

## AUSTRALIA'S NEWEST LITHIUM MINER

4Q FY23 quarterly update Gareth Manderson (CEO)

24 July 2023



## **IMPORTANT & CAUTIONARY NOTES**

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#### Currency

Unless otherwise stated, all cashflows are in Australian dollars, are undiscounted and are in real terms (not subject to inflation/escalation factors), and all years are have been derived by converting AUD using an exchange rate of 0.70 AUD/USD.

#### **Forward-looking Statements**

Generally, this forward-looking information can be identified by the use of forward-Past performance information given in this presentation is given for illustrative looking terminology such as 'outlook', 'anticipate', 'project', 'target', 'likely',' purposes only and should not be relied upon as (and is not) an indication of future believe', 'estimate', 'expect', 'intend', 'may', 'would', 'could', 'should', 'scheduled', performance. 'will', 'plan', 'forecast', 'evolve' and similar expressions. Persons reading this release are cautioned that such statements are only predictions, and that the Company's

#### **Past Performance**

## **CORE – OUR VALUE PROPOSITION**

Achieved first production in under five years from maiden resource discovery by pursuing a 'Minimum Viable Project' strategy

Leveraged to strong near-term pricing – Australia's newest producing lithium mine which is located 88km from Darwin Port

Currently operating the Grants open pit which is our starter operation. BP33 is the cornerstone asset for Core which is targeting a Final Investment Decision in Q1 2024

Track record of **exploration success** – the **Finniss Mineral Resource** has increase by **62**% since July 2022 to 30.6Mt @ 1.31% Li<sub>2</sub>O Attractive pipeline of **greenfield** and **brownfield exploration** opportunities in the **Finniss** mineralised district

Secured offtake with some of the world's largest battery companies, including Ganfeng Lithium and Yahua

Strong balance sheet today, including \$152.7 million of cash and nil debt

Refreshed senior management team who have strong experience in developing and operating resources projects

### Q4 FY23 HIGHLIGHTS









**CORPORATE & FINANCIAL** 



NOTES 1. Subsequent to June guarter end.

- Quarterly spodumene production of 14,685t (FY23: 18,274t)
- C1 unit cost of **A\$902/t** (FY23: \$1,230/t)
- Maiden 5,500t spodumene concentrate shipment in April and second **13,100t** shipment in early July<sup>1</sup>
- 5,423dmt spodumene concentrate sales @ average 5.35% Li<sub>2</sub>O
- \$45-\$50 million approved for **BP33 underground mine early works**
- Revised BP33 feasibility study underway, including incorporation of the increased Mineral Resource
- Total Finniss Mineral Resource increased 62% to 30.6Mt @1.31%  $Li_{2}O^{2}$
- A\$25m exploration program underway
- Cash balance of \$152.7 million and no debt (as at 30 June 2023)
- Andrea Hall appointed as Non-Executive Director
- Executive team complete following the appointments of Pierre Malan as EGM Development & Exploration and Paul Benjamin as EGM Commercial & Marketing<sup>1</sup>
- No significant safety incidents
- Critical Risk Management (CRM) Program Implemented
- Community grants awarded to **12** community groups across greater Darwin region

## FINNISS OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Ramp up continuing to progress with maiden spodumene concentrate shipment departing Darwin port during the quarter

### **Management commentary**

- Core achieved total spodumene production of 14,685 tonnes at a 5.35% Li<sub>2</sub>O grade with products meeting customer specification
- Mining performance remained below expected levels during the quarter due in part to further inclement weather in April
  - Upgraded dewatering equipment installed in the pit which enabled the successful discharge of water and allowed mining to continue
- Mining conditions in weathered material has led to adjustments to the mine • design and plan, including shallower angled walls in the pit
- Wall stability monitoring continues with the addition of drilling horizontal bores to depressurise walls and contribute to wall stability
- Work continues to focus on improving mining rates as ramp-up continues. Access to ore at the base of the pit has improved now that the wet season has ended
- A review of the recent wet season has resulted in \$11 million in capital invested to date to improve water management infrastructure. Work has commenced on these projects

		Q3 FY23	Q4 FY23
Production			
Spodumene concentrate produced	tonnes	3,589	14,685
Recovery	%	47.4	48.6
Sales			
DSO Shipments	tonnes	14,774	-
Spodumene Concentrate Shipments	tonnes	_	5,423
Concentrate grade shipped	%	n/a	5.35%
Cost of production			
C1 Cost	A\$/t FOB	2,188	902
C1 cost plus royalties	A\$/t FOB	2,323	1,416
Deferred stripping costs (non-cash)	A\$/t	(5,594)	(1,176)

