

Hillgrove Resources Ltd

Solid July quarterly production report; de-risking thesis remains on track

HGO reported a solid July quarterly production report. Key highlights: 1) the company remains on track to be net cash by early CY15, 2) operations continue to track along nicely, with quarterly copper production of 5.9kt ahead of our forecast, and 3) no major changes to guidance with the change of reporting to December-year end. Maintain Overweight.

- Solid July quarterly production. HGO produced 5.9kt Cu-in-concentrate, +2% vs. JPMe, with strong mill throughput (+12% vs. JPMe) offset by lower head grades and recoveries. Milling rates were strong despite planned maintenance and were helped by a draw down of coarse ore stocks. Rain over the quarter restricted access to mining areas within the open pits, which resulted in lower-than-expected head grades delivered to the mill (0.76% vs. JPMe 0.83%); we expect grades to track back towards ~0.80% over the coming quarter. A new screening system was also installed over the quarter which will improve efficiencies in the primary / secondary circuit and concentrate grades are expected to tick up in the coming months from the utilisation of the flotation underflow stream in the re-grind circuit. Quarterly C1 costs of US\$1.94/lb were below JPMe US\$2.06/lb, where lower-than-forecast mining costs were offset by lower by-product credits. Guidance was updated for December-year end (change of reporting), with the company guiding to 20.5-22.5kt for the 11mth to December.
- **De-risking of balance sheet continues.** The company finished the quarter with cash of A\$12.1m and gross debt (ex lease liabilities) of A\$25.3m. We forecast ~A\$20m of FCF generation over 2HFY, which will be ample to repay the ~A\$13m in senior debt and ~A\$2.3m of the gold loan; we forecast HGO will be net cash by early 2015. A track record of stable operating metrics gives us further confidence in the de-risking of the balance sheet. Additionally, HGO extended hedging coverage over 90% of production until November at an average price of ~A\$3.47/lb.
- **Retain Overweight**. Notwithstanding operational risks around grade profile and the potential for elevated waste stripping over the next 12-18 months, we believe risks surrounding HGO's ability to repay debt are subsiding and, as such, should help the equity re-rate over the medium-term.

Hillgrove Resources Ltd (Reuters: HGO AX Bloomberg: HGO AU)

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FY12A	FY13A	FY14A	FY15E	FY16E				
12	115	139	187	175				
(2)	19	37	49	29				
(8)	(11)	1	11	6				
(0.01)	(0.01)	0.00	0.01	0.00				
NM	NM	56.0	8.3	16.8				
NM	6.0	3.1	1.8	2.3				
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%				
(0.01)	(0.01)	0.00	0.01	0.00				
(28.3%)	38.1%	(112.6%)	921.4%	(50.2%)				
NM	NM	85.5	8.4	16.8				
	FY12A 12 (2) (8) (0.01) NM NM 0.00 0.0% (0.01) (28.3%)	FY12A FY13A 12 115 (2) 19 (8) (11) (0.01) (0.01) NM NM NM 6.0 0.00 0.00 0.0% 0.0% (0.01) (0.01) (28.3%) 38.1%	FY12A FY13A FY14A 12 115 139 (2) 19 37 (8) (11) 1 (0.01) (0.01) 0.00 NM NM 56.0 NM 6.0 3.1 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% (0.01) (0.01) 0.00 (28.3%) 38.1% (112.6%)	FY12A FY13A FY14A FY15E 12 115 139 187 (2) 19 37 49 (8) (11) 1 11 (0.01) (0.01) 0.00 0.01 NM NM 56.0 8.3 NM 6.0 3.1 1.8 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% (0.01) (0.01) 0.00 0.01 (28.3%) 38.1% (112.6%) 921.4%				

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, J.P. Morgan estimates.

Overweight

HGO.AX, HGO AU Price: A\$0.08

Price Target: A\$0.11

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J.P. Morgan Securities Australia Limited



Company Data	
Shares O/S (mn)	1,182
Market Cap (A\$ mn)	93.35
Market Cap (\$ mn)	86.79
Price (A\$)	0.08
Date Of Price	26 Aug 14
Free Float(%)	-
3M - Avg daily vol (mn)	0.88
3M - Avg daily val (A\$ mn)	0.07
3M - Avg daily val (\$ mn)	0.1
ASX100	4679.40
Exchange Rate	0.93
Price Target End Date	31-Jul-15
Price Target (A\$)	0.11

See page 5 for analyst certification and important disclosures, including non-US analyst disclosures.

