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**Australian Stock Exchange Limited
Company Announcements
Level 10, 20 Bond Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000**

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**LONG NICKEL MINE – PURCHASE OF SUB-LEASE AND ADJOINING GROUND FROM
WMC RESOURCES LTD**

Location 48 Sub-lease

Independence Group NL (“IGO”) is pleased to announce that it has entered into a conditional agreement with WMC Resources Ltd (“WMC”) now a subsidiary of BHP Billiton Limited, to purchase the existing Long Nickel Mine shaft, decline and related infrastructure.

IGO, through its wholly owned subsidiary, Lightning Nickel Pty Ltd (“Lightning”), purchased various tenements from WMC in 2002. Part of freehold land Location 48 was also leased from WMC until 2011. The Long shaft and Victor decline portal are situated on the leased land.

IGO has now entered into an agreement with WMC whereby the title to the existing lease will be transferred to Lightning.

Adjoining Ground

As part of the transaction with WMC, IGO has also secured further ground which adjoins the Long Nickel Mine (Figure 1). This includes some additional portions of the Location 48 freehold land, as well as several mining leases. The ground to the north of Long is interpreted to contain the essentially untested northern continuation of the Long and Gibb/Victor lava channels. These channels are considered highly prospective for new high-grade nickel sulphides.

Long South Target

Securing ownership of the land and infrastructure on which the Long Nickel Mine is situated, guarantees that IGO will be able to exploit any future resources found on its tenure should mine life be extended beyond 2011. This may have significant benefits to IGO should future exploration be successful at Long South, the target to which an exploration decline is currently progressing.

Long North Exploration Target

As well as guaranteeing continuity of ownership beyond 2011, IGO has also purchased adjoining ground to the north of Long, on which little past exploration has been carried out. Magnetic interpretation suggests the ultramafics hosting the Long and Gibb-Victor deposits continue to the north of Long.

Historically no drilling which could intersect the interpreted lava channels has been undertaken, except for 2 WMC holes drilled from the 14 level which intersected mineralisation approximately 350 metres north of the existing Long mine resource (Figure 2).

One hole intersected 2.09m @ 1.18% Ni (368.94 - 371m) in stringers at the contact between basalt and ultramafic. The other hole intersected 0.21m @ 1.43% Ni (425.56 – 425.77m) in ultramafic adjacent to a porphyry. WMC also delineated an off-hole TEM conductor in the vicinity of the intersections which has not been followed up.

