation assets related to the Donald project located in Victoria, Australia and its development costs incurred on the Niafarang project in Senegal. The valuations use various assumptions to determine future cash flows based around risks including capital, geographical, markets, foreign exchange and mineral price fluctuations.

All other assets have been assessed for impairment based on either their value in use or fair value less costs to sell. The impairment assessments inherently involve significant judgements and estimates to be made.

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Capitalisation of exploration and evaluation assets

The Group has continued to capitalise expenditure, incurred on the exploration and evaluation of the Donald project in Victoria, Australia in accordance with HKFRS 6. This has occurred because the technical feasibility and economic viability of extracting the mineral resources have not been completed and hence are not demonstrable at this time. The Group has assessed that the balances capitalised will be recoverable through the project's successful development.

#### Provision for expected credit losses of receivables

The provision for impairment of receivables assessment requires a degree of estimation and judgement. The level of provision is assessed by taking into account the recent sales experience, the aging of receivables, historical collection rates and specific knowledge of the individual debtors' financial position. The Group has an outstanding receivable for the disposal of surplus land in China from 2015, further details of which are set out in note 11. The Group is confident the balance of \$0.9 million due at year end (2023: \$0.9 million). will be settled within the next twelve months after the reporting period.

#### Income tax

The Group is subject to income taxes in the jurisdictions in which it operates. Significant judgment is required in determining the provision for income tax. There are transactions and calculations undertaken during the ordinary course of business for which the ultimate tax determination is uncertain. The Group recognises tax receivables and liabilities based on the Group's current understanding of the tax law. Where the final tax outcome of these matters is different from the carrying amounts, such differences will impact the current and deferred tax provisions in the period in which such determination is made.

#### **Deferred tax assets**

Deferred tax assets have not been recognised for capital losses and revenue losses as the utilisation of these losses is not considered probable at this stage.

#### **Inventories**

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Management estimates the net realisable values of inventories, taking into account the most reliable evidence available at each reporting date. The future realisation of these inventories may be affected by future technology or other market-driven changes that may reduce future selling prices.

#### Going concern basis

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, the validity of which depends upon the financing plan assessed as detailed in note 2 to these consolidated financial statements. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this assumption is not a guarantee as to the Group's and Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

# **Segment information**

#### **Description of segments**

The Group has adopted HKAS 8 Operating Segments from whereby segment information is presented using a 'management approach', i.e. segment information is provided on the same basis as information used for internal reporting purposes by the Managing Director/President (chief operating decision maker) who monitors the segment performance based on the segment net loss/profit before tax for the period. Operating segments have been determined on the basis of reports reviewed by the Managing Director/President who is considered to be the chief operating decision maker of the Group. The reportable segments are as follows:

- Donald Rare Earths & Mineral Sands (DMS): Development of the DMS mine
- China: Development and construction of mineral processing plant and mineral trading
- Senegal: Development of the Niafarang mine
- Other: Group treasury and head office activities

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	ated 2023 A\$	14,458,725	474 1,970,774 <b>16,429,973</b>	(6,039,121)	8,604,992 2,025,195 -	118,716	132,835,383 132,835,383	8,156,118 16,196,818 5,365,323 12,620,821 <b>42,339,080</b>
	Consolidated 2024 20 A\$	12,216,920 14	1,507,322 1 1,507,322 1 13,725,316 16	(23,125,074) (6	11,879,627 8 1,727,129 2 9,596,089	1,180,395	125,003,066 132 <b>125,003,066 132</b>	9,498,052 8 15,323,069 16 4,622,273 5 233,253 15,161,890 12 44,838,537 42
	Other 2023 A\$	,	441 1,543,575 <b>1,544,016</b>	(3,487,287)	10,053 11,098 -	•	876,155	2,659,145 (72,271) - 12,620,821
	2024 A\$		682 612,612 <b>613,294</b>	(3,280,279)	212,432 75,767	•	2,246,095	3,508,002 (72,271) 146,612 15,161,890
	Senegai 2023 A\$	•		42,077	201,201	•	9,963,806	1,476,677
	Se 2024 A\$	,		743,539	- 680'965'6	•	225,065	791,234
	China 2023 A\$	14,458,725	264,412 <b>14,723,137</b>	(2,422,631)	1,898,851 1,994,928	118,716	34,267,691	1,946,494 16,269,089
	2024 A\$	12,216,920	1,000,800 13,217,720	(20,306,115)	112,559 1,611,583	1,180,395	23,199,786	1,040,026 12,174,139 -
ector	DMS 2023 A\$	,	33 162,787 <b>162,820</b>	(171,280)	6,494,887 19,169 -	•	87,727,731	2,073,802 - 5,365,323 -
managing dir	2024 A\$	,	392 (106,090) <b>(105,698)</b>	(282,219)	11,554,636 39,779	•	99,332,119	4,158,790 3,221,201 4,622,273 86,640
Segment information provided to the managing director	30 June	Sale of mineral products: Revenue from contracts with external customers	Outer income Interest income Rent and other income Total revenue and other income	Segment result Segment (loss)/profit before tax	Acquisition of PPE, Intangible assets and other non-current segment assets Depreciation and amortisation Impairment of Niafarang project	Provision for impairment of trade receivables	Assets Segment assets Consolidated total assets	Liabilities Segment liabilities Total borrowings Convertible notes Lease liabilities Deferred tax liabilities Consolidated total liabilities

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Geographical information

Although the Group is managed globally, it operates in the following main geographical areas:

The Company was incorporated in Hong Kong.

Australia

The home country of Astron Pty Limited and one of the operating subsidiaries which performs evaluation and exploration activities. Interest and rental income is derived from Australian sources.

China

The home country of subsidiaries which operate in the mineral processing and product trading segment.

The Group is focused on developing mineral sands opportunities, principally in Senegal with a view to integrating into the Chinese operations.

	Salo	Sales revenue		Interest income		Non-current assets	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Australia	-	-	392	33	98,559,740	87,501,478	
China	12,216,920	14,458,725	-	-	16,495,715	19,857,806	
Other countries		-	682	441	53	9,737,806	
	12,216,920	14,458,725	1,074	474	115,055,508	117,097,090	

During 2024, \$11,208,183 or 91.7% (2022: \$12,308,924 or 85.4%) of the revenue depended on seven (2023: six) customers.

## Revenue and other income

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Revenue from contracts with customers within the scope of HKFRS 15		
Timing of revenue recognition – at a point in time		
- sale of goods	12,216,920	14,458,725
Interest income	1,074	474
Other income:		
- property settlement	292	-
- research and development tax incentive refund	374,362	1,543,575
- rental income	131,116	162,787
- profit on disposal of fixed assets	628,397	95,333
- other income	373,155	169,079
Total other income	1,507,322	1,970,774

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Loss before income tax expense

Loss before income tax expense is arrived at after charging/crediting:

Employee benefits<sup>1</sup> (including directors' remuneration):

	Consolidated		
	Note	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Salaries and fees		1,897,035	1,360,704
Non-cash benefits		208,207	247,706
Employee share option expenses	27	13,345	285,522
Superannuation		230,682	152,365
		2,349,269	2,046,297

## Other items

	Consolidated		
	Note	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Finance costs:			
- on borrowings		674,076	347,825
- on convertible notes		-	743,051
- debt advisory costs		-	53,478
- lease liabilities		24,785	-
- other finance costs	_	30,710	41,440
	-	729,571	1,185,794
Depreciation and amortisation		2,320,389	2,618,455
Less: capitalisation of water rights amortisation	17	(593,260)	(593,260)
	-	1,727,129	2,025,195
Costs associated with Gambia litigation	13	_	47,655
Net impairment of Niafarang project	16	9,596,089	-
Write-off of sundry receivables and prepayments <sup>1</sup>		1,014,155	-
Provision for impairment on receivables	11	164,260	118,716

Employee benefits expense excludes an amount of \$1,453,466 (2023: \$858,867) which has been capitalised to the exploration and evaluation assets as part of the continuing development of the Donald Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project.

Sundry receivables and prepayments that were outstanding for an extended period have been deemed unrecoverable at 30 June

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Income tax expense

#### The components of tax expense comprise:

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Deferred taxation:		
- Unrealised inventory	-	(188,749)
- Capitalisation of expenditure on DMS project (net)	(2,549,354)	(1,475,407)
- Other movements	8,284	(27,715)
Total	(2,541,070)	(1,691,871)

The Company is subject to Australian Income Tax which is calculated at 25% (2023: 25%) of its estimated assessable profit. No Australian Income Tax has been provided in the financial statements as the Company did not derive any estimated assessable profit in Australia for the current and prior years.

#### The prima facie tax on loss before income tax expense is reconciled to the income tax as follows:

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Loss before income tax expense	(22,324,614)	(6,039,121)
Prima facie tax benefit on loss at 25% (2023: 25%)		
- continuing operations	5,581,154	1,509,780
Add/(Less) tax effect of: - Effect of revenue that is exempt from taxation	45,736	24,019
- Effect of research and development tax incentive refund <sup>1</sup>	93,590	385,894
- Effect of expenses that are not deductible in determining taxable profit	(2,634,819)	(449,751)
<ul> <li>Effect of expenses that are not deductible in determining taxable profit – Gambia</li> <li>Effect of unused tax losses not recognised as deferred tax assets in the current</li> </ul>	-	(12,943)
year	(4,742,053)	(2,837,452)
- Effect of different tax rate of subsidiaries operating in other jurisdictions	(884,678)	(311,418)
Income tax expense	(2,541,070)	(1,691,871)

## Notes

Tax benefit relates to Australian Government Grant in relation to research & development tax incentives on eligible expenditure related to the DMS project. To the extent that research and development costs are eligible activities under the "Research and development tax incentive" programme, a 43.5% refundable tax offset is available for companies with annual turnover of less than \$20 million. The Group recognises refundable tax offsets received in the financial year as a government grant in the statement of profit or loss or comprehensive income.

## Income tax rates

#### Australia

In accordance with the Australian Income Tax Act, Astron Pty Limited and its 100%-owned Australian subsidiaries have formed a tax consolidated group, tax funding or sharing agreements have been entered into. Australia has a double tax agreement with China and there are currently no impediments to repatriating profits from China to Australia. Dividends paid to Astron Pty Limited from Chinese subsidiaries are non-assessable under current Australian Income Tax Legislation.

## China (including Hong Kong)

The Company is subject to Hong Kong tax law. Hong Kong profits tax had been provided for at the rate of 16.5% on the estimated assessable profits for the years ended 30 June 2023 and 2024.

