# KNP – Goongarrie Hub EPBC Referral Lodged

## Summary

- **EPBC referral has been lodged for the KNP – Goongarrie Hub with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), marking an important milestone in the Project's environmental approvals pathway.**
- **Lodgement initiates the Commonwealth process to determine whether the Project is a controlled action under the EPBC Act and the applicable assessment pathway.**

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Ardea Resources Limited (ASX: ARL, **Ardea** or the **Company**) advises that Kalgoorlie Nickel Pty Ltd (**KNPL**), owned 55% by Ardea and 45% by GH Nickel Pty Ltd, has referred the proposed Kalgoorlie Nickel Project (**KNP**) – Goongarrie Hub to the National Environmental Protection Agency (**NEPA**) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**). GH Nickel Pty Ltd represents the Japanese Consortium comprising Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd and Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation.

The EPBC referral and supporting documentation marks a major milestone for the KNP – Goongarrie Hub and is the culmination of years of work in undertaking environmental studies over the project area. This includes the area planned for mine development and key supporting infrastructure, such as borefields and access roads to be able to develop a key Australian Critical Minerals project.

The KNPL EPBC submission was prepared by the KNPL team and their Definitive Feasibility Study (**DFS**) environmental consultants, MBS Environmental (**MBS**). It relates to the proposed development and operation of the Goongarrie Hub nickel-cobalt project, located approximately 70km north-west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Western Australia.

The referral has been lodged with the NEPA to determine whether the proposed development is a controlled action under the EPBC Act. This decision will establish whether Commonwealth environmental assessment and approval are required and, if so, the applicable assessment pathway. Lodgement advances the environmental approvals process; it does not constitute approval to develop the Project.

The Goongarrie Hub hosts a globally significant nickel-cobalt Mineral Resource of 584Mt at 0.69% nickel and 0.043% cobalt, containing approximately 4.0Mt of nickel and 250kt of cobalt, reported on a 100% basis. It is the priority development area within the broader KNP and has the potential to support a long-life critical minerals operation.[1]

**Environmental Approvals and Next Steps**

Further information about the referral, including supporting documentation, will be available following publication by the relevant Commonwealth environmental regulator.

KNPL will continue to engage with Commonwealth authorities as the assessment process progresses. Any future development activities remain subject to all necessary statutory approvals, environmental requirements and applicable conditions.

[1] Refer to Ardea Resources Limited's September 2026 Quarterly Activities and Cashflow Report dated 30 October 2026.

**Ardea Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Penkethman, commented:**

*"Lodgement of the EPBC referral is an important step in progressing the Goongarrie Hub through the environmental assessment and approvals process. The submission reflects the detailed work undertaken over many years, initially by Ardea and supporting expert consultants and more recently by KNPL and its DFS environmental consultants.*

*"With its globally significant nickel-cobalt resource base, the Goongarrie Hub has the potential to become an important long-term supplier of Critical Minerals. We look forward to continuing our engagement with our joint venture partners and the relevant regulatory authorities as the Project advances, including with the Commonwealth's Major Projects Facilitation Agency and the Investor Front Door pilot program, where the latter serves as a single-entry point to streamline major, transformational projects of national significance."*

**This announcement is authorised for release by the Board of Ardea Resources Limited.**

**For further information regarding Ardea, please visit https://ardearesources.com.au/ or contact:**

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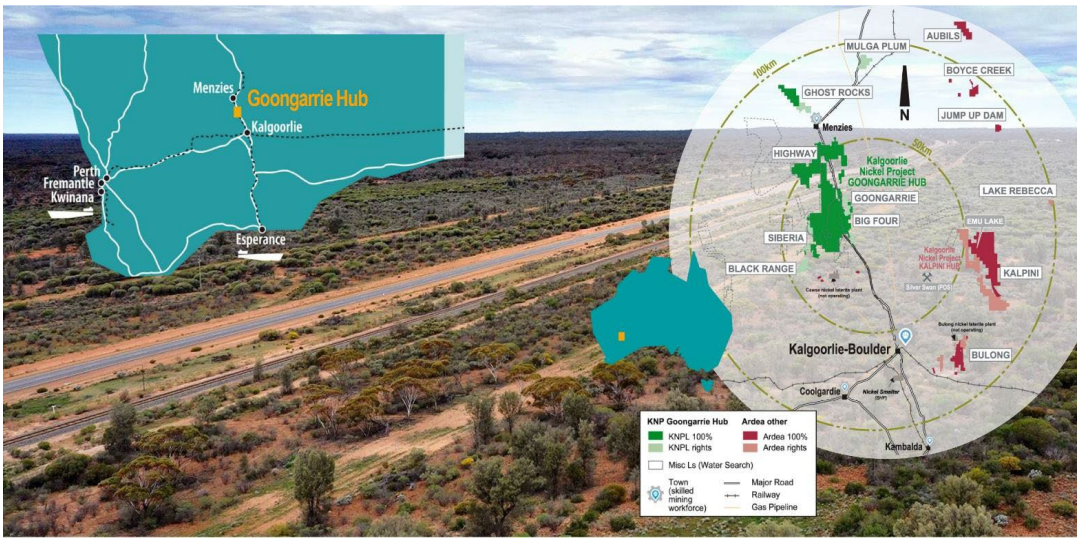
**About Ardea Resources**

