



ASX: ABX



# **CEO Presentation at the Brisbane Mining Investor Conference**

In accordance with the requirements of Listing Rule 3.1 we submit the attached material being presented at the Brisbane Mining Investor Conference by Dr Mark Cooksey, Managing Director and CEO.

ABx will be exhibiting Wednesday and Thursday 22-23 March 2023, at the Conference being held at the Royal on the Park Hotel 152 Alice Street, Brisbane City Queensland.

Dr Cooksey's presentation is at 4:15pm AEST (5:15 AEDT) on Wednesday 22 March and he looks forward to welcoming shareholders and investors throughout the conference.

Registration is free. Please copy and paste the following link into your internet browser:

https://www.trybooking.com/events/990990/sessions/3572974/sections/1813297/tickets

ASX Release authorised by Mark Cooksey, Managing Director and CEO.

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# Disclaimer

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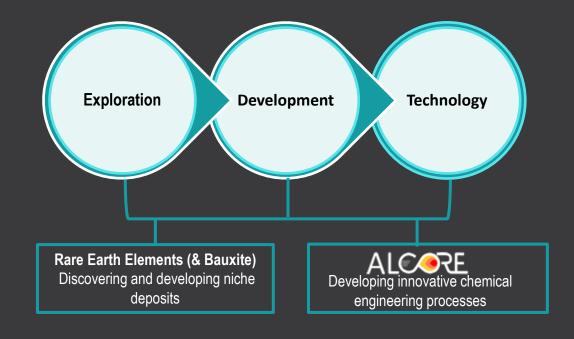
Prices for aluminium fluoride (AlF<sub>3</sub>) were sourced from Asian Metals, China Customs and verified by comparison with prices from Bloomberg. The price actually achieved will depend upon market conditions at the time of sale.





## Delivering materials for a cleaner future

- 1. Creating an ionic adsorption clay rare earth project in northern Tasmania
- 2. Establishing a plant to produce hydrogen fluoride and aluminium fluoride from recycled industrial waste, to replace imports (ALCORE)
- 3. Mining and enhancing bauxite resources for the cement, aluminium and fertiliser industries







## **Board of Directors**

#### Hon Paul Lennon AO (Chair)



- Premier of Tasmania 2004-2008
- Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure,
  Energy & Resources 1998-2004
- Principal Paramul Pty Ltd 2009-

### Dr Mark Cooksey (Managing Director and CEO)



- More than 20 years with Rio Tinto and CSIRO
- Worked closely with aluminium and other metal industries
- Significant experience in commercialising new technologies and processes
- PhD in Chemical & Materials Engineering

#### lan Levy (Director)



- Previous CEO of ABx
- 30 years of senior management experience across multiple commodities, including WMC and Pancontinental Mining
- Previously CEO of Allegiance Mining, Chair of Dynasty Metals Australia, and Director of Gloucester Coal
- Member of JORC for 11 years (4 years as Vice Chairman) and Federal President, Australian Institute of Geoscientists

### Ken Boundy (Non-Executive Director)



- 20 years leading companies and divisions in wine, food, building materials and tourism industries
- Chair and Non-Executive on 21 private and public boards
- Executive experience in corporate development, M&A and marketing



# **Corporate Overview**

ASX code: **ABX** 

Listed

Issued shares

**Options** 

52-week range

Average daily volume (3 months)

Market cap (@\$0.12)