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The Group's subsidiaries in China are subject to Chinese income tax laws. Chinese taxation obligations have been fully complied based on the regular tax audits performed by the Chinese tax authorities. The general RPC Corporate income tax rate was 25% in 2024 and 2023.

According to applicable tax regulations prevailing in the PRC, dividends distributed by a company established in the Mainland of China to a foreign investor with respect to profit derived after 1 January 2008 are generally subject to a 10% withholding tax. If a foreign investor is incorporated in Hong Kong, under the double taxation arrangement between the Mainland of China and Hong Kong, the relevant withholding tax rate applicable to such foreign investor will be reduced from 10% to 5% subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions.

## Items not chargeable or not deductible for tax purposes

Items not chargeable or deductible for tax purposes for the Group principally represent costs associated with the Gambian litigation and other costs incurred but not related to operations.

## Loss per share

## Reconciliation of loss used in the calculation of loss per share:

	Consol	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Loss attributable to owners	(24,865,684)	(7,730,992)	
Loss used to calculate basic and diluted loss per share	(24,865,684)	(7,730,992)	

#### Weighted average number of ordinary shares:

	Consol	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the year for the purpose of basic and diluted loss per share	158,012,156	129,279,930	

#### **Dilutive shares**

For the purpose of calculating diluted loss per share for the years ended 30 June 2024 and 2023, no adjustment was made as the exercise of the outstanding share options and convertible notes has an anti-dilutive effect on the basic loss per share.

## **Auditor's remuneration**

	Consolidated	
•	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Audit and review of financial statements		
BDO Limited	302,566	297,429

## Cash and cash equivalents

	Consol	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Cash on hand	29	825	
Cash at bank	2,745,770	7,203,849	
	2,745,799	7,204,674	

Cash on hand is non-interest bearing. Cash at bank comprise bank current account balances and short-term deposits at call bearing floating interest rates between 0.01% and 0.35% (2023: 0.0% and 1.2%). Deposits have an average maturity of 90 days (2023: 90 days).

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Concentration of risk by geography - cash at bank

	Consol	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Australia	2,208,580	863,104	
China	534,292	6,300,500	
Senegal	2,926	40,245	
	2,745,798	7,203,849	

## Concentration of risk by bank

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Australia		
Commonwealth Bank - S&P rating of AA- (2023: AA-)	1,912,666	800,159
Bendigo Bank – S&P rating A- (2023: BBB+)	290,525	62,945
Other Australian banks	5,389	_
	2,208,580	863,104
China		
Shengjing Bank – unrated	8	644,418
Shanghai Pudong Development Bank - S&P rating of BBB	408,879	3,515,010
Bank of China – S&P Rating of A+	48,179	-
Bank of Communications Company Limited – S&P rating of A-	-	2,079,910
Other banks	77,226	61,162
	534,292	6,300,500
Other countries		
Other banks	2,926	40,245

## Restrictions on cash

The Chinese domiciled cash on hand may have some restriction on repatriation to Australia depending on basis on which the funds are transferred to Australia. Depending on the basis, there may be taxes (including withholding tax) of 13% (2023: 13%) to be paid.

## Term deposits greater than 90 days

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024	30 Jun 2023
	A\$	A\$
Term deposits with maturity over 90 days	139,209	46,112

As at 30 June 2024, term deposits with maturity over 90 days of \$139,209 (2023: \$46,112) bear fixed interest rates of between 1.2% and 4.55% (2023: 1.2% and 3.35%) and have a maturity of 3 to 12 months.

## Restrictions on cash

As at 30 June 2024, the above term deposits with maturity over 90 days are provided as security over the Company's Australian mining tenements and are required to be maintained as long as the tenement remains held by the Company.

The short-term deposits include \$45,000 (2023: \$45,000) of cash backed by Bank Guarantees for the operations of the Donald project.

During the year, the company held a term deposit of \$48,097 as security in the form of a cash backed bank guarantee over the corporate head office premises.

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Concentration of risk by geography - term deposits

	Consol	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Australia	139,209	46,112	

## Concentration of risk by bank - term deposits

	Consol	Consolidated		
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$		
Australia				
Commonwealth Bank-S&P rating of AA- (2023: AA-)	128,097	35,000		
Other	11,112	11,112		
	139,209	46,112		

## Trade and other receivables and prepayments

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Current assets:		
Trade receivables	664,857	106,266
Provision for impairment of trade receivables	(106,124)	(39,058)
Net trade receivables	558,733	67,208
Land sale receivable	1,042,906	1,095,945
Impairments	(260,987)	(164,392)
Net land sale receivable	781,919	931,553
Sundry receivables	2,902,998	2,577,001
Prepayments	1,883,086	3,059,965
Impairments	(373,886)	(374,384)
Net prepayments	1,509,200	2,685,581
Total trade and other receivables and prepayments	5,752,850	6,261,343

#### Land sale receivable

During the year ended 30 June 2014, the Group entered into an agreement to transfer 1,065,384m<sup>2</sup> of land held in Yingkou Province in China to a state-owned entity. As the under-development of this land resulted from a change of government development plans and restructure, this land transfer has been subsidised by the Chinese Government. Final contracts over the land sale have been exchanged and the disposal was brought to account in the year ended 30 June 2015. The net proceeds receivable amounted to \$20,356,248. The land contract is unconditional, and payment is binding on the buyer being the Yingkou Government and its related entities, but the payments expected have been delayed.

The receivable is currently outside the terms initially agreed.

As at 30 June 2024, the total amount outstanding before ECL provision was \$1,042,906 (2023: \$1,095,945). During the year ended 30 June 2024 the Company received RMB250,000 (\$52,771) in relation to the land sale receive (2023: Nil). The directors continue to believe this remaining balance will be recovered in full as it is owed by a Chinese government entity but estimate it will now be settled in 2024 or 2025. The provision has accordingly been determined on that basis and as such a further provision for expected credit loss of \$98,032 (2023: \$118,716) was recognised for the year ended 30 June 2024. As at 30 June 2024, the impairment provision for land sale receivable was \$260,987 (2023: \$164,392).

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Ageing analysis

The ageing analysis of trade debtors, based on due dates, is as follows:

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
0-30 days (not past due)	558,733	67,208

At the end of the reporting period, the Group's trade debtors were predominantly receivable from Chinese trading partners. The Chinese debtors are regularly reviewed and, as is common practice in China, the terms may be extended to preserve client relationships. Where applicable, the Group has impaired significantly overdue receivables.

## Impairment on trade debtors

At year end, the Group reviewed its trade debtors and brought to account impairment where required.

As at 30 June 2024, the impairment provision for trade debtors was \$106,124 (2023: \$39,058).

#### **Prepayments**

At year end, the Group had made advances for property, plant and equipment purchases.

Included in prepayments is an amount of RMB1.800.000 carried forward from 2008, equivalent to \$373.886 (2023; \$374.384) which is the prepayment for construction. This amount has been fully impaired due to low possibility of collection.

#### **Inventories**

	Consolidated		
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Raw materials	165,747	317,132	
Semi-manufactured goods	1,942,985	1,605,693	
Finished goods		381,776	
Total inventories	2,108,732	2,304,601	
Less impairment of semi-manufactured goods	(841,832)	(86,756)	
	1,266,900	2,217,845	

During the year ended 30 June 2024, the Company raised a provision for net realisable value against certain work in progress inventory of \$841,832 (2023: \$86,756).

#### **Investments in Gambia**

Carnegie Minerals (Gambia) Limited is a 100% subsidiary of the Company. It was incorporated to commence mining activities in Gambia. The investments and receivables associated with the Company have been impaired in full. The original agreement prior to the seizure of the assets was that Astron Pty Limited had an obligation to fund the development and operating costs of the mine by way of loans.

As announced to the ASX on 23 July 2015, the Group has received a successful finding in its favour. The Group and the Gambian government made submissions on damages to the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). ICSID has determined the award including damages in favour of Astron.

The determination was for US\$18,658,358 in damages for breach of the mining licence, interest of US\$993,683, arbitration costs of US\$445,860 (minus any sums refunded to Astron by ICSID on its final accounting) and £2,250,000 for legal costs. In total this is approximately A\$31 million (Award).

On 2 December 2015, the Group notified the ASX that Gambia had submitted an application for annulment to ICSID, on the grounds of the constitution of the arbitral tribunal, and arguments about admissibility and jurisdiction. An application for annulment is the only form of action open to Gambia under the ICSID rules, as there is no form of appeal process.

The ICSID panel of three arbitrators has confirmed that the Award should not be annulled in whole or in part in July 2020. The Group has been ordered to meet one half of the cost of the Committee being US\$221,992 payable to Gambia and shall be offset against sums due under the Award. As of 30 June 2024, no assets arising from this matter were recognised.

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

When the Group receives a settlement, an additional contingent legal fee of £171,000 (equivalent to approximately A\$307,000) is payable to the lawyers who assisted in this matter.

For the year ended 30 June 2024, the Group incurred \$nil (2023: \$47,655) of costs in relation to entering into a litigation funding agreement with an international law firm to attempt to expedite the recovery of this award. The litigation funder has agreed to incur up to US\$2 million in recovery against the award.

## Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	Consol	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Equity securities			
- Listed in Australia	2,800	8,319	
- Units in Murtoa Housing Innovation Pty Ltd	40,000		
	42,800	8,319	

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss include listed equity investments in Australia. These financial assets comprise investments in the ordinary issued capital of three public companies listed on the ASX. The cost of these investments was \$1,877,716. There are no fixed returns or fixed maturity date attached to these investments.

For listed equity securities and preference shares, fair value is determined by reference to closing bid prices on the ASX.

#### **Subsidiaries**

Subsidiaries			
	Country of	Percentage	Owned
	incorporation	30 Jun 2024	30 Jun 2023
Parent entity			
Astron Corporation Limited	Hong Kong		
Subsidiaries of parent entity			
Astron Pty Limited	Australia	100	100
Astron Mineral Sands Pty Limited	Australia	100	100
Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Co Ltd	China	100	100
Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Hong Kong Holdings Limited	Hong Kong	100	100
Carnegie Minerals (Gambia) Inc	USA	100	100
Carnegie Minerals (Gambia) Limited	The Gambia	100	100
Camden Sands Inc	USA	100	100
Coast Resources Limited	Isle of Man	100	100
Dickson & Johnson Pty Limited	Australia	100	100
Donald Mineral Sands Pty Ltd	Australia	100	100
Donald Project Pty Ltd (ii)	Australia	100	-
Sovereign Gold Pty Limited	Australia	100	100
WIM 150 Pty Limited	Australia	100	100
Astron Senegal Holding Pty Ltd	Hong Kong	100	100
Senegal Mineral Resources SA	Senegal	100	100
Senegal Mineral Sands Ltd	Hong Kong	100	100
Zirtanium Pty Limited	Australia	100	100

<sup>(</sup>i) The proportion of ownership interest is equal to the proportion of voting power held.

