

## MINCOR DELIVERS \$31.3M INTERIM NET PROFIT, MAINTAINS STRONG INTERIM DIVIDEND

- Record half-yearly production of 8,196 tonnes nickel-in-concentrate
- Net Profit after Tax of \$31.3 million for the half year
- Strong growth in underlying earnings over previous corresponding period
- Steady interim dividend of 6 cents per share fully franked
- Cash balance of \$110.8 million at 31 December 2007 and no debt
- New mines under development and aggressive exploration underway

Australian nickel producer Mincor Resources NL (**ASX: MCR**) has delivered another strong half yearly earnings result, today announcing a **\$31.3 million** net profit after tax for the six months to 31 December 2007 (after writing off \$6.3 million in exploration expenditures) and a strong increase in underlying earnings over the previous corresponding period.

The profit result for the current period was impacted by the extreme volatility in the nickel price between July and September 2007. The final nickel prices for April to June of 2007 were established during July to September, and the recognition in the current period of these provisional pricing adjustments reduced the headline profit number from an excellent \$39.7 million (Dec 2006: \$37.2 million). The net profit translated into earnings per share of 15.6 cents (Dec 2006: 19.0 cents).

The robust performance — which was underpinned by record nickel-in-concentrate production of 8,196 tonnes (Dec 2006: 6,888 tonnes) and continued strong operating margins — enabled Mincor to declare a steady interim dividend of **6 cents per share** (fully franked). This will bring the total dividends paid out by Mincor to its shareholders since 2003 to **\$56.9 million**. The record date for the dividend is 29 February 2008, and the payment date is 31 March 2008.

Operational earnings (revenues minus cash costs excluding provisional pricing adjustments) for the period under review were **\$91.9 million** (Dec 2006: \$76.3 million) and Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) were **\$71.1 million** (Dec 2006: \$67.84 million). The recognition of the provisional pricing adjustments referred to above reduced the latter figure from a very strong \$83.1 million.

Cash flows from operations remained exceptionally strong at **\$70.60 million**. After major investments in acquisitions (\$50.3 million), new production capacity (\$25.5 million) and exploration (\$5.4 million), as well as paying \$37 million in income tax, Mincor's cash balance at 31 December 2007 was **\$110.8 million** (Dec 2006: \$87.4 million).

Mincor's nickel production for the half year generated increased gross revenues of \$164.9 million (Dec 2006: \$147.0 million). Average cash costs were A\$6.26 per pound of payable nickel, representing **a 5% improvement** over the A\$6.59 per pound incurred during financial year 2006/07.

The average received nickel price was A\$14.05 per pound (Dec 2006: A\$14.26), enabling Mincor to generate an excellent cash margin of A\$7.79 per pound payable nickel (Dec 2006: A\$8.11 per pound).

"Mincor continues its outstanding record of delivery," commented Managing Director, David Moore. "This will continue through 2008 as we bring two new mines into production and complete our feasibility work on the exciting Durkin Deeps project, while pursuing our aggressive exploration programs in the Kambalda Nickel District and elsewhere."

Mr Moore said that total exploration expenditure for the half year to December 2007 was **\$9.7 million**, of which \$6.3 million had been written off against profits and \$3.4 million capitalised. "This very aggressive level of exploration spend will continue to generate discoveries", he said, "and we expect to again add substantially to Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves by the end of this year, as well as to make big advances in our search for an ultra-sized nickel ore body".

#### Outlook

Mincor previously announced a production target of between 16,000 and 17,000 tonnes of nickel-in-concentrate for the full 2007/08 financial year. The Company has recently confirmed guidance at the upper end of this range, which will represent an approximately 30% increase over the previous financial year (12,927 tonnes nickel-in-concentrate).

Mincor maintains a healthy hedge book, and has approximately 15% of its production to March 2010 hedged at an average price of A\$34,420 per tonne. The current spot price of nickel is approximately A\$31,000 per tonne.

