# Welcome to the Zirconium and Titanium Age

Astron Corporation Limited ARBN 154 924 553

Incorporated in Hong Kong, Company Number: 1687414

Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### **CAUTIONARY STATEMENT**

Certain sections of this report contain forward-looking statements that are subject to risk factors associated with, among others, the economic and business circumstances occurring from time to time in the countries and sectors in which the Astron Group operates. It is believed that the expectations reflected in these statements are reasonable but they may be affected by a wide range of variables which could cause results to differ materially from those currently

#### **COMPETENT PERSONS STATEMENT**

As a result of delayed reporting, no reference to the company's resources or reserves shall be made or referenced in this report.

No Competent Person Statement or peer review is provided for the reporting period for the period covered by this report.

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**Astron Corporation Limited** 



## **Astron History**

Astron Corporation Ltd (**Astron**) is domiciled in Hong Kong and listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (**ASX**). Astron is well-known in the industry globally, specialized in its zirconium and titanium business.

Astron's main focus is developing its two wholly owned mineral sands projects, the Donald Project in Australia and the Niafarang project in Senegal, West Africa. Astron has spent a considerable part of the past year further optimising the updated definitive feasibility study for the Donald Project.

The Donald project is one of the largest known zircon and titanium resources in the world. The Niafarang project in Senegal, West Africa, is a high-grade coastal mineral sands deposit, to be excavated using simple dredge mining and processing methodologies. Astron has obtained the mining licence for the Niafarang Project and continues to work on social acceptance and other relevant social resettlement programs.

Astron has continued to build on its unique 25 year track record in China as a Chinese-Australian company in developing, selling and marketing zirconium and titanium products. Astron has significant research and technology capabilities in titanium and zirconium metal and chemical processes. Astron carries on its Chinese mineral sands trading business to maintain close relationships with its key customers. Astron continues to further develop its technical capabilities of producing zircon and titanium metals and chemicals in establishing customer specific satisfaction.

Astron was at one time the largest quality manufacturer of fused zirconia and zirconium carbonate in the world. Astron was also a leading company that introduced titanium slag into the market in China.

In the meantime, Astron was also a pioneering company that introduced tailing processing technology into China. Astron has strong research and development of zirconium, titanium and chemical products with many proprietary technologies. Astron is a manufacturer of zirconium and titanium resource and high-end materials in the world. Astron built a small-size high purity zirconia production facility towards the end of 2014.



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## Time to Rebuild

Mining, production, processing, and trading activities are increasing with major developments and material movements globally, these are expected to accelerate in the second half of the 2018 calendar year.

Since 2014, DMS Project has been predominantly project start ready. However, the project remains subject to financing. The construction program was not acted upon during the reporting period as a result of key strategic financing milestones not being met. The delays were not catastrophic to the successes of the project and on the upside give greater recovery time for the final products within the global market scene.

The Mining License was awarded for the Senegal Niafarang Project and all procurement objectives are either completed or well advanced. This Project is working towards a production start in mid to late Q4 2018.

High purity grade Zirconia Project has been completed with trial production achieving what Astron believes to be as the best quality in the world. Full capacity will reach 500 tons per year which will generate outstanding increases and benefits to the Astron Business.



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# **Chairperson's Report**

Dear Shareholders,

## **OPERATIONS REVIEW**

## Donald Project (DMS)

Funding the Donald project remains the primary objective.

Further work has been undertaken to update, upgrade and optimise the definitive feasibility study, which was originally announced in July 2013.

Donald Mineral Sands has continued to work with and show support of its local community. This included the water trade with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to support the local community through environmental water flows. No further land was purchased during the year.

## **DMS Summary**

2017 has been a year of great progress of our Murray Basin project. The achievements to date have been a collaborative effort from all team members abroad, locally and with many contractors and consultants across many areas of expertise. The Company has now resolved the technical challenges of the Donald Minerals Sands project and anticipates an optimisation program to apply all necessary considerations.

The Company has also achieved what it believes is a very competitive capital cost and operation cost outcome as part of the revised DFS on which the Company is working. All of the necessary approvals for the project (except for the work plan submission) have been granted.

From an external perspective, the business cycle for the Zircon and Titanium industry is anticipated to improve following a 5 year of low. DMS will start construction of the Donald Mineral Sands project once final financing milestones have been achieved and hopes to enjoy the benefits of the forthcoming positive industry cycle.

## **China Operations**

There has been a continuation of laboratory research efforts, mainly in relation to additives for road paint and fluoride processes in the China research facility. A trial plant is being considered for the coming financial year/s.

Highly-pure zirconia products have been well acknowledged by Areva which placed three orders for these products in 2017. Astron was also honoured to invite ATI to visit its zirconia production facility in Yingkou Plant and ATI highly regarded the production process and product quality. Astron anticipates working with ATI in the near future.

Certain sales were achieved in China to maintain customer relationships, while various projects are in the development and execution phases. Where the sales volumes were minor in volume, they were major achievements in honouring stakeholder agreements and relationships.

#### Senegal

The efforts in Senegal have progressed significantly during the period in review, with the complex negotiations with the various parties playing a role within the Casamance Province (in which the Niafarang project is located) concluded, subject to a number of minor follow up items. A small mine licence (SML) was granted in June 2017 for the Niafarang project.

As part of the process, Astron remains engaged with the local community where possible, this includes such commitments as sponsoring the Countries Casasport Soccer Team. The Team, a Major League Soccer team representing the region / province of Casamance hosted an official signing ceremony where Astron representatives attended to present its present and future support for the team. Astron continues negotiations with the implementation of learning and development opportunities and industry alternatives or growth for the region's economic and social development program.

Astron has commenced delivery all the equipment and relevant facilities required for Senegal Project by ship, which are anticipated to arrive at the mine site at the first through to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018.

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## **USA** Developments

Astron has obtained access to a yet to be fully defined volume of predominantly titanium mineral ore sands in the USA state of Georgia. These are anticipated a likely fit into the processing, refinement and sales capabilities suited to Astron's Yingkou business function. The first shipment is anticipated to occur in the first half of 2018. An upgraded processing facility for these materials from the USA is being planned for and defined suited to Astron's Yingkou Plant site both environmentally and geographically.

#### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Astron has also identified a strategy to consider other potential projects. Astron has currently identified a number of possible projects in the USA that appear to be worthy of further investigation. While no firm decision has been made in respect of any of these projects, there are some that may be worth pursuing further. Once a decision is made by Astron regarding any of these projects we will announce the scope of further studies and the prospects regarding any committed outcomes.

#### THE YEAR AHEAD

For the coming year, Astron will be focused on investigating all options for financing the Donald Project in Victoria, bringing the Niafarang Project in Senegal into production by commencing contract mining and continuing development of our research capability for zircon and titanium metals in China.

Astron continues to monitor its staffing levels and is considering its long-term structure and other requirements. It has not yet been determined whether any change to Astron's structure will be implemented and this is a matter currently under review. During the financial year, there has been no change to the board of directors of Astron Corporation Ltd.

Finally, I thank my team at Astron for their continued support, hard work and enthusiasm and I look forward to entering an exciting new phase with you all.

Gerard King

Chairman - Astron





# **Managing Directors Report**

This financial year has been a challenging period. While Astron has focused on the key aspects of the Donald Project and the granting of the small mine licence in Senegal, at times it has appeared that progress is slower than anticipated, notwithstanding all the efforts being put into progressing these projects at the highest possible level of professionalism.

The Group had a net loss for the year of \$2,590,844 (2016 - \$(4,408,196)) from operating activities. Administration expenditure during the financial year was on par with last financial year.

As at 30 June 2017, the Astron Group had a net asset value of \$102,658,339. Around \$1,378,129 of this amount is cash or cash equivalents. It is important to recognise that the net asset value is based on a book value for the Donald and Niafarang projects, which does not take any account of underlying valuations of the mineral sands project capabilities.

Total revenue comprising sales, interest received and other income increased almost double from the prior year to \$2,555,312, essentially due to increased trading in the Chinese markets and favourable market conditions leading to increased margins.

Available for sale, financial assets comprise of shares in Saison Steel, Trek Metals and Greenpower Energy. The combined market value of these investments has increased by \$164,798 to \$217,293. During the year an investment in Altona Mining was sold, reducing the carrying value by \$487,742.

The increase in intangible assets arises from development expenditure capitalised in respect of the Donald and Niafarang projects.

Albeit a difficult year, the overall progress across all projects has achieved most set strategic milestones as per internal planning and strategic sessions conducted in late 2016. Operating within a challenging phase of growth and a strict financial climate has undoubtedly proven our teams have a committed culture in achieving desired outcomes and strategic results while maintaining compliance boundaries. A credit to all involved.

Alex Brown - Managing Director



## **Astron Corporation Limited**



## Donald Mineral Sands Project – Murray Basin

Project Status: Financing and Detailed Engineering Definition Stage

World Class Zircon Rich deposit – The Murray Basin is an iconic Geological formation where it has layered our land as we know it today with high value and high grade mineral sands anomalies. The Donald project area is a significant generational opportunity for our regional communities.

To achieve Astron's global objectives during 2017 much effort was given to the planning and housekeeping of existing design and external reporting requirements. Strategies were implemented to focus on value adding outcomes related to defining the next phase of works.

Approvals were sourced to conduct an additional bulk Run of Mine (ROM) ore material sample from the pre-exiting test pit void. The test pit work scope involves defining moisture, geotechnical, compaction and safe angles of repose from aged and newly excavated batters and berms. Rehabilitation trails would follow as a matter of urgency to populate environmental management plans.

#### Specific tasks - 2018

- Bulk Sample and test pit excavation proposed first-quarter 2018
- Preliminary rehabilitation of Bulk sample site first-quarter 2018
- Complete work plan and update EIS where necessary proposed third quarter 2018
- Dependent on funding, initiate detailed phases and execution strategies from mid 2018 onwards, the following actions are proposed:
- Commence execution and development of the Astron owners team engineering, planning, project management
- Commence final review of the detailed engineering scope and optimisation processes
- Commence long lead item procurement
- Commence detailed engineering
- Execute and ramp up community engagement program
- Commence road upgrade engineering and design
- Commence initial pipeline upgrades to site for process water access
- Compile final PEP (Project execution Plan)
- Develop project base and head office owners team spread across Project site, head office and China
- Define and lock down Design Criteria's and Financing Strategies.

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## Senegal Mineral Sands Project - Niafarang

Niafarang Project progressed significantly with respect to Astron's presence with the Country and more specifically locally represented through Senior Team site visits including in-country representation through Astron's consultancy and visible working groups.

Milestones achieved included financial offtakes, Mining Licence granting and the implementation of

social sponsorship and development programs.

Reporting period achievement and forecast 2018 milestones include,

- Casasport sponsorship signing ceremony Q2 2017
- Feasibility Design complete Q3 2017
- Mining Licence granted Q2 June 2017
- Contractor Services definitions, discussions and preliminary services developed 2017.
- Multiple International Export sites approved for use, early 2017
- Awarding of Road Construction and Well Drilling Contracts Q4 2017
- Detailed mine planning and cross section developments Q1 2018
- Expected Execution Commencement the Q2 2018
- · Preliminary design and Scope of Facilities
- Modelling of the High-Grade beach deposit near surface level early 2018
- Construction to commence Q2-3 2018







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## **Developed Products**

Nuclear-grade zirconia production Yingkou, People's Republic of China 200tpa high purity zirconium sponge production facility and an independent lab equipped with advanced analysers including Bruker S8 XRF, Leeman ICP and laser particle size analyser Atomic energy (high purity grade) zirconia production facility in operation already, producing high-quality high purity grade zirconia products









## Specialty R&D

#### Sponge zirconium technology

Astron has succeeded in producing high purity grade zirconia containing hafnium less than 50ppm by TBP-HCL-HNO3 extraction method. A facility of 200tpa highly-pure zirconia has been established, with independent lab equipped with ICP and XRF and etc.

## Removal of Zircon Impurities

Astron has spent nearly ten years and succeeded in removing U/Th/Fe/Ti from zircon. This can greatly improve the quality of zircon. Lower impurity content makes better glaze color, which can provide premium raw materials for ceramics, refractory, casting and chemical industry in China. The concentrated U solid waste can provide uranium resource of low cost and high content to nuclear industry.

## Pelletizing technology

Rutile pelletizing is a process to solve the problem of fine rutile being unable to be used for TiCl4. This can also indirectly improve the fine rutile value. It is one of the methods of recovering the blow-off of chlorinator. With chlorination, the particle size of the rutile products being processed in this method enables better chlorination than common rutile and slag materials.

