

AUSTRALIAN POTASH LIMITED (APC)

First SOP samples on track for production Q2 CY18

Australian Potash Limited (APC) remains committed to progressing the 100%-owned Lake Wells Potash Project in WA. In late CY17, the Company commissioned pilot solar evaporation ponds at the salt lake system from brines sourced from test production bores.

The first sulphate of potash (SOP) samples from these pilot ponds remain on track to be produced in Q2 CY18. The maiden SOP production will assist in advancing the off-take discussions with Chinese partners and provide valuable information for the evaporation model under which the commercial ponds will operate. The data collected from both the test pumping and evaporation ponds will be used in the Lake Wells Feasibility Study (FS) due for release H2 CY18. The information collected from the longer term test pumping program will assist with the calculation of (maiden) reserves.

Once developed, the brine operation at Lake Wells is expected to be serviced by some 35 bores, enabling the production of 150,000tpa of SOP (Stage 1). APC has already confirmed a continuous layer of low-permeability clays across the lake, which supports lower potential pre-production capex and importantly reduces sustaining capex further enhancing project economics. Current permeability assumptions result in a potassium recovery through the pond system of ~76-77% and an overall pond and process recovery of 71-72% and with the proposed MOP conversion circuit in the process plant, the overall recoveries of the ponds and plant should improve to ~80%.

APC has been working diligently on the permitting and approvals process. APC's Lake Wells SOP development area does not have any Native Title claims over it and the mining licence application has been recommended for grant. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) will assess the project development under environmental review, without the need of public comment, which could see final ministerial approval to proceed in H2 CY18.

Accessing the gold value proposition of Yamarna

First pass drilling (an aircore program for 23,000m over 3 stages) has commenced over the Yamarna gold project (100% APC). The initial program will drill-test a number of structural and geochemical targets generated by reviews by external experts (CSA Global and Dr Scott Halley).

Five of the highest priority targets (T07-011 from Area 1) are located along strike and within a few kilometres of Gold Road's (GOR) Corkwood gold camp (Ibanez, Stratocaster, Washburn, and Gibson prospects). This target area also reports coincident arsenic-in-soils anomalism and will be the first targets tested in the current program. APC has some 12 targets already identified with more expected to be generated from the +65km structural setting.

There is no doubting some of APC's tenure (north-east of Laverton) is highly prospective but unexplored for gold mineralisation and neighbour GOR's results have already upgraded the region. It seems a sensible approach to add value before considering options for the gold project.

We maintain our Speculative Buy recommendation: 36cps PT

We maintain our Speculative Buy recommendation with latest price target of 36cps. APC's current cash position is low, estimated to be ~A\$1.2M, with additional funding needed for ongoing exploration and development studies.

Speculative Buy

	6 Apr 2018
Share Price	\$0.100
Valuation	\$0.40
Price Target (12 month)	\$0.36

Brief Business Description:

Potash (SOP) explorer/developer

Hartleys Brief Investment Conclusion

100%-ow ned potash project at Lake Wells WA. Targeting brine SOP production of 150ktpa ramping up to 300ktpa for domestic and export markets. Feasibility Study due in H2 CY18. Gold exploration also

Matt Shackleton (Executive Chairman)

Rhett Brans (Non-Excec Dir)

Brett Lambert (Non-Exec Dir)

Top Shareholders

Yandal Investments (Creasy)	11.1%
Perth Select Seafood	5.3%
Board and Management	2.0%

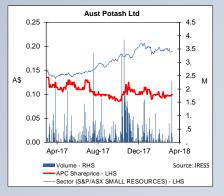
Company Address

31 Ord Street West Perth WA 6005

Issued Capital	261.9m
- fully diluted	333.5m
Market Cap	A\$26.2m
- fully diluted	A\$33.4m
Cash (est)	A\$1.2m
Debt (est)	A\$0.0m
EV	A\$25.0m
EV/Resource t	A\$1.70/t
FV/Reserve t	na

EV/Reserve t			na
Prelim. (A\$m)	FY19e	FY20e	FY21e
Prod (Mt)	0.00	0.08	0.15
Op Cash Flw	-3.7	27.1	40.7
Norm NPAT	-8.0	32.8	35.8
CF/Share (cps)	-1.0	3.1	4.3
EPS (cps)	-1.3	4.1	5.5
P/E	-9.9	3.2	2.3

