## **NEWS RELEASE**

**5 October 2021** 



## **ODYSSEUS MINE DEVELOPMENT REACHES FIRST ORE**

Western Areas Ltd (ASX: WSA, "Western Areas" or the "Company") is pleased to announce first ore production at the Odysseus project where nickel ore has been intersected at the Odysseus south orebody. Significant progress has also been made with the shaft raise bore, which commenced 630 metres of back-reaming in January 2021 and has now broken through to surface.

The first development ore at the Odysseus south orebody marks a significant milestone for the Company's new long life nickel mine. The ore will be stockpiled during construction of the concentrator complex, which is due to produce first concentrate in the December quarter of calendar year 2022. Western Areas is also assessing options for potential ore tolling arrangements in the short term.



Odysseus South disseminated sulphide ore face



Ore on the ROM pad

The raise bore back reaming has now worked through 630m of development at a diameter of 5.7m, completing Leg 1 of the shaft hoisting and intake air system.

Western Areas Managing Director, Dan Lougher, said "It is an exciting milestone to reach first ore and we now look forward to continuing ore production and construction activities, while also advancing offtake tenders for new nickel sulphide supply into the class 1 nickel market."

"The raise bore breakthrough is also a key achievement that further de-risks project delivery and allows completion of the shaft sub-brace concrete works, as well as remaining surface civil works, associated with the shaft. Importantly, the work was completed without a safety incident, for which credit must be given to the site management team and RUC, the raise bore contractor."





The raise bore head breaking through at surface

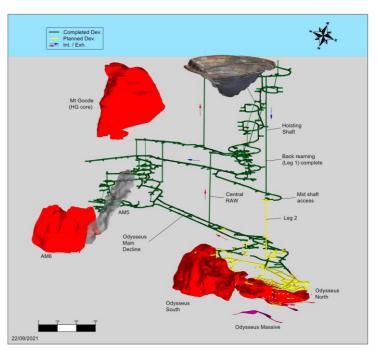
A shaft laser survey has been completed following the surface breakthrough, indicating that the shaft barrel vertical alignment is well within design tolerance of 200mm. The laser survey will now be followed by a LIDAR survey and camera inspection, which will provide a 3-D profile of the shaft excavation. Civil works can also commence to construct the sub-brace walls, followed by the installation of the services ducts, which will allow chilled air and services to be channelled into the intake shaft.

This work will be completed by backfilling the box-cut to surface level, and the installation of a small, temporary winder and head frame to complete shaft services and ground support installation. In parallel with this work, the pilot hole drilling of Leg 2 will commence in the next quarter, which will allow the development of the lower shaft area.

Furthermore, significant work has been completed at the winder house facility, which will allow the winder to be installed early in 2022, after which mechanical, electrical and hydraulic fit out will commence.



Raise bore machine site and winder house construction



Long section of the Odysseus project showing completed shaft development



## -ENDS-

This release has been authorised by the officers below. For further details, please contact:

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## FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENT:

This release contains certain forward-looking statements including nickel production forecasts. 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

An example of a forward looking statement used in this report include the guidance table provided and: "The ore will be stockpiled during construction of the concentrator complex, which is due to produce first concentrate in the December quarter 2022", and "Furthermore, significant work has been completed at the winder house facility, which will allow the winder to be installed early in 2022, after which mechanical, electrical and hydraulic fit out will commence".

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 forwardlooking 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. Any potential investors should refer to Western Area's other public releases and statutory reports and consult their professional advisers before considering investing in the Company.