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Changes to forecasts

We have factored in the July quarterly production report, updated our hedge book forecasts and made minor operational changes. The net impact to earnings and valuation is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Changes to HGO forecasts

	NPV	Underlying NPAT (A\$m)		
	A\$ps	2015F	2016F	2017F
Previous	0.11	15	4	3
Revised	0.11	11	6	3
Change	0.00	-4	1	0
Change	-4%	-25%	27%	6%

Source: J.P. Morgan estimates.

Investment Thesis, Valuation and Risks

Hillgrove Resources Ltd (Overweight; Price Target: A\$0.11)

Investment Thesis

We have an Overweight recommendation on HGO. The Kanmantoo operating performance has shown consistency and balance sheet risks have subsided which together warrant a re-rating towards NPV.

Valuation

Our Jan-15 price target of A\$0.11ps is derived off our Jan-14 NPV of A\$0.11ps, based on our DCF valuation of Kanmantoo using a 12% WACC.

Risks to Rating and Price Target

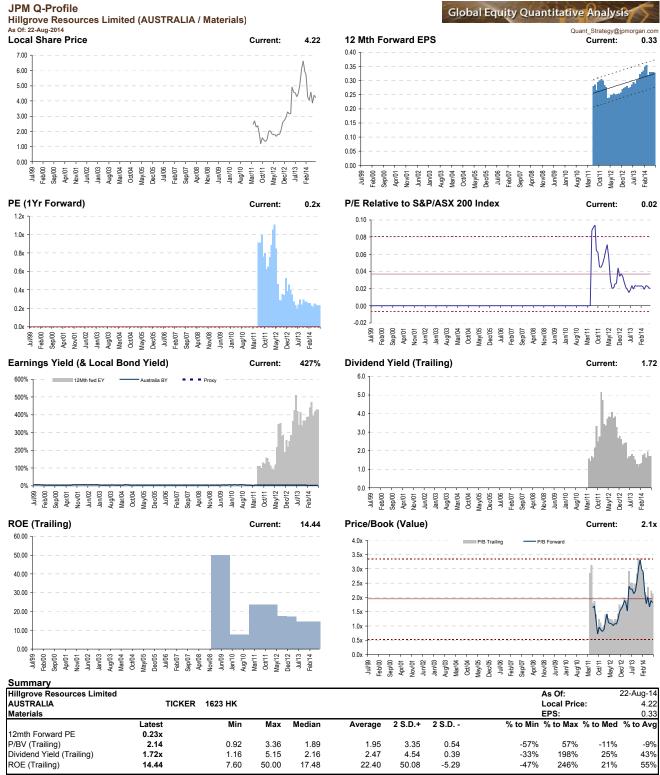
Key downside risks to our Overweight recommendation include: 1) worse-than-expected grade profile at Kanmantoo; 2) weaker cost performance, and 3) higher than expected waste stripping over the next 12-18 months.

HGO Summary: Jan-yr end (A\$m)

