**22 November 2018****ASX: WSA****News Release****CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

On behalf of the Western Areas Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2018 Annual General meeting.

The 2018 financial year was a safe, productive and profitable year, which saw significant progress at our organic growth projects and exploration programmes.

On the operational front, the Company remained focused on efficiency and productivity throughout the year, producing 24,400 tonnes of nickel in ore from our mines and shipping 20,500 tonnes of nickel in concentrate to our customers both locally and into China. Maintaining our high standard of operational performance ensured we were well positioned to capitalise on the upswing in the nickel price that occurred during the financial year.

The strengthening nickel price during the 2018 financial year and our continued focus on strong cost control resulted in Western Areas reporting a net profit after tax of A\$11.8m and achieving positive free cashflow generation for the full financial year.

The strong debt free balance sheet was enhanced with an increase in cash at bank to A\$151.6m at the end of the financial year, despite significant investment in organic growth projects and capital infrastructure investments. We remain well placed to fund the near term expenditure requirements, as we move our Odysseus project forward and advance the various exploration programmes. With this in mind, our 2 cent per share fully franked final dividend, we believe, struck an appropriate balance between improved financial results and the future capital requirements of the business.

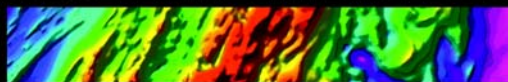
The broader nickel market remains volatile and in more recent times is being affected by global geopolitical events. However, nickel continues to display positive fundamental signs, with metal exchanges reporting multi-year low inventory levels, solid Chinese stainless steel production rates and the growth potential of the emerging EV market continuing to drive a positive outlook.

I would like to highlight two of the key growth achievements during the year being completion of the Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) for the Odysseus project, where early works have commenced and the Board recently approved a decision to mine and the commissioning of the Mill Recovery Enhancement Project, or MREP as its known for short.

The decision to purchase Cosmos in late 2015, in a counter-cyclical market, has proven to be an astute decision by the Company, with Odysseus now the leading organic growth project for the Company. Announcing a “decision to mine” the Odysseus deposit has confirmed that the project is expected to be Western Areas’ third operating mine and second production centre.

The Odysseus DFS work yielded a number of positive outcomes, most importantly a larger and longer life project than initially expected, with a mine life in excess of 10 years, processing an average of 900,000 tonnes of ore per annum. The life of mine nickel production is estimated at 130,000 tonnes in concentrate, and includes 2,400 tonnes of cobalt as a by-product. Odysseus is expected to be a low cost operation with all-in sustaining costs estimated at A\$3.50/lb and with life of mine net cashflow before tax of around A\$850m.

WESTERN AREAS LTD



Such was the Company's confidence in the Odysseus project that in April this year, an eighteen-month early capital works programme commenced. The A\$32m programme is focused on building new evaporation ponds, mine camp readiness, dewatering and decline rehabilitation. I am pleased to confirm that the programme is progressing well and on track for completion as expected.

We believe that Odysseus is one of the very few nickel sulphide projects that will be coming into production in a timeframe that will enable delivery into a growing demand profile we see globally, particularly with the looming shortage of nickel sulphide products in the market.

In April the MREP was commissioned and commenced producing high grade nickel sulphides utilising our world class BioHeap™ bacterial processing technology. Importantly the MREP is producing sulphide product in line with the design specification with the focus now on ramping up production rates. The recently completed filtration and bagging facilities have enabled product samples to be supplied to potential customers and new offtake contracts are expected to be advanced for this uncontracted product, which the Company expects will lead to premium pricing terms being secured.

Looking forward, Western Areas will focus on further optimisation of our core business while pursuing organic growth opportunities that strengthen our position in the market. This includes our significant exploration potential at Forrestania, Cosmos and Western Gawler where increased funding is being invested into active programmes.

The Company is proud of its long term safety performance, and continues to strongly commit to providing a safe working environment for all our staff and contractors.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board, to thank all our staff, contractors and suppliers for their support throughout the year. The continued hard work and dedication demonstrated by all the Company staff and contractors is instrumental to the ongoing success of Western Areas.

-ENDS-

For further details, please contact:

Dan Lougher
Managing Director – Western Areas Ltd
Telephone +61 8 9334 7777
Email: dlougher@westernareas.com.au

David Southam
Executive Director – Western Areas Ltd
Telephone +61 8 9334 7777
Email: dsoutham@westernareas.com.au

Shane Murphy
FTI Consulting
Telephone +61 8 9485 8888 / 0420 945 291
Email: shane.murphy@fticonsulting.com

Or visit: www.westernareas.com.au

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENT:

This release contains certain forward-looking statements. Often, but not always, forward looking statements can generally be identified by the use of forward looking words such as “may”, “will”, “expect”, “intend”, “plan”, “estimate”, “anticipate”, “continue”, and “guidance”, or other similar words and may include, without limitation, statements regarding plans, strategies and objectives of management, anticipated production and expected costs.

These forward-looking statements are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties beyond the Company's ability to control or predict which could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements. Western Areas Ltd undertakes no obligation to revise these forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances.

This announcement does not include reference to all available information on the Company and should not be used in isolation as a basis to invest in Western Areas Ltd. Potential investors should refer to Western Areas' other public releases and statutory reports and consult their professional advisers before considering investing in the Company.