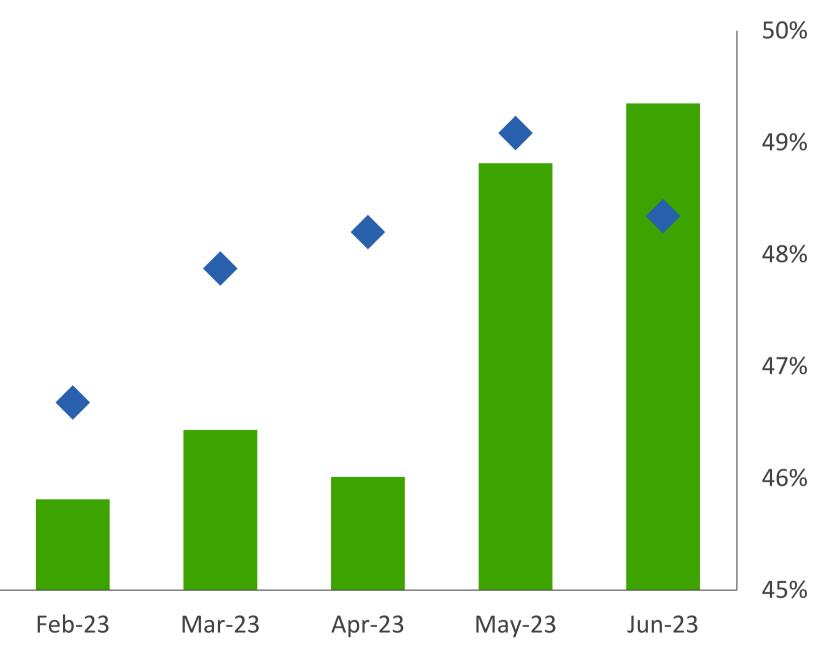
### **Quarterly Operating Performance**

## FINNISS OPERATIONAL UPDATE (CONT.)

The Finniss plant has operated for 14 weeks (on a campaign basis)

Management commentary		Spodu
•	The plant had its second quarter in operation following construction completion and first concentrate produced in February 2023 and remains in	8,000
	the ramp up phase	7,000
•	Given reduced ore availability following the mining interruption in Q3 FY23, the plant was run largely on a campaign basis when ore was available	6,000
•	Spodumene concentrate produced was on specification and ranged in grade between 5.4% and 5.6%	5,000
	<ul> <li>However, as is not uncommon during the start-up phase, recoveries have</li> <li>been lower than the original test work predicted every sing 40% for the</li> </ul>	4,000
	been lower than the original test work predicted, averaging 49% for the quarter	3,000
	<ul> <li>Work is underway to determine why recoveries are lower than expected, it appears to be a result of a greater proportion of fines than anticipated</li> </ul>	2,000
	<ul> <li>Peers in the lithium space have demonstrated an ability to improve plant recoveries over time</li> </ul>	1,000
•	As at 30 June there was 7,598 tonnes of stockpile on the ROM pad	-

### imene concentrate production (kt) vs recovery (%, RHS)



Safe access to the pit was achieved in late March with mining activity commencing shortly afterwards

## FINNISS PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Several short to medium term improvement projects are underway to optimise operations and enhance recoveries

### **Improvement projects and fines sales**

- The Finniss plant has run for 14 weeks on a campaign basis, but has provided the first opportunity to performance test and trial processing parameters
- A range of trials and improvement projects have been identified to increase lithia recoveries and plant utilisation
- The potential for lithium fines to become a saleable by-product has been identified to help address lower recoveries in the near-term
- Several other near-term projects have commenced during the quarter which are designed to minimise fines and increase recoveries
- The feasibility of longer-term projects such as the installation of fines processing circuit, filter press and belt press will be evaluated in FY24

### **Improvement projects**



$\checkmark$	Trial sales of fines product (underway)
	Screen size trials ahead of the crusher (underway)
	Reagent timing and volume adjustments
	Met testwork to inform choice of crushed feed size distribution
	Commission mica classifier
	Study feasibility of installing a filter or belt press
	Feasibility of installing a full flotation circuit to increase recoveries
	Assess merits of selling DSO when there are bottlenecks at the plant