Ardea (ASX:ARL) is an ASX-listed nickel development company in joint venture with Sumitomo Metal Mining and Mitsubishi Corporation to build, commission and operate a plus 30,000tpa multi-decade nickel cobalt operation[2]

- Development of the Kalgoorlie Nickel Project (KNP) and its sub-set the Goongarrie Hub, a globally significant series of nickel-cobalt and Critical Mineral deposits which host the largest nickel-cobalt resource in Australia and one of the largest in the developed World at 854Mt at 0.71% nickel and 0.045% cobalt for 6.1Mt of contained nickel and 386kt of contained cobalt. Within the KNP, the Goongarrie Hub has 584Mt for 4.0Mt of contained nickel (Consortium right to earn 60%) and Kalpini Hub has 270Mt for 2.1Mt of contained nickel (Ardea 100% unencumbered interest)[3], located in a jurisdiction with exemplary Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) credentials.
- Advanced-stage exploration at compelling nickel sulphide targets, such as Kalpini, and gold and Critical Minerals targets including scandium and Rare Earth Elements throughout the KNP Eastern Goldfields world-class nickel-gold province, with all exploration targets complementing the KNP nickel development strategy.




[2] Ardea Pre-feasibility Study ASX announcement 5 July 2023. In accordance with ASX Listing Rule 5.19, Ardea confirms that all the material assumptions underpinning the production target, and the forecast financial information derived from the production target, continue to apply and have not materially changed.

[3] The Mineral Resource Estimate information shown in this ASX announcement has been previously released on the ASX platform by Ardea in ASX release 30 June 2023, in accordance with Listing Rule 5.8.
The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the previous market announcement noted above and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the Mineral Resource Estimate in the previous market announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcements.

## *Competent Persons Statement*
## *Resource Estimation, Exploration Results, and Industry Benchmarking*

*The Resource Estimation, Exploration Results and Industry Benchmarking summaries are based on information reviewed or compiled by Mr Andrew Penkethman, a Competent Person who is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Penkethman is a full-time employee of Ardea Resource Limited and 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 2012 edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Penkethman has reviewed this press release and consents to the inclusion in this report of the information in the form and context in which it appears. Mr Penkethman owns Ardea shares.The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects information included in previous announcements, and all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed. Ardea wishes to clarify that its current Kalgoorlie Nickel Project (KNP) Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) following JORC Code (2012) guidelines is:*

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| KNP Hub | Resource Category | Size (Mt) | Ni (%) | Co (%) | Cont. Ni (kt) | Cont. Co (kt) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Goongarrie Hub[1] | Measured | 18 | 0.94 | 0.085 | 171 | 15 |
| | Indicated | 277 | 0.70 | 0.046 | 1,923 | 127 |
| | Inferred | 289 | 0.67 | 0.037 | 1,951 | 108 |
| **Sub Total** | Combined | **584** | **0.69** | **0.043** | **4,044** | **250** |
| Kalpini Hub including Yerilla Hub[2] | Measured | 4 | 0.94 | 0.048 | 36 | 2 |
| | Indicated | 84 | 0.83 | 0.050 | 699 | 42 |
| | Inferred | 182 | 0.73 | 0.051 | 1,321 | 92 |
| **Sub Total** | Combined | **270** | **0.76** | **0.050** | **2,056** | **136** |
| Kalgoorlie Nickel Project Total | Measured | 22 | 0.94 | 0.079 | 207 | 17 |
| | Indicated | 361 | 0.73 | 0.047 | 2,622 | 169 |
| | Inferred | 471 | 0.70 | 0.043 | 3,272 | 200 |
| | **Grand Total** | **854** | **0.71** | **0.045** | **6,101** | **386** |

1. The Goongarrie Hub is part of KNPL Incorporated Joint Venture. See 30 August 2024 ASX release, KNP Goongarrie Hub Joint Venture Transaction Completion with Japanese Consortium. The Goongarrie Hub Resources are reported on a 100% basis, with Ardea holding a 55% interest.
2. The KNP Kalpini and Yerilla Hubs are known collectively as the Kalpini Hub and remain a 100% owned Ardea asset.

*Note: 0.5% nickel cutoff grade used to report resources. Minor discrepancies may occur due to rounding of appropriate significant figures.*
*The Mineral Resource Estimate information shown in this ASX release has been previously released on the ASX platform by Ardea in ASX release 30 June 2023, in accordance with Listing Rule 5.8. The Mineral Resource Estimate in the above table is inclusive of the Ore Reserve shown in table two of this release.*