Relative recommendation: OW

Profit & Loss (ASm)	A\$m 92.2 76.1 0.11 35% 0.0% 34.6% 12.0% A\$ps 0.11 0.00 (0.02) 0.09 0.01 0.00 0.11	128.7 0.2 (21.8) 107.1 16.1 3.0			Current Market Capitalisation EV 12 mth price target (July 2015) Capital growth to price target 12 mth forecast DYId 12 mth forecast total return WACC Current DCF (July 2015) Kanmantoo Investments Corporate costs Sub-total Net cash/(debt) Exploration potential	175 (149) 26 (22) 3 - 1 4 (1) - 3 - 3 1,186 0.3	175 (146) 29 (21) 8 - 0 8 (2) - 6 - 6	187 (138) 49 (31) 18 - (2) 16 (5) - 11	140 (102) 37 (29) 8 (1) (5) 2 (1)	Revenue Operating Expenses EBITDA Depreciation & Amortisation EBIT Other Interest PBT Tax Minorities & other
Comparising Expenses Comparising Expense	76.1 0.11 35% 0.0% 34.6% 12.0% A\$ps 0.11 0.00 (0.02) 0.09 0.01 0.00 0.11	128.7 0.2 (21.8) 107.1 16.1 3.0			12 mth price target (July 2015) Capital growth to price target 12 mth forecast DYId 12 mth forecast total return WACC Current DCF (July 2015) Kannantoo Investments Corporate costs Sub-total Net cash/(debt) Exploration potential	(149) 26 (22) 3 - 1 4 (1) - 3 - 3 1,186 0.3	(146) 29 (21) 8 - 0 8 (2) - 6 - 6	(138) 49 (31) 18 - (2) 16 (5) - 11	(102) 37 (29) 8 (1) (5) 2 (1) -	Operating Expenses EBITDA Depreciation & Amortisation EBIT Other Interest PBT Tax Minorities & other
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Depreciation & Arroritisation Cap Ca	35% 0.0% 34.6% 12.0% A\$ps 0.11 0.00 (0.02) 0.09 0.01 0.00 0.11	128.7 0.2 (21.8) 107.1 16.1 3.0			Capital growth to price target 12 mth forecast DYId 12 mth forecast total return WACC Current DCF (July 2015) Kannantoo Investments Corporate costs Sub-total Net cash/(debt) Exploration potential	(22) 3 - 1 4 (1) - 3 - 3 1,186 0.3	(21) 8 - 0 8 (2) - 6 - 6	(31) 18 - (2) 16 (5) - 11	(29) 8 (1) (5) 2 (1) -	Depreciation & Amortisation EBIT Other Interest PBT Tax Minorities & other
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PBT	A\$ps 0.11 0.00 (0.02) 0.09 0.01 0.00 0.11	128.7 0.2 (21.8) 107.1 16.1 3.0			Current DCF (July 2015) Kanmantoo Investments Corporate costs Sub-total Net cash/(debt) Exploration potential	(1) - 3 - 3 1,186 0.3	(2) - 6 - 6	16 (5) - 11	(1) - 1	Tax Minorities & other
Minorities & other	0.11 0.00 (0.02) 0.09 0.01 0.00 0.11	128.7 0.2 (21.8) 107.1 16.1 3.0			Kanmantoo Investments Corporate costs Sub-total Net cash/(debt) Exploration potential	3 - 3 1,186 0.3	6 - 6	11	- 1	Minorities & other
Minorities & other	0.11 0.00 (0.02) 0.09 0.01 0.00 0.11	128.7 0.2 (21.8) 107.1 16.1 3.0			Kanmantoo Investments Corporate costs Sub-total Net cash/(debt) Exploration potential	3 - 3 1,186 0.3	6 - 6	11	- 1	
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Shares outstanding (m)	0.01 0.00 0.11	16.1 3.0			Net cash/(debt) Exploration potential	0.3	1,186			Ni AT - adjusted