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## CP TiO2 technology

Astron spent 3 years and more than several tens of million renminbi in completing the detailed design of 90,000tpa CP TiO2 Project with the cooperation with a team of experts in China and overseas.





## **ZOC** technology

Alkaline fusion is being generally used for ZOC industry with great pollution and poor economy. Astron's CP method is environment agreeable with its by products being of improved economy.

## Sustainable Development

Astron's sustainable development encompasses our commitment and policy towards our employees, local communities, health and safety, and the environment.

## EMPLOYEES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Astron Group currently has about 60 employees. We take our responsibility to our staff seriously through our human resources policies.

Astron's HR policies demonstrate care and concern for our staff and their training, development and happiness, as well as care and concern for our customers, suppliers and shareholders. In Astron, salaries are based on competitiveness within the local market environment. Additionally, some key employees have a variable performance related bonus which is determined by prearrangement with alignment with individual and team objectives.

## LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Astron is committed to bringing positive change to the communities surrounding its mining operations. Astron's Donald Project has been planned in close consultation with the local community to provide significant economic and social benefits to the community. Astron is also in the process of planning a community fruit farming initiative in Senegal, nearby Astron's Niafarang Project and considering other options for a dried fruit business. The social impact of the Niafarang project and acceptance of it has been the focus point during the year, in particular by focusing on communication strategies and information drives on small groups. Part of the engagement with local communities has included

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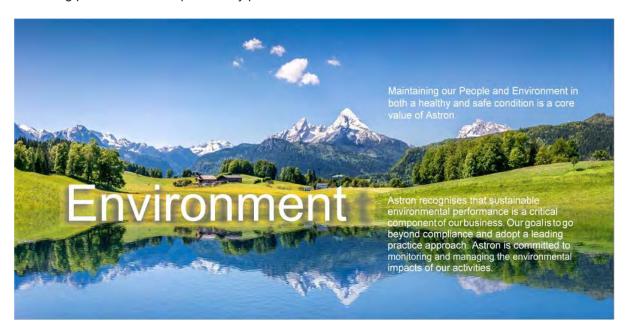


discussions of opportunities including the potential for a dried fruit business, new soccer sponsorship arrangements and other ways in which the project and Astron may benefit the local communities, as well as Senegal as a whole.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

Astron strives to be the best in class performance in all aspects of environmental management. Compliance with all applicable legal requirements and legal codes of practice is seen as a minimum standard and we work to prudently reduce emissions and waste.

The Astron Group is totally committed to continuing environmental vigilance and improving systems of control, compliance and results such as the minimisation of all kinds of waste from mining and down streaming processes where practicably possible.





#### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Board of Astron is responsible for the corporate governance of the Group. The Board guides and monitors the business and affairs of Astron on behalf of the shareholders by whom they are elected and to whom they are accountable. This statement reports on Astron's key governance principles and practices.

## 1. COMPLIANCE WITH BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Company, as a listed entity, must comply with the *Corporations Act 2001* (so far as it applies to foreign registered companies) and the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) Listing Rules. The ASX Listing Rules require the Company to report on the extent to which it has followed the Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations published by the ASX Corporate Governance Council. Where a recommendation has not been followed, that fact is disclosed, together with the reasons for the departure.

The table below summaries the Company's compliance with the Corporate Governance Council's Principles and Recommendations:

Principle #	ASX Corporate Governance Council Recommendations	Reference	Comply
Principle 1	Lay solid foundations for management and oversight		
1.1	A listed entity should disclose:	2.1	Yes
	(a) the respective roles and responsibilities of its board		
	<ul> <li>and management; and</li> <li>those matters expressly reserved to the board and those delegated to management.</li> </ul>		
1.2	A listed entity should:	2.2, 3.2	Yes
	<ul> <li>(a) undertake appropriate checks before appointing a person, or putting forward to security holders a candidate for election, as a director; and</li> </ul>		
	(b) provide security holders with all material information in its possession relevant to a decision on whether or not to elect or re-elect a director.		
1.3	A listed entity should have a written agreement with each director and senior executive setting out the terms of their appointment.	3.2	No
1.4	The company secretary of a listed entity should be accountable directly to the board, through the chair, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the board.	2.6	Yes
1.5	A listed entity should:	6.3	Yes
	<ul> <li>(a) have a diversity policy which includes requirements for the board or a relevant committee of the board to set measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity and to assess annually both the objectives and the entity's progress in achieving them;</li> <li>(b) disclose that policy or a summary of it; and</li> </ul>		

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1.5 (continued):

- (c) disclose as at the end of each reporting period the measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity set by the board or a relevant committee of the board in accordance with the entity's diversity policy and its progress towards achieving them, and either:
  - (1) the respective proportions of men and women on the board, in senior executive positions and across the whole organisation (including how the entity has defined "senior executive" for these purposes); or
  - (2) if the entity is a "relevant employer" under the Workplace Gender Equality Act, the entity's most recent "Gender Equality Indicators", as defined in and published under that Act.

1.6 A listed entity should:

- (a) have and disclose a process for periodically evaluating the performance of the board, its committees and individual directors; and
- (b) disclose, in relation to each reporting period, whether a performance evaluation was undertaken in the reporting period in accordance with that process.

1.7 A listed entity should:

- (a) have and disclose a process for periodically evaluating the performance of its senior executives; and
- (b) disclose, in relation to each reporting period, whether a performance evaluation was undertaken in the reporting period in accordance with that process.

## Principle 2 Structure the Board to add value

2.1 The board of a listed entity should:

- (a) have a nomination committee which:
  - (1) has at least three members, a majority of whom are independent directors; and
  - (2) is chaired by an independent director,

and disclose:

- (3) the charter of the committee;
- (4) the members of the committee; and
- (5) as at the end of each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings; or
- (b) if it does not have a nomination committee, disclose that fact and the processes it employs to address board succession issues and to ensure that the board has the appropriate balance of skills, knowledge, experience, independence and diversity to enable it to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively.

6.3 Yes

3.2, Remuneration Report

3.2

2.8, 3.2

Yes

Yes

No

#### **Annual Report 2017 Astron Corporation Limited ASTRON** 2.2 2.2, 2.3 Yes A listed entity should have and disclose a board skills matrix setting out the mix of skills and diversity that the board currently has or is looking to achieve in its membership. 2.3 2.3, 2.5 Yes A listed entity should disclose: the names of the directors considered by the board to be independent directors; if a director has an interest, position, association or (b) relationship of the type described in Box 2.3 (which appears on page 16 of the ASX Recommendations and is entitled "Factors relevant to assessing the independence of a director") but the board is of the opinion that it does not compromise the independence of the director, the nature of the interest, position, association or relationship in question and an explanation of why the board is of that opinion; and the length of service of each director. (c) 2.4 2.5 No A majority of the board of a listed entity should be independent directors. 2.5 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 Yes The chair of the board of a listed entity should be an independent director and, in particular, should not be the same person as the CEO of the entity. 2.6 3.2 Yes A listed entity should have a program for inducting new directors and provide appropriate professional development opportunities for directors to develop and maintain the skills and knowledge needed to perform their role as directors effectively. Principle 3 Act ethically and responsibly 3.1 6.1 Yes A listed entity should: have a code of conduct for its directors, senior executives and employees; and disclose that code or a summary of it. (b) Principle 4 Safeguard integrity in corporate reporting 4.1 The board of a listed entity should: 3.1 No have an audit committee which: (a) (1) has at least three members, all of whom are

- has at least three members, all of whom are non-executive directors and a majority of whom are independent directors; and
- (2) is chaired by an independent director, who is not the chair of the board,

## and disclose:

- (3) the charter of the committee;
- (4) the relevant qualifications and experience of the members of the committee; and
- (5) in relation to each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings; or

#### **Astron Corporation Limited** STRON 4.1 3.1 No if it does not have an audit committee, disclose that (b) (continued) fact and the processes it employs that independently verify and safeguard the integrity of its corporate reporting, including the processes for the appointment and removal of the external auditor and the rotation of the audit engagement partner. 4.2 The board of a listed entity should, before it approves the entity's 5.3 No financial statements for a financial period, receive from its CEO and CFO a declaration that, in their opinion, the financial records of the entity have been properly maintained and that the financial statements comply with the appropriate accounting standards and give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the entity and that the opinion has been formed on the basis of a sound system of risk management and internal control which is operating effectively. 4.4 4.1 No A listed entity that has an AGM should ensure that its external auditor attends its AGM and is available to answer questions from security holders relevant to the audit. Principle 5 Make timely and balanced disclosure 5.1 4.2 Yes A listed entity should: have a written policy for complying with its (a) continuous disclosure obligations under the Listing Rules; and disclose that policy or a summary of it. (b) Principle 6 Respect the rights of security holders 6.1 4.1, 4.2 Yes A listed entity should provide information about itself and its governance to investors via its website. 6.2 4.1, 4.2 Yes A listed entity should design and implement an investor relations program to facilitate effective two-way communication with investors. 6.3 4.1.4.2 Yes A listed entity should disclose the policies and processes it has in place to facilitate and encourage participation at meetings of security holders. 6.4 4.1, 4.2 Yes A listed entity should give security holders the option to receive communications from, and send communications to, the entity and its security registry electronically. Principle 7 Recognise and manage risk 7.1 3.1 No The board of a listed entity should: have a committee or committees to oversee risk, (a) each of which: (1) has at least three members, a majority of whom are independent directors; and (2) is chaired by an independent director, and disclose: (3)the charter of the committee: the members of the committee; and (4) as at the end of each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual

attendances of the members at those meetings; or

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				AGTRON	
7.1 (continued)	(b)	that sa proces	es not have a risk committee or committees atisfy (a) above, disclose that fact and the asses it employs for overseeing the entity's anagement framework.	3.1	No
7.2	7.2 The board or a committee of the board should:		5.1, 5.2	Yes	
	(a) (b)	least a sound; disclos	the entity's risk management framework at nnually to satisfy itself that it continues to be and se, in relation to each reporting period, er such a review has taken place.		
7.3				2.4	No
7.5		-	should disclose:	3.1	No
	(a)		s an internal audit function, how the function ctured and what role it performs; or		
	(b)	if it do fact ar and co	es not have an internal audit function, that not the processes it employs for evaluating ontinually improving the effectiveness of its anagement and internal control		
7.4	expos	ure to ed	should disclose whether it has any material conomic, environmental and social sustainability does, how it manages or intends to manage those	5.1	Yes
Principle 8	Remu	nerate f	airly and responsibly		
8.1	The b	oard of a	a listed entity should:	3.2	No
	(a) have a remuneration committee which:				
		(1)	has at least three members, a majority of whom are independent directors; and		
		(2)	is chaired by an independent director,		
		and dis	sclose:		
		(3)	the charter of the committee;		
		(4)	the members of the committee; and		
		(5)	as at the end of each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings; or		
	(b)	disclos setting for dire	es not have a remuneration committee, se that fact and the processes it employs for the level and composition of remuneration ectors and senior executives and ensuring uch remuneration is appropriate and not sive.		
8.2	regard	ing the r	should separately disclose its policies and practices emuneration of non-executive directors and the of executive directors and other senior executives.	3.2, Remuneration Report	Yes
8.3	A liste	-	which has an equity-based remuneration scheme	6.2, Remuneration Report	Yes
	(a) (b)	to ente of deri econo	a policy on whether participants are permitted er into transactions (whether through the use vatives or otherwise) which limit the mic risk of participating in the scheme; and se that policy or a summary of it.		



#### 2. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2.1. Roles and Responsibilities of the Board

The Board is accountable to the shareholders and investors for the overall performance of the Company and takes responsibility for monitoring the Company's business and affairs and setting its strategic direction, establishing and overseeing the Company's financial position.

The Board is responsible for:

- 2.1.1. Appointing, evaluating, rewarding and if necessary the removal of the Chief Executive Officer or their functional equivalent ("CEO") and senior management;
- 2.1.2. Development of corporate objectives and strategy with management and approving plans, new investments, major capital and operating expenditures and major funding activities proposed by management;
- 2.1.3. Monitoring actual performance against defined performance expectations and reviewing operating information to understand at all times the state of the health of the Company;
- 2.1.4. Overseeing the management of business risks, safety and occupational health, environmental issues and community development;
- 2.1.5. Satisfying itself that the financial statements of the Company fairly and accurately set out the financial position and financial performance of the Company for the period under review;
- 2.1.6. Satisfying itself that there are appropriate reporting systems and controls in place to assure the board that proper operational, financial, compliance, risk management and internal control process are in place and functioning appropriately;
- 2.1.7. Approving and monitoring financial and other reporting;
- 2.1.8. Assuring itself that appropriate audit arrangements are in place;
- 2.1.9. Ensuring that the Company acts legally and responsibly on all matters and assuring itself that the Company has adopted a Code of Conduct and that the Company practice is consistent with that Code; and other policies; and
- 2.1.10. Reporting to and advising shareholders.