Cash @ 20 March 2023

Shareholders

24 Dec 2009 @ \$0.20

223.6m

78.8m

**\$0.10- \$0.205** 

171,000

\$27m

\$4.3m

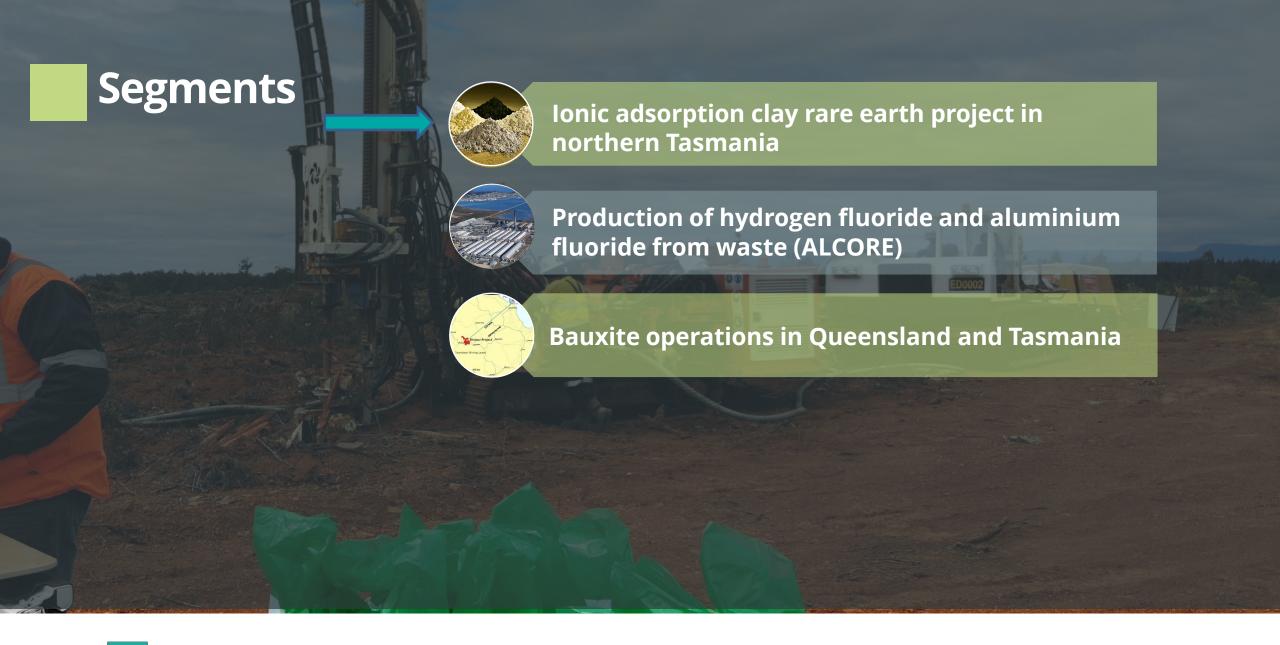
2,537

Major Shareholders	Shares	%
Shareholders Mutual Alliance	6.0 m	2.7
HSBC Custody Nominees	5.9 m	2.6
Justevian Pty Ltd	5.8 m	2.6
Yarraandoo Pty Ltd	5.6 m	2.5
Aftron Pty Ltd	5.5 m	2.5
Top 20 shareholders	63.1 m	28.2
Remainder	160.5 m	71.8



Resources: 14 million tonnes rare earths and 130 million tonnes bauxite

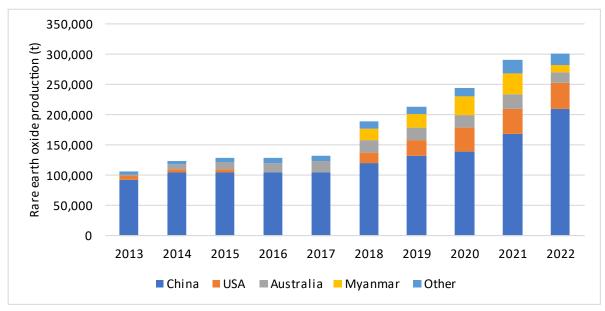


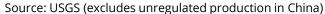


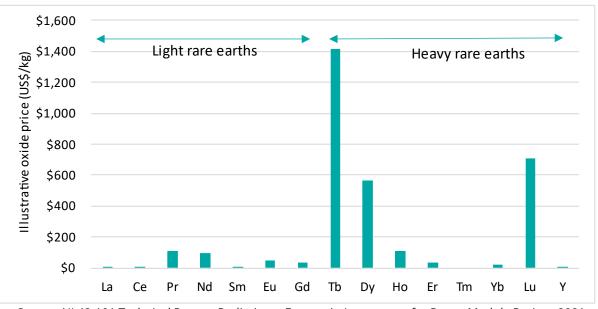


## Rare earth elements market

- 15+ rare earth elements (REEs) used in wide variety of applications, with demand growing rapidly
- China dominates rare earths markets
- Prices of different rare earths vary significantly because:
  - Proportions of supply do not match proportions of demand
  - Rare earths difficult to substitute