Reported EPS (A¢ps) 0.1 0.9 0.5 0.3 Exploration potential 3.0 Normalised EPS (A¢ps) 0.1 0.9 0.5 0.3 Total Total 126.2 126.2	0.00 0.11 2017E	3.0			Exploration potential	0.3	1,100	1 106	1 176	Shares outstanding (m)
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DPS (A¢ps) 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 DPS growth n/a										
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Investing cashflow (22) (12) (7) (6) ROE [Norm NPAT / Equity] 0% 5% 2%	1.8	2.3	1.8	3.1	EV / EBITDA	(6)	(7)	(12)	(19)	Capex
Dividends - - - - - ROA [EBIT / (assets - cash)] 3% 6% 3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	Dividend yield	20	23	29	(8)	Free cashflow
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Change in cash (11) (2) 13 20 EBIT / net interest 1.5 8.6 na EBITDA / net interest 6.9 23.3 na Balance Sheet (A\$m) 2014A 2015E 2016E 2017E Net Debt / BITDA 0.7 na na Cash and cash equivalents 16 15 28 48 Gearing - net debt / equity 11% -2% -11% Property plant & equipment 226 207 192 176 Gearing - net debt / (net debt + equ 10% -2% -12% Total assets 322 297 293 296 EBITDA margin 27% 26% 16% Debt 42 11 1 1 Effective tax rate 33% 30% 30% Total liabilities 94 58 48 48 CFPS (A¢) (0.7) 2.4 1.9 Total equity 229 240 245 248 FCF yield -9% 31% 25% Net debt / (cash) 25 (4) (27) (47) Attributable Production 2014A 2015E 2016E BHI Yearly P&L (A\$m) 1H14A 2H14A 1H15E 2H15E Concentrate (kt) 75.4 97.5 89.8 Revenue 58.8 80.7 92.4 94.4 Copper (kt metal in conc.) 17.2 22.5 20.1	1%	3%	6%	3%	ROA [EBIT / (assets - cash)]	-	-	-	-	Dividends
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Total assets 322 297 293 296 EBITDA margin 27% 26% 16% Debt 42 11 1 1 Effective tax rate 33% 30% 30% Total liabilities 94 58 48 48 CFPS (A¢) (0.7) 2.4 1.9 Total equity 229 240 245 248 FCF yield -9% 31% 25% Net debt / (cash) 25 (4) (27) (47) Attributable Production 2014A 2015E 2016E Half Yearly P&L (A\$m) 1H14A 2H14A 1H15E 2H15E Concentrate (kt) 75.4 97.5 89.8 Revenue 58.8 80.7 92.4 94.4 Copper (kt metal in conc.) 17.2 22.5 20.1	-19%	-11%	-2%	11%	Gearing - net debt / equity	48	28	15	16	Cash and cash equivalents
Total assets 322 297 293 296 EBITDA margin 27% 26% 16% Debt 42 11 1 1 Effective tax rate 33% 30% 30% Total liabilities 94 58 48 48 CFPS (A¢) (0.7) 2.4 1.9 Total equity 229 240 245 248 FCF yield -9% 31% 25% Net debt / (cash) 25 (4) (27) (47) Attributable Production 2014A 2015E 2016E Half Yearly P&L (A\$m) 1H14A 2H14A 1H15E 2H15E Concentrate (kt) 75.4 97.5 89.8 Revenue 58.8 80.7 92.4 94.4 Copper (kt metal in conc.) 17.2 22.5 20.1	-23%	-12%	-2%	10%	Gearing - net debt / (net debt + equ	176	192	207	226	Property plant & equipment
Debt 42 11 1 1 Effective tax rate 33% 30% 30% Total liabilities 94 58 48 48 CFPS (A¢) (0.7) 2.4 1.9 Total equity 229 240 245 248 FCF yield -9% 31% 25% Net debt / (cash) 25 (4) (27) (47) Attributable Production 2014A 2015E 2016E Half Yearly P&L (A\$m) 1H14A 2H14A 1H15E 2H15E Concentrate (kt) 75.4 97.5 89.8 Revenue 58.8 80.7 92.4 94.4 Copper (kt metal in conc.) 17.2 22.5 20.1	15%	16%	26%		,	296	293	297	322	