Other than as specifically reserved to the Board, responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Company's business activities is delegated to the CEO and senior management.

## 2.2. Board Composition

The Directors determine the composition of the Board employing the following principles:

- 2.2.1. the Board, in accordance with the Company's constitution must comprise a minimum of three directors;
- 2.2.2. the roles of the Chairman of the Board and of the CEO should be exercised by different individuals;
- 2.2.3. the majority of the Board should comprise directors who are non-executive (however this is not currently the case and the Company is seeking to address this);
- 2.2.4. the Board should represent a broad range of qualifications, experience and expertise considered of benefit to the Company; and
- 2.2.5. the Board must be structured in such a way that it has a proper understanding of, and competency in, the current and emerging issues facing the Company, and can effectively review management's decisions.

The Company's constitution requires one-third of the directors (or the next lowest whole number) to retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting (AGM), other than the managing director. The directors to retire at each AGM are those who have been longest in

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office since their last election. Where directors have served for equal periods, they may agree amongst themselves or determine by ballot who will retire. A director must retire in any event at the third AGM since he or she was last elected or re-elected. Retiring directors may offer themselves for re-election.

A director appointed as an additional or casual director by the Board will hold office until the next AGM when they may be re-elected. Any director appointed as an additional or casual director, is not to be taken into account in determining the number of directors required to retire by rotation.

## 2.3. Board Membership

The Board is currently comprised of one non-executive directors and two executive directors. Details of the Board member's experience, expertise and qualifications are set out in the Directors' Report of the Annual Report under the heading "Directors".

The Board of Directors at the time of issue of this report comprises:

- 2.3.1. Gerard (Gerry) King (Chairman of Directors (Non-Executive))
- 2.3.2. Alexander (Alex) Brown (Managing Director/President)
- 2.3.3. Mdm Kang Rong (Executive)

#### 2.4. Chairman

The Chairman is responsible for:

- 2.4.1. leadership of the Board;
- 2.4.2. the efficient organisation and conduct of the Board's functions;
- 2.4.3. the promotion of constructive and respectful relations between Board members and between the Board and management;
- 2.4.4. facilitating the effective contribution of all Board members; and
- 2.4.5. committing the time necessary to effectively discharge the role of the Chairman.

The CEO is responsible for:

- 2.4.6. briefing directors in relation to issues arising at Board meetings;
- 2.4.7. implementing the Company's strategies and policies; and
- 2.4.8. the day-to-day management of the Group's business activities.

The Board specifies that the roles of the Chairman and the CEO are separate roles to be undertaken by separate people.

#### 2.5. Independent Directors

The Company recognises that independent directors are important in assuring shareholders that the Board is properly fulfilling its role and is diligent in holding senior management accountable for its performance. The Board assesses each of the directors against specific criteria to decide whether they are in a position to exercise independent judgment.

Directors of Astron are considered to be independent when they are independent of management and free from any business or other relationship that could materially interfere with, or could reasonably be perceived to materially interfere with, the exercise of their unfettered and independent judgement.

In making this assessment, the Board considers all relevant facts and circumstances. Relationships that the Board will take into consideration when assessing independence are whether a director:

2.5.1. is a substantial shareholder of the Company or an officer of, or otherwise associated directly with, a substantial shareholder of the Company;

## **Astron Corporation Limited**



- 2.5.2. is employed, or has previously been employed in an executive capacity by the Company or another group member, and there has not been a period of at least three years between ceasing such employment and serving on the Board;
- 2.5.3. has within the last three years been a principal of a material professional advisor or a material consultant to the Company or another group member, or an employee materially associated with the service provided;
- 2.5.4. is a material supplier or customer of the Company or other group member, or an officer of or otherwise associated directly or indirectly with a material supplier or customer; or
- 2.5.5. has a material contractual relationship with the Company or another group member other than as a director.
- 2.5.6. has been a director of the entity for such a period that his or her independence may have been compromised.

The Board notes that the mere fact that a director has served on a Board for a substantial period does not mean that he or she has become too close to management to be considered not independent. The Board will regularly assess the independence of all and any director who serves on the Board.

Family ties and cross-directorships may be relevant in considering interests and relationships which may affect independence, and should be disclosed to the Board.

The Company does not comply with ASX Recommendation 2.4, as there is not a majority of non-executive directors nor is there a majority of independent directors on the Board. In accordance with the definition of independence above, only one of the directors of the Company is considered to be independent.

The Board believes that the Company is not of sufficient size to warrant the inclusion of more independent non-executive directors in order to meet the ASX recommendation of maintaining a majority of independent non-executive directors. The Company maintains a mix of directors from different backgrounds with complementary skills and experience.

In recognition of the importance of independent views and the Board's role in supervising the activities of management the Chairman is a non-executive director.

## 2.6. Company Secretary

The appointment, performance, review, and where appropriate, the removal of the Company Secretary is a key responsibility of the Board. All directors have access to the Company Secretary who is accountable directly to the Board, through the Chairman, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board.

## 2.7. Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest by a Director

In order to ensure that any interests of a director in a particular matter to be considered by the Board are known by each director, each director is required by the Company to disclose any relationships, duties or interests held that may give rise to a potential conflict. Directors are required to adhere strictly to constraints on their participation and voting in relation to any matters in which they may have an interest.

Directors are able to access members of the management team at any time to request relevant information. There are procedures in place, agreed by the board, to enable directors, in furtherance of their duties, to seek independent professional advice at the company's expense.

#### 2.8. Review of Board Performance

The performance of the board and each of its committees is reviewed at least annually by the Chairman. Performance evaluations are conducted annually which involve an assessment of each board member's performance against specific and measurable qualitative and quantitative performance criteria. The performance criteria against which directors and executives are

## **Astron Corporation Limited**



assessed is aligned with the financial and non-financial objectives of Astron. Directors whose performance is consistently unsatisfactory may be asked to retire.

The performance of each committee is against the requirements of their respective charters.

#### 3. BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board has the ability under the Company's constitution to delegate its powers and responsibilities to committees of the Board.

#### 3.1. Audit and Risk Committee

The Board does not have an Audit and Risk Committee and as such the Group is not in compliance with Principle 4.1 of the ASX Corporate Governance Council. The Board considers that the Group is not of a size, nor are its financial affairs of such complexity to justify the formation of a separate audit and risk committee. The Board as a whole undertakes the selection and proper application of accounting policies, the identification and management of risk and the review of the operation of the internal control systems. The Board considers that the experience and qualifications of the Board will assure the integrity of the financial statements of the Group and the independence of the external auditor.

The Board ensures that the auditor is invited to attend all general meetings of shareholders.

The Board in lieu of an Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for:

- 3.1.1. reviewing the quality and integrity of the Group's financial reporting to shareholders, ASX and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission:
- 3.1.2. reviewing the accounting policies, internal controls, practices and disclosures to assist the Board in making informed decisions, with direct access to management;
- 3.1.3. reviewing the scope and outcome of external audits, with direct access to external auditors:
- 3.1.4. nominating external auditors and reviewing the adequacy of existing external audit arrangements;
- ensuring the independence of external auditors and reviewing any other services provided by them;
- 3.1.6. reviewing the Group's risk management systems; and
- 3.1.7. reporting on meetings and the results of any assessments and reviews.

#### **External Auditor**

The Company's policy is to appoint external auditors who clearly demonstrate quality and independence. The performance of the external auditor is reviewed annually, taking into consideration assessment of performance, existing value and tender costs.

An analysis of fees paid to the external auditors, including a breakdown of fees for non-audit services, is provided in the notes to the financial statements. It is the policy of the external auditors to provide an annual declaration of their independence to the Board.

#### **Internal Audit**

The Company does not currently have a formal internal audit function however the Board oversee the effectiveness of risk management and internal control.

The Board works closely with management to identify and manage operational, financial and compliance risks which could prevent the Company from achieving its objectives. The Board actively encourages the External Auditor to raise internal control issues, and oversees management's timely remediation thereof.

## 3.2. Remuneration and Nomination Committee

Given the present size of the Group, the existing Board is able to meet the needs of the Group in the examination of selection and appointment practices without the establishment of a nomination committee of the Board as recommended under Principle 2.1.

**Astron Corporation Limited** 



## Remuneration

The remuneration received by directors and executives in the current period is contained in the "Remuneration Report" section in the Directors' Report of the Annual Report.

The Company seeks to attract and retain directors and executives with the appropriate expertise and ability to create value for shareholders.

The remuneration structure for non-executive directors is not related to performance. The Company aims to ensure non-executive directors receive fees which reflect their skills, responsibilities and the time commitments required to discharge their duties. The Company does not pay retirement benefits to non-executive directors (other than superannuation contributions in accordance with its statutory superannuation obligations).

The remuneration structure for executive directors and other executives reflects the Company's financial resources and as such there is not currently a direct correlation between the executive's reward and individual and Company performance so as to seek to ensure that the Company's remuneration policy is aligned with its long term business objectives and the interests of shareholders and other stakeholders.

#### **Nomination**

A profile of each director is included in the Directors' Report of the Annual Report under the heading "Directors". The Company does not have a written agreement in place with each director setting out the terms of their appointment. The committee and the Board consider the composition of the Board at least annually, when assessing the Board's performance and when considering director election and re-election.

In considering whether the Board will support the election or re-election of incumbent directors, the committee considers the skills, experience, expertise, diversity and contribution made to the Board by the director and the contribution that the director is likely to make if elected or re-elected.

When considering appointing new directors, the committee assesses the range of skills, experience, expertise, diversity and other attributes from which the Board would benefit and to the extent to which current directors possess such attributes. This assessment allows the committee to provide the Board with a recommendation concerning the attributes for a new director, such that they balance those of existing directors.

All material information that is relevant to the decision as to whether or not to elect or re-elect a director is provided to shareholders in the explanatory notes accompanying the notice of meeting for the Annual General Meeting at which the election or re-election is to be considered.

## 4. TIMELY AND BALANCED DISCLOSURE

#### 4.1. Shareholder Communication

The Company believes that all shareholders should have equal and timely access to material information about the Company including its financial situation, performance, ownership and governance.

The Board aims to ensure that shareholders are informed of all material information relating to the Company by communicating to shareholders through:

- 4.1.1. continuous disclosure reporting to the ASX;
- 4.1.2. its annual reports; and
- 4.1.3. media releases and other investor relations publications on the Company's website.

The Company provides other information about itself and its governance via its website.

## **Two-way Communication**

The Board is also mindful of the importance of not only providing information, but also enabling two-way communication between the Company and its shareholders.

## **Astron Corporation Limited**



The Company encourages direct electronic contact from shareholders – the Company's website has a "Contact Us" section which allows shareholders to submit questions or comments.

The Company provides shareholder materials directly to shareholders through electronic means. A shareholder may request a hard copy of the Company's annual report to be posted to them. Shareholders may also communicate via electronic means with the Company's Share Registry and may register to access personal shareholding information and receive electronic information.

#### **General Meetings**

Shareholders are encouraged to participate in general meetings. Copies of any addresses by the Chairman or CEO are disclosed to the market and published on the Company's website.

At the meeting the Chairman encourages questions and comments from shareholders and seeks to ensure that shareholders are given ample opportunity to participate.

The Company's external auditor does not attend the Company's annual general meeting to answer shareholder questions about the conduct of the audit, the preparation and content of the audit report, the accounting policies adopted by the Company and the independence of the auditor in relation to the conduct of the audit, however the Company will facilitate any questions from shareholders about these matters.

## 4.2. Continuous Disclosure Policy

The Company is committed to ensuring that shareholders and the market are provided with full and timely information and that all stakeholders have equal opportunities to receive externally available information issued by the Company.

The Company's "ASX Disclosure Policy" encourages effective communication with its shareholders by requiring that Company announcements:

- 4.2.1. be factual and subject to internal vetting and authorisation before issue:
- 4.2.2. be made in a timely manner;
- 4.2.3. not omit material information;
- 4.2.4. be expressed in a clear and objective manner to allow investors to assess the impact of the information when making investment decisions;
- 4.2.5. be in compliance with ASX Listing Rules continuous disclosure requirements; and
- 4.2.6. be placed on the Company's website following release.

The Company's "ASX Disclosure Policy" reinforces the Company's commitment to continuous disclosure and outline management's accountabilities and the processes to be followed for ensuring compliance.