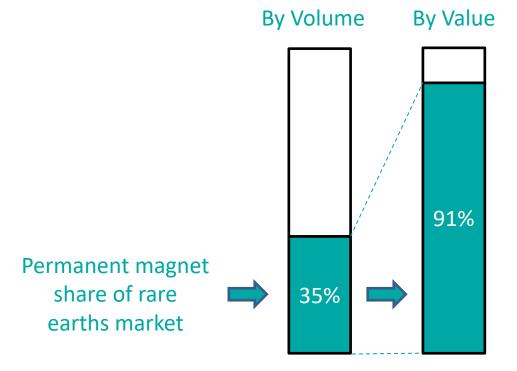


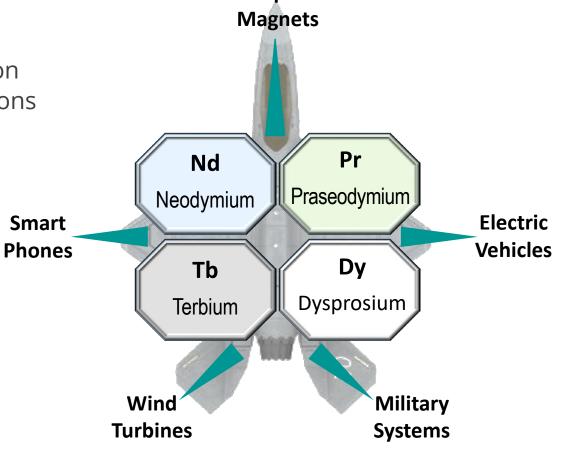
Source: NI 43-101 Technical Report: Preliminary Economic Assessment for Penco Module Project, 2021



## **Permanent magnets**

- Essential for electric vehicles and wind turbines
- Represent over 90% of value of rare earths consumption
- Forecast to grow faster than other rare earth applications





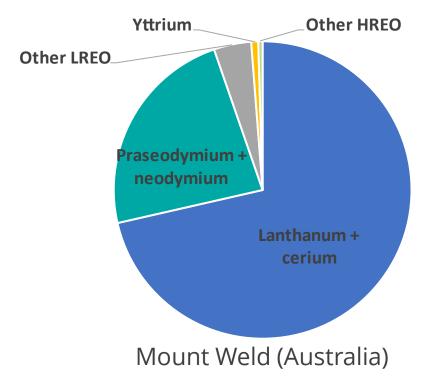
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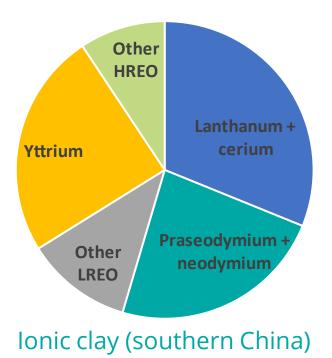
Source: Rare Earth Industry Association (https://www.global-reia.org/about-rare-earth/)



# Ionic adsorption clay (IAC) rare earth deposits

- Currently only mined in southern China
- Less complex processing: lower costs and shorter time to production
- Contain much higher proportion of higher value, heavy rare earths



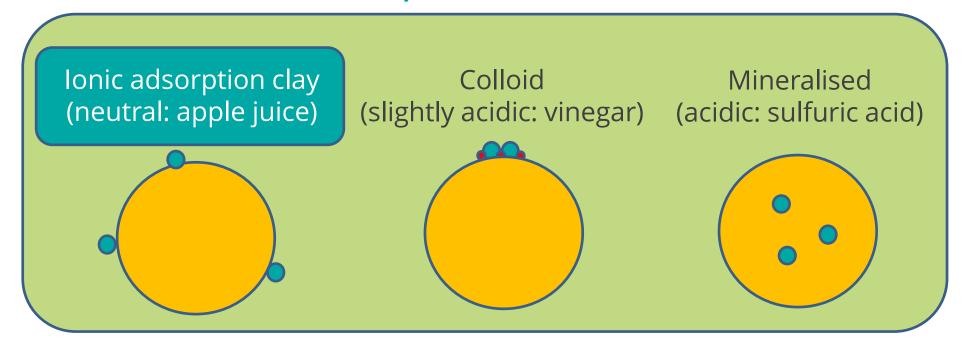


Source: D.J. Packey and D. Kingsnorth, Resources Policy, 48(2016) 112-116.