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Resources (SOP)	20,329	7,896	14.7
Reserves (SOP)	na	na	na



Mike Millikan

Resources Analyst

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Hartleys has completed a capital raising in the past 12 months for Australian Potash Limited ("APC") for which it has earned fees. Hartleys has provided corporate advice to APC within the past 12 months and continues to provide corporate advice, for which it will earn fees. Hartleys has a beneficial interest in 5 million Australian Potash unlisted options. The analyst has a beneficial interest in APC shares

SUMMARY MODEL

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YAMARNA GOLD PROJECT

NEIGHBOUR'S GOLD RESULTS UPGRADE GROUND

Key gold ground is also situated ~60km NW of the +6Moz Gruyere gold project (under construction) and spans a 65km structural zone

First pass (aircore)
drilling has now
commenced

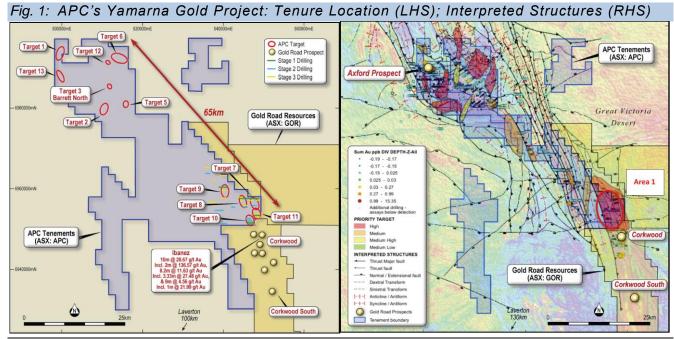
It seems a sensible approach to add value before considering options for the gold project

APC's ground holdings are located north-east of Laverton and as well as containing SOP, some of the tenure is considered highly prospective but unexplored for gold mineralisation. The key gold ground is also situated ~60km north-west of GoldRoads (GOR)/Goldfieds +6Moz Gruyere gold project (now under construction) and spans a 65km structural zone.

The Company commissioned CSA Global and Dr Scott Halley to conduct a structural interpretation and targeting exercise over the project area. This was largely instigated after neighbour GOR released some significant gold results in close proximity to APC's ground. Of particular interest was GOR's reported gold intersections of 10m @ 28.8 g/t Au and 8.2m @ 11.6g/t Au from Corkwood/Ibanez, which is only 2km south-east of APC's tenement holding.

First pass drilling (an aircore program for 23,000m over 3 stages) has now commenced. Five of the highest priority targets (T07-011 from Area 1) are located along strike and within a few kilometres of GOR Corkwood gold camp (Ibanez, Stratocaster, Washburn, and Gibson prospects). This target area also reports coincident arsenic-in-soils anomalism and will be the first targets tested in the current program. APC has some 12 targets already identified with more expected to be generated from the +65km structural setting.

First results are expected to be reported in early May 2018.



Source: Australian Potash Limited

LAKE WELLS POTASH PROJECT

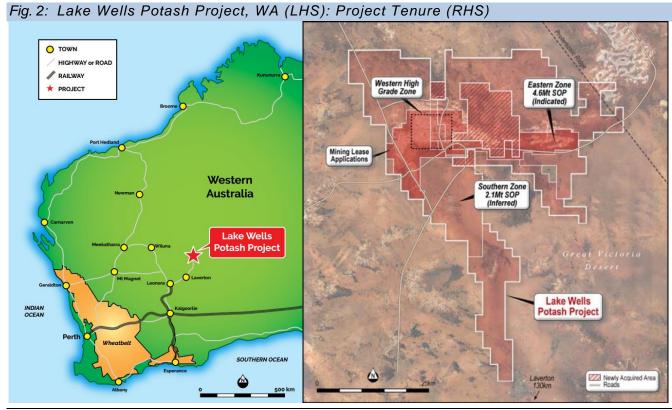
SOP PRODUCTION WITH LOW CAPEX HURDLE

Project located

~500km NE of Kalgoorlie, WA The Lake Wells Potash Project is located ~180km north-east of Laverton, ~500km north-east of Kalgoorlie in WA. The project area consists of exploration tenure, which covers ~2,000km2 and APC has 100% ownership and all potash rights. Access to the project is via the Great Central (~90km sealed/unsealed road) and Lake Wells (~90km unsealed) roads. The project is located ~300km from a bulk rail terminal at Leonora. The climate for the project area is highly conducive to evaporation and thus a solar salt operation.