The policy also contains guidelines on information that may be price sensitive. The Company Secretary has been nominated as the person responsible for communications with the ASX. This role includes responsibility for ensuring compliance with the continuous disclosure requirements with the ASX Listing Rules and overseeing and coordinating information disclosure to the ASX.

#### 5. RECOGNISING AND MANAGING RISK

#### 5.1. Board responsibility for risk management

The Board is responsible for ensuring there are adequate policies in relation to risk management, compliance and internal control systems. The Company's policies are designed to ensure strategic, operational, legal, reputation and financial risks are identified, assessed, effectively and efficiently managed and monitored to enable achievement of the Company's business objectives. Considerable importance is placed on maintaining a strong control environment.

The Company has exposure to the following risks:

## **Astron Corporation Limited**



- 5.1.1. Funding: the Company is subject to the risks in relation to funding its projects. The Board will continue to monitor these rissks.
- 5.1.2. Currency: The Company is exposed to fluctuations in the Australian dollar which can impact on expenditures related to project development and potentially future operations. Due to the size and assets of the Company the Board has not instigated a hedging program. The Board will continue to review the implementation of hedging at each Board meeting to ensure it fits within the Company's hedging policy framework and is deemed appropriate.
- 5.1.3. Environmental: The Company is subject to, and responsible for existing environmental liabilities associated with its tenements as well as potential new liabilities through future mining activities. The Company will continually monitor its ongoing environmental obligations and risks, and implement rehabilitation and corrective actions as appropriate to remain compliant. These risks may be impacted by change in Government policy.
- 5.1.4. Market Risk: The Company seeks to reduce investment risk by regularly monitoring the market and considering at each Board meeting the ongoing benefits of carrying investments or disposal. There are inherent uncertainty risks in the mineral sands market, noting the difficult market conditions over recent years.

## 5.2. Board Oversight of the Risk Management System

The Board is responsible for approving and overseeing the risk management system. The Board reviews, at least annually, the effectiveness of the implementation of the risk management controls and procedures.

The principle aim of the system of internal control is the management of business risks, with a view to enhancing the value of shareholders' investments and safeguarding assets. Although no system of internal control can provide absolute assurance that the business risks will be fully mitigated, the internal control systems have been designed to meet the Company's specific needs and the risks to which it is exposed.

Annually, the Board is responsible for identifying the risks facing the Company, assessing the risks and ensuring that there are controls for these risks, which are to be designed to ensure that any identified risk is reduced to an acceptable level.

Internal control measures currently adopted by the Board include:

- 5.2.1. regular reporting to the Board in respect of operations and the Company's financial position; and
- 5.2.2. regular reports to the Board by appropriate members of the management team outlining the nature of particular risks and highlighting measures which are either in place or can be adopted to manage or mitigate those risks.

## 5.3. Risk Management Roles and Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for approving and reviewing the Company's risk management strategy and policy. Senior management is responsible for implementing the Board approved risk management strategy and developing policies, controls, processes and procedures to identify and manage risks in all of the Company's activities.

The Board in place of the Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for ensuring that management has developed and implemented a sound system of risk management and internal control.

#### 6. ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKING

#### 6.1. Code of Ethics and Conduct

The Board endeavours to ensure that the directors, officers and employees of the Company act with integrity and observe the highest standards of behaviour and business ethics in relation to their corporate activities. The "Code of Conduct" sets out the principles, practices, and standards of personal behaviour the Company expects people to adopt in their daily

## **Astron Corporation Limited**



business activities.

All directors, officers and employees are required to comply with the Code of Conduct. Senior managers are expected to ensure that employees, contractors, consultants, agents and partners under their supervision are aware of the Company's expectations as set out in the Code of Conduct.

All directors, officers and employees are expected to:

- 6.1.1. comply with the law;
- 6.1.2. act in the best interests of the Company;
- 6.1.3. be responsible and accountable for their actions; and
- 6.1.4. observe the ethical principles of fairness, honesty and truthfulness, including prompt disclosure of potential conflicts.

## 6.2. Policy Concerning Trading in Company Securities

Effective 1 January 2011, the Board implemented a Share Trading Policy that applies to all directors, officers and employees. This policy sets out the restrictions on dealing in securities by people who work for, or are associated with the Company and is intended to assist in maintaining market confidence in the integrity of dealings in the Company's securities. The policy stipulates that the only appropriate time for a director, officer or employee to deal in the Company's securities is when they are not in possession of price sensitive information that is not generally available to the market.

As a matter of practice, Company shares may only be dealt with by directors and officers of the Company under the following guidelines:

- 6.2.1. no trading is permitted in the period of one month prior to the announcement to the ASX of the Company's quarterly, half year and full year results;
- 6.2.2. guidelines are to be considered complementary to and not replace the various sections of the *Corporations Act 2001* dealing with insider trading; and
- 6.2.3. prior approval of the Chairman, or in his absence, the approval of two directors is required prior to any trading being undertaken.
- 6.2.4. Senior management are prohibited from entering into transactions which limit the risk of participating in unvested entitlements under any equity-based remuneration scheme.

#### 6.3. Policy Concerning Diversity

The Company encourages diversity in employment throughout the Company and in the composition of the Board, as a mechanism to ensure that the Company is able to draw on a variety of skill, talent and previous experiences in order to maximise the Company's performance.

The Company's "Diversity Policy" has been implemented to ensure the Company has the benefit of a diverse range of employees with different skills, experience, age, gender, race and cultural backgrounds. The Company reports its results on an annual basis in the Annual Report in achieving measurable targets which are set by the Board as part of implementation of the Diversity Policy.

The Company notes that out of two (2) Executive Directors, one (1) is female. In relation to senior executive positions, out of seven (7) two (2) are female. Out of the total of 62 employees, 19 are female.

Astron is not a "relevant employer" under the *Workplace Gender Equality Act*. The table below outlines the diversity objectives established by the Board, the steps taken during the year to achieve these objectives, and the outcomes.

**Astron Corporation Limited** 



## **Objectives**

Increase the number of women in the workforce, including management and at board level.

Review gender pay gaps on an annual basis and implement actions to address any variances.

Provide flexible workplace arrangements.

Provide career development opportunities for every employee, irrespective of any cultural, gender and other that treats the workforce with fairness and respect.

Be compliant with all requirements.

#### **Steps Taken/Outcome**

Out of two (2) Executive Directors, one (1) is female. In relation to senior executive positions, out of seven (7), two (2) are female. Out of the total of 62 employees, 19 are female.

As a part of the annual remuneration review, the Board assesses the performance and salaries of all key management personnel and executive directors. Any gender pay disparities are addressed.

During the year Astron employed 3 employees on flexible work arrangements (2017: 7).

While Astron places special focus on gender diversity, career development opportunities are equal for all employees. Employees are encouraged to attend professional development courses/workshops throughout the year.

Promote an inclusive culture Astron has set a zero tolerance policy against discrimination of employees at all levels. The Company provides avenues to employees to voice their concerns or report any discrimination. No cases of discrimination were reported during the year (2015: Nil).

Astron is not a "relevant employer" under the Australian mandatory diversity reporting Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012.

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**Directors' Report** 30 June 2017

The Directors of Astron Corporation Limited (the 'Company') present their report on the consolidated entity ('Group' or 'Astron'), consisting of Astron Corporation Limited and the entities it controlled at the end of, and during, the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

#### **Directors**

The following persons were Directors of Astron Corporation Limited for part of the financial year and up to the date of this report:

#### **Names**

Mr. Gerard King Mr. Alexander Brown Mdm. Kang Rong

#### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the Group during the financial year were:

- Exploration, evaluation and progress of the feasibility assessment of the Donald mineral sands mining and processing project ("DMS")
- Evaluation and progress of the feasibility of the Senegal Niafarang mineral sands mining processing project ("Senegal")
- Evaluation and advancement of downstream applications for zircon and titanium
- Titanium based materials trading

There have been no significant changes in the nature of the Group's principal activities during the financial year.

## **Significant Changes to Group Structure**

There have been no significant changes to the Astron group structure in the financial year ending 30 June 2017.

#### **Financial Position**

The net assets of the Group have decreased to \$102,658,339 a decrease of \$3,065,613 from 2016.

The net assets have been affected by:

- Foreign exchange impact on foreign controlled assets of \$1,552,672
- Net loss for the year of \$2,590,844
- Income tax refunds from the 2016 year due to a research and development tax incentive of \$727,895
- Legal fees associated with the Gambian litigation \$134,987

#### **Dividends**

No final dividend was proposed for the year ended 30 June 2017 (2016: Nil).

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#### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

#### **Review of Operations**

#### **Financials**

Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income

- Total income and other income comprising sales, interest received and other income increased from the prior year by 231% to \$2,555,312. This was due to the increase trading in the Chinese markets over the prior year.
- Gross margins from the trading business improved in line with the market conditions in Chinese mineral sands markets.
- Administration expenditure was broadly consistent with the prior year due to the ongoing expenditure rationalisation.
- Costs associated with Gambia litigation comprise legal fees and associated advisors' costs.

#### Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

- The increase in inventories reflects the strengthening of the mineral sands markets in China and Astron's ongoing sales program which is anticipated to increase significantly during the 2018 financial year.
- Available for sale financial assets comprise shares in Saison Steel, Trek Metals and Greenpower Energy.
  The combined market value of these investments has increased by \$164,798 to \$217,293. During the year
  an investment in Altona Mining was sold, reducing the 2016 carrying value by \$487,742. The market
  movement has been debited to the financial assets available-for-sale reserve in the statement of financial
  position.
- The increase in intangible assets arises from further exploration expenditure capitalised in respect of the Donald Mineral Sands and Senegal Niafarang projects.
- Land use rights comprise 50-year land use leases. These leases are capitalised and amortised over the 50-year period. The decrease in the carrying value to \$3,010,784 over the 30 June 2016 value is attributable to foreign exchange movement after accounting for leasehold amortisation.
- The decrease in the net asset value from 29.9 cps at 30 June 2016 to 24.4 cps at 30 June 2017 primarily relates to the group loss for the year and foreign exchange movements on assets held outside Australia.

#### Operations review

#### **Donald**

The development of the Donald project ("DMS") continued during the year. Progress was made in the following areas:

#### Engineering

Conceptual engineering and design was completed in early 2017 to allow for a feasibility level tendering process to be carried out. The mapping, budgeting and operational assessments were completed.

Detailed mine planning including tailing plan and mapping was completed for the feasibility level.

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#### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

#### Execution strategy

The execution strategy for the project will involve a standalone design contract for the Australian processing plant, reflecting a modular plant construction and assembly through a Chinese fabrication yard. The module assembly, and all wraparound construction will be conducted under several local construction contracts, and managed by a single integrated owners team.

#### Approvals

A summary of the status of relevant approvals is as follows:

Approval type	Status	Date
Environment or Effects Statement (ESS)	Approved	2008
Mining licence	Approved	August 2010
Cultural Heritage Management plan	Approved	January 2014
Water rights	Secured	2012
Radiation licence	Approved	December 2014
Export permit	Approved	December 2016
Work plan test pit	Submitted	March 2017
Work Authority test pit	Approved	August 2017

#### Project Infrastructure

It is estimated that 13km of local road upgrades will be required, together with 11km for the installation of designated water supply to the project site. Wherever possible, funding assistance has been considered from state and regional departments.

Detailed Engineering has been undertaken for site access roadways and Minyip township heavy vehicle bypass routes were completed in Q3 2016. These designs were completed with review and approval from state regulators and relevant stakeholders.

Power Systems are proposed to be by way of gas / diesel powered generation system, for which compatibility and suitability assessments were completed in Q4 2016. The specific nature of the site with a modulated plant design supports localised generation systems. The ability to install additional generator banks as needed supports the project with the ability to increase production physicals as necessary.

In relation to the water pipeline, hydraulic assessments and pipeline engineering designs were completed in Q3 2016. The piping system design catered for full scale operations with capacities for future expansions. Discussions with public, private, partnership (PPP) groups have commenced. With integration, supply and network load sheading from the local pipeline network has the potential for localised network infrastructure to potentially provide the project commencement water supply demand.

Separation test work on China floatation and product trials for customers

Bulk sample approval was received post year end. The bulk sample is anticipated to provide 3,000t of ore material for testing of floatation mineral separation methods at the Chinese Mining Institute, with a third party toll processor and product trials for customers.

