

Boab Metals Ltd (BML)

Rating: Buy | Risk: High | Price Target: \$0.52

6 July 2023

Sorby Hills heading towards FID – project optimisation continues

Key Information

Current Price (\$ps)	0.15
12m Target Price (\$ps)	0.52
52 Week Range (\$ps)	0.15 - 0.37
Target Price Upside (%)	247.7%
TSR (%)	247.7%
Reporting Currency	AUD
Market Cap (\$m)	26
Sector	Materials
Avg Daily Volume (m)	0.2
ASX 200 Weight (%)	0%

Fundamentals

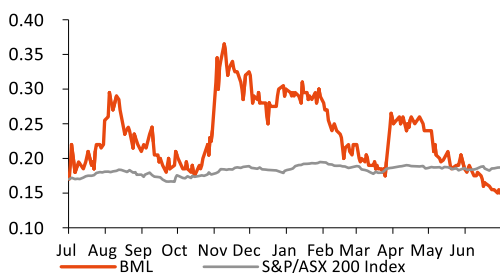
YE 30 Jun (AUD)	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Sales (\$m)	0	0	0	241
NPAT (\$m)	(7)	(6)	(3)	36
EPS (cps)	(4.5)	(3.9)	(0.9)	6.7
EPS Growth (%)	nm	13.0%	76.0%	818.1%
DPS (cps) (AUD)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Franking (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%

Ratios

YE 30 Jun	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
P/E (x)	(3.8)	(3.9)	(16.2)	2.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	(3.0)	(3.1)	(4.0)	0.2
Div Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Payout Ratio (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Price Performance

YE 30 Jun	1 Mth	2 Mth	3 Mth	1 Yr
Relative (%)	(19.4%)	(38.0%)	(43.1%)	(23.7%)
Absolute (%)	(18.9%)	(37.5%)	(42.9%)	(14.3%)
Benchmark (%)	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%	9.4%



Major Shareholders

Villiers Queensland	10.6%
Zero Nominees	8.4%
Board and Management	4.0%
Citicorp Nominees	3.5%
Brent Connolly	2.9%

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Event

Boab Metals has released its June quarter activities report. Boab is optimizing the Front End Engineering & Design (FEED) for the Sorby Hills Lead-Silver Project ahead of the award of an EPC contract. The demand outlook for lead is robust with lead-acid batteries still the go-to technology for reliable energy storage. Silver demand is outstripping supply due to its role in solar panels. We expect the release of offtake agreements in coming weeks ahead of details on the debt financing package (including NAIF) and a Final Investment Decision (FID).

Highlights

- Boab Metals is developing the Sorby Hills Lead-Silver Project in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. In January 2023, Boab released the results of a DFS outlining a A\$245m project processing 2.25Mtpa of ore and producing 103ktpa of a lead/silver concentrate over a 10 year mine-life. The annual production of contained metals is expected to be ~67ktpa of lead and 2.2Mozpa of silver. The DFS resulted in an estimated pre-tax NPV of A\$370M (at an 8% discount rate), an IRR of 35%, and an average annualised EBITDA of A\$119m.
- During the June quarter Boab and its EPC contractor GRES have advanced FEED workstreams in preparation for the EPC contract award. FEED remains on track for completion in Q3 2023. Optimisation of the tailings strategy will mean less in-pit tailings disposal in the early years allowing for higher grade mining. Phase VII drilling commenced with 19 diamond holes targeting mine life extensions at the Norton Deposit.
- It is a common misperception that demand for lead is falling as lead-acid batteries are replaced by lithium-ion batteries and the usage of lead in industrial applications reduces due to its toxicity. However, the reliability of lead-acid batteries means they are still the go-to technology for uninterruptable power supply (UPS) and for starter/lighting/ignition (SLI) batteries in both internal combustion and electric vehicles. Lead consumption has actually increased by an average 3.2% per annum from 2004-2022 and we conservatively forecast further annual growth of 2.2% to 2030. Global lead usage is expected to increase from 11.7Mt in 2020 to 14.6Mt in 2030.
- Demand for silver in the production of solar panels has driven the silver market into a supply deficit in 2022. Total annual silver demand has grown from a relatively steady 1,000Mozpa over the past decade to over 1,200Moz in 2022 with further growth expected. Demand for solar panels has increased from around 5% of total demand in 2015 to around 14% in 2023. Silver is the most conductive metal and has excellent reflective properties which make it ideal for solar panels.
- The strong demand outlook for lead is not matched by the supply outlook and we expect the Sorby Hills lead/silver concentrate to be highly sought after by global smelters. Boab Metal's Chinese partner Henan Yuguang will take its 25% share, and Boab Metals is now finalising the binding offtake agreements for the remaining 75%. We do not believe offtake is a significant risk but an announcement in coming weeks that Sorby Hills is fully sold is likely to be a positive catalyst.
- Boab is advancing its financing plans, including funding from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF). NAIF debt provides significant financing flexibility for the project and allows the asset to be geared more highly than usual. Boab finished the September quarter with A\$4.3m cash which leaves Boab fully funded to FID.