Potash as a high value bulk commodity which requires access to infrastructure

Australia currently imports 100% of its potassium fertiliser requirements, and the low chloride and high sulphate content of SOP makes it an ideal and preferred form of potassium (fertiliser) for Australian farmers. SOP attracts a superior price to muriate of potash (MOP), and is underpinned by limited brine supply (only 3 evaporative operations globally) and increasing demand (forecast growth of 4%). Australia currently has no potash production, but appears well endowed with resources across a number of its salt lake systems, with commercial extractability now being determined.



Source: Australian Potash Limited

Brine SOP projects generally occupy the lower end of production cost curve and have lower capital hurdles then rock potash projects

APC released a maiden SOP resource for its Lake Wells Project in late June 2016, and upgraded the resource estimate for the Scoping Study (March 2017). The total resource estimate using specific yield provides 14.7Mt of SOP grading 7,896mg/L SOP. Indicated resources make up 12.7Mt (86%) of total resources, with three main hydrogeological zones (Western High Grade, Eastern and Southern Zones). The Southern Zone is currently data constrained and as such classified as Inferred.

The Scoping
development study
was led by NovoPro
(an expert potash
consultant from
Canada)

The Scoping Study highlights potential for a long-life, staged production of 150ktpa to 300ktpa of SOP for initial capital costs of A\$175M APC proposes to develop the Lake Wells Potash Project in two stages.

Stage 1 development consists of 35 bores extracting brine to evaporation ponds, simple processing to crystallise the SOP for transport to markets. The Company plans to extract the SOP-rich brine from a network of bores positioned along the central parts of the palaeochannel.

The processing plant has been designed in such a manner to include a muriate of potash (MOP) to SOP conversion circuit, which increases overall SOP production. The MOP to SOP conversion is using the excess naturally occurring sulphate in the brines, and involves no sulphuric acid use (not the Mannheim Process).

The initial production rate of 150ktpa of SOP (includes ~42ktpa of imported MOP to SOP conversion for 50ktpa SOP). Stage 1 opex is estimated to be A\$368/t SOP, which at the SOP prices (US\$612/t/A\$795/t) used in the Scoping Study provides capital payback in less than 3 years.

Stage 2 expansion in year 5 duplicates Stage 1 to double production to 300kpta SOP (includes 100ktpa of imported MOP conversion). After expansion, opex improves to A\$339/t SOP, with LOM sustaining capex expected to be less than A\$3Mpa.

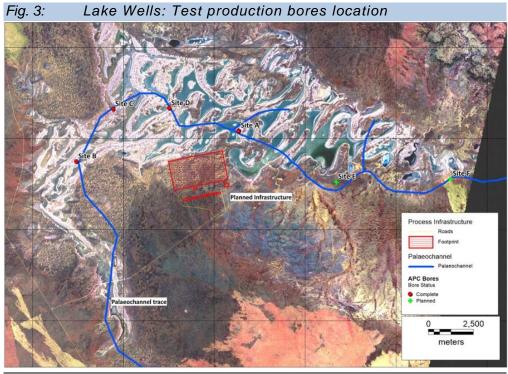
Stage 2 capex of A\$163M (includes a contingency of A\$23M), is expected to be funded largely through internal cash flows. Over the initial 20 year mine life and assuming Stage 2 development for 300ktpa SOP, the borefield will produce a total of 3.3Mt of SOP.

Pilot evap pond filled



Source: APC

Lake Wells FS due for release in H2 CY18.



Source: Australian Potash Limited

The work currently underway includes the installation of a number of test production bores and the commissioning of a system of pilot evaporation ponds at the salt lake. The data collected from this activity will be used in the Lake Wells Feasibility Study (FS) due for release in H2 CY18.

VALUATION AND PRICE TARGET

METHODOLOGY

Largely unchanged APC NAV

Our sum of parts valuation for APC is based largely on information supplied in the Scoping Study. We assume staged production (**Stage 1**: 150ktpa 1-5 years and **Stage 2**: 300ktpa 6-20 years), with a similar capex and opex profile as per the study.

We assume existing infrastructure of roads and rail can be accessed and SOP prices of US\$620/t. We assume startup capex of ~A\$180m and funding through a 50% debt and 50% equity mix. Our price target for APC is weighted for the different scenarios (as shown below).