## FY2024 GUIDANCE

### Core provides its first guidance as an operator

- FY24 production guidance is between 80,000t and 90,000t of spodumene concentrate at a C1 cost of between \$1,165 to \$1,250 per tonne<sup>1</sup>
  - Key drivers of lower production vs study estimates are lower recoveries, a revised mine plan with a layback of the pit walls, and wet season mining assumptions
  - Additionally, Core expects FY24 to include the potential to produce and sell c. 85,000 to 95,000t of fines2 at a grade of ~ 1% Li<sub>2</sub>O at no incremental mining or processing costs
- With respect to FY25, Core expects monthly mining and processing rates to be above FY24 levels. However, production in FY25 is expected to be below FY24 due to a three-month gap in ore feedstock supply from the mine and processing plant capacity constraints result in a ROM pad stockpile building at the conclusion of FY25
  - Core is evaluating options to process and sell product from these stockpiles
  - FY25 production outlook currently assumes no ore from BP33
- Finniss sustaining capital of A\$20 25 million for water management civil work, port storage building upgrade, ROM extension and haul roads
- Exploration expenditure to define, extend and discover new resources
- BP33 remains on track for a Final Investment Decision in 1Q CY2024
  - Early works budget of A\$45-50 million

**80,000 – 90,000 tonnes** Spodumene concentrate production

90,000 – 100,000 tonnes Concentrate sales

> **85,000-95,000 tonnes** Fines sales<sup>2</sup>

> > A\$1,165 - 1,250/t C1 cash costs

A\$20 – 25 million Site sustaining capital

A\$45 – 50 million Deferred waste stripping

A\$45 – 50 million BP 33 Early Works

A\$35 – 40 million

**Exploration and study expenditure** 

<sup>1.</sup> Production guidance assumes reduced ore mining in the wet season months between December and March.

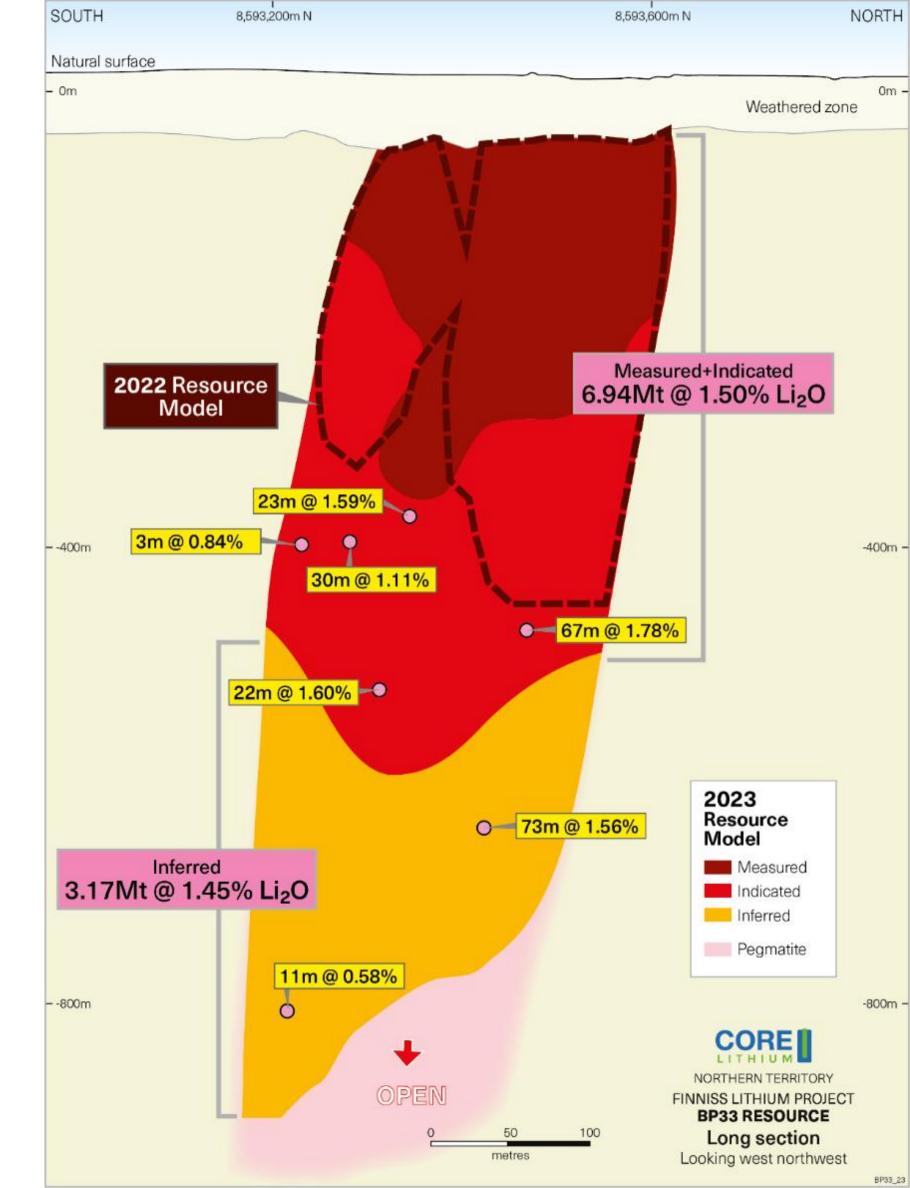
<sup>2.</sup> Fines are a by-product generated during ore crushing and the processing of ore by the DMS plant