Recommendation

We maintain our BUY recommendation and price target of A\$0.52ps. Our price target is based on our fully diluted DCF valuation. Boab has a number of positive upcoming catalysts we expect to see released over the coming months, including the offtake agreements, a NAIF funding package, a commercial debt tranche to sit alongside NAIF and a Final Investment Decision, which could see equity for construction raised at a significantly higher price than our assumed \$0.20.

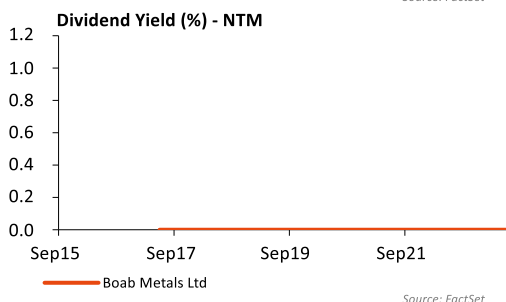
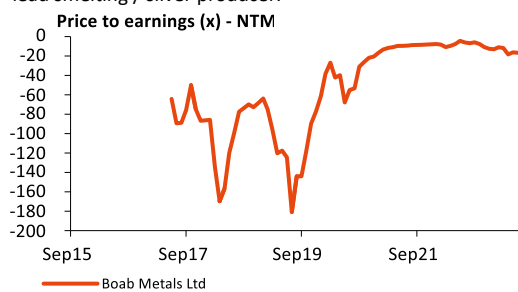
Boab Metals Ltd
Materials
Materials

FactSet: BML-AU / Bloomberg: BML AU

Key Items	Data
Recommendation	BUY
Risk	HIGH
Price (\$ps)	0.15
Target Price (\$ps)	0.52
52 Week Range (\$ps)	0.15 - 0.37
Shares on Issue (m)	174
Market Cap (\$m)	26
Enterprise Value (\$m)	20
TSR (%)	247.7%
Valuation per share (cps) (AUD)	0.52
Valuation (\$m)	286.55

Company Description

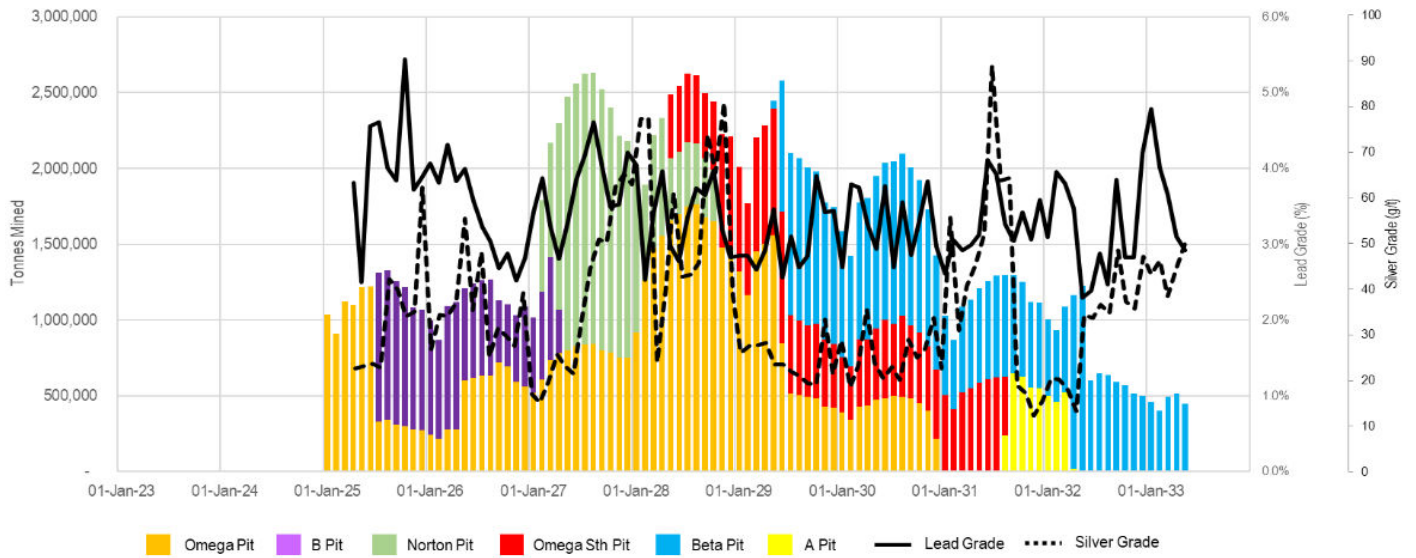
Boab Metals is a base metal exploration and development company, primarily focused on its flagship Sorby Hills Project in Kununurra, Western Australia. The flagship Project is the largest undeveloped, near surface lead-silver-zinc deposit in Australia. Sorby Hills is 75%-owned by Boab Metals and 25% owned by Henan-Yuguang - China's largest lead smelting / silver producer.