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#### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

#### Risk assessment

Risk assessments have been conducted at various stages, and major risks have been ranked and prioritized. The most significant technical risks are associated with site water and tailings management, and operational logistics of large mining equipment inside the pit. Test work has been conducted to quantify these risks and management plans have been put in place to address them. These risks have been logged as part of the Victorian WorkPlan process. Additional risks will be associated with ensuring that long-lead items are expedited, and that module assembly is completed on schedule and to an acceptable level of quality. These risks will all be specifically managed with specific management plans and designated hires into the project team.

#### **Funding**

Astron continues to work with interested parties to fund this project. Astron and CMEC have extended their current EPC Contract to 1 December 2017.

#### Environmental

Data collection and surveys commenced with consultancy groups to populate the mine site Work Plan permit for Noise, Air Quality and Dust, Native Vegetation, Sensitive receptors and Radiation.

#### Work plan

The work plan has been submitted.

## Community Engagement

DMS representatives have attended courses and workshops in Melbourne and Bendigo to compliment DMS ability to develop and execute DMS' community engagement plan which required certification, which has now been received.

#### China operations

Work in China continued to test and develop technology to be applied for downstream advancement of Group minerals.

Mineral sales increased as the Zircon market demand continues to improve.

#### Senegal

## Mining licence

The Mining Licence was awarded in June 2017.

#### Environmental Approval

Conceptual workshops in Senegal and China have produced clear transportation and logistics plans to be included in the amended environmental approval.

#### Detailed Mine Design

MinxCon from South Africa commenced detailed mine design in mid-August 2017.

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#### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

#### Community Engagement and Resettlement

Meetings and collaboration have been undertaken with local and state representatives for the implementation of the re-settlement plan of the local isolated communities situated within the mining licence lease area.

#### Procurement

Review, design and procurement of equipment and consumables commenced in July 2017.

Resources have been sourced in Dakar including office space, accounting support, commercial legal support and transport during July and August 2017. Logistics and operational processes work is ongoing with Contractual agreements set for execution in September 2017. Once complete it is anticipated that the assets will be transferred from Exploration and Evaluation to Mining and Development assets.

#### **America**

Astron continues to seek mineral sands opportunities in the USA for processing and sale in China.

#### Significant Changes in State of Affairs

There have been no significant changes in the Group's state of affairs during the financial year.

#### Matters Subsequent to the end of the Financial Year

As at 30 June 2017 \$10,050,196 is due to the Group from the 2015 sale of surplus land in China. Subsequent to year end, \$1.7 million has been received against this receivable. Approximately \$3.8 million has been received pursuant to pre-payment for the future supply of materials under an offtake agreement to fund the development of the Senegal mine.

In September 2017, Astron incorporated a new Senegalese entity "Senegal Mineral Resources" for the Senegal project with a 3% non controlling interest.

There are no other matters or circumstances that have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Group, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Group in future financial years.

## **Likely Developments**

The Group continues to explore funding options for the Donald Mineral Sands project. During the next financial year the Group expects to:

- Commission and receive first offtake from the Senegal project;
- Complete the test pit and bulk sample from the Donald project mine area;
- Finalise testing and feasibility of the Donald project;
- Complete the funding process for Donald project; and
- Finalise approvals for the commencement of the construction of Donald project

Work continues on the Donald project technical optimisation, including further work on mining method refinement, tailing treatment majorization, processing flow process, updating and comparing logistics options.

As the Senegalese Niafarang project commences production, the Group will have an additional revenue source, which will have an immediate impact on the financial position of the Group. The Group's business strategies continue to be based on being a high-quality producer of zircon and titanium (together with associated products) focused on sales and marketing activities in China.

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## **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

#### **Environmental Regulation**

The Group's operations are in China, Senegal and Australia. In Australia, our Environmental Effects Statement for the Donald mine has been approved. The Group complied with all environmental regulations in relation to mining operations and there were no reportable environmental matters from the Australian operations.

Once these projects have been developed the Group will if applicable apply the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act of 2007.

In China, the Group continues to work closely with the local authorities to ensure high standards are maintained. In relation to the proposed manufacturing processes in China, there were no exceptions noted by regular local government environmental testing and supervision. Further the development projects will be implemented with best practice standards carefully monitored by the local authorities.

To the best of the Directors' knowledge, the Group has adequate systems in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of all environmental legislation described above and are not aware of any breach of those requirements during the financial year and up to the date of the Directors' report.

## **Occupational Health and Safety**

During the year there were no lost time injuries.

## **Director Information**

Mr. Gerard King	Chairman (Non-executive)	
Qualifications	LLB	
Experience	- Board Member since 6 December 2011 (Astron Limited: 5 November 1985)	
	<ul> <li>Former partner of law firm Phillips Fox and has had over 30 years of experience in corporate and business advising including acting as a Director of a number of Australian Public Companies</li> </ul>	
Interest in Shares #	49,038 Ordinary shares	
Special Responsibilities	Mr. King is the Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee and the Chairman of the Remuneration & Nomination Committee	
Directorships held in other listed entities	Mr. King is a Director of Greenpower Energy Limited (appointed 4 November 1985) which was listed on 5 March 2008.	

Company Number: 1687414

#### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

Mr. Alexander Brown President (Executive)

Qualifications B AgSc

Experience - Board Member since 6 December 2011 (Astron Limited: 4

February 1988)

 Wide commercial experience of over 30 years in construction, mining and exploration including developing the Horseshoe Lights Gold Mine at Meekathara W.A., expanding the Gunnedah Coal Mine, in NSW, and successfully drilling for oil and gas in

Thailand and USA.

 Mr Brown also started with others a major advanced plastics pipe company Europipe Sdn Bhd in Malaysia in 1987 which manufactured and distributed its products throughout Asia and Australasia. In the last 20+ years his activities have focused in

building the Astron business in China.

Interest in Shares # 94,183,124 Ordinary shares

Special Responsibilities Mr. Brown is the President and responsible for the operations of the

Group

Directorships held in other listed

entities

Mr. Brown is not currently a Director of another listed company.

Mdm Kang Rong Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Managing Director (Executive)

Qualifications B.E.(Chem)

Experience - Board member since 31 January 2012 (Astron Limited: 21 August 2006)

Mdm Kang Rong worked as a Chemical Production Engineer at Shenyang Chemical Company (a major Chinese company

based in Shenyang (Liaoning Province). She then moved to Hainan Island China and worked in sales and administration for

the Japanese trading co. Nissei, Ltd.

 She joined Astron in 1995 as marketing manager of Shenyang Astron Mining Industry. Since then she has overseen Astron's China operations and global sales and has been largely

responsible for the growth and development of the Company.

Interest in Shares # 4,000,000 Ordinary Shares

Special Responsibilities As Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Managing Director is in

charge of all Astron's operations

Directorships held in other listed

entities

Mdm Kang Rong is not currently a Director of another listed

company.

# Interest in Shares includes directly, indirectly, beneficially or potentially beneficially held shares.

Company Number: 1687414

#### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

## **Meetings of Directors**

During the financial year, two meetings of Directors (excluding committees of Directors) were held for Astron Corporation Limited. Attendances by each Director at Directors' meeting, audit and risk committee and remuneration and nominating committee meetings during the year were as follows:

#### **Astron Corporation Limited**

Directors' Meetings

Number eligible to attend

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

Mr. Gerard King Mr. Alexander Brown Mdm Kang Rong

## **Share Options**

No options over issued shares or interests in the Group or a controlled entity were granted during or since the end of the financial year and there were no options outstanding at the date of this report.

#### **Remuneration Report**

## Policy for determining the nature and amount of Key Management Personnel (KMP) remuneration

The remuneration policy of the Group has been designed to align Director and executive objectives with shareholder and business objectives by providing a fixed remuneration component and offering potential long-term incentives based on key performance areas affecting the Group's financial results. The board of Astron Corporation Limited believes the remuneration policy to be appropriate and effective in its ability to attract and retain the best executives and Directors to run and manage the Group, as well as create goal congruence between Directors, executives and shareholders.

The board's policy for determining the nature and amount or remuneration for the board members and senior executives of the Group is as follows:

- The remuneration policy for the executive Directors and other senior executives was developed by the remuneration committee and approved by the board after seeking professional advice from an independent external consultant.
- All executives receive a market related base salary (which is based on factors such as length of service and experience), other statutory benefits and potential performance incentives.
- The remuneration committee reviews executive packages annually by reference to the Group's performance, executive performance and comparable information from industry sectors.

The performance of executives is measured against criteria agreed with each executive and is based predominantly on the forecast growth of the Group's profits and shareholders' value. All bonuses and incentives are linked to the performance of the individual and are discretionary. The objective is designed to attract the highest caliber of executives and reward them for performance that results in long term growth in shareholder wealth.

Company Number: 1687414

#### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

At the discretion of the Committee from time to time shares are issued to executives to reflect their achievements. There are presently no option based schemes in place.

Where applicable executive Directors and executives receive a superannuation guarantee contribution required by the government, which is currently 9.5%, and do not receive any other retirement benefits.

Some individuals, however, have chosen to sacrifice part of their salary to increase payments towards superannuation.

If shares are given to Directors and/or executives, these shares are issued at the market price of those shares.

The board policy is to remunerate non-executive Directors at market rates for time, commitment and responsibilities. The Board determines payments to the non-executive Directors and reviews their remuneration annually, based on market practice, duties and accountability. Independent external advice is sought when required. The maximum aggregate amount of fees that can be paid to non-executive Directors is subject to approval by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting. Fees for non-executive Directors are not linked to the performance of the Group. However, to align Director's interests with shareholder interests, the Directors are encouraged to hold shares in the Group.

#### Performance based remuneration

As part of each executive Director and executive's remuneration package there is a discretionary bonus element. The intention of this program is to facilitate goal congruence between Directors/executives with that of the business and shareholders.

In determining whether or not each executive Director and executive's bonus is due, the remuneration committee bases the assessment on audited figures and independent reports where appropriate.

The remuneration committee reserves the right to award bonuses where performance expectation has prima facie not been met but it is considered in the interests of the Group to continue to reward that individual.

There were no bonuses paid during the year to KMP's. Current bonus arrangements entered into with the KMP:

int of bonus
ınt

Tim Chase \$20,000

Other KMPs are entitled to the annual bonus program of the Group, which will be based on the performance of the group and at the discretion of the Board. The terms of the bonus program are in the process of being defined.

## Company performance, shareholder wealth and directors and executive's remuneration

The remuneration policy has been tailored to increase goal congruence between shareholders and Directors and executives. This has been achieved by awarding discretionary bonuses to encourage the alignment of personal and shareholder interests. The Group believes this policy to have been effective in increasing shareholder wealth and the Group's consolidated statement of financial position over the past five years.

The following table shows the gross revenue, profits and dividends for the last five years for the listed entity, as well as the share price at the end of the respective financial years.

Company Number: 1687414

## **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

	2013 \$	2014 \$	2015 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$
Income ('000)	12,970	5,148	11,739	1,106	2,555
Net Profit/(Loss) ('000)	(5,466)	(7,583)	7,989	(4,408)	(2,591)
Share Price at Year-end	0.71	0.32	0.15	0.17	0.16
Dividends Paid ('000)	-	-	-	-	_

In 2012 Astron implemented a 2 for 1 share split and in 2015 Astron returned 75 cents per share to shareholders. Income for 2015 includes \$11,081,124 being the gain on sale of leasehold land in China.

## **Key Management Personnel**

The following persons were key management personnel (KMP) of the Group during the financial year:

	Position Held
Mr. Gerard King	Chairman-Non-executive
Mr. Alexander Brown	President
Mdm Kang Rong	Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Managing Director (Executive)
Mr. Tim Chase	Project Executive – Donald
Mr. Joshua Theunissen	Australian Company Secretary

## Shareholdings

Details of equity instruments (other than options and rights) held directly, indirectly, beneficially or potentially beneficially by key management personnel and their related parties are as follows:

30 June 2017	Balance 1/07/2016	Shares (sold) /purchased	Balance 30/06/2017
Key Management Personnel			
Mr. Gerard King	49,038	-	49,038
Mr. Alexander Brown	94,183,124	-	94,183,124
Mdm Kang Rong	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
Mr. Tim Chase	-	-	-
Mr. Joshua Theunissen	100	_	100
Total	98,232,262	-	98,232,262

Company Number: 1687414

### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

### **Details of Remuneration**

Details of compensation by key management personnel of Astron Corporation Limited Group are set out below:

#### Year ended 30 June 2017

				Post- employment		
	Short term	benefits		benefits		
	Cash, fees salary & commissions \$	Non-cash Benefits/ Other \$	Termination Payments \$	Superannuation \$	Total \$	% of remuneration that is performance based
Directors						
Mr. Gerard King	109,589	-		- 10,411	120,000	0%
Mr. Alexander Brown (#1)	250,000	-			250,000	0%
Mdm Kang Rong (#1)	250,000	-			250,000	0%
Other key management personnel						
Mr. Tim Chase	218,264	22,559		- 20,735	261,558	7%
Mr. Joshua Theunissen (#1)	67,575	-			67,575	0%
	895,428	22,559		- 31,146	949,133	

### Note reference #:

1. Paid or payable to management company

### **Use of Remuneration Consultants**

The Board have previously employed external consultants to review and to provide recommendations in respect of the amount and elements of executive remuneration, including short-term and long-term incentive plan design.