## **BP33 UPDATE**

### Significant work underway as BP33 approaches FID in Q1 2024

- BP33 is cornerstone asset which underpins the broader business
- Mineral Resource more than doubled to 10.1Mt @ 1.48% Li<sub>2</sub>O in March 2023<sup>1</sup>
- Revised Feasibility Study based on 2023 resource model commenced in April 2023 with a dedicated team responsible for expanded technical studies including geotechnical and in-fill resource drilling
- Approved early works funding of \$45-50 million in May 2023
  - Program includes the development of a covered box-cut, improved access works and associated surface works for water management
  - Allows a feasibility study to be completed in parallel enabling mine decline development to begin soon after a positive FID
  - Subject to potential early wet season, modelled geotechnical and groundwater impacts, this work is expected to be complete by end of Q1 CY24
- Early works project will facilitate the next phase of capital works, including decline development, early stope development, ventilation infrastructure, water management and power infrastructure to commence on receipt of positive FID and board approval

<sup>2.</sup> For full details, see the Notice to ASX dated 1 August 2022 ("BP33 delivers outstanding results"), the notice to ASX dated 29 September 2022 ("Business Update and drill results revised"), 5 October 2022 ("BP33 diamond drilling assays") and accompanying information provided in accordance with the Table 1 checklist in The Australasian Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (The JORC Code, 2012 Edition). Core Lithium confirms that it is not aware of any new information that materially affects the information included in the market announcement.



Refer "BP33 Mineral Resource more than Doubled " on 6 March 2023. Core Lithium confirms that the Company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the Mineral Resource Estimates cross referenced in this report and confirms that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed. Measured Mineral Resource 2.85Mt @ 1.46% Li<sub>2</sub>O / Indicated Mineral Resource 4.09Mt @ 1.53% Li<sub>2</sub>O.

