



For ASX Market Release: 26 July 2013

# **Project Update - Development Strategy**

- New single stage development to 25,000 tpa Cu capacity
- Reduced construction period to 15 months
- Extended mine life to at least 11 years
- Demonstration Plant restart planned with upgrade to 3,000 tpa Cu

Finders Resources Ltd ("Finders") is pleased to announce that its' refreshed Bankable Feasibility Study will be based on a revised development strategy which will provide for faster delivery and increased production flexibility. The previous two stage expansion will be replaced by a simpler construction plan involving the expansion of the existing Whim Creek SX-EW plant to 25,000 tpa copper cathode capacity.

Changes in the strategy were enabled by several key elements. Design changes to the heap leach pad located in the Kali Kuning pit allow for earlier stacking of ore to support rapid ramp-up of a single, larger SX-EW plant at full capacity. New availability of mining contractors in Indonesia allows significantly enhanced fleet flexibility and productivity. The engineering modifications to lift capacity of the existing Whim Creek plant to 25,000 tpa are less capital intensive than the previous 7,000 tpa Stage 1.

The new reserves announced last week also have an impact on mine life, with production from Kali Kuning and Lerokis now likely to support an 11-year operation.

Finders expects to commence the upgrade of the existing Demonstration Plant to 3,000 tpa capacity and mining of new ore this quarter with production recommencing in late Q4 2013. At current copper prices, the plant would generate \$1.75m revenue per month and provide working capital as project finance for the main plant is completed.

Together, the upgraded Demonstration Plant and expanded Whim Creek plant will provide flexibility to achieve 28,000 tpa Cu and realize any benefit from anticipated increases in copper grades and recoveries and, importantly, the potential of additional resources from the satellite deposit at Meron.

Managing Director, Chris Farmer commented "This is important progress for the Wetar Copper Project allowing us to reduce risk during the construction and commissioning stages of the project and reduce the construction period allowing for full scale production nine months ahead of the previous schedule. The new development plan allows for simpler implementation with activities focused on a single plant construction and operational cost savings expected from running a single plant rather than the former split site operations".



Contacts:
Mr Gary Comb
Non-Executive Chairman
Dr Christopher Farmer
Managing Director
Mr James Wentworth
Finance Director

Sydney Office: Suite 901, Level 9 60 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000 T: +61 2 8084 1812 F: +61 2 8068 2540

E: info@findersresources.com

ASX Code: FND

www.findersresources.com







#### **Background Information on Finders**

Finders is the operator of the Wetar Copper Project (95% Interest), and the Ojolali Gold-Silver Project (72% with option), both located in Indonesia. The Wetar Copper Project comprises two high grade deposits, Kali Kuning and Lerokis, which are located within 3km from the coast and suitable for open pit mining. The project benefits from having existing infrastructure in place, particularly a wharf, camp and roads and partially pre-stripped copper ore bodies from a prior gold mining era. From February 2009 to December 2010, Finders successfully operated a 5 tonne per day Solvent Extraction/Electro Winning ("SX/EW") demonstration plant to test copper sulphide leach kinetics, optimise process design and provide data required for project finance. The demonstration plant produced and sold about 2,500 tonnes of LME Grade A copper cathode, all of which was sold at a premium to the LME price and without specification issues. The test heaps are at heights similar to commercial operations worldwide and the SX/EW technology being used is industry standard. SX/EW technology is currently responsible for approximately 22% of the world's copper production. The development of the Wetar Copper Project comprises the restarting of the existing demonstration plant followed by incorporation of the Whim Creek plant to lift production to 25,000tpa.

#### Disclaimer

This announcement may or may not contain certain "forward-looking statements". All statements, other than statements of historical fact, which address activities, events or developments that Finders believes, expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are often, but not always, identified by the use of words such as "seek", "anticipate", "believe", "plan", "estimate", "targeting", "expect", and "intend" and statements that an event or result "may", "will", "can", "should", "could", or "might" occur or be achieved and other similar expressions. These forward-looking statements, including those with respect to permitting and development timetables, mineral grades, metallurgical recoveries, potential production reflect the current internal projections, expectations or beliefs of Finders based on information currently available to Finders. Statements in this document that are forward-looking and involve numerous risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from expected results are based on the Company's current beliefs and assumptions regarding a large number of factors affecting its business. Actual results may differ materially from expected results. There can be no assurance that (i) the Company has correctly measured or identified all of the factors affecting its business or the extent of their likely impact, (ii) the publicly available information with respect to these factors on which the Company's analysis is based is complete or accurate, (iii) the Company's analysis is correct or (iv) the Company's strategy, which is based in part on this analysis, will be successful. Finders expressly disclaims any obligation to update or revise any such forward-looking statements.

## No Representation, Warranty or Liability

Whilst it is provided in good faith, no representation or warranty is made by Finders or any of its advisers, agents or employees as to the accuracy, completeness, currency or reasonableness of the information in this announcement or provided in connection with it, including the accuracy or attainability of any Forward Looking Statements set out in this announcement. Finders does not accept any responsibility to inform you of any matter arising or coming to Finders' notice after the date of this announcement which may affect any matter referred to in this announcement. Any liability of Finders, its advisers, agents and employees to you or to any other person or entity arising out of this announcement including pursuant to common law, the Corporations Act 2001 and the Trade Practices Act 1974 or any other applicable law is, to the maximum extent permitted by law, expressly disclaimed and excluded.

### **Distribution Restrictions**

The distribution of this announcement may be restricted by law in certain jurisdictions. Recipients and any other persons who come into possession of this announcement must inform themselves about, and observe any such restrictions.