- ENDS -

#### Released by:

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#### MINCOR RESOURCES NL

Half-Year 2007/08 (31 December 2007)

FINANCIAL RESULTS



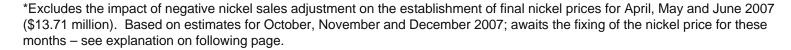
#### Highlights of the Half Year to Dec 07

- June 30 2007 Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves up 93% and 40% respectively, to all-time highs
- Record half-year nickel production
- Acquisition of Bluebush Line Tenements
- Exploration success in nickel, copper, uranium
- Strong basis for continued production growth:
  - McMahon project development go-ahead
  - Carnilya Hill project development underway
  - New Mariners N09 ore body enters production
  - Exciting drill results from Durkin Deeps
  - Exploration targeting Ultra-sized nickel ore body



#### **Operational Results for the December 2007 Half-Year**

	Dec Half 2007	Dec Half 2006	Dec Half 2005
Ore Delivered (tonnes)	345,369	319,991	262,945
Nickel Grade	2.70%	2.50%	2.93%
Nickel-in-Concentrate (tonnes)	8,196	6,888	6,754
Pounds Payable Nickel	11,744,863	9,870,435	9,678,414
Average Ni Price (A\$/lb)	14.05*	14.26	7.74
Average Cash Cost (A\$/lb)	6.26	6.15	4.81
Average Cash Margin (A\$/lb)	7.79	8.11	2.93





#### Earnings for the December 2007 Half-Year

	Dec Half 2007	Dec Half 2006	Dec Half 2005
Revenues (\$M)	164.87*	147.05	79.65
EBITDA (\$M)	71.14	67.84	27.13
Net Profit After Tax (\$M)	31.31	37.18	10.02
Earnings per Share (CPS)	15.6	19.0	5.1
Interim Dividend per Share (CPS)	6.0	6.0	2.0

\*The nickel price received by Mincor for any month of production is the average LME spot price during the third month following the month of delivery. Therefore the nickel price in the December 2007 half-year accounts for the production months of October, November and December 2007 must be estimated. The Company's policy is to base this estimate upon a 10% discount to the average LME spot price during the month of delivery. Revenue for October, November and December in this report has been estimated in this way, and is subject to an adjustment (up or down) when the final nickel price is known. Similarly, revenues for the current half year period have been adjusted to take account of the final nickel prices established for April, May and June 2007. As a result Mincor has recognised a negative sales revenue adjustment of \$13.71 million attributable to those production months. This negative adjustment is incorporated in the above figures.



#### **Analysis of Earnings for the December 2007 Half-Year**

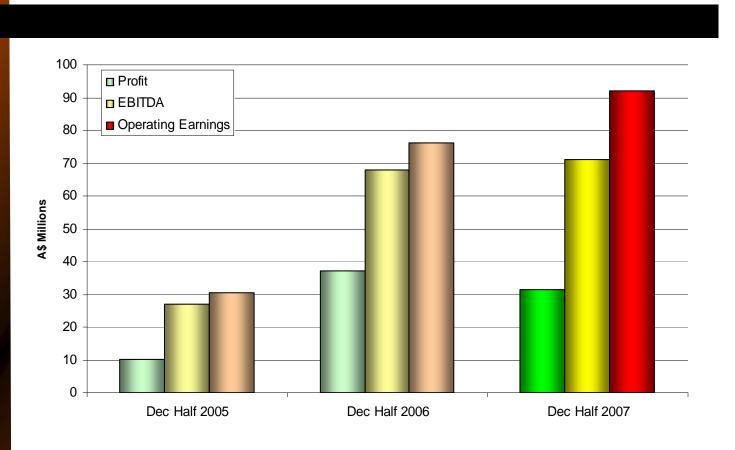
	Dec Half '07	Dec Half '06	Dec Half '05
Earnings from Operations (Revenue less Cash Costs) (\$M)*	91.91	76.29	30.44
Less: Exploration Costs Expensed (\$M)	(6.26)	(5.92)	(2.03)
Less: Corporate Overheads (\$M)	(2.58)	(2.53)	(1.28)
EBITDA before recognition of provisional pricing adjustments (\$M)	83.07	67.84	27.13
Less: Provisional pricing and royalty adjustments following finalisation of the nickel prices for April, May and June 2007 (\$M)	(11.93)	-	-
EBITDA (\$M)	71.14	67.84	27.13
Depreciation and Amortisation (\$M) - Widgiemooltha operations - GMM Pty Ltd operations - North Dordie operation	(14.89) (11.10) (4.42)	(16.65) - -	(14.42) - -
EBIT (\$M)	40.73	51.19	12.71
Net Interest Income (\$M)	4.27	1.43	0.12
Income Tax Expense (\$M)	(13.70)	(15.44)	(2.81)
Net Profit after Tax (\$M)	31.30	37.18	10.02