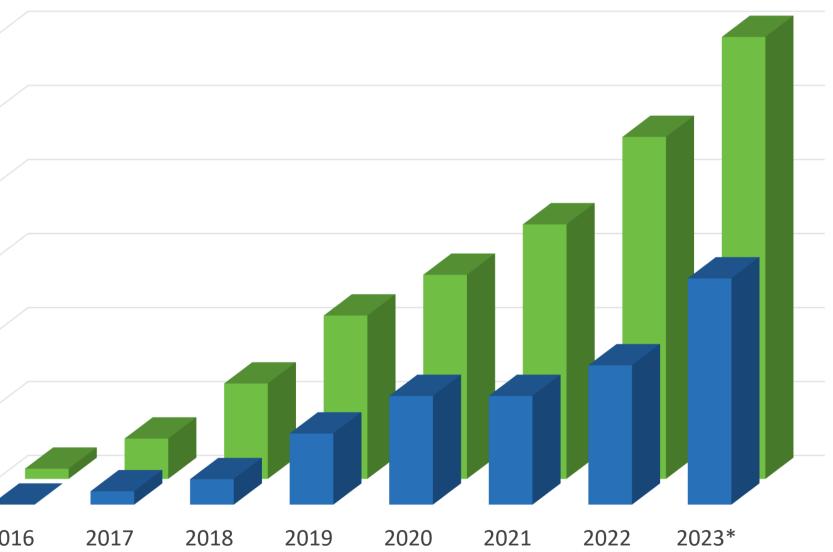
## **CORE'S FY24 EXPLORATION PROGRAM**

Track record of resource growth at low cost with existing deposits open at depth

Overview of exploration program		
•	FY24 exploration and study spend is expected to be approximately \$35-40 million	Mt/\$M
•	Majority of exploration expenditure will be allocated to extending and defining existing resources, all of which are open at depth	60
•	Remaining funds will be directed towards identifying and testing new targets via a combination of geochemistry, geophysics and drilling at Finniss and Shoobridge, and geochemistry and geophysics at Anningie-Barrow Creek	50
		40
per r \$1.9	198 tonnes of Resource Inventory added	30
	per metre drilled	20
	\$1.95 spent per tonne of Mineral	10
	Resource added	0 20

