**BUILDING A** SIGNIFICANT CRITICAL **MINERALS BUSINESS** 

04 APRIL 2022

## **ASX ANNOUNCEMENT**

ASX: STA

# STRANDLINE LOOKS TO INCREASE COBURN'S PRODUCTION RATE BY UP TO 50%

Study underway on potential to expand the Coburn mine after commissioning and production ramp-up is complete

#### **SALIENT POINTS**

Strandline Resources Limited (ASX: STA) advises that it has initiated a scoping study on the potential to increase the planned production rate by up to 50 per cent at its 100%-owned Coburn minerals sands project in WA.

The production increase would be aimed at enabling Coburn to capitalise further on its world-class resource, long mine life, high mineral sands prices and strong demand for offtake among leading customers in the US, Europe and China.

Any expansion is expected to be funded out of future Coburn cashflow and leverage significantly off Coburn's infrastructure (currently being constructed), especially the inherent design capacity within the processing plant circuitry.

Preliminary investigations highlight the potential compelling capital and operating cost efficiencies of scalingup the project, further enhancing Coburn's already strong competitive position.

Construction at Coburn is 65 per cent complete and the project is on-budget and on-schedule, with first production of heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) set for the December quarter, 2022 (see ASX release dated April 1, 2022).

Coburn will produce critical minerals of zircon, titanium (rutile and ilmenite) and monazite mineral (rare earths).

Coburn has an initial mine life of 22.5 years based on the current JORC-compliant Ore Reserves, with the potential to extend this beyond 2060 (~40 years) by converting Mineral Resources which exist adjacent and immediately north and along strike of the existing Ore Reserves.

The Coburn definitive feasibility study (DFS), released in June 2020, forecast average annual EBITDA of A\$104 million over the estimated 22.5-year initial life-of-mine. Since then, mineral sands market prices have increased significantly, with spot prices at least 35% above the assumptions contained in the DFS.

Strandline Managing Director Luke Graham said any future expansion of Coburn would be undertaken once commissioning and steady state production was successfully achieved and would be funded from cashflow.

"There is clearly scope to increase our free cashflow generation and overall financial returns significantly, particularly given the strength of the mineral sands market," Mr Graham said.

"We have been inundated with requests from customers to consider expanding production and any commitment to do so would be underpinned by further binding sales contracts.

"The potential expansion of Coburn will be considered in conjunction with Strandline's other strategic growth projects in Tanzania, including the advanced Fungoni and Tajiri mineral sands projects."









Figure 1 Coburn Project has reached 65% Complete and is On-schedule for First Production of HMC in December quarter 2022

#### ABOUT COBURN MINERAL SANDS PROJECT

In May-2021 Strandline made a Final Investment Decision (FID) to proceed with the full development of its world-scale Coburn mineral sands project, located in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia. The construction schedule has first production of HMC planned for the December quarter of 2022.

The Coburn project is set to capitalise on its robust margins, the strengthening minerals sands commodity pricing outlook, its tier-1 location, and the growing demand for critical minerals.

The Coburn mine life currently sees mining continue until 2045 (based on mining the initial 22.5-year JORC compliant Ore Reserves), with the potential to extend to beyond 2060 (~40 years mine life) by converting Mineral Resources which exist adjacent immediately north and along strike of existing Ore Reserves.

The FID was supported by the updated Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS), released in mid-2020, which confirmed robust economics for the project over an initial 22.5-year life, including:

- Pre-tax NPV of A\$705m (AUD: USD 0.70, 8% DCF discount rate)
- High margin revenue-to-operating cost (C1) ratio of 2.4
- Projected revenue for the initial 22.5 years of Ore Reserves of A\$4.4b
- Average annual EBITDA of A\$104m and +50% EBITDA margin
- Fully-funded to production and cash flow by a combination of 15-year A\$150m NAIF<sup>1</sup> loan alongside a 5year US\$60m Bond Issue, and equity proceeds
- Binding offtakes secured for 100% of Coburn's initial production with top-tier customers