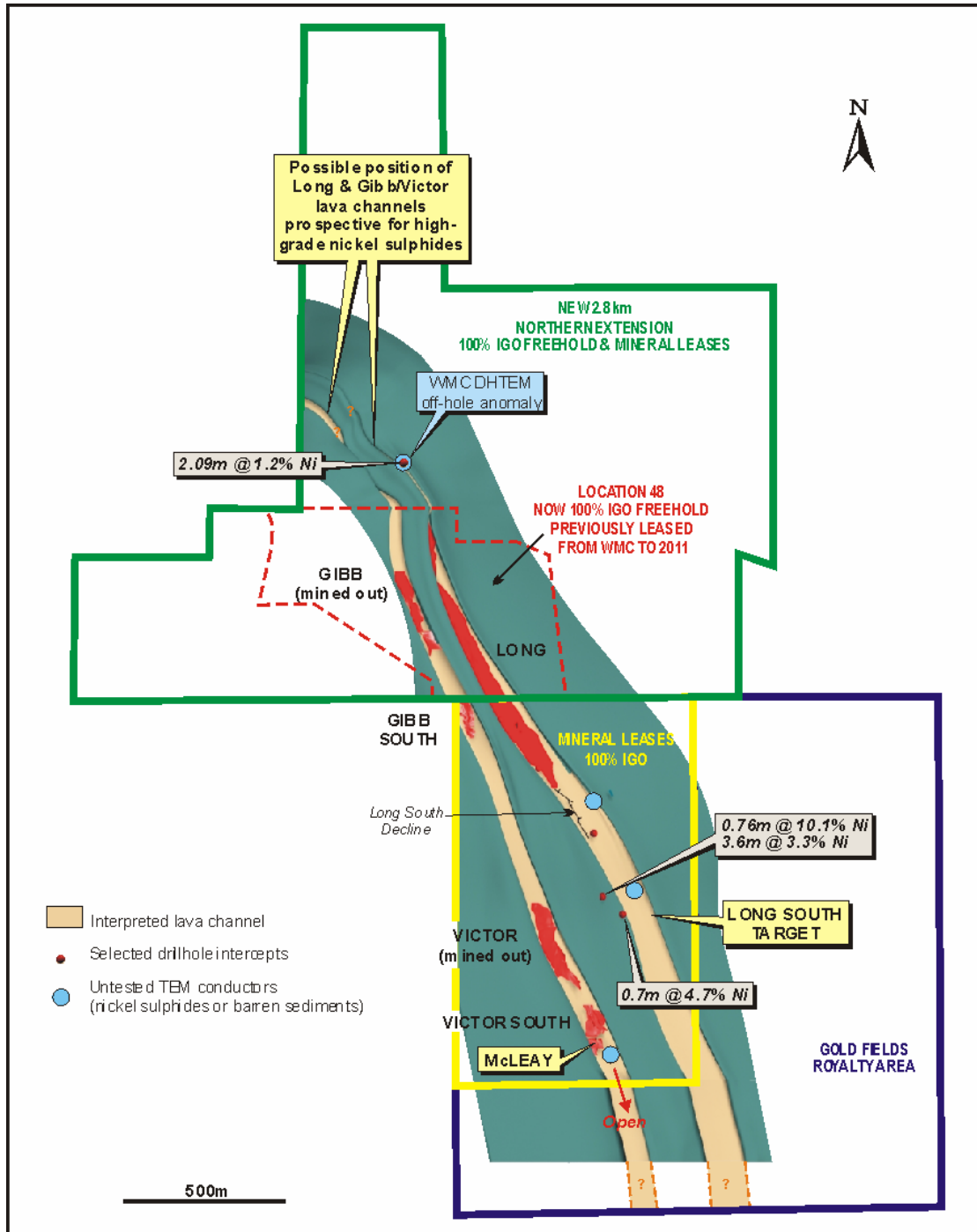


Figure 1: Long Project – Plan showing interpreted lava channels, new land holdings, selected drill results and TEM anomalies outside current resource areas

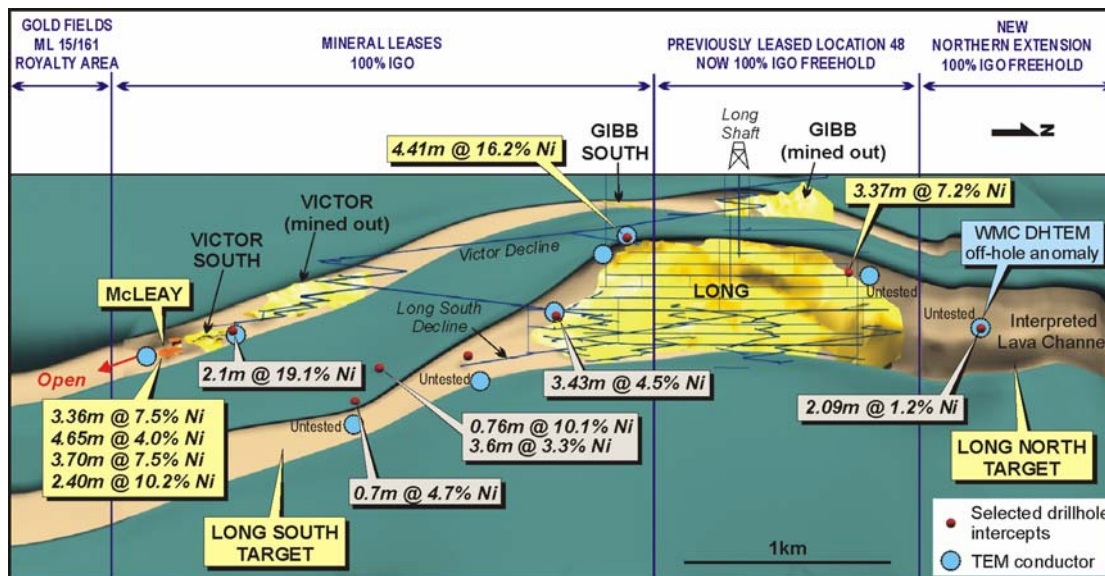


Figure 2: Long Project – Longitudinal projection showing selected exploration drill-hole intersections, McLeay discovery, location of TEM conductors outside current resource and interpreted lava channels

IGO intends to commence exploration on this tenure to test for the northern continuation of the Long and Gibb-Victor lava channels (Figure 2) on completion of the transaction with WMC, which is expected to occur in November 2005.



CHRISTOPHER BONWICK
Managing Director

Note: The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Mr Christopher M Bonwick who is a full-time employee of the Company and is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Christopher Bonwick has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Christopher Bonwick consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

Forward-Looking Statements: This document may include forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements concerning Independence Group NL's planned exploration program and other statements that are not historical facts. When used in this document, the words such as "could," "plan," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "potential," "should," and similar expressions are forward-looking statements. Although Independence Group NL believes that its expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, such statements involve risks and uncertainties and no assurance can be given that actual results will be consistent with these forward-looking statements.