### **Resource growth**





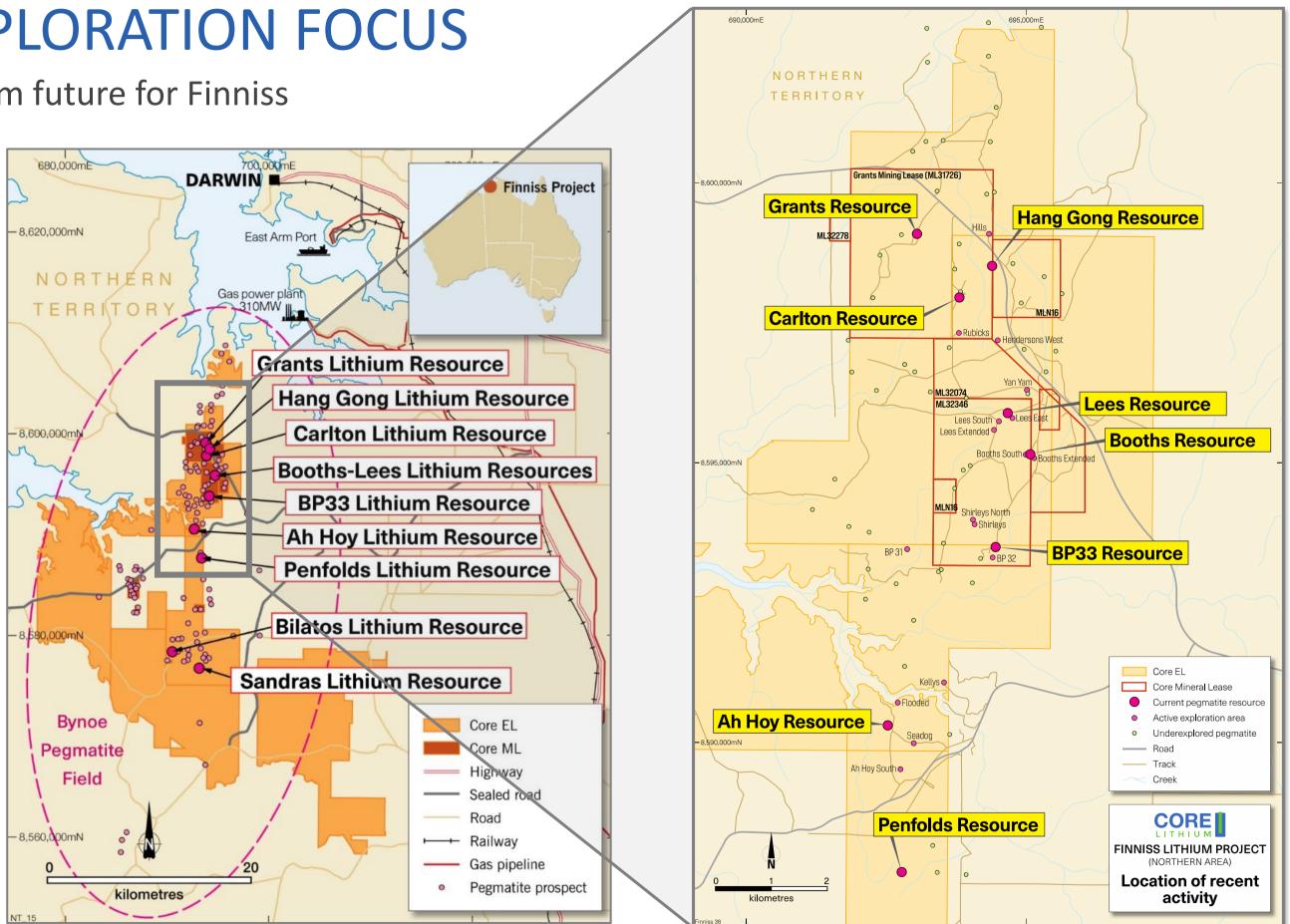
NOTES

ASX Release: "Significant increase to Finniss Mineral Resources" dated 18 April 2023. Total Mineral Resources of 30.6Mt @ 1.31% Li2O. Measured Mineral Resource 6.98Mt @ 1.45% Li2O / Indicated Mineral Resource 12.4Mt @1.33% Li2O. Inferred Mineral Resource 11.3Mt @ 1.21% Li2O. Core Lithium confirms that the Company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the Mineral Resource Estimates cross referenced in this report and confirms that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed. Predicted expenditure for 2023

## NORTH FINNISS: OUR EXPLORATION FOCUS

Close proximity deposits provide a long-term future for Finniss

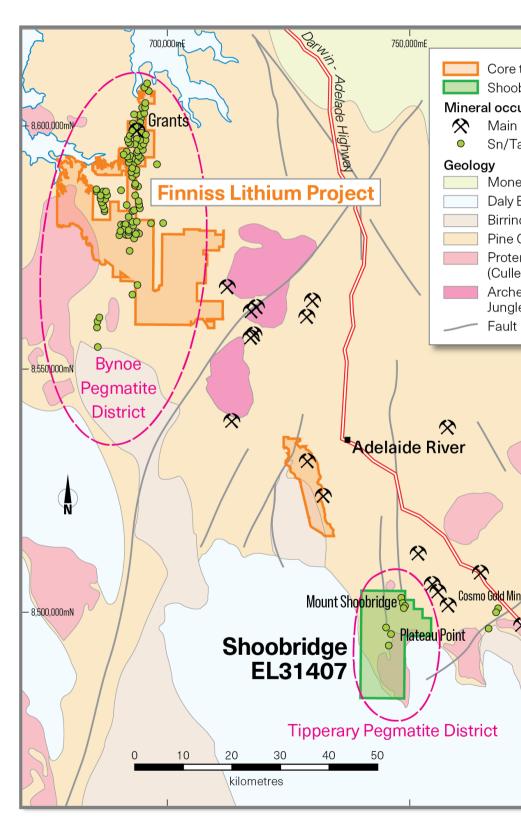
- Numerous underexplored pegmatites
- During the quarter there was 9,581m of mine development and exploration drilling undertaken at BP33, Carlton and Lees
- 1,529m testing new prospects
- At the end of the quarter there were three diamond drill rigs and one RC rig in operation with two more to be mobilised to site in the current quarter