Financial Year End: 30 June

Investment Summary (AUD)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
EPS (Reported) (cps)	(0.3)	(4.5)	(3.9)	(0.9)	6.7
EPS (Underlying) (cps)	(0.3)	(4.5)	(3.9)	(0.9)	6.7
EPS (Underlying) Growth (%)	nm	nm	13.0%	76.0%	818.1%
PE (Underlying) (x)	nm	(3.8)	(3.9)	(16.2)	2.2
EV / EBIT (x)	(3.9)	(2.9)	(3.1)	(4.0)	0.3
EV / EBITDA (x)	(4.0)	(3.0)	(3.1)	(4.0)	0.2
DPS (cps) (AUD)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Franking (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Payout Ratio (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Free Cash Flow Yield (%)	(0.7%)	(25.1%)	(25.8%)	(337.2%)	(17.2%)
Profit and Loss (AUD) (m)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Sales	0	0	0	0	241
Other Operating Income	0	0	0	0	0
EBITDA	(5)	(7)	(7)	(5)	81
EBITDA Margin (%)	nm	nm	nm	nm	33.8%
Depreciation & Amortisation	(0)	(0)	0	0	(9)
EBIT	(5.1)	(6.8)	(6.5)	(5.0)	72.6
EBIT Margin (%)	nm	nm	nm	nm	30.1%
Net Interest	0	0	0	(1)	(3)
Pretax Profit	(5)	(7)	(6)	(6)	70
Minorities	0	0	0	(1)	12
NPAT Underlying	(5)	(7)	(6)	(3)	36
Significant Items	0	0	0	0	0
NPAT Reported	(5)	(7)	(6)	(3)	36
Cashflow (AUD) (m)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
EBIT	(5)	(7)	(7)	(5)	73
Tax Paid	0	0	0	0	2
Net Interest	0	0	0	(1)	(3)
Change in Working Capital	0	0	0	(0)	(27)
Depreciation & Amortisation	(0)	(0)	0	0	(9)
Other	0	0	0	2	4
Operating Cashflow	(5)	(6)	(6)	(5)	57
Capex	0	0	0	(177)	(71)
Acquisitions and Investments	(0)	0	(1)	(3)	(3)
Disposal of Fixed Assets/Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	44	18
Investing Cashflow	(0)	0	(1)	(135)	(56)
Free Cashflow	(5)	(7)	(6)	(182)	(14)
Equity Raised / Bought Back	14	0	5	75	0
Dividends Paid	0	0	0	0	0
Change in Debt	0	0	0	80	30
Other	(0)	(0)	0	(2)	(4)
Financing Cashflow	14	(0)	5	154	26
Net Change in Cash	10	(7)	(2)	13	28
Balance Sheet (AUD) (m)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Cash	13	6	5	18	45
Accounts Receivable	0	0	0	0	20
Inventory	0	0	0	0	20
Other Current Assets	0	0	0	0	0
PPE	5	5	6	185	250
Total Assets	19	12	11	203	335
Accounts Payable	1	1	1	0	13
Short Term Debt	0	0	0	0	0
Long Term Debt	0	0	0	80	110
Total Liabilities	2	1	1	79	144
Ratios	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
ROE (%)	(41.0%)	(49.4%)	(62.6%)	(7.4%)	36.7%
Gearing (%)	(311.2%)	(144.2%)	(86.5%)	43.4%	35.5%
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	2.6	0.9	0.7	(12.5)	0.8