No remuneration consultants were employed during the year.

### **Termination Payment**

No termination payments were paid during the year to Key Management Personnel.

### **Share Based Payments**

During the year a share based payment related to achievement of milestones with respect to the Senegal project was recognised totalling \$913,104, representing 3% of a calculation of the Senegal projects fair value. This cost was capitalised into the Senegal project asset. No share based payments were made during the year ended 30 June 2016.

### Voting and comments at the Company's 2016 Annual General Meeting

The Company received 97.3% of "yes" votes on its remuneration report for the 2016 financial year. The Company did not receive any specific feedback at the AGM on its remuneration report.

Company Number: 1687414

### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

### Year ended 30 June 2016

	Short term	benefits	Post- employment benefits			
	Cash, fees salary & commissions \$	Non-cash Benefits/ Other \$	Superannuation \$	Termination	Total \$	% of remuneration that is performance based
Directors						
Mr. Gerard King	109,589		- 10,411	-	120,000	0%
Mr. Alexander Brown (#1)	250,000		-		250,000	0%
Mdm Kang Rong (#1)	250,000				250,000	0%
Other key management personnel						
Mr. Mark Coetzee (#2)	146,161	58,657	7	42,281	247,099	0%
Mr. Tim Chase Mr. Joshua Theunissen	168,333	20,640	15,992	2 -	204,965	0%
<u>(</u> #1)	55,636		-		55,636	0%
	979,719	79,297	7 26,403	42,281	1,127,700	

#### Note reference #:

- 1. Paid or payable to management company
- 2. Resigned 31 January 2016 and was paid 2 months' pay in lieu of notice

None of the above payments were performance related.

### **Service Contracts**

Service contracts (or letters of engagement) have been entered into by the Group, or are in the process of being entered into, with all key management personnel and executives, describing the components and amounts of remuneration applicable on their initial appointment, including terms, other than non-executives who have long established understanding of arrangements with the Group. These contracts do not fix the amount of remuneration increases from year to year. Remuneration levels are reviewed generally each year by the Remuneration Committee to align with changes in job responsibilities and market salary expectations. There is an arrangement with respect to the services of the Managing Director, Alexander Brown, provided by a management company on an annual service agreement, the period of notice required to terminate this contract is twelve months. Other than repayment of loans and management fees there is no further payment required to terminate this contract.

Other key management personnel have ongoing contracts with a notice period of three months for key management personnel. There are no non-standard termination clauses in any of these contracts.

The Remuneration Committee considers the appropriate remuneration requirements. In August 2012, the Group engaged external consultants to review the Group's salary and incentive benchmarks. No consultants were engaged to review Group remunerations during the year ended 30 June 2017.

#### **END OF REMUNERATION REPORT**

Company Number: 1687414

### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

### **Indemnifying Officers or Auditors**

Insurance premiums paid for Directors

During the year Astron Limited paid a premium of \$26,059 (2016: \$43,246) in respect of a contract insuring Directors, secretaries and executive officers of the company and its controlled entities against a liability incurred as Director, secretary or executive officer. The contract of insurance prohibits disclosure of the nature of the cover.

The company has not otherwise, during or since the end of the financial year, except to the extent permitted by law, indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer or auditor of the company or any of its controlled entities against a liability incurred as such an officer or auditor.

### Non-audit services

During the financial year, the following fees for non-audit services were paid or payable to the auditor, Grant Thornton, or their related practices:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Other Services		
Taxation services	7,500	8,840
Other assurance services	-	14,500

The Directors are satisfied that the provision of non-audit services, during the year, by the auditor (or by another person or firm on behalf of the auditor), is compatible with the general standard of independence for auditors imposed by the Corporations Act 2001.

The Directors are satisfied that the provision of non-audit services by the auditor, as set out above, did not compromise the auditor independence requirements of the International Accounting and Ethics Standards Board (IASEB) for the following reasons:

- all non-audit services have been reviewed by the Board to ensure that they do not impact the integrity and objectivity of the auditor; and
- none of the non-audit services undermine the general principles relating to auditor independence as set out by the IASEB.

### **Auditors' Independence Declaration**

The lead auditors' independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2017 has been received and can be found on page 15 of the financial report.

### Directors' declaration regarding IFRS compliance statement

The Directors' declare that these annual financial statements have been prepared in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Company Number: 1687414

### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2017

## **Proceedings on Behalf of Company**

No person has applied to the Court for leave to bring proceedings on behalf of the company, or to intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party, for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or part of those proceedings.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Directors:

Mr. Alex Brown

Dated this 29 September 2017

Gerard King



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# Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Directors of Astron Corporation Limited

As lead auditor for the audit of Astron Corporation Limited for the year ended 30 June 2017, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the International Accounting and Ethics Standards Board (IAESB).

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd Chartered Accountants

Cirant Thornton

L M Worsley

Partner - Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 29 September 2017

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# **Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

		Consolid	lated
	Note	2017 \$	2016
Sales revenue	5	1,899,763	467,999
Cost of sales		(1,534,332)	(434,218)
Gross profit		365,431	33,781
Interest income	5	135,943	56,929
Other income	5	519,606	581,485
Distribution expenses		(33,089)	(9,085)
Marketing expenses		(8,490)	(10,145)
Occupancy expenses	6	(6,761)	(9,351)
Administrative expenses		(4,803,470)	(4,463,156)
Write back/(down) of inventories	6	327,753	(171,077)
Costs associated with Gambian litigation	6	(134,987)	(946,786)
Finance costs		(8,379)	(10,766)
Other expenses		(362,975)	(56,008)
Loss before income tax expense	_	(4,009,418)	(5,004,179)
Income tax benefit	7	1,418,574	595,983
Net loss for the year		(2,590,844)	(4,408,196)
Other comprehensive income			
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		464 700	(454.072)
Increase/(Decrease) in fair value of available-for-sale financial assets (tax:	nil)	164,799	(151,973)
Decrease in foreign currency translation reserve (tax: nil)	_	(1,552,672)	(2,141,279)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	_	(1,387,873)	(2,293,252)
Total comprehensive income for the year	_	(3,976,717)	(0,701,446)
Loss for the year attributable to:			
Owners of Astron Corporation Limited	_	(2,590,844)	(4,408,196)
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to:			
Owners of Astron Corporation Limited		(3,978,717)	(6,701,448)

The above Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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# **Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income (cont)**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Consolidated		
	Note	2017 Cents	2016 Cents
EARNINGS/(LOSS) PER SHARE	8		
For profit/(loss) for the year			
Basic (loss)/earnings per share (cents per share)		(2.12)	(3.60)
Diluted (loss)/earnings per share (cents per share)		(2.12)	(3.60)

The above Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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## **Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

		Consc	olidated
	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	1,317,231	5,104,594
Term deposits greater than 90-days	10(c)	60,898	60,685
Trade and other receivables	11	6,087,761	14,143,379
Inventories	12	1,888,353	730,564
Available-for-sale financial assets	14	217,293	540,237
Current tax assets	22(iii)	-	460,380
Total current assets		9,571,536	21,039,839
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	11	6,396,921	-
Property, plant and equipment	16	19,953,921	21,046,191
Intangible assets	17	73,650,786	69,118,158
Land use rights	18	3,010,784	3,255,981
Total non-current assets		103,012,412	93,420,330
TOTAL ASSETS		112,583,948	114,460,169
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	19	5,362,641	3,548,955
Borrowings	20	76,080	-
Provisions	21	58,088	67,783
Total current liabilities		5,496,809	3,616,738
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred tax liabilities	22	4,388,800	5,079,479
Long-term provisions	21	40,000	40,000
Total non-current liabilities		4,428,800	5,119,479
TOTAL LIABILITIES		9,925,609	8,736,217
NET ASSETS		102,658,339	105,723,952

The above Consolidated Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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# **Consolidated Statement of Financial Position (continued)**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

		Consc	olidated
	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
EQUITY			
Issued capital	23	1,605,048	1,605,048
Reserves	24	9,748,060	11,061,760
Retained earnings		91,305,231	93,057,144
TOTAL EQUITY		102,658,339	105,723,952

The above Consolidated Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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# **Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity** For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Issued Capital	Retained Earnings	Financial Assets Available For Sale Reserve	Share Based Payment Reserve	Foreign Currency Translation Reserve	Total Equity
Year Ended 30 June 2017	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Equity as at 1 July 2016	1,605,048	93,057,144	709,332	-	10,352,428	105,723,952
Loss for the year	-	(2,590,844)	-	-	-	(2,590,844)
Other comprehensive income Decrease in fair value of available-for-sale financial assets	-	838,931	(674,132)	-	-	164,799
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	-	-	-	-	(1,552,672)	(1,552,672)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	(1,751,913)	(674,132)	-	(1,552,672)	(3,978,717)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners						
Share based payments		-	-	913,104	-	913,104
Total of transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	-	-	-	913,104	-	913,104
Equity as at 30 June 2017	1,605,048	91,305,231	35,200	913,104	8,799,756	102,658,339

The above Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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# **Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity (cont)**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Issued Capital	Retained Earnings	Financial Assets Available For Sale Reserve	Foreign Currency Translation Reserve	Total Equity
Year Ended 30 June 2016	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Equity as at 1 July 2015	1,605,048	97,465,340	861,305	12,493,707	112,425,400
Loss for the year	-	(4,408,196)	-	-	(4,408,196)
Other comprehensive income					
Increase in fair value of available-for-sale financial assets	-	-	(151,973)	-	(151,973)
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	-	-	-	(2,141,279)	(2,141,279)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	(4,408,196)	(151,973)	(2,141,279)	(6,701,448)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners					
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Total of transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	-	-	-	-	
Equity as at 30 June 2016	1,605,048	93,057,144	709,332	10,352,428	105,723,952

The above Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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### **Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

		Consolida	
	Note	2017 \$	2016 <b>\$</b>
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Receipts from customers		2,108,483	847,259
Payments to suppliers and employees		(6,711,309)	(4,506,639)
Interest received		135,943	58,125
Finance costs		(8,304)	(10,767)
Income taxes received		1,176,996	1,093,983
Net cash outflow from operating activities	28i	(3,298,191)	(2,518,039)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
(Investment)/Receipt in short term deposits		(213)	(360)
Receipts from disposal of investments		466,602	223,817
Receipts from disposal of land receivable		1,873,007	7,033,747
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(253,985)	(151,499)
Capitalised exploration and evaluation expenditure		(2,079,970)	(3,828,923)
Net cash inflow from investing activities		5,441	3,276,782
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Receipt/(Repayment) of borrowings		76,080	(1,000,000)
Net cash (outflow)/ inflow from financing activities		76,080	(1,000,000)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held		(3,216,670)	(241,257)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		5,104,594	5,796,027
Net foreign exchange differences		(570,693)	(450,176)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	28ii	1,317,231	5,104,594

The above Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

## For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

# 1. Corporate Information

The consolidated financial statements of Astron Corporation Limited for the year ended 30 June 2017 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Directors on 29 September 2017 and relate to the consolidated entity consisting of Astron Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries. Separate financial statements for Astron Corporation Limited as an individual entity are no longer presented.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars.

Astron Corporation Limited is a for-profit company limited by shares incorporated in Hong Kong whose shares are publicly traded through CHESS Depository Interests on the Australian Securities Exchange.

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### (a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and other authoritative pronouncements of the IASB.

The financial statements have also been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for investment properties, land and buildings, plant and equipment deemed to be at fair value and available-for-sale financial assets that have been measured at fair value. Non-current assets and disposal groups held for sale are measured at the lower of carrying amounts and fair value less costs to sell.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.

### (b) Basis of Consolidation

The Group financial statements consolidate those of the Parent Company and all of its subsidiaries as of 30 June 2017. The Parent controls a subsidiary if it is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the subsidiary and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the subsidiary.

All transactions and balances between Group companies are eliminated on consolidation, including unrealised gains and losses on transactions between Group companies. Where unrealised losses on intra-group asset sales are reversed on consolidation, the underlying asset is also tested for impairment from a group perspective. Amounts reported in the financial statements of subsidiaries have been adjusted where necessary to ensure consistency with the accounting policies adopted by the Group.