**Table 1** Coburn updated DFS and Scoping Study Extension Case Financial Evaluation

| Category                                  | Updated DFS –<br>Final Product Case<br>(Jun-20) | Scoping Study Extension Case integrated with updated DFS (Jun-20) |
|---|---|---|
| Mine Life                                 | 22.5yrs   | 37.5yrs   |
| Tonnes Mined                              | 523Mt   | 876.8Mt   |
| Throughput                                | 23.4Mtpa  | 23.4Mtpa  |
| Capital Expenditure (Pre-production)      | A\$260M   | A\$260M   |
| Revenue                                   | A\$4.37B  | A\$7.94B  |
| Total Opex (C1)                           | A\$1.80B  | A\$3.00B  |
| Total All-in Sustaining Costs (AISC)      | A\$2.08B  | A\$3.50B  |
| Revenue-to-operating cost (C1) ratio (RC) | 2.4   | 2.6   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) is a Commonwealth Government lending facility to finance projects to achieve growth in the economies and populations of northern Australia and encourage and complement private sector investment. (http://www.naif.gov.au)



| Category   | Updated DFS –<br>Final Product Case<br>(Jun-20) | Scoping Study Extension Case integrated with updated DFS (Jun-20) |
|--|---|---|
| NPV (pre-tax, real, no debt, 8% DCF discount Rate) | A\$705M   | A\$825M   |
| EBITDA   | A\$2.35B  | A\$4.54B  |
| Avg. annual EBITDA                                 | A\$104M   | A\$121M   |

Strandline is committed to building a highly efficient and sustainable mining operation. The project provides significant public benefit including job creation, high Australian industry participation, new local business and indigenous engagement opportunities, as well as capital inflows for Australia.

Refer to the ASX Announcement dated 10 June 2020 for more information on the Coburn mineral sands project and details of the material assumptions underpinning the production target and financial results for the Coburn Project DFS, Ore Reserve and Mine Life Extension Case Scoping Study. The Company confirms that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning Resource Estimates, Production Targets and Project Feasibility Studies, continue to apply and have not materially changed.

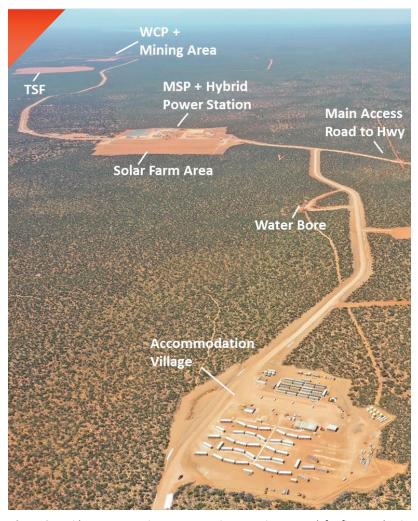




Figure 2 Rapid progress on site ensures project remains on track for first production in the December quarter 2022

This announcement is authorised for release by the Strandline Resources Board of Directors.

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#### FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains certain forward looking statements. Forward looking statements are only predictions and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions which are outside of the control of Strandline. These risks, uncertainties and assumptions include commodity prices, currency fluctuations, economic and financial market conditions, environmental risks and legislative, fiscal or regulatory developments, political risks, project delay, approvals and cost estimates. Actual values, results or events may be materially different to those contained in this announcement. Given these uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place reliance on forward looking statements. Any forward looking statements in this announcement reflect the views of Strandline only at the date of this announcement. Subject to any continuing obligations under applicable laws and ASX Listing Rules, Strandline does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any information or any of the forward-looking statements in this announcement to reflect changes in events, conditions or circumstances on which any forward looking statements is based.

#### **ABOUT STRANDLINE**

Strandline Resources Limited (ASX: STA) is an emerging producer of heavy mineral sands with a portfolio of 100%-owned development assets located in Western Australia and within the world's major zircon and titanium producing corridor in East Africa.

Strandline's strategy is to develop and operate high margin, expandable mining assets with market differentiation and global relevance in the sector.

Strandline's project portfolio contains high quality assets which offer a range of development options and timelines, geographic diversity and scalability. They include the world-scale Coburn Project in WA, currently under construction, and the exciting Tanzanian growth projects Fungoni and Tajiri.