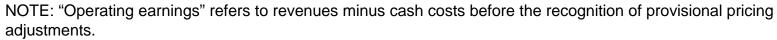


Note: "Widgiemooltha operations" refers to the Miitel, Mariners, Redross & Wannaway Mines.



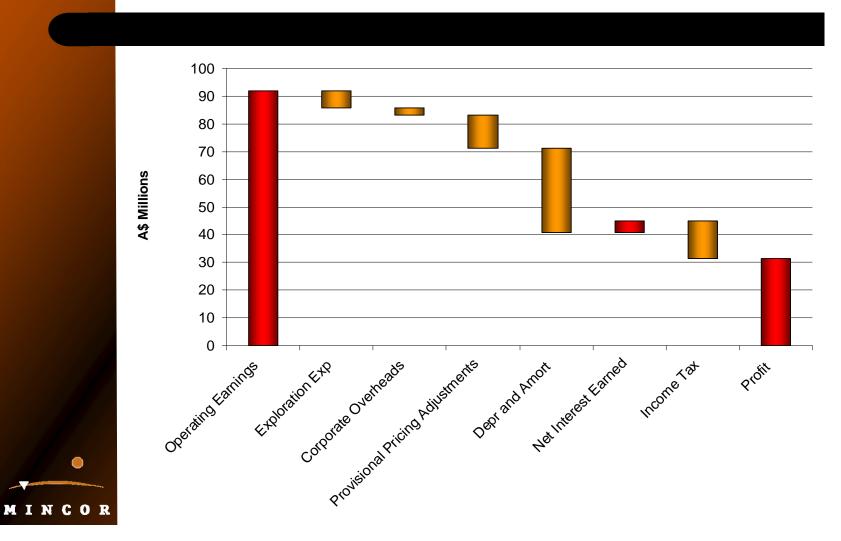
### **Growth in Earnings**







### Reconciliation of Earnings to Profit



#### **Balance Sheet**

	31 Dec 2007	31 Dec 2006	31 Dec 2005	31 Dec 2004
Assets (\$M)	303.09	224.36	121.73	108.08
Liabilities (\$M)	97.39	143.23	52.26	51.15
Shareholder's Equity (\$M)	197.75	123.48	74.65	56.93
Return on Equity (annualised)	32%	60%	27%	35%

Note: Shareholder's Equity has been adjusted (by \$7.95 million) to remove the impact of cash flow hedges. Under the current AIFRS rules hedges must be fair valued with mark to market adjustments made against equity. As this fair value adjustment fluctuates with nickel and currency prices and has no impact on the Company's profit for the period, it has been removed from the above table. In addition, earnings for the half year have been annualised when calculating Return on Equity.



# **Analysis of Cash flows – December 2007 Half-Year**

	2007 \$000	2006 \$000	2005 \$000
Net Operating Cash flow before recognition of provisional pricing adjustments	82,529	75,095	14,485
Less: Provisional pricing and royalty adjustments following finalisation of the nickel prices for April, May and June 2007	(11,928)	-	-
Net Operating Cash Inflow	70,601	75,095	14,485
Income Tax Paid	(37,109)	(8,385)	(3,173)
Payment for Acquisition of GMM	(50,323)	-	-
Capital Expenditure	(25,455)	(13,690)	(12,057)
Exploration Expenditure	(5,428)	(5,592)	(2,450)
Dividends Paid	(11,854)	(5,840)	(3,893)
Proceeds from Issue of Shares	705	609	-
Other	(135)	70	127
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow)	(58,728)	42,267	(6,961)
Cash at 31 December 2007	110,839	87,402	11,244



## **Analysis of Cash flows – December 2007 Half-Year**