Profit or loss and other comprehensive income of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are recognised from the effective date of acquisition, or up to the effective date of disposal, as applicable.

Non-controlling interests, presented as part of equity, represent the portion of a subsidiary's profit or loss and net assets that is not held by the Group. The Group attributes total comprehensive income or loss of subsidiaries between the owners of the parent and the non-controlling interests based on their respective ownership interests.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### (c) Foreign Currency Translation

The functional and presentation currency of Astron Corporation Limited and its Australian subsidiaries is Australian dollars (A\$).

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from settling foreign currency transactions, as well as from restating foreign currency denominated monetary assets and liabilities, are recognised in profit or loss except when they are deferred in other comprehensive income as qualifying cash flow hedges or where they relate to differences on foreign currency borrowings that provide a hedge against a net investment in a foreign entity.

Non-monetary items measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when fair value was determined.

The functional currency of the overseas subsidiaries is primarily Chinese Renminbi. The assets and liabilities of these overseas subsidiaries are translated into the presentation currency of Astron Corporation Limited at the closing rate at the end of the reporting period and income and expenses are translated at the weighted average exchange rates for the year. All resulting exchange differences are recognised in other comprehensive income as a separate component of equity (foreign currency translation reserve). On disposal of a foreign entity, the cumulative exchange differences recognised in foreign currency translation reserves relating to that particular foreign operation are recognised in the profit and loss.

Goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on the acquisition of a foreign entity are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign entity and translated at the closing rate.

### (d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of returns, trade allowances and duties and taxes paid. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

### Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of products is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have passed to the buyer i.e. when control of the goods is passed to the buyer.

### Rendering of services

Revenue from the rendering of services such as management fees are recognised upon the rendering of the service to the customers in accordance with the agreements.

#### Interest

Revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. The effective interest method uses the effective interest rate which is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash receipts over the expected life of the financial asset.

### Rental income

Rental income is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Contingent rentals are recognised as income in the periods when they are earned.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### (e) Income Tax

The income tax expense for the period is the tax payable on the current period's taxable income based on the national income tax rate for each jurisdiction adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences between the tax base of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements, and to unused tax losses.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognised for all temporary differences, between carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and their respective tax bases, at the tax rates expected to apply when the assets are recovered or liabilities settled, based on those tax rates which are enacted or substantively enacted for each jurisdiction. Exceptions are made for certain temporary differences arising on initial recognition of an asset or a liability if they arose in a transaction, other than a business combination, that at the time of the transaction did not affect either accounting profit or taxable profit.

Deferred tax assets are only recognised for deductible temporary differences and unused tax losses if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not recognised for temporary differences between the carrying amount and tax bases of investments in subsidiaries, associates and interests in joint ventures where the parent entity is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Astron Limited, the wholly owned subsidiary of Astron Corporation Limited, and the Australian subsidiaries wholly owned by Astron Limited have implemented the tax consolidation legislation for the whole of the financial year. Astron Limited is the head entity in the tax consolidated group. The stand-alone taxpayer within a group approach has been used to allocate current income tax expense and deferred tax balances to wholly owned subsidiaries that form part of the tax consolidated group. Astron Limited has assumed all the current tax liabilities and the deferred tax assets arising from unused tax losses for the tax consolidated group via intercompany receivables and payables because a tax funding arrangement has been in place for the whole financial year. The amounts receivable/payable under tax funding arrangements are due upon notification by the head entity, which is issued soon after the end of each financial year. Interim funding notices may also be issued by the head entity to its wholly owned subsidiaries in order for the head entity to be able to pay tax installments. These amounts are recognised as current intercompany receivables or payables.

To the extent that research and development costs are eligible activities under the "Research and development tax incentive" programme a 45% refundable tax offset is available for companies with annual turnover of less than \$20 million. The Group recognises refundable tax offsets received in the financial year as an income tax benefit, in profit or loss, resulting from the monetisation of available tax losses that otherwise would have been carried forward.

### (f) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period the Group assesses whether there is any indication that individual assets are impaired. Where impairment indicators exist, recoverable amount is determined and impairment losses are recognised in the profit and loss where the asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purpose of assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pretax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate recoverable amount for an individual asset, recoverable amount is determined for the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### (g) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and at bank, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short term, highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less, that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts.

Term deposits with maturity over three months include bank deposits with fixed terms over three months period. For the purpose of the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, term deposits with maturity over three months are shown as cash flows from investing activities.

### (h) Trade Receivables

Trade receivables are recognised at original invoice amounts less an allowance for uncollectible amounts and have repayment terms between 0 and 90 days. Collectability of trade receivables is assessed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. An allowance is made for doubtful debts where there is objective evidence that the Group will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms. Objective evidence of impairment includes financial difficulties of the debtor, default payments or debts more than 180 days overdue. On confirmation that the trade receivable will not be collectible the gross carrying value of the asset is written off against the associated provision.

From time to time, the Group elects to renegotiate the terms of trade receivables due from customers with which it has previously had a good trading history. Such renegotiations will lead to changes in the timing of payments rather than changes to the amounts owed and are not, in the view of the Directors, sufficient to require the de-recognition of the original instrument.

Receivables from related parties are recognised and carried at the nominal amount due.

#### (i) Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises all direct materials, direct labour and an appropriate portion of variable and fixed overheads. Fixed overheads are allocated on the basis of normal operating capacity. Costs are assigned to inventories using the first in first out basis. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated selling cost of completion and selling expenses.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### (j) Investments and Other Financial Assets

All investments and other financial assets are initially stated at cost, being the fair value of consideration given plus acquisition costs. Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on trade date which is the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Accounting policies for each category of investments and other financial assets subsequent to initial recognition are set out below.

#### Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets comprise investments in listed and unlisted entities and any non-derivatives that are not classified as any other category of financial assets, and are classified as non-current assets (unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the end of the reporting period). After initial recognition, these investments are measured at fair value with gains or losses recognised in other comprehensive income (available-for-sale investments revaluation reserve). Where there is a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of an available-for-sale financial asset (which constitutes objective evidence of impairment) the full amount including any amount previously charged to other comprehensive income is recognised in profit or loss. Purchases and sales of available-for-sale financial assets are recognised on settlement date with any change in fair value between trade date and settlement date being recognised in other comprehensive income. On sale, the amount held in available-for-sale reserves associated with that asset is recognised in profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment. Interest on corporate bonds classified as available-for-sale is calculated using the effective interest rate method and is recognised in finance income in profit or loss.

The fair value of quoted investments are determined by reference to stock exchange quoted market bid prices at the close of business at the end of the reporting period. For investments where there is no quoted market price, fair value is determined by reference to the current market value of another instrument which is substantially the same or is calculated based on the expected cash flows of the underlying net asset base of the investment.

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for in the consolidated financial statements as described in note 2(b).

### Loans and receivables

Impairment losses are measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows, excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred. The cash flows are discounted at the investment's original effective interest rate. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss.

Non-current loans and receivables include loans due from related parties repayable within 366 days of the end of the reporting period. These are interest bearing using a market rate of interest for a similar instrument with a similar credit rating. In the case of loans and receivables, objective evidence of impairment includes confirmation that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms.

### (k) Fair Values

Fair values may be used for financial asset and liability measurement and well as for sundry disclosures.

Fair values for financial instruments traded in active markets are based on quoted market prices at the end of the reporting period. The quoted market price for financial assets is the current bid price.

The carrying value less impairment provision of trade receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Group for similar financial instruments.

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### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### (I) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

All other plant and equipment is stated at historical cost, including costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management, less depreciation and any impairments.

Land is not depreciated. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Depreciation on other assets is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

Class of Asset	
Leasehold Buildings	50 years
Freehold Land	Indefinite
Plant and Equipment	3-20 Years

The assets' residual value and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the asset's carrying amount and are included in profit or loss in the year that the item is de-recognised.

The cost of fixed assets constructed within the Group includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Additional costs incurred on the impaired capital works in progress are expensed in profit or loss.

#### (m) Leases

Leases where the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the net asset are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases (net of incentives received from the lessor) are charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

### (n) Land Use Rights

The upfront prepayments made for land use rights are expensed in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease or, when there is impairment, it is expensed immediately. The period of the lease is 50 years.

### (o) Intangibles

### Research and development costs

Research costs are expensed as incurred. Development expenditure incurred on an individual project is capitalised if the product or service is technically feasible, adequate resources are available to complete the project, it is probable that future economic benefits will be generated and expenditure attributable to the project can be measured reliably. Expenditure capitalised comprises costs of services and direct labour. Other development costs are expensed when they are incurred. The carrying value of development costs is reviewed annually when the asset is not yet available for use, or when events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired.

The project is in the development phase and hence no amortisation has been brought to account. An amortisation policy has yet to be determined.

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### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### Water rights

The Group has capitalised Water Rights. The water rights are amortised over the term of the right. The carrying value of water rights is reviewed annually or when events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired.

### (p) Exploration and Evaluation Expenditure

### (i) Costs carried forward

Costs arising from exploration and evaluation activities are carried forward provided that the rights to tenure of the area of interest are current and such costs are expected to be recouped through successful development, or by sale, or where exploration and evaluation activities have not, at reporting date, reached a stage to allow a reasonable assessment regarding the existence of economically recoverable reserves. Expenditure incurred is accumulated in respect of each identifiable area of interest.

### (ii) Costs abandoned area

Costs carried forward in respect of an area of interest that is abandoned are written off in the year in which the decision to abandon is made.

### (iii) Regular review

A regular review is undertaken of each area of interest to determine the appropriateness of continuing to carry forward costs in relation to that area of interest.

#### (iv) Costs of site restoration

Costs of site restoration are to be provided once an obligation presents. Site restoration costs include the dismantling and removal of mining plant, equipment and building structures, waste removal and rehabilitation of the site in accordance with clauses of the mining permits. Such costs will be determined using estimates of future costs, current legal requirements and technology on a discounted basis.

### (q) Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of the reporting period and which are unpaid. These amounts are unsecured and have 30 to 90-day payment terms.

Payables to related parties are carried at the principal amount.

### (r) Borrowings

All loans and borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in profit or loss over the period of the loans and borrowings using the effective interest method.

All borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

### (s) Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to prepare for their intended use or sale, are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale.

All other borrowing costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### (t) Provisions

Provisions for legal claims, service warranties and make good obligations are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that that an outflow of economic resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount can be reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where the effect of the time value of money is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pretax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

### (u) Employee Benefit Provisions

### Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are recognised in respect of employees' services rendered up to the end of the reporting period and measured at amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when leave is taken and measured at the actual rates paid or payable. Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are included as part of Other Payables.

### Bonus plan

The Group recognises an expense and a liability for bonuses when the entity is contractually obliged to make such payments or where there is past practice that has created a constructive obligation.

### Retirement benefit obligations

The Group contributes to employee superannuation funds in accordance with its statutory obligations. Contributions are recognised as expenses as they become payable.

### (v) Issued Capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity.

Costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares are shown as a deduction from the equity proceeds, net of any income tax benefit. Costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares associated with the acquisition of a business are included as part of the purchase consideration.

### (w) Going Concern

For the year ended 30 June 2017 the Group incurred a net loss of \$2,590,844 and had net cash outflows from operations of \$3,298,191. As at 30 June 2017 the Group had a surplus of current assets over current liabilities of \$4,074,727 and \$1,317,231 of available cash and as such the annual financial report has been prepared on the going concern basis, which assumes the continuity of normal business activity and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the normal course of business.

The directors are of the view that the business is a going concern as the short-term needs of the company to meet its ongoing administration costs and committed project expenditure are forecast to be covered by the existing resources on hand for at least the next 12 months and from the date of this report. Initially there are ongoing receipts due from the sale of the land assets in China, the receipt of advance payments against a Senegal Offtake agreement and continued strengthening of Chinese mineral sand markets and Chinese trading in the near to medium term.

While the Group reported an operating and project investing cash outflow for the 12 months to 30 June 2017 of \$5,556,066, this was offset by proceeds received on sale of land in China of \$1,873,007 and a further \$1,730,499 has been received subsequent to year end. As at 30 June 2017 the Group is carrying a land sale receivable of \$10,050,196 which is expected to be substantially repaid by December 2018.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

The Group will require additional funding to execute its long-term plans. With respect to the projects, the Group is currently working through funding options.