Figure 3 Strandline's Global Mineral Sands Exploration and Development Projects



#### ANNEXURE A - MINERAL RESOURCE DATA - COBURN PROJECT

The Company's mineral resource estimates and ore reserves are summarised in the tables below.

### Coburn Mineral Sands Project – Western Australia

Table A Coburn Project JORC 2012 Global Mineral Resources - Amy South and Amy North

|                      | Ore <sup>(1)</sup> |                     |            | Valuable HM Grade (In-Situ) (2) |               |               |                  |               |                 |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Resource<br>Category | Material<br>(Mt)   | In situ<br>THM (Mt) | THM<br>(%) | Ilmenite<br>(%)                 | Rutile<br>(%) | Zircon<br>(%) | Leucoxene<br>(%) | Slimes<br>(%) | Oversize<br>(%) |
| Measured             | 119                | 1.5                 | 1.3        | 45                              | 5             | 24            | 6                | 3             | 6               |
| Indicated            | 607                | 7.7                 | 1.3        | 48                              | 7             | 22            | 5                | 3             | 3               |
| Inferred             | 880                | 10.4                | 1.2        | 49                              | 7             | 21            | 4                | 3             | 1               |
| Total                | 1606               | 19.6                | 1.2        | 48                              | 7             | 22            | 5                | 3             | 2               |

 Table B
 Coburn Project JORC 2012 Ore Reserve Statement April 2019

| ORE RESERVES SUMMARY FOR COBURN PROJECT |                    |      |                 |         |  |
|---|--------------------|------|-----------------|---------|--|
| Deposit                                 | Reserve Category   | Ore  | Heavy Mineral   |         |  |
|   |                    | (Mt) | In Situ HM (Mt) | THM (%) |  |
| Coburn - Amy South                      | Proved             | 106  | 1.16            | 1.10    |  |
| Coburn - Amy South                      | Probable           | 417  | 4.66            | 1.12    |  |
|   | Total <sup>1</sup> | 523  | 5.83            | 1.11    |  |

#### ANNEXURE B - MINERAL SANDS COMPETENT PERSON'S STATEMENTS

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Brendan Cummins, Chief Geologist and employee of Strandline. Mr Cummins is a member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and he has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposits under consideration and to the activity which has been 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 Cummins consents to the inclusion in this release of the matters based on the information in the form and context in which they appear. Mr Cummins is a shareholder of Strandline Resources.

#### **Coburn Mineral Resources**

The information in this report that relates to Mineral Resources is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Greg Jones, (Consultant to Strandline and Geological Services Manager for IHC Robbins) and Mr Brendan Cummins (Chief Geologist and employee of Strandline). Mr Jones is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and Mr Cummins is a member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and both have sufficient experience of relevance to the styles of mineralisation and types of deposits under consideration, and to the activities undertaken to qualify as Competent Persons as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Specifically, Mr Cummins is the Competent Person for the provision of the drill database, and completed the site inspection. Mr Jones is the Competent Person for the data integration and resource estimation. Mr Jones and Mr Cummins consent to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on their information in the form and context in which they appear.

#### Coburn Ore Reserves

The information in this report that relates to the Coburn Ore Reserves is based on information compiled under the direction of Mr Adrian Jones. Mr Jones is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and is employed by AMC. Mr Jones has sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the JORC Code. Non-mining modifying factors for the Ore Reserve estimate are drawn from contributions provided by various sources. Significant contributors to this report are identified in Table 5 (ASX announcement 16/04/2019) together with their area of contribution.

#### ANNEXURE C - CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

#### Coburn Scoping Study Production Targets (No ore reserves declared)

The information in this report that relates to the Mine Extension Case Scoping Study is based on information compiled under the direction of Mr Adrian Jones. Mr Jones is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and is employed by AMC Consultants Pty Ltd. Mr Jones has sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the JORC Code. Non-mining modifying factors for the production targets are drawn from contributions provided by various sources as stated in the Coburn Ore Reserve announcement dated 16 April 2019.

<sup>1.</sup> Total may deviate from the arithmetic sum due to rounding