



31 August 2023

Spartan Resources Ltd (prev. Gascoyne Resources)

Transforming rapidly from exploration to production

Spartan Resources (ASX:SPR) [previously known as Gascoyne Resources Ltd (ASX:GCY)], is undergoing a transformational restructure and repositioning as an advanced exploration company with a rapid pathway back to production following the discovery of the high-grade Never Never gold deposit in the Murchison gold mining region of Western Australia. Drilling exploration in the June 2023 quarter delivered a significant upgrade to the Never Never deposit, lifting it by 51% to 3.83Mt at 5.85g/t for 721koz from 303koz previously. The upgraded resource added to the Dalgaranga gold project mineral resources which now stands at 16.7Mt at 2.2g/t gold for 1.18Moz, all within 10kms of the 2.5Mtpa processing plant. The Never Never gold project, which incorporates both the Never Never and Gilbey's North high-grade gold discoveries, now represents the foundation for the development of the company's new operating and growth plan to transition Gascoyne to a high-grade gold producer with a solid 5+-year mine plan.

Project description

Spartan Resources is developing the Never Never gold project in WA, which sits in the Murchison gold mining district around 475kn north-east of Perth and 65km north-west of Mt Magnet. The company suspended open-pit mining and ore processing operations at Dalgaranga in November 2022 and put the 2.5Mtpa Dalgaranga mill on care-and-maintenance keeping it in a state ready for a rapid resumption of production, all with the aim to focus on completing the drill-out of the high-grade Never Never and Gilbey's North discoveries and bring them to reserve status. The strategy has thus far paid off with drilling defining a mineral resource of 721koz gold (up from 303koz previously), contained within 3.83Mt at 5.85g/t. Some of the more significant assays include 50m at 6.46g/t Au from 144m, including 10m at 23.7g/t, 29.15m at 11.09g/t Au from 449m including 9.44m at 22.26g/t, and 19.9m at 8.12g/t Au from 451m including 14.7m at 10.46g/t.

Substantial increase in mineral resource estimates

The company announced a substantial increase in the mineral resource estimates for the group and individual projects in late July following the completion of Stage 1 of the 2023 resource drilling programme. Group mineral resources, inclusive of the Murchison and Gascoyne Region now stands at 38.51Mt at 1.6g/t for 1.964Moz. The updated Murchison region mineral resource including the Dalgaranga and Yalgoo gold project has increased 31% in grade and 39% in contained ounces to 21.94Mt at 2.0g/t for 1.427Moz while, within this resource estimate, the updated Dalgaranga gold project mineral economics have increased 40% in grade and 51% in reportable ounces to 16.7Mt at 2.2g/t for 1.183Moz. The company's plan from here is to continue its drilling programme both at surface and underground to convert more of the mineral resource into the indicated category.

Well positioned to fast-track return to production

Gold producers are in the fortunate position of having the gold price sitting near all-time highs of US\$1,900/ounce with analysts forecasting it will rise to well over US\$3,000/ounce by 2025. With the 2.5Mtpa Dalgaranga mill on care and maintenance, the company is well-positioned to fast-track production with both a substantially increased resource and grade. Spartan is also well-funded to continue its drilling programme and develop its 5-year mine plan, having earlier this year secured a \$50m funding package via an \$8.6mn institutional share placement and \$17.6mn fully underwritten entitlement offer at \$0.10/share together with a \$21.3m investment by Tembo Capital Investment and a \$2.5m unsecured loan from existing shareholder Deutsche Balaton.

Share Details	
ASX code	SPR
Share price (30-Aug)	\$0.29
Market capitalisation	\$254M
Number of shares	877M
Performance rights	30M
Net cash at 30-Jun-2023	\$32 1M

Share Price Performance (12 months)



Upside Case

- Infrastructure in place to rapidly advance to annual production of 2.5Moz gold
- Well-funded to complete current drilling programme until mid-2024
- Drilling programme defines substantially larger and higher-grade resource

Downside Case

- Fails to secure mining application approvals
- Gold price collapses changing the project's economics
- Drilling programme fails to expand resource

Catalysts

- Regulatory approval secured for planned underground exploration decline of Never Never
- Establish the underground portal and exploration decline from Gilbey's Pit to Never Never
- Secure mining lease approvals and complete feasibility study on satellite Melville gold project

Comparative Companies (Australia & NZ)

DCN, ORR, SBM, TRB,

Company Contacts

Simon Lawson (MD/CEO) +61 8 9481 3434 admin@gascoyneresources.com.au

RaaS Contacts

Andrew Williams

+61 417 880 680 andrew.williams@raasgroup.com

Finola Burke

+61 414 354 712 finola.burke@raasgroup.com





FINANCIAL SERVICES GUIDE

RaaS Advisory Pty Ltd ABN 99 614 783 363

Corporate Authorised Representative, number 1248415

of

BR SECURITIES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

ABN 92 168 734 530

AFSL 456663

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Contact Details, BR and RaaS

BR Head Office: Suite 5GB, Level 5, 33 Queen Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4000

RaaS. 20 Halls Road Arcadia, NSW 2159

P: +61 414 354712

E: finola.burke@raasgroup.com

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