# Not all clays are created equal

## Clay-hosted-REE

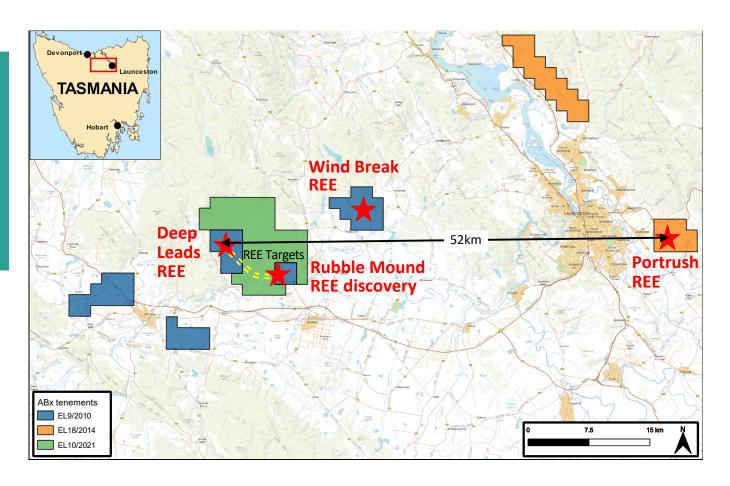


Indicative processing cost



## **ABx rare earth discoveries in Tasmania**

- ABx is the first company to discover rare earths in Tasmania
- Deep Leads and Rubble Mound have highest reported extractions from any clay-hosted REE prospect in Australia: they are ionic adsorption clays<sup>1</sup>
- Four discoveries spanning 52 km <sup>(2)</sup>
- Very low levels of radioactive elements (thorium and uranium)



<sup>1</sup>ASX release 2 Feb 2023 <sup>2</sup>ASX release 16 March 2022



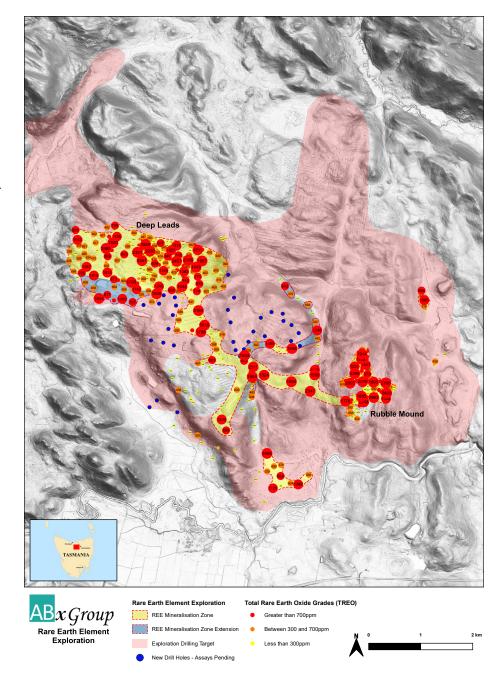
## **Maiden REE Resource Estimate**

- Announced 20 March 2023<sup>3</sup>
- 350% increase since maiden estimate in November 2022<sup>4</sup>

Size	Cut-off (ppm TREO-CeO₂)	Mean TREO (ppm)	Mean TREO- CeO <sub>2</sub> (ppm)
13.9 Mt	250	705	507

Holes	Metres	Metres assayed (m)	Thickness
drilled	drilled (m)		(m)
720	5,825	2,091	7.0