Other than the above no other subsidiaries were acquired or disposed of during the year ended 30 June 2024.

<sup>(</sup>ii) Incorporated on 1 February 2024, as the joint venture entity for the development of the Donald project in conjunction with Energy Fuels Inc.

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

# Property, plant and equipment

	Consol	Consolidated		
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$		
Land				
At cost	5,222,151	5,162,151		
Buildings				
At cost	15,665,905	11,355,515		
Less accumulated depreciation	(5,490,953)	(4,752,412)		
Net carrying value	10,174,952	6,603,103		
Capital works in progress				
At cost	5,134,544	5,137,423		
Less accumulated impairment losses	(3,695,914)	(3,700,834)		
Total capital works in progress	1,438,630	1,436,589		
Plant and equipment				
At cost	12,646,099	18,482,113		
Less accumulated depreciation	(7,838,918)	(7,089,951)		
Less accumulated impairment losses	(1,760,155)	(1,762,498)		
Net carrying value	3,047,026	9,629,664		
Total property, plant and equipment	19,882,759	22,831,507		

#### Assets pledged as security

As at 30 June 2024, property, plant and equipment with carrying value of \$8,867,544 (2023: \$6,864,250) were pledged as security for short term loans (note 22).

## Capital works in progress

Capital works in progress represent plant and equipment being assembled and/or constructed. They are not ready for use and not yet being depreciated.

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Movements in net carrying values

Movement in the carrying amount for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Land	Buildings	Capital works in progress	Plant and equipment	Total
	<b>A</b> \$	<b>A</b> \$	A\$	<b>A</b> \$	<b>A</b> \$
Balance at 1 July 2022	5,162,151	7,149,406	711,850	10,581,991	23,605,398
Additions	-	587,773	780,128	541,005	1,908,906
Disposals	-	(88,104)	(6,614)	(2,585)	(97,303)
Depreciation	-	(518,351)	-	(1,423,083)	(1,941,434)
Transfers <sup>1</sup>	-	(247,219)	-	247,219	-
Foreign exchange movements	-	(280,402)	(48,775)	(314,883)	(644,060)
Balance at 30 June 2023	5,162,151	6,603,103	1,436,589	9,629,664	22,831,507
Additions	60,000	9,296	4,015	121,328	194,639
Disposals	-	(114,805)	-	-	(114,805)
Depreciation	-	(635,929)	-	(943,585)	(1,579,514)
Transfers <sup>2</sup>	-	4,380,178	-	(4,380,178)	-
Impairment <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	(1,466,746)	(1,466,746)
Foreign exchange movements	-	(66,891)	(1,974)	86,543	17,678
Balance at 30 June 2024	5,222,151	10,174,952	1,438,630	3,047,026	19,882,759

- During the year ended 30 June 2023, following reconciliation of the fixed asset register to underlying source documents, depreciation previously classified as relating to buildings was discovered to be related to plant and equipment. As such, an amount of \$247,219 has been transferred between the two asset classifications at 30 June 2023.
- During the year ended 30 June 2024, following reconciliation of the fixed asset register to underlying source documents, assets with a book value of \$4,380,178 previously classified as relating to plant and equipment were discovered to be related to buildings. As such, an amount of \$4,380,178 has been transferred between the two asset classifications at 30 June 2024.
- Refer note 18.

## **Exploration and evaluation assets**

•		Consolidated		
	Note	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Evaluation costs				
Cost	17(a)	7,794,648	7,795,057	
Accumulated impairment loss	17(a)	(7,487,231)	(7,487,231)	
	_	307,417	307,826	
Exploration expenditure capitalised - DMS project				
Exploration and evaluation phases	17(b)	83,307,428	71,931,196	
Water rights - DMS project	17(c)			
At Cost		17,958,613	17,958,613	
Less accumulated amortisation		(8,200,699)	(7,607,439)	
		9,757,914	10,351,174	
Total exploration and evaluation assets	17(e)	93,372,759	82,590,196	

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## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## **Evaluation costs**

	Consol	Consolidated		
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$		
TiO₂ project				
Cost	7,487,231	7,487,231		
Less accumulated impairment losses	(7,487,231)	(7,487,231)		
		-		
Capitalised testing and design				
Cost	307,417	307,826		
Total evaluation costs	307,417	307,826		

## **Exploration and evaluation expenditure**

This expenditure relates to the Group's investment in the Donald Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project. As at 30 June 2024, the Group has complied with the conditions of the granting of MIN5532, RL 2002, RL2003 and EL5186. As such, the directors believe that the tenements are in good standing with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (Earth Resources Regulator) in Victoria, who administers the Mineral Resources Development Act 1990.

During the year, DMS submitted its Work Plan application to the Earth Resources Regulator within the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. The Work Plan is the primary regulatory approval outstanding prior to construction of Phase 1 of the Donald Project. Further, the Company also engaged Sedgman Pty Ltd to complete Early Contractor Involvement in order to finalise the process design basis, processing facility layout, engineering development and tendering of supply, pre-assembly and construction. The Company also undertook further sonic drilling for geotechnical and bulk density test work, progressed off-site infrastructure engineering and design for power, water and roads, and continued preparations for a Final Investment Decision.

The recoverability of the carrying amount of the exploration and evaluation assets is dependent upon the successful development and commercial exploitation or alternatively sale of the area of interest.

#### Water rights

In 2012, the Group acquired rights to the supply of water for the Donald project. The water rights are amortised over 25 years (subject to the extension of this term) in line with entitlements.

In July 2018, a "Deed of Variation" was signed between Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation (GWM Water) and Donald Mineral Sands Pty Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. The variation provides for an extension of the term of the original agreement of up to four years subject to terms and conditions. The amortisation period of the water rights have accordingly been extended by four years to a total period of 29 years to December 2040.

## Finite lives

Intangible assets, other than goodwill have finite useful lives. To date, other than water rights, no amortisation has been charged in respect of intangible assets due to the stage of development for each project.

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Movement in net carrying values

	Evaluation costs A\$	Exploration and evaluation phase A\$	Water rights A\$	Total A\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	320,716	65,436,309	10,944,434	76,701,459
Additions <sup>1</sup>	-	6,494,887	-	6,494,887
Amortisation	-	-	(593,260)	(593,260)
Foreign exchange movements	(12,890)	-	-	(12,890)
Balance at 30 June 2023	307,826	71,931,196	10,351,174	82,590,196
Additions <sup>1</sup>	-	11,376,232	-	11,376,232
Amortisation	-	-	(593,260)	(593,260)
Foreign exchange movements	(409)	-	-	(409)
Balance at 30 June 2024	307,417	83,307,428	9,757,914	93,372,759

Additions of exploration and evaluation phase during the year included the amortisation of water rights of \$593,260 (2023: \$593,260) which was capitalised during the year.

## **Development costs**

	Consol 30 Jun 2024 A\$	idated 30 Jun 2023 A\$
Balance at 1 July	8,901,965	8,374,798
Additions	-	201,201
Impairment	(8,929,803)	-
Foreign exchange movements	27,838	325,966
Balance at 30 June		8,901,965

Astron Corporation Limited's (ASX: ATR) subsidiary in Senegal, Senegal Mineral Resources SA (SMR), had its small mining licence, issued under Order Number 09042/MIM/TMG, renewed for five years in April 2023.

During the year ended 30 June 2024, The Ministry of Mines and Geology in Senegal (Ministry) issued an order purporting to withdraw the authorisation granted to SMR to operate the small mining licence.

The Company is of the view that the order issued by the Ministry is invalid on the basis that it does not comply with the procedures set out in the Mining Code of Senegal, as the requisite procedures (including certain requirements for formal notices) were not followed. Further, the basis of the withdrawal is in SMR's view is also invalid as one of the bases of the purported withdrawal is that the temporary resettlement of a small, localised population to allow mining activities to commence has not occurred. Under the mining code, resettlement, which has not occurred, depends on actions to be taken by the local and provincial officials in Senegal rather than by the holder of the licence.

SMR has commenced a mediation process under which an independent mediator was appointed to seek resolution with the Ministry. The independent mediator met with both the parties individually and also facilitated a joint meeting of the parties. This is a mandatory process and, under the mediation process in Senegal, the mediator will make a decision based on his or her findings. This decision is subject to a right of appeal by either party under a more formal arbitration process.

The mediation process has been delayed due to presidential elections in Senegal and the consequential change in government that occurred following this election. The Company has enjoyed cordial dialogue with the new government in order to avoid the mediation process however there has been minimal progress.

The cost of, and involvement of Astron's Australian personnel in, the mediation process is minimal.

Astron and SMR will work with the independent mediator and the Ministry to address this issue, as SMR believes the order and the process followed by the Ministry was erroneous and flawed. Astron will provide further updates once the mediation process has been completed, however the current intention is to seek to have the Ministry's order withdrawn.

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## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Despite the Company's views in relation to the validity of the Ministry's notice of withdrawal, the uncertainty of the mediation outcome, potential additional time needed if the right of appeal is enforced and whether the final mediation outcome will be recognised and enforced by the Ministry has led the Company to expect the recoverable amount (based on its value in use) of Niafarang Project assets to be nil at reporting date. Accordingly, the Company has recognised an impairment of \$8,929,804 against development costs and a further \$1,466,746 against property, plant and equipment (see note 16) relating to the Niafarang Project.

## Right-of-use assets

	Consol 30 Jun 2024 A\$	idated 30 Jun 2023 A\$
Balance at 1 July	2,773,422	2,974,558
Additions	308,756	-
Disposals	(1,150,306)	-
Amortisation	(147,615)	(83,761)
Foreign exchange movements	15,733	(117,375)
Balance at 30 June	1,799,990	2,773,422

Right-of-use assets represented by:

	Leased Premises A\$	Land Use Rights A\$	Total A\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	-	2,974,558	2,974,558
Amortisation	-	(83,761)	(83,761)
Foreign exchange movements		(117,375)	(117,375)
Balance at 1 July 2023	-	2,773,422	2,773,422
Additions	308,756	-	308,756
Disposals	-	(1,150,306)	(1,150,306)
Amortisation	(81,940)	(65,675)	(147,615)
Foreign exchange movements		15,733	15,733
Balance at 30 June 2024	226,817	1,573,174	1,799,990

During the year the Group entered into a three-and five-year commercial lease of its corporate head office and its office premises for use in its operations in Minyip respectively.

