



27 October 2023

Resources & Energy Group

Nickel, cobalt and gold focus in Western Australia

Resources & Energy Group Ltd (ASX:REZ) is an exploration company engaged in the development of its flagship East Menzies gold project, 130km north of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. The company has been operating as a gold, nickel and cobalt exploration and development company since 2015 and currently has gold and silver resources of 183koz gold and 862koz silver. REZ recently announced (17-Oct) that optimisation studies at the Goodenough and Maranoa gold prospects within the East Menzies district had confirmed an opportunity for a low cost, nearterm open cut mining operation at Goodenough, which had previously been worked as an underground resource with historic production of ~21,532t at 14.91g/t. The Goodenough deposit has a JORC MRE estimate of 43koz/au at 2.07g/t gold and Maranoa has 8,000oz at 5.7g/t au. The company has also recent executed a non-binding heads-of-agreement to sell the Mount Mackenzie gold-silver project in Queensland for \$1.5m plus a royalty, in order to focus its attention on East Menzies. As at time of writing, the company was in a trading halt, pending a capital raise.

Project description

The East Menzies gold project is located 130km north of Kalgoorlie and consists of more than 50 tenements, a mixture of mining leases, mining lease applications, prospecting leases and prospecting lease applications, covering more than 103km². The project hosts a 20km continuous strike of a mineralised Greenstone Belt including the Springfield Venn Gold Corridor, the Granny Venn Cutback and the Goodenough Syncline. In FY22, the company recovered 126kt of ore from the Granny Venn Cutback with a head grade of 2.37g/t gold for 9,532oz recovered, generating \$23m revenue and \$7.5m profit shared 50/50 with the contract miners BMGS. The company is currently focused on the Springfield nickel project where it has identified a large, shallow nickel deposit with prospects for open cut and the Goodenough Gold Project where an optimised pit shell indicates up to 179kt of ore at 1.71g/t for 9,800 oz gold.

Scoping study in play, trial vat leach work planned

REZ has announced it has commenced a scoping study including mine design, production schedules and waste dump design at Goodenough and is planning a trial vat leach processing programme for shallow gold resources at its Maranoa project, 1.5km south of Goodenough. The company has approval to recover bulk samples from the Maranoa lode with samples despatched for testing. Success in the trials could provide an opportunity for the company to transition to a larger 50ktpa production programme with feed coming from both Maranoa and Goodenough, although further work will need to be completed on leach kinetics and optimum grind size.

Well positioned for global nickel/cobalt demand, gold price strength

Gold has been a top performing asset in 2023, increasing 5.4% in USD terms in the first half of the year, driven by interest rate rises and central bank demand. Recent geopolitical instability has further heightened investor demand. The World Gold Council's mid-year outlook pointed to further potential upside to the gold price, particularly with central banks moving from tightening to on-hold interest rate policies. Base metal demand is forecast to continue over the next five years with industry forecasts for a CAGR of 4% to 2027. However, recent slower global activity could serve to dampen demand in the near term, with recent gains in most green metals driven more by a weaker USD than supply needs. Reuters reported on October 24 that cash contracts in most base metals on the London Metal Exchange were trading at a premium to corresponding three-month contracts.

Share Details ASX code REZ Share price (24-Oct)* \$0.015 Market capitalisation \$7.5M Number of shares 499 8M Options/performance rights 63M Net cash at 30-Jun-2023 \$0.7M

*in trading halt at 25 Oct open

Share Price Performance (12 months)



- Better than expected outcome from nickel-cobalt sulphide targets at East Menzies
- Opportunity to leverage nearby significant existing infrastructure
- Gold and other commodity prices continue to rise

Downside Case

- Mount Mackenzie sale falls through
- Potential dilution from additional capital raises
- Drill programme fails to extend resource estimate

Catalysts

- Completion of scoping study
- Outcome of trial vat leach work programme
- Decision to begin mine production at Goodenough

Comparative Companies (Australia & NZ)

AGC, CBY, FG1, KAL,

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FINANCIAL SERVICES GUIDE

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