Figure 1: Updated Mining Schedule – higher grades in the early years



Source: Boab quarterly activities report, July 2023

Figure 2: 3D model of the Sorby Hills Process Plant



Source: Boab quarterly activities report, July 2023

Key risks

- The prices of silver and lead are volatile and difficult to forecast. The actual prices may differ substantially from our forecasts.
- The Sorby Hills project is not yet producing and there is a risk that Boab is unable to bring the operation in to production. The project may cost more than expected to build and may not operate as expected.
- Boab requires around \$185m of new capital to finance its 75% share of the Sorby Hills Project. There is a risk that capital markets are not willing to fund the project.
- Forecasting future operating costs has considerable uncertainty. Our forecasts may prove to be too optimistic. If Boab's costs are higher than we expect then our cash flow forecasts will be too high.
- Smaller companies carry more significant 'key personnel' risk than larger organisations. If senior management depart the company, then it could delay projects or exacerbate operational risks.

Core drivers and catalyst

- In January 2023, Boab released the results of a Sorby Hills Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS). The DFS outlined a A\$245m project processing 2.25Mtpa of ore and producing 103ktpa of a lead/silver concentrate over a 10 year mine life. The annual production of contained metals is expected to be ~67ktpa of lead and 2.2Mozpa of silver.
- The DFS resulted in an estimated pre-tax NPV of A\$370M (at an 8% discount rate), an IRR of 35%, and an average annualised EBITDA of A\$119m.
- Boab is now progressing the offtake agreements and debt financing and we expect a Final Investment Decision in 2H23. There will be a 12-18-month construction period and first production in FY25.
- The Sorby Hills Measured and Indicated Resources is 23.6Mt at 4.6% Pb Eq (3.5% Pb, 39g/t Ag) and 0.4% Zn containing 0.8Mt Pb, 0.1kt Zn and 30Moz Ag. The resource is likely to increase as further drilling and regional exploration is completed
- We model a further A\$185m of capital requirements to fund Boab's 75% share of pre-production capex, working capital and ongoing exploration. We expect BML to split the funding roughly A\$75m/A\$110m equity/debt

Rating Classification

Buy	Expected to outperform the overall market
Hold	Expected to perform in line with the overall market
Sell	Expected to underperform the overall market
Not Rated	Shaw has issued a factual note on the company but does not have a recommendation

Risk Rating

High	Higher risk than the overall market – investors should be aware this stock may be speculative
Medium	Risk broadly in line with the overall market
Low	Lower risk than the overall market

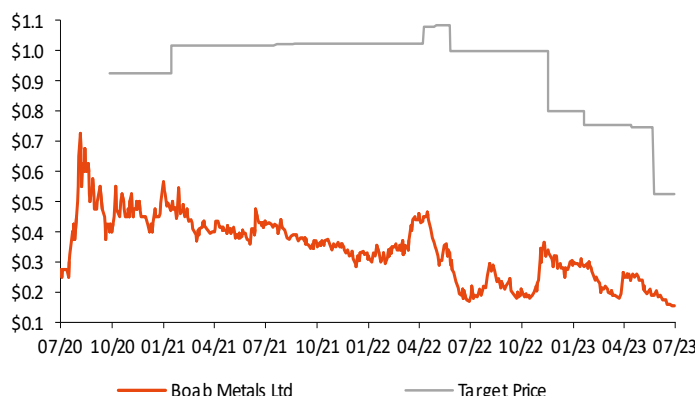
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Distribution of Investment Ratings

Rating	Count	Recommendation Universe
Buy	102	90%
Hold	10	9%
Sell	1	1%

History of Investment Rating and Target Price - Boab Metals Ltd

Date	Closing Price (\$)	Target Price (\$)	Rating
6-Jul-23	0.15	0.52	Buy
29-May-23	0.19	0.52	Buy
19-Apr-23	0.25	0.75	Buy
24-Jan-23	0.29	0.75	Buy
20-Nov-22	0.33	0.80	Buy
31-May-22	0.30	1.00	Buy
2-May-22	0.37	1.08	Buy
14-Apr-22	0.45	1.08	Buy
25-Aug-21	0.40	1.02	Buy
21-Jul-21	0.41	1.02	Buy
19-Jan-21	0.47	1.02	Buy
1-Oct-20	0.40	0.92	Buy



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