During the year ended 30 June 2014, management entered into an agreement to transfer 1,065,384m<sup>2</sup> of land held in Yingkou province China to a state-owned entity, representing approximately 83% of the total land held by the Group in Yingkou province. As the under-development of this land resulted from a change of government development plan and restructure, this land transfer has been subsidised by the Chinese Government. Final contracts over the land sale were exchanged and the disposal was brought to account in the year ended 30 June 2015. The net proceeds amounting to \$20,356,248 were to be received in instalments. Further details of this land sale receivable are set out in note 11. The remaining 17% of the land, representing 214,802m<sup>2</sup> is shown as Right-of-Use Asset.

In addition to the land referred to above, the Group also owns a nearby piece of land measuring approximately 18,302m<sup>2</sup> located at Bayuquan District, Yingkou Province, China. Both pieces of land are held on long term leases with lease terms ranging from 48 to 54 years. During the year, the Company negotiated the partial return of land with a book value of RMB5.5 million to the Bayuquan Government as part of rationalising its land assets in the Yingkou province. As such, the Company received proceeds of RMB7.6 million in early July 2024 as consideration for the return of the land.

As at 30 June 2024, right-of-use assets with carrying value of \$1,555,121, (2023: \$1,499,620) are pledged as security over short- term loans (note 22).

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## 20. Trade and other payables

	Consol 30 Jun 2024 A\$	olidated 30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Unsecured liabilities			
Trade payables	6,052,969	3,617,909	
Deposits received in advance	95,432	14,923	
Other payables <sup>1</sup>	3,100,020	2,945,169	
	9,248,421	6,578,001	

#### Notes

Included in other payables was a balance of \$2,027,065 (2023: \$1,964,565) in aggregate due to a related company as detailed in note 31.

#### **Contract liabilities**

	Consol	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Contract liabilities arising from:		
Advance deposit for future provision of goods <sup>1</sup>	98,508	656,001

## Notes

Sale of goods

Contract liabilities are amounts received by the Group as advances in relation to the sale of mineral products which are expected to be recognised as revenue in the next 12 months.

## **Borrowings**

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Current		
Other short-term borrowings <sup>1-</sup>	473,038	2,782,564
Bank borrowings <sup>3</sup>	5,608,292	5,823,748
Advances from directors <sup>4</sup>	2,810,026	6,021,428
	8,891,356	14,627,740
Non-current		
Other long-term borrowings <sup>1</sup>	1,444,939	633,118
Loan payable to EFR Donald Ltd <sup>2</sup>	3,221,201	-
Bank borrowings <sup>3</sup>	1,765,573	935,960
	6,431,713	1,569,078

- Other short and long-term borrowings are Chinese subsidiary loans including:
  - amounts of \$367,615 and \$449,475 (2023: 673,580 and \$641,392), denominated in RMB, which are interest bearing at 4.2% - 4.6%, repayable in October 2025 and Apr 2027 respectively and secured against right of use assets which are in use by Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Limited but remain the property of the lessor;
  - an amount of \$1,100,887 (2023: \$1,102,353) which is interest bearing at 8.0% p.a. (2023: 10.0%), repayable in March 2026 and secured by certain fixed assets in China amounting to \$2,436,953 (2023: \$1,499,620 (Note 19 and 16))
  - amounts of \$NIL (2023: \$998,357), denominated in RMB which were interest bearing at 1.0% to 7.5%, unsecured and repaid during the year.

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Loans payable to EFR Donald Ltd

Pursuant to the terms of the joint venture agreement executed with EFR Donald Ltd, a subsidiary of Energy Fuels Inc, on 4 June 2024, Energy Fuels immediately assumed responsibility for funding 100% of Donald Project expenditure by way of an interest free loan to the joint venture company. The loan will be converted to equity in the joint venture, as part of Energy Fuels' \$183 million project development contribution, on satisfaction of the Conditions Precedent.

In the event that Conditions Precedent are not satisfied, the Company has an interest free period of three years in which to repay any amounts funded by Energy Fuels during the pre-completion period.

#### Bank borrowings

The bank loans are Chinese subsidiary loans denominated in RMB, interest bearing between 3.45% to 5.0% p.a. (2023: 4.5% to 5.50%) and have the following maturity profile:

- September 2024 \$2,077,145;
- November 2024 \$2,077,145; b)
- March 2025 \$1,454,002; c)
- March 2026 \$207,715; and d)
- March 2027 \$1,557,858. e)

These loans are pledged with fixed assets amounting to \$10,422,665 (2023: \$6,864,250) (note 16 and note 19) of the Group, and personal guarantees from directors of \$7,373,865 (2023: \$6,759,708).

The loan agreements have been entered into by Astron's operating subsidiary and the Company does not provide any guarantees over the borrowings.

#### Advances from directors

At 30 June 2024, executive directors Mdm Kang Rong and Mr. Tiger Brown had advanced the Group \$2,810,026 (2023: \$6,021,428) and Nil) respectively for working capital. The loans are provided interest free and repayable on demand.

Company Number: 1687414

## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Convertible notes

In March 2022, Astron issued Convertible Notes (the Notes) to raise the principal amount of \$5,000,000 and incurred \$1,000,000 to pay interest on the Notes. The Notes have a term of two years and are convertible into ordinary shares of the Company at A\$0.54 per share (representing a 24% premium over the trailing 60-day VWAP). The Notes carry a 10% p.a. coupon payable up front in the form of 10,000 additional notes (equivalent to \$1 million) with the full amount capitalised to the loan balance. On 17 March 2024, the maturity date of the Notes were extended for a further two years to 17 March 2026.

The Notes are secured by the 100% owned subsidiary, Donald Mineral Sands Pty Ltd, providing a first ranking general security agreement, guarantee and registered mortgage over real property held.

The movements of the liability component and conversion option component of the Notes during the year ended 30 June 2024 are as follows:

	Note	Liability component of the Notes A\$	Conversion option component of the Notes A\$	Total A\$
At 1 July 2022 Effective interest expenses recognised to profit or		4,622,272	546,818	5,169,090
loss		743,051	-	743,051
At 30 June 2023		5,365,323	546,818	5,912,141
Effective interest expenses recognised to profit or loss Conversion of 10,000 notes into ordinary shares at \$0.54 per share	26	803,768 (1,000,000)	- (91,136)	803,768 (1,091,136)
Extension of notes – 50,000		(546,818)	546,818	
At 30 June 2024		4,622,273	1,002,500	5,624,773
Categorised as – current portion:				
At 30 June 2023		5,365,323	-	5,365,323
At 30 June 2024		4,622,273	-	4,622,273

On 31 July 2024, the Company announced that all the convertible notes on issue had been converted into ordinary shares in the Company through the issue of 11,500,000 ordinary shares (including 11,111,111 shares relating to \$5,000,000 in principal notes and \$1,000,000 in interest notes and 388,889 ordinary shares as an early conversion fee). The ordinary shares issued to the convertible note holder are subject to a voluntary escrow period of twelve months from issue.

## **Provisions**

	Consol 30 Jun 2024	idated 30 Jun 2023
	A\$	A\$
Current		
Employee entitlements	151,123	126,666
Non-current		
Relocation provision <sup>1</sup>	_	795,450

The provision for relocation represents the estimated costs to relocate and compensate landowners for the Senegal mineral sands project.

Following the impairment of development assets relating to the Niafarang Project in Senegal, the Company de-recognised the relocation provision.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Consol	idated
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Deferred tax liability		
Deferred tax liability arises from the following:		
- Capitalised expenditure	15,238,098	12,689,744
- Provisions and other timing differences	(77,208)	(68,923)
	15,161,890	12,620,821

## Deferred tax assets not brought to account

	Consol	lidated
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Tax losses:		
- Revenue losses (China)	11,569,525	9,328,686
- Revenue losses (Australia)	7,704,570	5,315,057
- Capital losses	12,206,357	12,694,612

25. Deferred tax				
Liabilities				
			Consol	idated
			30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Deferred tax liability				
Deferred tax liability arises from the following	ing:			
<ul> <li>Capitalised expenditure</li> </ul>			15,238,098	12,689,744
<ul> <li>Provisions and other timing difference</li> </ul>	es		(77,208)	(68,923)
			15,161,890	12,620,821
Deferred tax assets not brought to accou	unt			
Deferred tax assets are not brought to account 2 occur.	ount as benefits will only l	be realised if the	conditions for ded	uctibility set out
			Consol	idated
			30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Tax losses:				
- Revenue losses (China)			11,569,525	9,328,686
- Revenue losses (Australia)			7,704,570	5,315,057
- Capital losses			12,206,357	12,694,612
Issued capital		Canaal	lialoto d	
	30 Jun 2024	Consol 30 Jun 2023	30 Jun 2024	30 Jun 2023
	A\$	A\$	No.	No.
Fully paid ordinary shares				
At beginning of the year	89,233,205	76,549,865	146,544,643	122,479,784
Shares issued on:				
<ul><li>– 21 October 2022</li></ul>	-	2,585,003	-	4,787,042
<ul><li>– 18 November 2022</li></ul>	-	776,300	-	1,437,632
<ul><li>– 19 December 2022</li></ul>	-	2,415,000	-	4,472,223
<ul><li>– 17 February 2023</li></ul>	-	218,700	-	405,000
– 13 June 2023	-	3,500,000	-	6,481,481
– 30 June 2023	-	3,500,000	-	6,481,481
- 27 September 2023	47,724	-	99,425	-
- 12 October 2023	1,680,000	-	3,000,000	-
<ul><li>– 22 November 2023</li></ul>	4,000,000	-	7,142,857	-
– 24 January 2024	3,000,000	-	5,357,143	-
<ul> <li>17 March 2024 convertible note convers</li> </ul>			4 054 050	
(Note 23) – 21 March 2024	1,091,136	-	1,851,852	-
	4,000,000	-	7,142,857	-
	(00.547)	(470 504)		
Share issue costs – cash	(66,517)	(172,501)	-	-
	(66,517)  102,985,548	(172,501) (139,162) <b>89,233,205</b>	- - 171,138,777	146,544,643

Company Number: 1687414

## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## **Ordinary shares**

Ordinary shares participate in dividends and the proceeds on winding up of the parent entity in proportion to the number of shares held.

At the shareholders meetings, each ordinary share is entitled to one vote when a poll is called; otherwise each shareholder has one vote on a show of hands.

#### Capital risk management

The Group considers its capital to comprise its ordinary share capital, reserves, accumulated losses and net debt.