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Total equity 229 240 245 248 FCF yield -9% 31% 25% Net debt / (cash) 25 (4) (27) (47) Attributable Production 2014A 2015E 2016E Half Yearly P&L (A\$m) 1H14A 2H14A 1H15E 2H15E Concentrate (kt) 75.4 97.5 89.8 Revenue 58.8 80.7 92.4 94.4 Copper (kt metal in conc.) 17.2 22.5 20.1	1.7									
Net debt / (cash) 25 (4) (27) (47) Attributable Production 2014A 2015E 2016E Half Yearly P&L (A\$m) 1H14A 2H14A 1H15E 2H15E Concentrate (kt) 75.4 97.5 89.8 Revenue 58.8 80.7 92.4 94.4 Copper (kt metal in conc.) 17.2 22.5 20.1	22%			. ,	1 . ,					
Half Yearly P&L (A\$m) 1H14A 2H14A 1H15E 2H15E Concentrate (kt) 75.4 97.5 89.8 Revenue 58.8 80.7 92.4 94.4 Copper (kt metal in conc.) 17.2 22.5 20.1	22 /0	2570	3170	-5 70	1 of yield					
Half Yearly P&L (A\$m) 1H14A 2H14A 1H15E 2H15E Concentrate (kt) 75.4 97.5 89.8 Revenue 58.8 80.7 92.4 94.4 Copper (kt metal in conc.) 17.2 22.5 20.1	2017E	2016E	2015E	20144	Attributable Production	(47)	(21)	(4)	23	Net debt / (casil)
Revenue 58.8 80.7 92.4 94.4 Copper (kt metal in conc.) 17.2 22.5 20.1						21455	111155	2H14A	11111	Half Voorly B&L (A\$m)
	85.7				, ,					
Uperating Expenses -40.4 -61.6 -65.9 -71.9 Gold (koz) 6.0 7.1 9.5	19.2				,					
TDTD1	9.1	4=0=		400.0	`_ `					
EBITDA 18.4 19.1 26.5 22.5 Silver (koz metal in conc.) 132.9 131.5 176.7	168.5	1/6./	131.5	132.9	Silver (koz metal in conc.)					
Depreciation & Amortisation -12.4 -16.7 -21.2 -9.8										
EBIT 6.0 2.3 5.3 12.7 Cash Costs (C1) 2014A 2015E 2016E	2017E									
Other 3.3 -3.9 0.0 0.0 US\$/lb (post credits) 2.49 2.30 2.64	2.75				" ,					
Interest -3.0 -2.4 -1.4 -0.7 A\$/lb (post credits) 2.41 2.03 2.36	2.44	2.36	2.03	2.41	A\$/lb (post credits)					
PBT 6.3 -4.0 4.0 12.0						12.0	4.0	-4.0	6.3	PBT
Tax -2.3 1.5 -1.2 -3.6 Price Assumptions 2014A 2015E 2016E	2017E	2016E	2015E	2014A	Price Assumptions	-3.6	-1.2	1.5	-2.3	Tax
Minorities & other 0.0 0.0 0.0 A\$/US\$ FX rate 0.88 0.89 0.89	0.85	0.89	0.89	0.88	A\$/US\$ FX rate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Minorities & other
NPAT - reported 4.0 -2.5 2.8 8.4 Copper (US\$/t) 6,896 6,766 6,857	7,102	6,857	6,766	6,896	Copper (US\$/t)	8.4	2.8	-2.5	4.0	NPAT - reported
Exceptional items -3.0 2.5 0.0 0.0 Gold (US\$/oz) 1,289 1,240 1,242	1,264	1,242	1,240	1,289		0.0	0.0	2.5	-3.0	Exceptional items
NPAT - adjusted 1.0 0.0 2.8 8.4 Silver (US\$/oz) 20.43 20.18 19.51	18.75	19.51	20.18	20.43	Silver (US\$/oz)	8.4	2.8	0.0	1.0	NPAT - adjusted
Segmented revenue (A\$m) 2014A 2015E 2016E 2017E						2017E	2016E	2015E	2014A	Segmented revenue (A\$m)
Copper 126.2 170.3 157.2 157.0						157.0	157.2	170.3	126.2	Copper
Gold 9.8 12.5 13.6 13.4										
Silver 3.1 3.9 4.4 4.1										
						4.1				



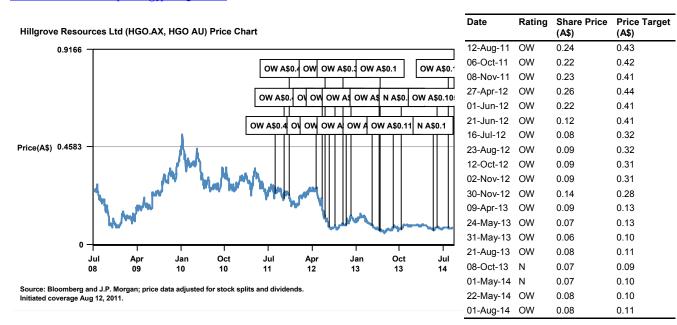


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