

Independent Limited Assurance Report to the Directors of BHP Group Limited, the Directors of BHP Nickel West Pty Ltd and the Management of Nickel West

Our Conclusion

Based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that suggests that Nickel West's self assessed ratings of compliance with the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Performance Expectations 2022 as disclosed in Appendix A do not provide a fair representation of compliance against the Criteria defined below.

What our review covered

Ernst & Young (EY) was engaged by BHP Group Limited (BHP) to undertake limited assurance as defined by International Auditing Standards over Nickel West's disclosure of the aggregation of ratings (as set out in Appendix A) of its compliance with the ICMM Performance Expectations .

Criteria

In preparing the disclosures included at Appendix A, BHP has applied the requirements of the ICMM Mining Principles Performance Expectations 2022.¹

Key responsibilities

EY's responsibility and independence

Our responsibility was to express a limited assurance conclusion on Nickel West's self-assessed ratings of compliance (included at Appendix A).

We were also responsible for maintaining our independence and confirm that we have met the requirements of the *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* and have the required competencies and experience to conduct this assurance engagement.

BHP's responsibility

BHP's management was responsible for selecting the Criteria and preparing and presenting information in a Self-Assessment in accordance with that Criteria. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls, adequate records and making estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. BHP's management was also responsible for accurately recording the aggregation of ratings.

Our approach to conducting the review

We conducted the review in accordance with *International Standard on Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (ISAE 3000)* and in accordance with the terms of reference for this engagement as agreed with BHP on 27 January 2022.

The procedures we performed were based on our professional judgement and included, but were not limited to, the following:

- ▶ Conducting virtual interviews with BHP and Nickel West personnel to understand the reporting process for the Self-Assessment
- ▶ Checking the completeness of Criteria considered by Nickel West with reference to the ICMM Performance Expectations
- ▶ Evaluating Nickel West's classification of whether it had met, partially met or not met the Criteria
- ▶ Conducting a site visit to Nickel West Kalgoorlie to interview workers and observe site activities
- ▶ Inspecting referenced policies and documents to support Nickel West's assessment of its compliance with the Criteria
- ▶ Conducting inquiries of Nickel West personnel to check the completeness of documentation and written evidence
- ▶ Checking whether BHP has met the criteria and allocated it to the relevant Performance Expectations rating category.

- ▶ Checking consistency with our understanding and knowledge of Nickel West governance, accountability and sustainability management as reviewed in our assurance of BHP's FY21 and FY22 sustainability disclosures in the Annual Report.
- ▶ Checking the aggregation of the Performance Expectations rating to BHP's aggregation table.

Other Matters

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls. Our procedures did not include testing controls or performing procedures relating to checking aggregation or calculation of data within IT systems.

Limited Assurance

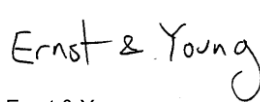
Procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. Our procedures were designed to obtain a limited level of assurance on which to base our conclusion and do not provide all the evidence that would be required to provide a reasonable level of assurance.

Use of our Assurance Report

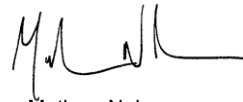
We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this assurance report to any persons other than management and the Directors of BHP, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our limited assurance conclusion.

Our assurance included web-based information that was available via web links as of the date of this conclusion. We provide no assurance over changes to the content of this web-based information after the date of this assurance report.



Ernst & Young
Melbourne, Australia
21 April 2023



Mathew Nelson
Partner

¹ <https://www.icmm.com/website/publications/pdfs/mining-principles/mining-principles.pdf?cb=10319>

Appendix A: Nickel West's aggregated ratings of its ICMM Performance Expectations Self-Assessment as provided by BHP

ICMM Performance Expectations rating	Count
Meets	30
Partially meets	1
Does not meet	0
Not applicable	7