

# Boab Metals Ltd (BML)

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

31 October 2023

## September quarter – optimising Sorby Hill ahead of FID in 2024

### Key Information

Current Price (\$ps)	0.13
12m Target Price (\$ps)	0.52
52 Week Range (\$ps)	0.07 - 0.37
Target Price Upside (%)	300.5%
TSR (%)	300.5%
Reporting Currency	AUD
Market Cap (\$m)	23
Sector	Materials
Avg Daily Volume (m)	0.5
ASX 200 Weight (%)	0%

### Fundamentals

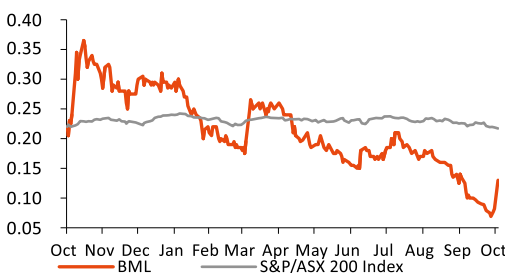
YE 30 Jun (AUD)	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Sales (\$m)	0	0	258	294
NPAT (\$m)	(6)	(3)	45	53
EPS (cps)	(3.6)	(0.9)	8.2	9.6
EPS Growth (%)	18.9%	74.4%	nm	16.9%
DPS (cps) (AUD)	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8
Franking (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%

### Ratios

YE 30 Jun	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
P/E (x)	(4.3)	(14.1)	1.6	1.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	(2.8)	(3.3)	0.2	0.1
Div Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.0%
Payout Ratio (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%

### Price Performance

YE 30 Jun	1 Mth	2 Mth	3 Mth	1 Yr
Relative (%)	0.2%	(18.4%)	(21.1%)	(39.6%)
Absolute (%)	(3.7%)	(25.7%)	(29.7%)	(40.9%)
Benchmark (%)	(3.9%)	(7.3%)	(8.6%)	(1.3%)



Price performance indexed to 100

Source: FactSet

### Major Shareholders

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

### Andrew Hines | Head of Research

+61 3 9268 1178

andrew.hines@shawandpartners.com.au

### Peter Kormendy | Senior Research Analyst

+61 3 9268 1099

Peter.Kormendy@shawandpartners.com.au

### Event

Boab Metals has released its September quarter activities report. Boab is optimizing the Front-End Engineering & Design (FEED) for the Sorby Hills Lead-Silver Project and expects to release the study to the market in Q1 2024. Boab is well advanced with offtake agreements and will be tying these into the overall financing package (including NAIF) and a Final Investment Decision (FID). 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.

### 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 September quarter Boab received refreshed pricing for the processing plant EPC contract from GRES. The good news is that despite the inflationary environment, the update has resulted in negligible change from the DFS pricing.
- Boab has also received updated mining contract tenders and is confident that the updated tenders will deliver a positive outcome for the project. As previously announced, optimisation of the tailings strategy will mean less in-pit tailings disposal in the early years allowing for higher grade mining.
- During the quarter Boab completed its Phase VII drilling program which consisted of 2,634m of drilling over 22 drill holes. The primary objective of the drill program was to extend the Sorby Hills Reserve via additional metallurgical testwork, extensional and in-fill drilling. The main target was metallurgical drilling at the Norton Deposit where 13 holes were drilled to better define the Norton Resource and provide additional core for metallurgical test work. Extensional drilling at Beta and Norton North has intersected mineralisation and is likely to extend the Resource.
- The exciting news is that a high-risk drill hole into the conceptual Keep Seismic Target has encountered 15m of visual mineralisation from 242m. The mineralisation is massive sphalerite (ZnS) with disseminated coarse crystalline galena. The mineralisation is predominantly strata bound centred around a fault breccia which shows evidence of zinc and lead sulphide mineralisation.
- The strong demand outlook for lead and silver 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 finalising the binding offtake agreements for the remaining 75% and some of the offers come with financing options. We do not believe offtake is a significant risk but an announcement 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\$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 FID.

**Boab Metals Ltd**

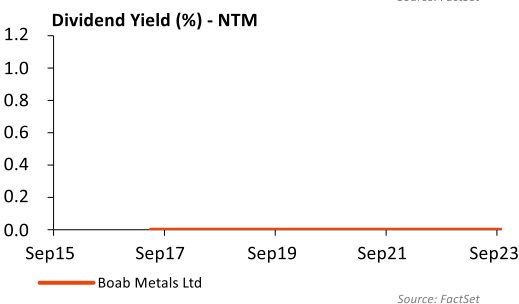
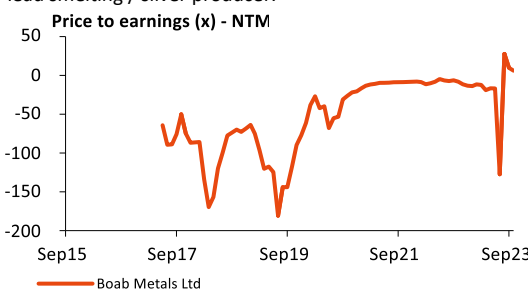
**Materials  
Materials**

FactSet: BML-AU / Bloomberg: BML AU

Key Items	Data
Recommendation	BUY
Risk	HIGH
Price (\$ps)	0.13
Target Price (\$ps)	0.52
52 Week Range (\$ps)	0.07 - 0.37
Shares on Issue (m)	174
Market Cap (\$m)	23
Enterprise Value (\$m)	16
TSR (%)	300.5%
Valuation per share (cps) (AUD)	0.52
Valuation (\$m)	286.05