In managing its capital, the Group's primary objective is to ensure its continued ability to provide a consistent return for its equity shareholders through a combination of capital growth and dividends. In order to achieve this objective, the Group has made decisions to adjust its capital structure to achieve these aims, either through altering its dividend policy, new share issues, or share buy backs, the Group considers not only its short-term position but also its long term operational and strategic objectives.

	Consol	Consolidated		
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$		
Borrowings (including convertible notes)	19,945,342	21,562,141		
Total equity	80,164,529	90,496,303		
Net debt to equity ratio	24.88%	23.86%		

There have been no significant changes to the Group's capital management objectives, policies and processes in the year nor has there been any change in what the Group considers to be its capital.

#### Share based payments

## **Employee Share Option Plan**

The Company operates the Employee Share Option Plan (the ESOP) for the purpose of providing incentives and rewards to Eligible Participants for their contribution to the Group and/or to enable the Group to recruit and retain high-calibre employees and attract valuable human resources to the Group. The ESOP is to extend to directors, employees, contractors or prospective participants who meet that criteria on appointment (Eligible Participant) (or the Eligible Associate of such person) of the Company or an associated body corporate of the Company as the Board may in its discretion determine.

The maximum aggregate number of the options issued under the ESOP shall not at any time exceed 5% of the Company's total issued shares (being up to 8,556,939 (2023: 7,327,232) options based on the number of issued shares outstanding at 30 June 2024). The exercise price of an Option is to be determined by the Board at its sole discretion.

The exercise period commences on the Option Commencement Date and ends on the earlier of:

- the expiration of such period nominated by the Board at its sole discretion at the time of the grant of the Option but being not less than two years;
- an associated body corporate ceases because of an Uncontrollable Event, the earlier of:
  - the expiry of the Option Period; or
  - six months (or such other period as the Board shall, in its absolute discretion, determine) from the date on which the Eligible Participant ceased that employment or engagement;
- an associated body corporate ceases because of a Controllable Event, the earlier of:
  - the expiry of the Option Period; or
  - six months (or such other period as the Board shall, in its absolute discretion, determine) from the date on which the Eligible Participant ceased that employment or engagement;
- the Eligible Participant ceasing to be employed or engaged by the Company or an associated body corporate of the Company due to fraud, dishonesty or being in material breach of their obligations to the Company or an associated body corporate.

Company Number: 1687414

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The Company had the following share-based payment arrangements issued under the ESOP in existence during the current and prior periods:

	Grant date	Expiry date	Exercise price	Number o on is	
	Date	Date	A\$	30 Jun 24	30 Jun 23
ATRAA <sup>1</sup>	30 Nov 2021	30 Nov 2024	0.3375	800,000	800,000
ATRAB <sup>1</sup>	30 Nov 2021	30 Nov 2024	0.7200	800,000	800,000
ATRAC	13 Dec 2021	13 Dec 2024	0.6300	1,450,000	2,100,000
ATRAD	22 Nov 2022	22 Nov 2025	0.7725	800,000	800,000
ATRAE	1 Oct 2022	1 Oct 2025	0.9000	600,000	600,000
			_	4,450,000	5,100,000

Issues ATRAA and ATRAB were agreed via separate director resolutions on 23 February 2021 (based on the share price at this date of \$0.225) and 20 July 2021 (based on the share price at this date of \$0.48) respectively. However, these issues were subject to shareholder approval and thus the grant date is taken to be the date of shareholder approval being on 30 November 2021.

#### Vesting Conditions

There are no vesting conditions for issues ATRAA, ATRAB and ATRAD. All options issued under these tranches are free to be exercised from the date of issue.

The following vesting conditions are in place for tranche ATRAC:

- 300,000 options no vesting conditions
- 1,800,000 options 50% of options vest on issue, with a further 25% on the first and second anniversary of the issue date respectively, contingent on remaining employed. Unvested options lapse on cessation of employment.

The following vesting conditions are in place for tranche ATRAE:

- 300,000 options no vesting conditions
- 300,000 options 50% of options vest on issue, with a further 25% on the first and second anniversary of the issue date respectively, contingent on remaining employed. Unvested options lapse on cessation of employment.

## Movement in the number of options issued under the ESOP

	Total number of ESOP options outstanding No.	Weighted average exercise price A\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	3,700,000	0.5862
Options granted under the employee share option plan	1,400,000	0.8271
Balance at 30 June 2023	5,100,000	0.6524
Options expired under the employee share option plan	(650,000)	
Balance at 30 June 2024	4,450,000	0.6524

No share options were exercised during the years ended 30 June 2023 and 2024.

As at 30 June 2024, there were no further key executives that had any rights to acquire shares in terms of a share-based payment scheme for employee remuneration.

Company Number: 1687414

## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Fair value of options issued under the ESOP

The fair value of the options granted was using Black Scholes Option Pricing Model that takes into account the following inputs on the grant date:

	ATRAA <sup>1</sup>	ATRAB <sup>1</sup>	ATRAC	ATRAD	ATRAE
Grant date	30 Nov 2021	30 Nov 2021	13 Dec 2021	22 Nov 2022	1 Oct 2022
Share price at grant date	0.3000	0.3000	0.4200	0.5950	0.6000
Fair value	0.2866	0.2127	0.2261	0.2561	0.2357
Valuation date	30 Nov 2021	30 Nov 2021	13 Dec 2021	22 Nov 2022	1 Oct 2022
Expiry date	30 Nov 2024	30 Nov 2024	13 Dec 2024	22 Nov 2025	1 Oct 2025
Exercise price	0.3375	0.7200	0.6300	0.7725	0.9000
Volatility <sup>2</sup>	90.23%	90.23%	90.23%	77.23%	77.23%
Dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Risk free interest rate	1.67%	1.67%	1.67%	3.04%	3.04%
Total life of options	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years

- Issues ATRAA and ATRAB were agreed via separate director resolutions on 23 February 2021 (based on the share price at this date of \$0.225) and 20 July 2021 (based on the share price at this date of \$0.48) respectively. However, these issues were subject to shareholder approval and thus the grant date is taken to be the date of shareholder approval being on 30 November 2021.
- Expected volatility (determined based on a statistical analysis of historical daily share prices over the same period as the life of the options), early exercise behaviour and expected life of share options are determined based on market research data and historical data respectively and may not necessarily be the actual outcome.

The fair value of options issued under the ESOP at grant date is as follows:

	ATRAA	ATRAB	ATRAC	ATRAD	ATRAE
Number of options	800,000	800,000	2,100,000	800,000	600,000
Fair value of options issued at grant date	0.2866	0.2127	0.2261	0.2561	0.2357
Total fair value of options at grant date	229,308	170,188	474,906	204,906	141,443

#### Share-based payment expense

The following table outlines the share-based payment expense recognised in the profit or loss for each tranche of options issued under the ESOP:

	Conso	Consolidated		
	30 June 2024 A\$	30 June 2023 A\$		
Unlisted options				
ATRAC <sup>1</sup>	-	(45,229)		
ATRAD	-	204,906		
ATRAE	13,345	125,845		
	13,345	285,522		

An offer for the issue of 200,000 options under the ESOP to a consultant was declined during the year ended 30 June 2022. However, the share-based payment expense relating to these options was recognised during the year ended 30 June 2022. As such, an adjustment to share-based payments expense has been recognised during the year ended 30 June 2023 in order to reflect the fact that these options were never issued and therefore the Company has not incurred any expense in relation to these options.

The fair value of the share options granted during the year ended 30 June 2024 was \$13,345 (30 June 2023: \$285,522) (note 2) which had been recognised as employee share option expense with the corresponding balance credited to the share-based payment reserve.

A share-based payment of \$913,104 was recognised in 2017 after certain milestones with respect to the Senegal project were achieved by a project consultant. This represents a 3% equity interest in the project, calculated by reference to the Senegal project's fair value and to be satisfied by the issue of shares in a Senegalese subsidiary.

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## **Broker options**

Pursuant to the completion of the private placement announced by the Company on 17 October 2022, 600,000 options exercisable at \$0.81 expiring on 18 October 2025 were issued to Blue Ocean Equities nominee company L39 Pty Ltd in accordance with the lead manager agreement executed by the Company on 15 September 2022. These options vest immediately.

The details of these options are outlined below:

	Grant Date	Vesting Date	Expiry Date	Exercise price A\$	Number of options on issue 30 Jun 2024	Number of options on issue 30 Jun 2023
ATRAO	18 Oct 2022	18 Oct 2022	18 Oct 2025	0.81	600,000	600,000

#### Movement in the number of broker options

	Total number of ESOP options outstanding No.	Weighted average exercise price A\$
Options granted to broker under lead manager agreement	600,000	0.81
Balance at 30 June 2024 and 2023	600,000	0.81

No broker options were exercised during the year ended 30 June 2024 (2023:Nil).

## Fair value of options issued to brokers

The fair value of the options granted was estimated using Black Scholes Option Pricing Model, which approximates the fair value of the services received, takes into account the following inputs on the grant date:

	ATRAO
Grant date	18 Oct 2022
Share price at grant date	0.5700
Fair value	0.2319
Valuation date	18 Oct 2022
Expiry date	18 Oct 2025
Exercise price	0.8100
Volatility <sup>1</sup>	77.23%
Dividend yield	0.0%
Risk free interest rate	3.04%
Total life of options	3 years

Expected volatility, determined based on a statistical analysis of historical daily share prices over the same period as the life of the options, and early exercise behaviour and expected life of share options, determined based on the market research data and historical data respectively, may not necessarily be the actual outcome.

The fair value of options issued to brokers at grant date is as follows:

	ATRAO
Number of options	600,000
Fair value of options issued at grant date	0.2319
Total fair value of options at grant date	139,162

Company Number: 1687414

## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Share-based payment expense - share issue costs

The following table outlines the share-based payment expense recognised as a reduction in share capital for each tranche of options issued to brokers:

	Conso	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024	30 Jun 2023	
	A\$	A\$	
Unlisted options		100 100	
ATRAO	-	139,162	

The fair value of the share options granted during the year ended 30 June 2024 was \$NIL (30 June 2023: \$139,162). Sharebased payments expenses relating to broker options were recognised directly in equity as a reduction in the value of issued capital at the date relevant shares are issued (or over the vesting period in the event vesting conditions are applicable) (note 26).