• Resource represented covers only 16% of total prospective area



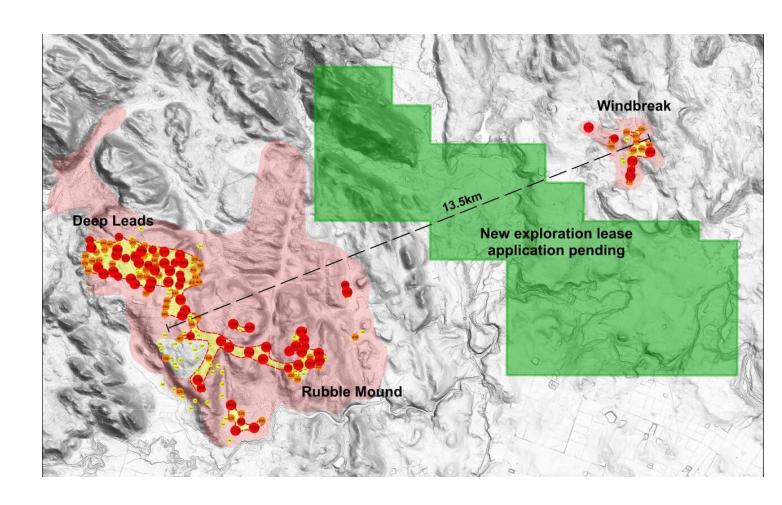
## **ABx rare earths strategy**

#### **Strategy**

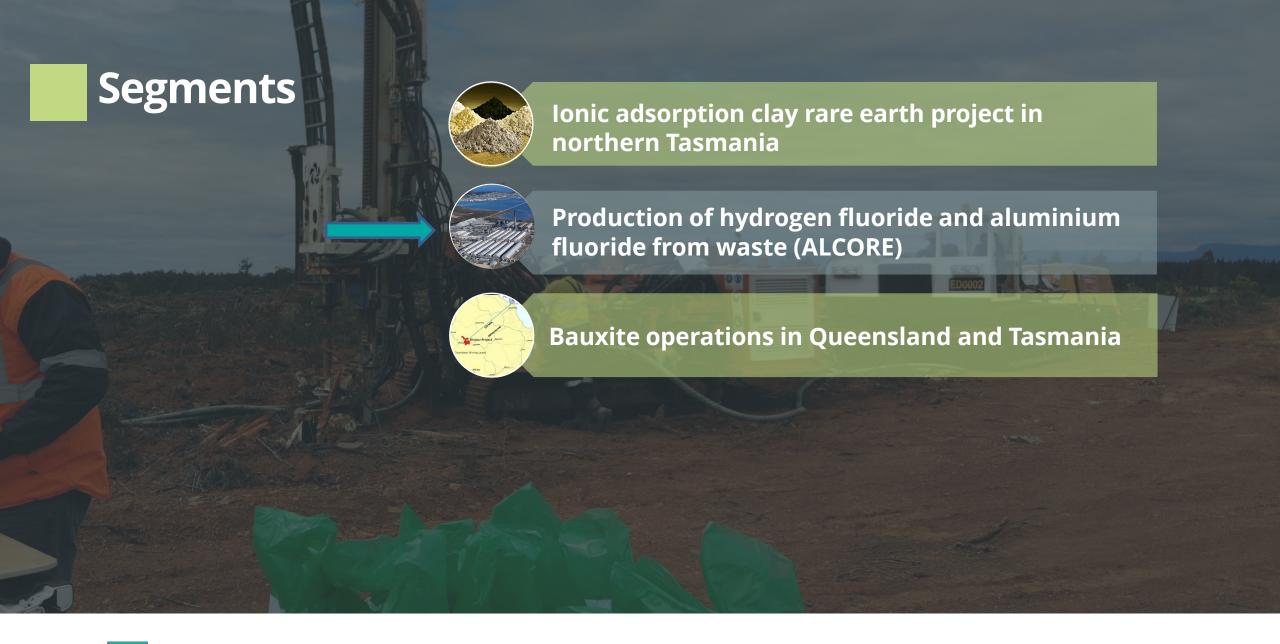
- Rapidly develop low-cost production of mixed rare earth carbonate
- Operate only where welcomed

#### **2023 Plan**

- Further investigations of processing steps and conditions
- Estimate CAPEX and OPEX
- Deepen engagement with potential customers
- Enhance ABx's exploration technology to find more rare earths
- Further drilling campaigns









## Aluminium fluoride from aluminium smelter waste

Aluminium fluoride (AlF<sub>3</sub>): essential for aluminium smelting

- 1.2 million tonnes produced globally per year worth US\$1.5 billion (US\$1,000-1,800 per tonne)
- 50% produced in China, mainly for Chinese smelters
- Australia imports 100% of requirements, mostly from China
- Aluminium fluoride Tapped bath