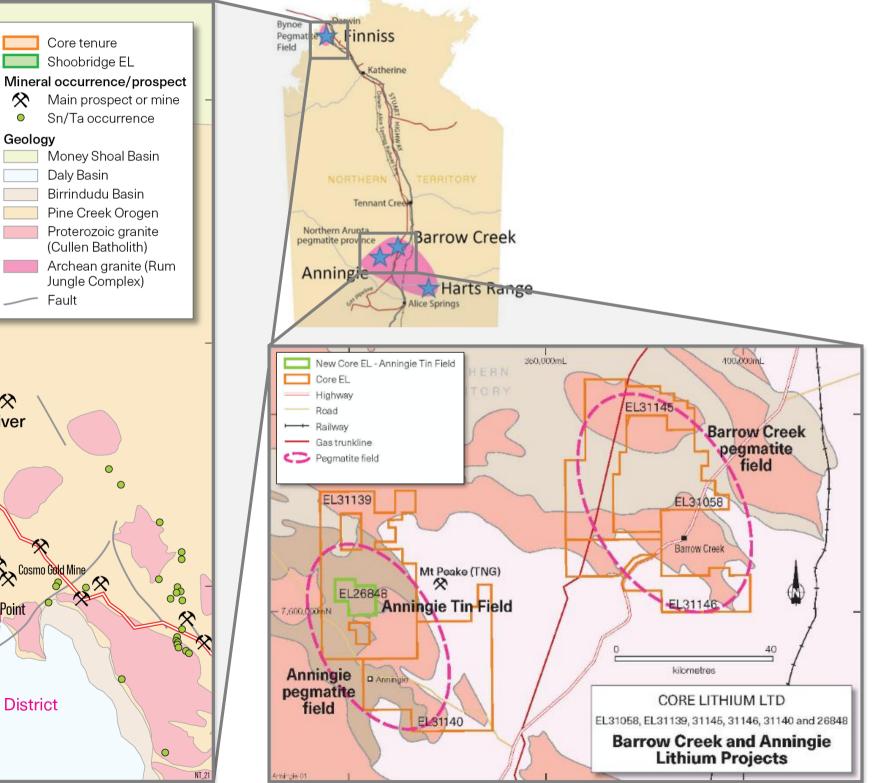
## **REGIONAL EXPLORATION TARGETS**

Large tenement holdings prospective for lithium at Anningie, Barrow Creek and Shoobridge

- Fieldwork to commence in 2024
- Ground holdings with swarms of Pegmatite dykes and sills
- Historical pegmatite related tin-tantalum mines and workings
- **Encouraging surface sampling**
- Shoobridge has close access to the road network connected with the Darwin Port and Finniss Lithium Project
- Anningie / Barrow Creek has close access to the rail link to Darwin Port







## **CONCLUDING REMARKS – OUR PRIORITIES FOR FY24**

OPERATIONAL DELIVERY	<ul> <li>Deliver Core's Critical Risk Management program and focus of Achieve FY24 spodumene production guidance of 80,000 to 9</li> <li>Execute Finniss performance improvement initiatives, include</li> <li>Deliver into offtake contracts</li> </ul>
SUSTAINED GROWTH	<ul> <li>Execute exploration plan for 2024</li> <li>Complete BP33 underground revised Feasibility Study due in</li> <li>Reach FID for BP33 underground in Q1 2024</li> <li>Fine-tune strategy for regional exploration and growth option</li> </ul>
ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE 3	<ul> <li>Continue Community Grants Program to support community</li> <li>Identify further opportunities for local business, associations</li> <li>Build HSE systems and processes that are fit for purpose and</li> <li>Continue roll out of Critical Risk Management program and a</li> </ul>
EMPLOYER OF THE FUTURE	<ul> <li>A contemporary approach to workforce management in how</li> <li>Enable the ways of working that deliver on safe, sustainable,</li> <li>Aspire to create systems of work that foster diversity</li> <li>Continue building out an experienced operational team</li> </ul>

on safe operations

90,000 tonnes

ding improving lithia recoveries and mining productivity

in Q1 2024

ons

ty groups in greater Darwin region

ns and groups to mutual benefit

d reflect our risk profile

apply learnings from first operational activities

w we design jobs and engage people

e, cost-effective production outcomes



# APPENDIX

Core overview

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## **CORPORATE SNAPSHOT**



**Greg English** Non-Executive Chair BEng (Hons), LLB



Andrea Hall Non-Executive Director B Comm (UWA), MAppFin, FCA, GAICD



**Heath Hellewell** Non-Executive Director BSc (Hons) MAIG



**Malcolm McComas** 

Non-Executive Director Bec, LLB, SF Fin, FAICD



Jarek Kopias Company Secretary Bcom, CPA, AGIA, AGS (CS, CGP)

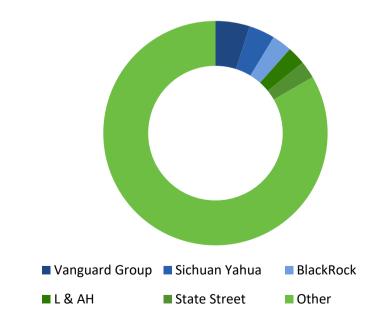
### **CAPITAL STRUCTURE**

A\$0.87/Share Share price – 21 July 2023

1,859M Shares<sup>1</sup> Shares on Issue

A\$1,617M Mkt Cap Undiluted Market Capitalisation – 21 July 2023

### MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS<sup>2</sup>



#### NOTES

- 1. Plus 3,122,451 unquoted performance rights as at 30 June 2023
- 2. Register as at 30 June 2023