Reserves

	Consolidated		
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Foreign currency translation reserve	14,140,946	13,828,406	
Share-based payment reserve	2,270,764	2,257,419	
Convertible notes equity reserve	1,002,500	546,818	
Capital reserves	1,450,005	1,450,005	
	18,864,215	18,082,648	

## Foreign currency translation reserve

The foreign currency translation reserve records exchange differences arising on translation of foreign controlled subsidiaries. The reserve balance at 30 June 2024 was \$14,140,946 (2023: \$13,828,407).

## Share based payment reserve

The share-based payment reserve records the amount of expense raised in terms of equity-settled share-based payment transactions. The reserve balance at 30 June 2024 was \$2,270,764 (2023: \$2,257,419).

## Convertible notes equity reserve

The convertible notes equity reserve records the carrying value of equity component of unconverted convertible notes issued by the Company. The reserve balance at 30 June 2024 was \$1,002,500 (2023: \$546,818).

## Capital reserves

Since at least 1 July 2014, the Company had entered into an unwritten informal agreement with Firback Finance Ltd (Firback) under which the services of Mr. Alex Brown, the former President, Managing Director and major shareholder of the Company until his death on 30 November 2019, was supplied to the Company (the Firback Contract). Under the terms of the Firback Contract, an accumulated amount of \$1,450,005 was outstanding and due to Firback. Firback has since been wound up and no longer exists. It was further noted that prior to being wound up, Firback had not made any demand for payment of the balance outstanding, nor given notice of assignment of the outstanding amount to the Company so the Company considered the Firback contract expired during the year ended 30 June 2021. The amount owing to Firback was accordingly transferred to capital reserve during the year ended 30 June 2021. The reserve balance at 30 June 2024 was \$1,450,005 (2023: \$1,450,005).

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Holding company statement of financial position

		Consolidated	
	Note	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 As
ACCETC	Note	Αψ	A
ASSETS Current assets			
Amounts due from a subsidiary		40,904,790	26,879,295
Total current assets		40,904,790	26,879,29
Total Current assets		40,904,790	20,019,29
Non-current assets			
Investment in subsidiary		76,549,866	76,549,866
Total non-current assets		76,549,866	76,549,860
TOTAL ASSETS		117,454,656	103,429,16
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accruals and other payables		178,879	175,74
Convertible notes	23	4,622,273	5,365,32
Total current liabilities		4,801,152	5,541,06
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,801,152	5,541,060
NET ASSETS		112,653,504	97,888,09
EQUITY			
Issued capital	26	102,985,548	89,233,20
Reserves		3,306,299	2,854,56
Retained earnings		6,361,657	5,800,32
TOTAL EQUITY		112,653,504	97,888,09
A Company of the comp	Go		

Mr Tiger Brown

Mr George Lloyd

Company Number: 1687414

## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### 30. Dividends

There were no dividends paid, recommended or declared during the current and previous financial year.

#### Related party transactions

#### Parent entity

Astron Corporation Limited is the parent entity of the Group.

Interests in subsidiaries are disclosed in note 15.

## Transactions with key management personnel

Key management of the Group are the executive members of the board of directors. Key Management Personnel remuneration includes the following expenses:

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Short term employee benefits:		
- Salaries and fees	1,536,115	1,570,641
- Short-term incentive payments	309,332	-
- Share-based payment expenses	13,345	330,751
- Non-cash benefits	17,991	25,027
Total short-term employee benefits	1,876,783	1,926,419
Post-employment benefits		
- Superannuation	102,047	117,790
Total Key Management Personnel remuneration	1,978,830	2,044,209

#### **Directors' Emoluments**

Directors' emoluments disclosed pursuant to Section 383 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap.622) and the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation (Cap.622G) are as follows:

	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Short term employee benefits:		
- Salaries and fees <sup>1</sup>	742,912	590,000
- Short-term incentive payments	50,000	-
- Share-based payment expenses	-	204,906
- Non-cash benefits	1,920	-
- Post-employment benefits	47,224	37,400
Total directors' emoluments	842,056	832,306

## Note:

The amount includes management fees of \$145,833 for the year ended 30 June 2024 and \$250,000 for the year ended 30 June 2023 to Juhua International Limited of which the beneficial owner is Mdm Kang Rong.

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Interest free loans

All subsidiary companies are wholly owned with any interest free loans being eliminated on consolidation.

#### Management services provided

Management and administrative services are provided at no cost to subsidiaries. Astron Pty Limited predominantly incurs directors' fees, management and administration services for the Group. Although these costs are applicable to the Group as a whole, they are not reallocated/recharged to individual entities within the Group.

## Related party loans

As at 30 June 2024, non-executive director Mdm Kang Rong had advanced the Group \$2,810,026 (2023: \$6,021,428) for working capital. The loans are provided interest free and repayable on demand.

As at 30 June 2024, there were unpaid director and management fees payable to a director-related entity as follows:

Mdm Kang Rong, Juhua International Limited of \$2,027,065 (2023: \$1,964,565) (note 20).

The above liabilities have been subordinated and will not be called upon unless and until such time that the Company has available funds and repayments will not affect the Group's ability to repay other creditors in the normal course of business.

# ALLO BEN BUSIBO IO-**Commitments**

#### **Operating lease commitments**

There were no non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised at 30 June 2023 and 2024.

#### Water rights

In accordance with the terms of the contract with GWM Water, the Company is committed to incurring a quarterly headworks charge in order to maintain future water rights. For the year ended 30 June 2024, the headworks charge was \$943,500 (2023: \$793,490).

#### Guarantees between subsidiaries

Astron Pty Limited has provided a letter of support to the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to fund any expenditure incurred by Donald Mineral Sands Pty Limited and Donald Project Pty Ltd.

#### Other commitments and contingencies

#### Land

In 2008, Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Co Ltd holds two land sites acquired from the Chinese Government. As outlined in Note 19, the Company relinquished a portion of this land during the year, of which the consideration and profit on relinquishment has been recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. As at 30 June 2024, the net book value of this land was \$1,573,173 (2023: \$2,773,422) (note 19).

Minimum expenditure on exploration and mining licences

To maintain the Exploration and Mining Licenses at Donald, the Group is required to spend \$1,261,800 (2023: \$1,561,800) on exploration and development expenditure over the next year. The minimum expenditure amount per annum will normally increase over the life of an exploration license. The amount of this expenditure could be reduced should the Group decide to relinquish land.

Company Number: 1687414

## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## 33. Cash flow information

## Reconciliation of cash provided by operating activities with loss after income tax expense

	Consolidated 30 Jun 2024 30 Jun 2023	
	30 Juli 2024 A\$	30 Juli 2023 A\$
Net loss for the year	(24,865,684)	(7,730,992)
Non-cash flows in loss from ordinary activities		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	1,579,514	1,941,434
Amortisation of right-of-use assets	147,615	83,761
Bad debts/provision for impairment on receivables	1,180,395	118,716
Fair value (gain)/loss on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	5,519	(744)
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(182,944)	-
Impairment of development assets	9,596,089	-
Share based payment expenses	61,069	285,522
Finance costs	722,759	1,105,217
Decrease in trade and other receivables	272,207	7,766,647
Decease in inventories	913,054	350,965
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables and provisions	86,397	(7,069,029)
Effects on foreign exchange rate movement	78,766	(191,113)
Increase in deferred taxes	2,541,070	1,691,871
	(7,864,174)	(1,647,745)

## Reconciliation of cash

	Consolidated		
	Note	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to items in the consolidated statement of financial position as follows:			
Cash on hand	10	29	825
Cash at bank	10	2,745,770	7,203,849
	_	2,745,799	7,204,674

#### Loan facilities

Details of the loan facilities of the Group at reporting dates are as follows:

		Consolidated		
	Note	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Available loan facilities		7,373,865	6,759,708	
Utilised loan facilities	22	(7,373,865)	(6,759,708)	
Unused loan facilities		-	-	

As at 30 June 2023 and 2024, the Group's loan facilities were secured by assets held by its China subsidiary.

## Non-cash financing activities

No dividends were paid in cash or by the issue of shares under a dividend reinvestment plan during the current year and prior year.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

During the year ended 30 June 2024, interest charged of \$803,766 on the convertible note related to the unwinding of the discounted value of the liability component of the compound financial instrument and was capitalised to exploration expenditure in line with the Company's accounting policy (30 June 2023: \$743,051 recognised in the consolidated statement of financial performance).

The table below details changes in the Group's liabilities arising from financing activities. Liabilities arising from financing activities are those for which cash flows were or future cash flows will be, classified in the Group's consolidated statement of cash flows from financing activities.

	Lease liabilities (note 35) \$	Borrowings (note 22) \$	Convertible Notes (note 23) \$
At 1 July 2022	-	13,668,492	4,622,272
Changes from cash flows:			
Repayment of borrowings	-	(394,097)	-
Proceeds from bank borrowings	-	3,005,408	-
Loan interest paid		(362,641)	
Total changes from financing cash flows	-	2,248,670	-
Interest expense	-	362,641	743,051
Transfer of balances	- -	537,248	743,031
Exchange adjustments	-	(620,233)	-
At 30 June 2023	-	16,196,818	5,365,323
Changes from cash flows:			
Repayment of borrowings	-	(4,139,430)	-
Principal paid on lease liabilities	(75,503)	-	-
Interest paid on lease liabilities	(24,785)	-	-
Proceeds from joint venture funding	-	3,221,201	-
Loan interest paid	-	(723,834)	-
Total changes from financing cash flows	(100,288)	(1,642,063)	-
Conversion of 10,000 notes into shares at \$0.54 per share	-	_	(1,000,000)
Extension of 50,000 notes	-	-	(545,818)
Additions	308,756	-	-
Interest expense	24,785	723,834	803,768
Exchange adjustments	-	44,480	-
At 30 June 2024	233,253	15,323,069	4,622,273

## **Acquisition of entities**

As per Note 15, the Company incorporated Donald Project Pty Ltd on 1 February 2024 to act as the joint venture operating entity for the joint venture transaction executed with Energy Fuels on 4 June 2024. There was no impact on the cash balances of the Group follow this entities incorporation. Other than the above, no other entities were acquired or incorporated during the year ended 30 June 2023 and 2024.

## Disposal of entities

There were no disposals of entities in the current or prior financial years.

#### Restrictions on cash

There is no restricted cash included in the Group's consolidated cash and cash equivalents balance at 30 June 2023 and 2024. Refer to note 10 for further details.

Company Number: 1687414

## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## **Employee benefit obligations**

As at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023, the majority of employees are employed in China. In accordance with normal business practice in China, employee benefits such as annual leave must be fully utilised annually. Chinese provisions for employee entitlements at year end would be insignificant.

## Lease liabilities

## The Group as leasee

The Group leases office premises for use in its operations. Leases of office premises have lease term of three to five years and only comprise fixed payments over the lease terms.