- Traditionally produced from high-cost aluminium hydroxide and fluorspar
- Achievable specification product purity risk is low
- Mature market dozens of customers globally

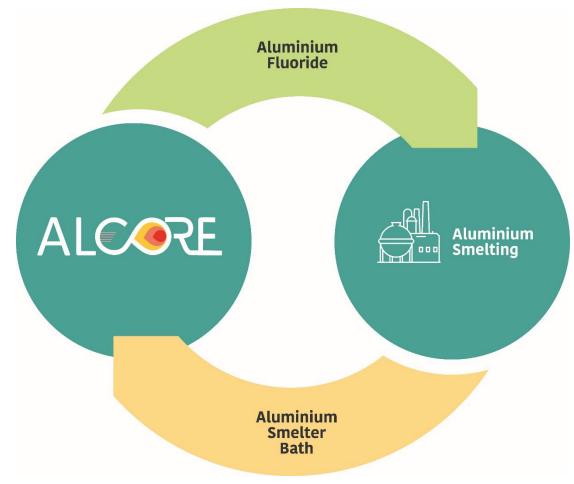
'Tapped bath': an aluminium smelter waste

- Fluorine is lost from smelter in 'tapped bath'
- Only attractive market is new smelter construction; none in Australia
- Global market for tapped bath has moved into oversupply
- Tapped bath is a low-cost source of fluorine

# ALEGRE Process to produce aluminium fluoride

Exemplary illustration of circular economy

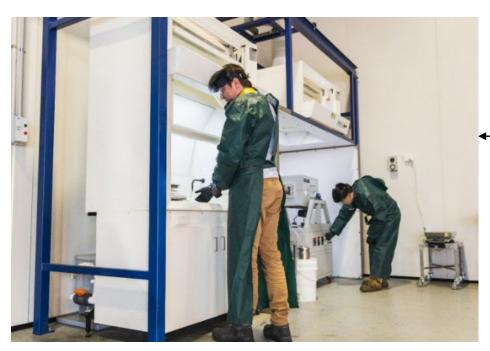
- ABx's 83%-owned refining technology subsidiary
- Developing processes to produce aluminium fluoride using:
  - Fluorine from tapped bath (an aluminium smelter waste)
  - Aluminium from dross (an aluminium smelter waste) or bauxite





# ALEGRE Technical progress

- Critical processing steps have been demonstrated in laboratory
- Initial operating conditions for the pilot plant reactor have been selected<sup>5</sup>
- Engineering design for pilot plant reactor being finalised



Rotary kiln for recovery of fluorine from aluminium smelter bath

Oleum production plant





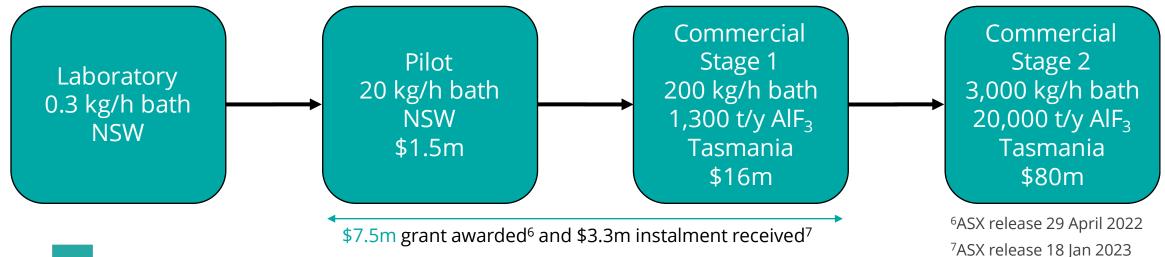


# ALEGRE Process scale-up

- Rigorous scale-up to reduce technical risk
- First aluminium fluoride plant planned for Bell Bay, Tasmania, near existing hydro-powered aluminium smelter. Planned production 20,000 t/y
- High potential for plants in other major aluminium smelting regions
- Potential expansion into other markets, including fluorine chemicals









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