**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)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EPS (Reported) (cps)	(4.5)	(3.6)	(0.9)	8.2	9.6
EPS (Underlying) (cps)	(4.5)	(3.6)	(0.9)	8.2	9.6
EPS (Underlying) Growth (%)	nm	18.9%	74.4%	nm	16.9%
PE (Underlying) (x)	(3.8)	(4.3)	(14.1)	1.6	1.4
EV / EBIT (x)	(2.4)	(2.8)	(3.3)	0.2	0.2
EV / EBITDA (x)	(2.4)	(2.8)	(3.3)	0.2	0.1
DPS (cps) (AUD)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.0%
Franking (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Payout Ratio (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%
Free Cash Flow Yield (%)	(25.1%)	(27.6%)	(386.3%)	(0.8%)	122.1%
Profit and Loss (AUD) (m)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	0	0	0	258	294
Sales Growth (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.7%
Other Operating Income	0	0	0	0	0
EBITDA	(7)	(6)	(5)	98	119
EBITDA Margin (%)	nm	nm	nm	38.0%	40.5%
Depreciation & Amortisation	(0)	(0)	0	(9)	(16)
EBIT	(6.8)	(5.9)	(5.0)	89.2	102.5
EBIT Margin (%)	nm	nm	nm	34.5%	34.9%
Net Interest	0	0	(1)	(3)	(2)
Pretax Profit	(7)	(6)	(6)	86	101
Minorities	0	0	(1)	15	18
NPAT Underlying	(7)	(6)	(3)	45	53
Significant Items	0	0	0	0	0
NPAT Reported	(7)	(6)	(3)	45	53
Cashflow (AUD) (m)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EBIT	(7)	(6)	(5)	89	103
Tax Paid	0	0	0	2	(26)
Net Interest	0	0	(1)	(3)	(2)
Change in Working Capital	0	0	0	(30)	(5)
Depreciation & Amortisation	(0)	(0)	0	(9)	(16)
Other	0	0	2	4	4
Operating Cashflow	(6)	(5)	(5)	71	90
Capex	0	(2)	(177)	(71)	(3)
Acquisitions and Investments	0	0	(3)	(3)	(3)
Disposal of Fixed Assets/Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	44	18	1
Investing Cashflow	0	(2)	(135)	(56)	(5)
Free Cashflow	(7)	(7)	(182)	(1)	87
Equity Raised / Bought Back	0	5	75	0	0
Dividends Paid	0	0	0	0	(11)
Change in Debt	0	0	80	30	(30)
Other	(0)	(0)	(2)	(4)	(4)
Financing Cashflow	(0)	5	154	26	(45)
Net Change in Cash	(7)	(2)	13	41	41
Balance Sheet (AUD) (m)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Cash	6	5	18	59	100
Accounts Receivable	0	1	1	21	24
Inventory	0	0	0	21	24
Other Current Assets	0	0	0	0	0
PPE	5	6	186	250	240
Total Assets	12	12	204	352	388
Accounts Payable	1	1	1	13	14
Short Term Debt	0	0	0	0	0
Long Term Debt	0	0	80	110	80
Total Liabilities	1	1	79	149	125
Ratios	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
ROE (%)	(49.4%)	(56.4%)	(7.2%)	43.2%	35.7%
Gearing (%)	(144.2%)	(77.8%)	43.0%	28.5%	(13.5%)
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	0.9	0.8	(12.4)	0.5	(0.2)

### 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 2024. There will be a 12-18-month construction period and first production in 2025.
- 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

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

## Risk Rating

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

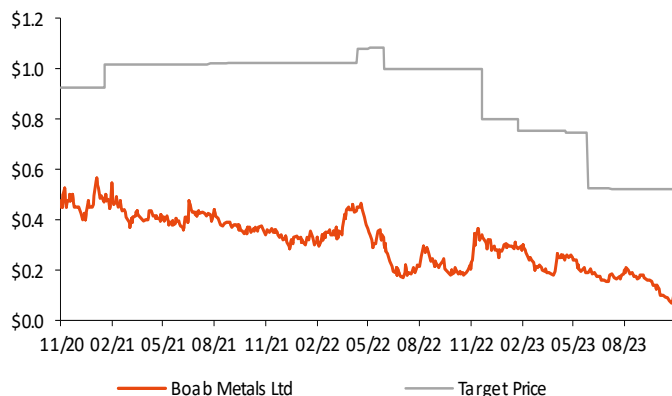
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### Distribution of Investment Ratings

Rating	Count	Recommendation Universe
Buy	74	96%
Hold	2	3%
Sell	1	1%

### History of Investment Rating and Target Price - Boab Metals Ltd

Date	Closing Price (\$)	Target Price (\$)	Rating
31-Oct-23	0.13	0.52	Buy
6-Jul-23	0.18	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



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Sydney   Head Office	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Canberra	Perth	Noosa
Level 7, Chifley Tower	Level 36	Level 28	Level 25	Level 9	Level 20	Suite 11a Q Place
2 Chifley Square	120 Collins Street	111 Eagle Street	91 King William Street	5 Constitution Avenue	108 St Georges Terrace	2 Quamby Place
Sydney NSW 2000	Melbourne VIC 3000	Brisbane QLD 4000	Adelaide SA 5000	Canberra ACT 2601	Perth WA 6000	Noosa Heads QLD 4567
Telephone: +61 2 9238 1238	Telephone: +61 3 9268 1000	Telephone: +61 7 3036 2500	Telephone: +61 8 7109 6000	Telephone: +61 2 6113 5300	Telephone: +61 8 9263 5200	Telephone: +61 7 3036 2570
Toll Free: 1800 636 625	Toll Free: 1800 150 009	Toll Free: 1800 463 972	Toll Free: 1800 636 625	Toll Free: 1800 636 625	Toll Free: 1800 198 003	Toll Free: 1800 271 201