The movements of lease liabilities are as follows:

	A\$
At 1 July 2023	-
Additions	308,756
Finance costs	24,785
Lease payments	(100,288)
At 30 June 2024	233,253

The present value of future lease payments are presented in the consolidated statement of financial position as follows:

	Consolidated 30 Jun 2024 A\$
Current	85,256
Non-current	147,997

Future lease payments are due as follows:

•	Minimum lease payments A\$	Interest A\$	Present value of minimum lease payments A\$
Within one year	104,612	19,356	85,256
More than one year, but not exceeding two years	109,016	10,221	98,795
More than two years, but not exceeding five years	54,181	4,979	49,202
At 30 June 2024	267,809	34,556	233,253

## **Financial Risk Management**

#### General objectives, policies and processes

In common with all other businesses, the Group is exposed to risks that arise from its use of financial instruments. This note describes the Group's objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks and the methods used to measure them. Further quantitative information in respect of these risks is presented throughout these financial statements.

There have been no substantive changes in the Group's exposure to financial instrument risks, its objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks or the methods used to measure them from previous periods unless otherwise stated in

Company Number: 1687414

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

this note. The principal financial instruments from which financial instrument risk arises are cash at banks, term deposits greater than 90 days, trade and other receivables and payables, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, convertible notes, lease liabilities and borrowings.

The Board has overall responsibility for the determination of the Group's risk management objectives and policies. The Groups' risk management policies and objectives are therefore designed to minimise the potential impacts of these risks on the results of the Group where such impacts may be material. The Group has significant experience in its principal markets which provides the directors with assurance as to the effectiveness of the processes put in place and the appropriateness of the objectives and policies it sets. The Group engages a number of external professionals to ensure compliance with best practice principles.

The overall objective of the Board is to set polices that seek to reduce risk as far as possible without unduly affecting the Group's competitiveness and flexibility. Further details regarding these policies are set out below:

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that the other party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge their obligation resulting in the Group incurring a financial loss. This usually occurs when debtors or counterparties to derivative contracts fail to settle their obligations owing to the Group.

In respect of cash investments, most of cash, cash equivalents and term deposits greater than 90 days are held with institutions with a AA- to BBB credit rating. As set out in note 10, a small proportion of the Group's cash was held with a local PRC bank which did not have any credit rating.

In respect of trade receivables, there is concentration of credit risk as 100% (2023: 75%) of the Group's trade debtors is from two (2023: two) customers. Group policy is that sales are only made to customers that are credit worthy. Trade receivables are predominantly situated in China.

Other receivables include \$1,042,906 (2023: \$1,095,945) being the gross land sale receivable from the Yingkou Provincial government. The directors are of the opinion that the credit risk on this receivable to be low for the reasons set out in note 11.

Credit risk is managed on a Group basis and reviewed regularly by management and the Audit & Risk Committee. It arises from exposures to customers as well as through certain derivative financial instruments and deposits with financial institutions

Refer to note 10 for concentration of credit risk for cash and cash equivalents.

The maximum exposure of the Group to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	Consol	Consolidated	
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	
Cash & cash equivalents	2,745,799	7,204,674	
Term deposits with maturity over 90 days	139,209	46,112	
Trade and other receivables	4,243,650	3,575,762	
	7,128,658	10,826,548	

The Group measures loss allowances for trade receivables at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs, which is calculated individually and collectively using a provision matrix. As the Group's historical credit loss experience does not indicate significantly different loss patterns for different customer segments, the loss allowance based on past due status is not further distinguished between the Group's different customer bases.

The following table presents the gross carrying amount and the lifetime expected credit loss in respect of individually assessed trade receivables as at 30 June 2024 and 2023:

	Cons	Consolidated		
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$		
Gross carrying amount	106,124	39,058		
Lifetime expected credit loss	(106,124	(39,058)		
Net carrying amount		-		

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The following table presents the gross carrying amount under collective measurement (after individual assessed loss allowance) and the provision for impairment loss in respect of collectively assessed trade receivables as at 30 June 2024:

		Expected	loss rate	Gros	s carrying amount	Loss al	lowance
			%		A\$		A\$
	30 June	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Current (not past due)		-	-	558,733	67,208	-	-

Expected credit loss is close to zero as the trade receivables have no recent history of default, the impact of the expected loss from collectively assessed trade receivables to be immaterial.

## Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group may encounter difficulties raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial instruments, e.g. borrowing repayments. The Group manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows. As at 30 June 2024, the Group had cash of \$2,745,799 (2023: \$7,204,674).

## Maturity analysis

	Note	Carrying Amount A\$	Contractual Cash flows A\$	< 6 months A\$	> 6 months A\$
Year ended 30 June 2024					
Non-derivatives					
Trade payables	20	6,052,969	6,052,969	6,052,969	-
Other payables	20	3,100,020	3,100,020	3,100,020	-
Borrowings	22 _	6,031,227	6,031,227	2,810,026	3,221,201
Total non-interest bearing liabilities	_	15,184,216	15,184,216	11,963,015	3,221,201
Borrowings	22	9,291,842	9,291,842	4,402,778	4,889,064
Convertible notes	23	4,622,273	6,000,000	-	6,000,000
Lease liabilities	35 _	233,253	267,809	51,991	215,818
Total interest bearing liabilities	_	14,147,368	15,559,651	4,454,768	11,104,882
Total liabilities	_	29,331,584	30,743,867	16,417,784	14,326,083

		Carrying Amount	Contractual Cash flows	< 6 months	> 6 months
	Note	A\$	A\$	A\$	A\$
Year ended 30 June 2023					
Non-derivatives					
Trade and note payables	20	3,617,909	3,617,909	3,617,909	-
Other payables	20	2,945,169	2,945,169	2,945,169	-
Borrowings	22	6,021,428	6,021,428	6,021,428	-
Total non-interest bearing liabilities	-	12,584,506	12,584,506	12,584,506	-
Borrowings	22	10,175,390	10,175,390	5,517,200	4,658,190
Convertible notes	23	5,365,323	6,000,000	-	6,000,000
Total interest bearing liabilities	_	15,540,713	16,175,390	5,517,200	10,658,190
Total liabilities		28,125,219	28,759,896	18,801,706	10,658,190

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Fair value

The fair values of listed investments have been valued at the quoted market price at the end of the reporting period. Other assets and other liabilities approximate their carrying value.

At 30 June 2023 and 2024, the aggregate fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities carried at amortised cost approximate their carrying amounts.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position of the Group according to the hierarchy stipulated in HKFRS 7.

	Consol 30 Jun 2024 A\$	idated 30 Jun 2023 A\$
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		
ASX Listed equity shares - Level 1	2,800	8,319
Unlisted units in Murtoa Housing Innovation – Level 2	40,000	
	42,800	8,319

The Group does not have any Level 3 financial assets.

#### Price risk

Given that price movements are not considered material to the Group, the Group does not have a risk management policy for price risk. However, the Group's management regularly review the risks associated with fluctuating input and output

As at 30 June 2024, the maximum exposure of price risk to the Group was the financial assets at fair value through profit or loss for \$2,800 (2023: \$8,319). 100% of the Group's ASX Listed equity shareholding investments is in the mining or energy sector.

The Group's exposure to equity price risk is as follows:

	Consol	lidated
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Carrying amount of listed equity shares on ASX	2,800	8,319

#### Sensitivity Analysis

		Increase/(d	lecrease) in share	e price
		30 Jun 2024		30 Jun 2023
		<b>A</b> \$		<b>A</b> \$
	+10%	-10%	+10%	-10%
Listed equity shares on ASX				
Loss before tax – increase/(decrease)	280	(280)	832	(832)

The above analysis assumes all other variables remain constant.

## Interest rate risk

The Group manages its interest rate risk by monitoring available interest rates and maintaining an overriding position of security whereby most of the Group's cash and cash equivalents and term deposits are held with institutions with an AA- to BBB credit rating while a proportion is held with an unrated bank in PRC.

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# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Weighted a effective intere	d average erest rate	Floating	Floating interest rate	Fixed	Fixed interest rate	Non-inte	Non-interest bearing		Total
30 June	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	%	%	₩	ss.	ss.	ss.	\$	<del>69</del>	s,	S
inancial assets:										
sah and cash equivalents	0.17	0.01	2,745,770	7,203,849	•	•	29	825	2,745,799	7,204,674
erm deposits greater than 90 days	1.72	1.72		•	139,209	46,112	•	•	139,209	46,112
rade and other receivables	•	,	•	•	•	•	4,243,650	3,575,762	4,243,650	3,575,762
infancial assets at fair value unough proint in loss			٠		•	•	42,800	8,319	42,800	8,319
otal financial assets			2,745,770	7,203,849	139,209	46,112	4,286,479	3,584,906	7,171,458	10,834,867
inancial liabilities:										
rade and other payables	•		•	•	•	٠	9,152,989	6,563,078	9,152,989	6,563,078
3 orrowings	3.89	4.95	7,373,865	6,759,708	1,917,977	3,415,682	6,031,227	6,021,428	15,323,069	16,196,818
Sonvertible notes	15.00	15.00	•	•	4,622,273	5,365,323	•	•	4,622,273	5,365,323
ease liabilities	10.00		•	,	233,253	1	•	•	233,253	
otal financial liabilities			7 272 965	6 759 708	6 773 503	8 781 005	15 184 216	12 584 506	20 224 584	20 405

Company Number: 1687414

# **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

## Sensitivity analysis

The following table shows the movements in loss due to higher/lower interest costs from variable interest rate financial instruments in Australia and China.

	+ 1% (100 b	asis points)	-1% (100 ba	sis points)
	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$	30 Jun 2024 A\$	30 Jun 2023 A\$
Cash at bank	27,458	72,038	(27,458)	(72,038)
Borrowings	(73,739)	(67,597)	73,739	67,597
	(46,281)	4,441	46,281	(4,441)
Tax charge of 25% (2023: 25%)	11,570	(1,110)	(11,570)	1,110
	(34,711)	3,331	34,711	(3,331)

## Foreign currency risk

The Group is exposed to fluctuations in foreign currencies arising from the sale and purchase of goods and services in currencies other than the Group's measurement currency. The Group manages this risk through the offset of trade receivables and payables where the majority of trading is undertaken in either the USD or RMB. Current trading terms ensure that foreign currency risk is reduced by sales terms being cash on delivery where possible.