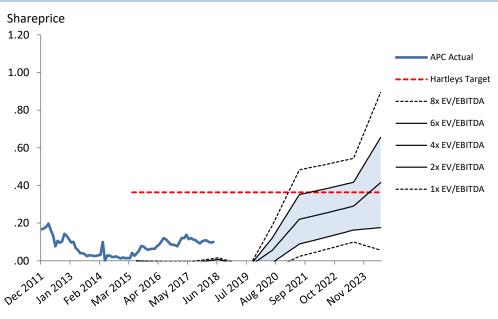
Updated 12-month price target of 36cps

Fig. 4: APC Price Target Methodology			
Price Target Methodology	Weighting	Spot	12 mth out
NPV base case (disc. rate 12%), debt/equity funded 50/50	45%	\$0.40	\$0.43
NPV base case (disc. rate 10%), debt/equity funded 50/50	20%	\$0.48	\$0.52
Cash backing	15%	\$0.00	\$0.00
NPV spot prices debt/equity funded 50/50	20%	\$0.30	\$0.32
Risk weighted composite		\$0.34	
12 Months Price Target		\$0.36	
Shareprice - Last		\$0.100	
12 mth total return (% to 12mth target + dividend)		263%	

Source: Hartleys Estimates

EV/EBITDA BANDS

Fig. 5: Using <u>Hartleys Base Case Commodity</u> Forecasts



Assuming staged SOP production

Source: Hartleys Estimates

Fig. 6: Using Spot Commodity Prices Shareprice .70 APC Actual .60 -- 8x EV/EBITDA .50 6x EV/EBITDA .40 4x EV/EBITDA 2x EV/EBITDA .30 ----- 1x EV/EBITDA .20 .10 .00 Dec 2020 Dec 2016 Dec 2019 Dec 2012 Dec 2013 Dec 2014 Dec 2015 Dec 2021 Dec 2022 Dec 2011 016 2017 2018

Source: Hartleys Estimates

RISKS

Key risks for APC are funding, and commodity prices. Hence we view APC as high risk.

Fig. 7: Key assu	umptions and risks	for valuation	
Assumption	Risk of not realising assumption	Risk to valuation if assumption is incorrect	Comment
Model parameters for our APC valuation and price target	Med	Meaningful	We have made a number of assumptions in our APC valuation, based largely on the Scoping Study, which will be preceded by more accurate development studies. APC has no production history. Any changes to our assumptions have both upside and downside risks.
Favourable commodity prices	Low	Meaningful	APC remains sensitive to changes in commodity (potash) prices, exchange rates and market sentiment. Though with no current operations, direct impact from commodity prices is limited. We assume potash prices will remain stable into the near-term, which is open to speculation.
Funded for ongoing exploration	Med	Moderate	APC's cash position is just over A\$1M. As an explorer with no current production assets, ongoing funding will be required. We assume development studies will be progressed.
Conclusion	We have n	made significant assumpti	ions but believe these are achievable.

Source: Hartleys Research

HARTLEYS CORPORATE DIRECTORY

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Note: personal email addresses of company employees are

structured in the following

manner:firstname_lastname@hartleys.com.au

Hartleys Recommendation Categories

Buy Share price appreciation anticipated.

Accumulate Share price appreciation anticipated but the risk/reward is

not as attractive as a "Buy". Alternatively, for the share price to rise it may be contingent on the outcome of an uncertain or distant event. Analyst will often indicate a

price level at which it may become a "Buy".

Neutral Take no action. Upside & downside risk/reward is evenly

balanced.

Reduce / It is anticipated to be unlikely that there will be gains over Take profits the investment time horizon but there is a possibility of

some price weakness over that period.

Sell Significant price depreciation anticipated.

No Rating No recommendation.

Speculative Share price could be volatile. While it is anticipated that, Buy on a risk/reward basis, an investment is attractive, there

is at least one identifiable risk that has a meaningful possibility of occurring, which, if it did occur, could lead to significant share price reduction. Consequently, the

investment is considered high risk.

Institutional Sales

Carrick Ryan	+61 8 9268 2864
Justin Stewart	+61 8 9268 3062
Simon van den Berg	+61 8 9268 2867
Chris Chong	+61 8 9268 2817
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