

# Kalgoorlie Nickel Project – Goongarrie Hub Awarded Lead Agency Status by Western Australian Government

## Summary

- **Kalgoorlie Nickel Pty Ltd (“KNPL”) submitted an application with the Western Australian Government’s Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (“DEED”) for Lead Agency Status in late 2025<sup>1</sup>**
- **DEED has now advised KNPL that its application has been successful**
- **Lead Agency Status recognises the strategic significance of the KNP - Goongarrie Hub to Western Australia’s critical minerals and battery materials sector**
- **The Lead Agency Framework is designed to support projects of State significance through coordinated government facilitation and streamlined engagement across agencies**
- **The KNP – Goongarrie Hub is one of the largest nickel-cobalt resources in the developed world and is expected to play an important role in future global battery supply chains**

Ardea Resources Limited (Ardea or the Company) (ASX: ARL) is pleased to advise that Kalgoorlie Nickel Pty Ltd (“KNPL”), the incorporated joint venture entity for the Kalgoorlie Nickel Project – Goongarrie Hub (“KNP -Goongarrie Hub”), has been notified by the Western Australian Government’s Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (“DEED”) that the KNP- Goongarrie Hub has successfully been awarded Lead Agency Status.

Lead Agency Status is designed to support strategically significant projects through coordinated engagement across government agencies and streamlined facilitation of approvals and infrastructure pathways.

The KNP – Goongarrie Hub is a globally significant nickel-cobalt project located in Western Australia’s Goldfields region and is one of the largest known nickel-cobalt resources in the developed world. The Project is strategically positioned to support growing global demand for critical minerals required for electric vehicles, battery storage and broader electrification trends.

The granting of Lead Agency Status reflects the importance of the KNP – Goongarrie Hub to the future development of Western Australia’s downstream battery materials and critical minerals industries.

**Ardea Resources Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Andrew Penkethman, said:** *“We are very pleased to receive confirmation from the Western Australian Government of the KNP – Goongarrie Hub’s Lead Agency Status. The KNP – Goongarrie Hub represents one of the largest and most strategically significant nickel-cobalt development opportunities in the developed world, and this support reflects the Project’s importance to Western Australia’s and Australia’s critical minerals ambitions.*

*“Lead Agency Status provides an important framework for coordinated engagement as we continue advancing studies, approvals and stakeholder engagement activities for the KNP – Goongarrie Hub which now enjoys whole-of-Government support including the Commonwealth. We look forward to continuing to work closely with DEED, government stakeholders, local communities and our joint venture partners as we progress this globally significant critical minerals project.”*

<sup>1</sup> Ardea ASX announcement dated 28 October 2025



### **About the Kalgoorlie Nickel Project**

The Kalgoorlie Nickel Project (“KNP”), including the Goongarrie Hub, is a globally significant nickel-cobalt project located in Western Australia’s Eastern Goldfields region.

The KNP hosts one of the largest nickel-cobalt resources in the developed world and is strategically positioned to support the global transition to electrification and decarbonisation through the supply of critical battery minerals.

The KNP - Goongarrie Hub is the flagship development precinct within the broader KNP and is being advanced by KNPL, the incorporated joint venture between Ardea Resources and Mitsubishi Corporation and Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd.

Ardea and its partners are progressing technical studies, environmental baseline programs and stakeholder engagement activities in parallel with approvals processes to support the long-term development of the Project.

**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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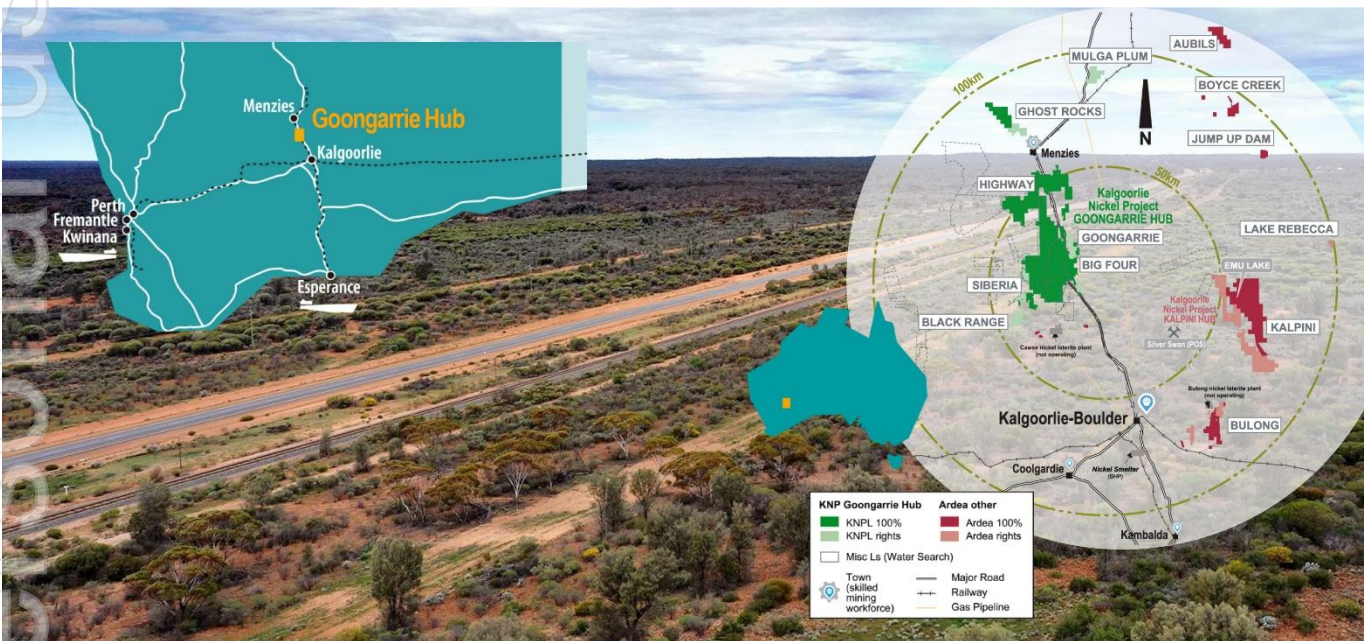
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### About Ardea Resources

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 operation<sup>1</sup>:

- 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 50%) and Kalpini Hub has 270Mt for 2.1Mt of contained nickel (Ardea 100% unencumbered interest)<sup>2</sup>, located in a jurisdiction with exemplary Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) credentials.
- Advanced-stage exploration at compelling nickel sulphide targets, such as Kalpini, 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.



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<sup>1</sup> Ardea Pre-feasibility Study ASX announcement 5 July 2023

<sup>2</sup> Ardea ASX release 30 June 2023