A\$152.7M Cash and cash equivalent 30 June 2023

Nil Debt - 30 June 2023

ASX:CXO, ASX200 INDEX

Ticker

### **BROKER COVERAGE**



## EXECUTIVE TEAM TO DRIVE NEXT GROWTH PHASE

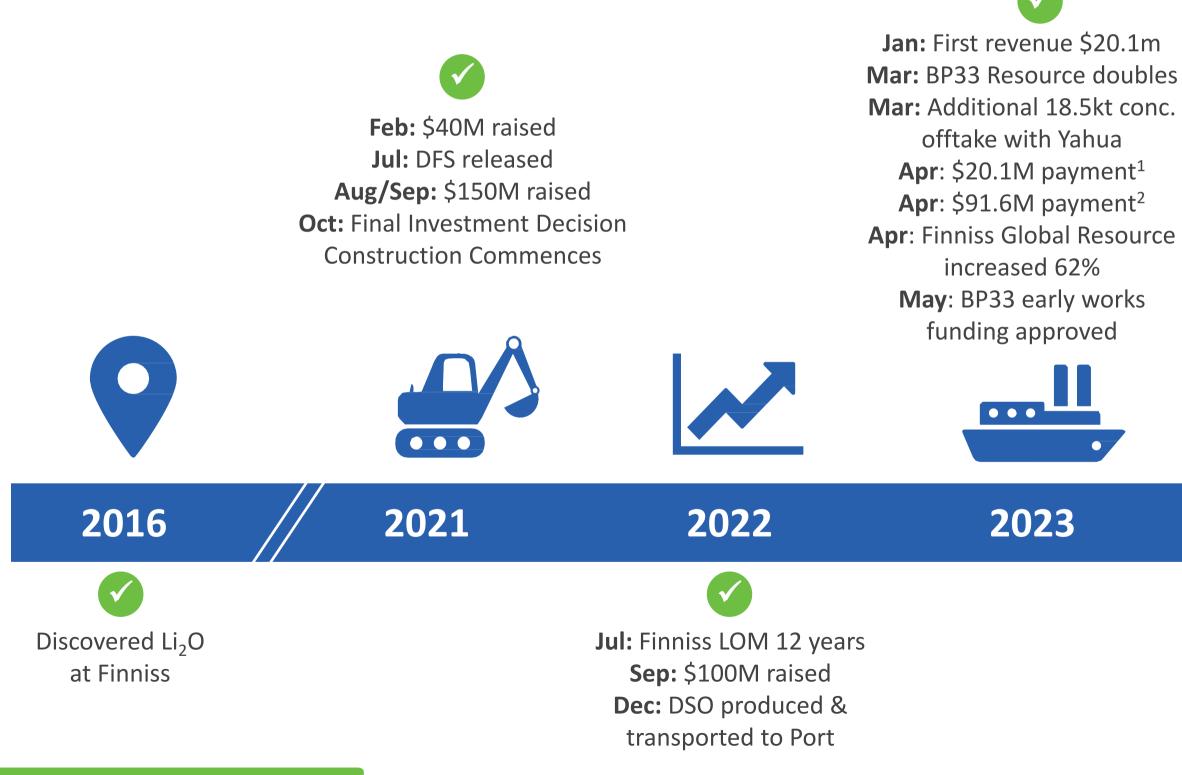
Alongside the completion of executive appointments, Core has finalised the registration of the new Perth office



**EGM = Executive General Manager** 

### **CORE MILESTONES**

### **TRACK RECORD OF ACHIEVING MILESTONES**



#### NOTES

2. Payment received under a pre-payment arrangement for a 15,000t parcel, with the balance due on delivery, expected in July.

### **PURSUING SUSTAINED GROWTH**

Im<br/>bles<br/>onc.FY24 focus areas:<br/>Deliver FY24 production and cost guidance<br/>Deliver Finniss productivity initiatives<br/>Finalise BP33 Revised Feasibility Study<br/>Reach BP33 FID in 1Q 2024<br/>Deliver into offtake contracts<br/>Grow resource via exploration<br/>Undertake study work for other deposits in the districtsImage: Contract Single Contrac

<sup>1.</sup> Payment received for 90% of a 3,500t parcel of spodumene concentrate sold to Yahua on an FOB basis with remainder due upon shipment (expected in May)

## THE FINNISS LITHIUM PROJECT

Waste Rock Dump (WRD)

Mine Water Dam 1

Grants Open Pit

**Inundation** Bund

**Tailings Storage Facility** within WRD

### Run of Mine (ROM) Pad

1/

**Dense Media Separation** (DMS) Plant

Raw Water Dam

Crushing Infrastructure

100

7 Admin Building

Sediment Basin 2

18 coreli m.com.au



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Authorised for release by the Board of Core Lithium Ltd

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