Company Number: 1687414

# **Directors' Declaration**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The directors of the Company declare that:

- 1. The financial statements, comprising the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of financial position, consolidated statement of cash flows, consolidated statement of changes in equity, accompanying notes, are in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards and give a true and fair view of the consolidated entity's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
- In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the board of directors and is signed for and on behalf of the directors by:

Chairman

Mr George Lloyd

Dated 16 September 2024



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## Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Astron Corporation Limited (incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

## Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Astron Corporation Limited ("the Company") and its subsidiaries (together "the Group") set out on pages 57 to 105, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, and the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 30 June 2024, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

## **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the HKICPA's "Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants" ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to note 2 in the consolidated financial statements, which indicates that as at 30 June 2024, the Group's current liabilities exceeded current assets by \$13,149,379 and the Group incurred a gross loss and net loss after tax of \$2,718,239 and \$24,865,684 respectively and recorded net cash outflows from operating activities of \$7,864,174 for the year then ended. These conditions along with other matters set out in note 2 indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.



## Key Audit Matters (continued)

## Impairment of property, plant and equipment

Refer to notes 2, 3 and 16 to the consolidated financial statements

The Group is required to assess at each reporting date if there are any triggers for impairment which may suggest the carrying value is in excess of the recoverable value. The process undertaken by management to assess whether there are any impairment triggers in each area of interest involves an element of management judgement. The Group has incurred recurring losses for recent years, which is an indicator for impairment consideration. Once impairment indicators trigger an impairment review, management is required to perform impairment testing in accordance with HKAS 36 Impairment of Assets.

We have identified impairment of property, plant and equipment as a key audit matter because of its significance to the consolidated financial statements and because the management's value-in-use calculations involve significant management judgement and estimates with respect to the underlying cash flow forecast.

## Our Response:

Our procedures in relation to management's impairment review of property, plant and equipment included:

- obtaining management's calculation of the recoverable amount of the assets and comparing them to the methodology as required under HKAS 36;
- challenging and corroborating key assumptions made by management;
- understanding the sources of data used to prepare the value-in-use calculation and evaluating the reliability of the data;
- understanding and evaluating the appropriateness of the valuation method used, the reasonableness of assumptions used for the determination of discount rate; and
  - reviewing the appropriateness of the related disclosures within the financial statements.



#### Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the directors' report, declaration of directors and investor information, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Directors' Responsibilities for the Consolidated Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards issued by the HKICPA and the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are also responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process. The Audit Committee assists the directors in discharging their responsibility in this regard.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. This report is made solely to you, as a body, in accordance with Section 405 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
  - evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
  - conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.

evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

**BDO Limited** 

Certified Public Accountants

Chiu Wing Cheung Ringo

Practising Certificate Number P04434

Hong Kong, 16 September 2024

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LISTED COMPANIES**

## 2024/25 FINANCIAL CALENDAR (ON OR BEFORE)

Release of quarterly report	31 October 2024
2024 annual general meeting	28 November 2024
Release of quarterly report	31 January 2025
Release of half-year report	28 February 2025
Release of quarterly report	30 April 2025

Additional information required by the Australian Securities Exchange Ltd and not shown elsewhere in this report is as follows. The information is current as at 1 October 2024.

## 1. SHAREHOLDERS' INTERESTS

#### a) Distribution of shareholders

Size of holding	Number of shareholders	Number of shares held	%
1 - 1,000	184	100,815	0.06
1,001 - 5,000	227	622,161	0.34
5,001 - 10,000	96	763,010	0.42
10,001 - 100,000	194	7,094,634	3.88
100,001 and over	52	174,055,150	95.30
	753	182,635,770	100.00
Non CDI holders			
1 - 1,000	5	307	
1,001 - 5,000	1	2,700	
	6	3,007	

## (b) Less than marketable parcels

There were 89 holders of less than a marketable parcel of 19,774 shares (\$500 worth) based on the closing market price of ATR shares on 1 October 2024.

## (c) For securities subject to escrow

Class	Number of	ASX or	End of Escrow
	Securities	Voluntary	Period
Fully paid CDIs	11,500,000	Voluntary	31 July 2025

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LISTED COMPANIES**

## (d) Twenty largest CDI holders

Rank	Name	Number of shares held	%
1	Kobe Investments Ltd	94,165,972	51.56
2	Ruiqing Tan	30,820,105	16.88
3	Sandhurst Trustees Ltd <collins a="" c="" fund="" st="" value=""></collins>	13,351,852	7.31
4	Citicorp Nominees Pty Limited	7,491,758	4.10
))	Mr Jinzhong Sun	3,356,581	1.84
5	Juhua International Limited	3,000,000	1.64
7	Pandora Nominees Pty Ltd	1,900,890	1.04
3	Bealey Pty Limited	1,851,852	1.01
9	Zhang Hong	1,785,714	0.98
10	Mr Milton Yannis	1,179,509	0.65
11	Mr Donald Alexander Black	1,076,812	0.59
2	Mr Thomas Albanese	1,000,000	0.55
3	Mr Darrell Vaughan Manton + Mrs Veronica Josephine Manton <the 2="" a="" c="" family="" manton="" no=""></the>	933,364	0.51
14	BT Portfolio Services Ltd <tognola a="" c="" fund="" super=""></tognola>	860,000	0.47
5	Yanjuan Zhao	810,000	0.44
16	Mr Adrian Robert Nijman + Mrs Jenny Ann Nijman	760,000	0.42
17	Jojeto Pty Ltd <lloyd a="" c="" fund="" super=""></lloyd>	675,926	0.37
18	G W Eales Pty Ltd <knobel a="" c="" executive="" super=""></knobel>	638,689	0.35
19	HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited	547,687	0.30
20	Mr Christopher David Hammer	500,000	0.27
Totals:	Top 20 holders of CDI	166,706,711	91.28
Total Re	emaining Holders Balance	15,929,059	8.72
Total CI	DIs	182,635,770	100.00
Total no	on-CDI holders	3,007	
Total sl	nares on issue	182,638,777	

## Voting rights

All ordinary shares (whether fully paid or not) carry one vote per share without restriction.

## **TENEMENT SCHEDULE**

Location	Tenement	Expiry Date	Interest at year end %
Location	renement	· · ·	/0
Victoria Australia	RL2002	9 October 2029	100
Victoria Australia	RL2003	9 October 2031	100
Victoria Australia	IXLZ003		100
Victoria Australia	MIN5532	19 August 2030	100
Victoria Australia	EL8516	7 April 2029	100
Violona / taoti ana	220010	•	100
Senegal	09042/MIM/TMG	29 May 2027	100

## 3. INFORMATION POLICY

It is the policy of the Company to conform with the highest reporting and information standards to its shareholders. Company spokespeople are available and pleased to respond to queries from financial community, investors and shareholders.

During the year, the Group held one shareholder information session meeting and at the meeting active discussions took place and questions were answered.

All these initiatives will continue to be improved and expanded in the coming year with the objective of providing the fullest and most detailed information to shareholders consistent with the Company's objectives.

Information on the Group and presentations to analysts can be obtained from the Company's website astronlimited.com.au

To assist and improve service to shareholders related to the administration of the fully registered shares shareholders can contact our share registry service.

Shareholders can also contact the Company directly by telephone in Australia +61 3 5385 7088.

# **GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINDED TERMS**

TERM	Australian dellars
\$ or A\$ or AUD	Australian dollars
AMC	AMC Consultants Pty Ltd
ARBN	Australian Registered Business Number
Astron Titanium or Yingkou	Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Limited
Astron, or ATR or the Group	The Company and its controlled entities
ASX	Australian Securities Exchange
BG&E	BG&E Resources Pty Ltd
BGLC	Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
Board	The board of directors of the Company
CAGR	Compound annual growth rate
CDI	CHESS Depositary Interest
Company	Astron Corporation Limited ARBN 154 924 553, Hong Kong Company Number 1687414
CUP	Concentrate upgrade plant
DEECA	Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DFS	Definitive Feasibility Study
Director	A member of the Board
DMS or DMS Project	Donald Mineral Sands Pty Ltd
Donald Project	The Donald Rare Earth & Mineral Sands Project
ECI	Early Contractor Involvement
EES	Environmental Effects Statement
EFR	EFR Donald Ltd
Energy Fuels	Energy Fuels Inc.
EPBC	Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation
ERR	Head of Earth Resources Regulation
ESOP	Employee Share Option Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Sustainability
FID	Financial Investment Decision
FTE	Full-time equivalent
FVTPL	Fair value through profit or loss
GST	Goods and services tax
GWM or GWM Water	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation
HKAS	Hong Kong Accounting Standards
HKFRS	Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, HKAS and Interpretations
HKICPA	Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants
HLS	Heavy liquid separation
/HM	Heavy mineral
HMC	Heavy mineral concentrate
JORC Code	The Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves
- Kt	One thousand tonnes
MIN5532	Victorian mining licence 5532
MRE	Mineral resource estimate
Mt	Million tonnes
Niafarang Project	Niafarang mineral sands project
PPE	Property, plant and equipment
PRC	People's Republic of China
REEC	Rare earth element concentrate
RL2002	Victorian retention licence 2002
RL2003	Victorian retention licence 2003
RMB	Chinese yuan
RPS	RPS Group
Sedgman	Sedgman Pty Ltd
SML	Small Mining Licence
SMR	Senegal Mineral Resources SA
TiO <sub>2</sub>	Titanium dioxide
US\$ or USD	Unites States Dollar
VHM	Valuable heavy minerals
VWAP	Volume weighted average price
WCP	Wet concentrator plant
YSC or Shire	Yarriambiack Shire Council
ZrO <sub>2</sub>	Zirconium dioxide

# **CORPORATE DIRECTORY**

## **DIRECTORS**

Mr George Lloyd (Chairman, Non-executive Director)
Mr Tiger Brown (Managing Director)
Mr Gerard King (Non-executive Director)
Dr Mark Elliott (Non-executive Director)
Mdm Kang Rong (Non-executive Director)

## **COMPANY SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE**

Boardroom Corporate Services (HK) Limited 31/F., 148 Electric Road North Point Hong Kong

## **AUSTRALIAN CORPORATE OFFICE**

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W: astronlimited.com.au

## **CHINA BUSINESS OFFICE**

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## **AUDITOR**

BDO Limited 25th Floor, Wing On Centre 111 Connaught Road Central Hong Kong

## **SHARE REGISTRY**

Computershare Investor Services Limited Level 3, 60 Carrington Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited Hopewell Centre, 46th Floor 183 Queen's Road East Wan Chai Hong Kong

## **BANKERS**

Commonwealth Bank of Australia 48 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

## **ASX CODE**

**ATR** 



www.astronlimited.com.au