With regard to funding for the Senegal project, subsequent to year end approximately \$3.8 million has been received pursuant to advance payments against delivery of materials under a Senegal Offtake agreement which is budgeted to fund the development of the Senegal mine project.

Funding for the Donald project is advancing with Chinese sources, with a capital expenditure agreement having been signed, subject to various provisions. There will be a need for additional funding over and above this, which will be pursued when the definitive feasibility study is complete and the timing of the Chinese funding becomes clearer. Options available to the Group include a mixture of equity and debt funding and the directors believe that such funding will be forthcoming. There can be no assurance that the Group will be able to obtain, or access additional funding when required, or that the terms associated with the funding will be acceptable to the Group. Similarly, there are risks that the timeline developed for the completion of the plant, subsequent commissioning, economically sufficient production, and subsequent sales will not be achieved as planned.

This financial report does not include any adjustments relating to the recoverability and classification of recorded asset amounts or to the amounts and classification of liabilities that might be necessary should the Group not continue as a going concern.

#### (x) Share Based Payments

The Group may provide benefits to employees (including Directors) of the Group in the form of share based payment transactions, whereby employees render services in exchange for shares ("equity settled transactions"). Such equity settled transactions are at the discretion of the Remuneration Committee. To date, no such equity settled transactions have been undertaken.

The fair value of options or rights granted is recognised as an employee benefit expense with a corresponding increase in equity (share-based payment reserve). The fair value is measured at grant date and recognised over the period during which the employees become unconditionally entitled to the options. Fair value is determined using a Black-Scholes option pricing model. In determining fair value, no account is taken of any performance conditions other than those related to the share price of Astron Corporation Limited ("market conditions"). The cumulative expense recognised between grant date and vesting date is adjusted to reflect the Directors' best estimate of the number of options or rights that will ultimately vest because of internal conditions of the options or rights, such as the employees having to remain with the Group until vesting date, or such that employees are required to meet internal KPI. No expense is recognised for options or rights that do not ultimately vest because internal conditions were not met. An expense is still recognised for options or rights that do not ultimately vest because a market condition was not met.

Where the terms of options or rights are modified, the expense continues to be recognised from grant date to vesting date as if the terms had never been changed. In addition, at the date of the modification, a further expense is recognised for any increase in fair value of the transaction as a result of the change.

Where options are cancelled, they are treated as if vesting occurred on cancellation and any unrecognised expenses are taken immediately to profit or loss. However, if new options are substituted for the cancelled options or rights and designated as a replacement on grant date, the combined impact of the cancellation and replacement are treated as if they were a modification.

When shareholders' approval is required for the issuance of options or rights, the expenses are recognised based on the grant-date fair value according to the management estimation. This estimate is re-assessed upon obtaining formal approval from shareholders.

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### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### (y) Dividends/Return of Capital

No dividends were paid or proposed for the years ended 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2016. There is no Dividend Reinvestment Plan in operation.

### (z) Segment Reporting

Segment revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities are those that are directly attributable to a segment and the relevant portion that can be allocated to the segment on a reasonable basis. Segment assets include all assets used by a segment and consist primarily of operating cash, receivables, inventories, property, plant and equipment and other intangible assets. Segment liabilities consist primarily of trade and other creditors, employee benefits and provisions.

### (aa) Earnings Per Share

### Basic earnings per share

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to owners of Astron Corporation Limited by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the financial year, adjusted for bonus elements in ordinary shares during the year.

### Diluted earnings per share

Earnings used to calculate diluted earnings per share are calculated by adjusting the basic earnings by the after tax effect of dividends and interest associated with dilutive potential ordinary shares. The weighted average number of shares used is adjusted for the weighted average number of ordinary shares that would be issued on the conversion of all the dilutive potential ordinary shares into ordinary shares.

### (bb) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses are recognised net of GST except where GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the taxation authority, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense item.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables in the consolidated statement of financial position.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority.

### (cc) New and revised standards that are effective for these financial statements

The Group has adopted all of the new, revised or amending Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are mandatory for the current reporting period. The adoption of these Accounting Standards and Interpretations did not have any significant impact on the financial performance or position of the Group.

Any new, revised or amending Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## (dd) Standards Issued but not yet Effective

Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet mandatory, have not been early adopted by the Group for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2017. The Group's assessment of the impact of these new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations, most relevant to the Group, are set out below.

(a)

Title of standard	Nature of change	Impact	Mandatory application date/ Date adopted by Company
IFRS 9 Financial Instruments	IFRS 9 addresses the classification, measurement and de-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities, impairment of financial assets and hedge accounting.	Given the nature of the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities, the Company does not expect the impact to be significant.	Must be applied for reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2018. Therefore the application date for the company will be for the reporting period commencing on 1 July 2018.
IFRS 15 Revenue from contracts with customers	An entity will recognise revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. This means that revenue will be recognised when control of goods or services is transferred, rather than on transfer of risks and rewards as is currently the case under IAS 18 Revenue.	Based on the Company's assessment, the impact is not expected to be significant.	Must be applied for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018. Therefore the application date for the Company will be for the reporting period commencing on 1 July 2018.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### 3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The Directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Group.

### i. Key estimates: Impairment

The Group assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluating conditions specific to the Group that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Fair value less costs to dispose calculations are performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates and judgements.

The Group has used a combination of independent and Director valuations to support the carrying value of intangible assets while the Group works through to obtaining bankable feasibility status (Refer note 17). The valuations use various assumptions to determine future cash flows based around risks including capital, geographical, markets, foreign exchange and mineral price fluctuations.

All other assets have been assessed for impairment based on either their value in use or fair value less costs to sell. The impairment assessments inherently involve significant judgements and estimates to be made.

### ii. Provision for Impairment of Receivables

The provision for impairment of receivables assessment requires a degree of estimation and judgement. The level of provision is assessed by taking into account the recent sales experience, the aging of receivables, historical collection rates and specific knowledge of the individual debtors' financial position. The Group has a receivable for the disposal of surplus land in China, the sale contract is local government backed and assessed as fully recoverable.

### iii. Capitalisation of Exploration and Evaluation Assets

The Group has continued to capitalise expenditure, incurred on the exploration and evaluation of the Donald Mineral Sands project in Victoria, Australia in accordance with IFRS 6. This has occurred because the technical feasibility and economic viability of extracting the mineral resources is not demonstrable. The Group has assessed that the balances capitalised will be recoverable through the project's successful development.

### iv. Capitalisation of Development Assets

The Group has continued to capitalise expenditure, in accordance with IFRS 6, incurred on the development of the Senegal Mineral Sands project in Senegal. The Group has assessed that the balances capitalised will be recoverable through the project's successful development. The Group expects to reclassify as a development asset subsequent to year end.

### v. Income Tax

The Group is subject to income taxes in the jurisdictions in which it operates. Significant judgment is required in determining the provision for income tax. There are transactions and calculations undertaken during the ordinary course of business for which the ultimate tax determination is uncertain. The group recognises tax receivables and liabilities based on the Group's current understanding of the tax law. Where the final tax outcome of these matters is different from the carrying amounts, such differences will impact the current and deferred tax provisions in the period in which such determination is made.

### vi. Deferred Tax Assets

Deferred tax assets have not been recognised for capital losses and China revenue losses as the utilisation of these losses is not considered probable at this stage.

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### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## vii. Available-for sale Financial Assets

Available-for-sale financial assets have been classified as current assets as it is the Group's intention to dispose of these assets within one year.

### viii. Inventories

Management estimates the net realisable values of inventories, taking into account the most reliable evidence available at each reporting date. The future realisation of these inventories may be affected by future technology or other market-driven changes that may reduce future selling prices.

### 4. Segment Information

### i. Description of Segments

The Group has adopted IAS 8 *Operating Segments* from whereby segment information is presented using a 'management approach', i.e. segment information is provided on the same basis as information used for internal reporting purposes by the Managing Director/President (chief operating decision maker) who monitors the segment performance based on the net profit before tax for the period. Operating segments have been determined on the basis of reports reviewed by the Managing Director/President who is considered to be the chief operating decision maker of the Group. The reportable segments are as follows:

- · Senegal: Development of the Niafarang mine
- Donald Mineral Sands: Development of the Donald Mineral Sands mine
- Titanium: Development of mineral processing plant and mineral trading
- Mineral Resources: Mineral trading and construction of the mineral separation plant
- Other: Group treasury and head office activities

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Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

# ii. Information provided to the Managing Director /President

	Donald Mine	ral Sands	Titan	ilum	Mineral R	esources	Sei	negal	Ot	her	Consc	lidated
30 June	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue from extern	nal customers											
Sales	-	-	1,499,716	23	400,047	467,976	-	-	-	-	1,899,763	467,999
Interest revenue	456	667	128,312	10,811	-	-	-	-	7,175	45,451	135,943	56,929
Rent/Other Income	327,777	215,436	212,905	299,135	64	43,737	-	-	(21,140)	23,177	519,606	581,485
Total revenue	328,233	216,103	1,840,933	309,969	400,111	511,713	-	-	(13,965)	68,628	2,555,312	1,106,413
Segment result Segment (loss) / profit	(170,047)	3,258	(1,670,583)	(1,596,774)	(933,204)	(782,958)	-	-	182,990	(2,627,705)	(2,590,844)	(5,004,179)
profit												
Acquisition of PPE,	1	I I	l I				1		 			
Intangible assets and other non -current segment assets	1,869,128	3,186,908	205,398	168,190	34,002	5,699	2,050,946	619,625	-	-	4,159,474	3,980,422
Depreciation and amortisation	7,903	-	414,588	458,068	140,588	194,746	-	-	658	79,670	563,737	732,484

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Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Donald Mine	ral Sands	Titani	um	Mineral	Resources	Se	enegal	Otl	ner	Conso	lidated
30 June	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-16
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Assets												
Segment assets	71,757,041	69,831,943	22,038,972	26,942,637	11,069,436	11,227,071	6,953,752	4,698,568	764,747	1,759,950	112,583,948	114,460,169
Total	71,757,041	69,831,943	22,038,972	26,942,637	11,069,436	11,227,071	6,953,752	4,698,568	764,747	1,759,950	112,583,948	114,460,169
Liabilities												
Segment liabilities	9,355,351	9,351,269	499,728	175,193	238,350	245,584	982,023	79,997	(1,149,844)	(1,115,826)	9,925,609	8,736,217
Total	9,355,351	9,351,269	499,728	175,193	238,350	245,584	982,023	79,997	(1,149,844)	(1,115,826)	9,925,609	8,736,217

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### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### iii. Geographical Information

Although the Group is managed globally, it operates in the following main geographical areas:

### Hong Kong

The home country of the parent entity.

#### Australia

The home country of Astron Limited and one of the operating subsidiaries which performs evaluation and exploration activities. Interest and rental income is derived from Australian sources.

#### China

The home country of subsidiaries which operate in the mineral trading and downstream development segment.

### Other

Astron is focused on developing mineral sands opportunities, principally in Senegal with a view to integrating into the Chinese operations.

	Sales revenues		Interest reve	nue	Non-curren	t assets
_	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
Australia	-	-	7,628	46,112	75,228,980	72,833,978
China	1,899,793	467,999	128,312	10,811	24,374,274	19,325,608
Other countries _	-		3	6	3,409,158	1,260,744
	1,899,793	467,999	135,943	56,929	103,012,412	93,420,330

During 2017 \$1,868,614 or 98% (2016: \$432,518 or 92%) of the revenue depended on seven (2016: four) customers.

### 5. Revenue and Other Income

	Consolid	ated
	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Continuing operations		
Revenue		
- sale of goods	1,899,763	467,999
- interest income	135,943	56,929
Total revenue	2,035,706	524,928
Other income: - rental income	184,027	226,997
- other income	335,579	354,488
Total other income	519,606	581,485

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

# 6. Profit (Loss) Before Income Tax

## i. Profit (loss) before income tax includes the following specific expenses:

_	Consolidated		
	2017 \$	2016 \$	
Finance costs	8,379	10,766	
Premises-contractual amounts	6,761	9,351	
Research and development costs	771,108	427,332	
Depreciation and amortisation	563,737	732,484	
Defined contribution superannuation	53,711	71,420	
Employee benefits Costs associated with Gambia and Senegal Investments	591,178	867,043	
(note 13)	134,987	946,786	
Write (back)/down of inventory	(327,753)	171,077	

## 7. Income Tax Expense

## i. The components of tax expense comprise:

	Consolidated		
	2017 \$	2016 \$	
Current tax expense in respect of current year Adjustments recognised in the current year in relation to the prior year	-	-	
- Research & development inventive	(727,895)	(449,101)	
- Prior year adjustment	275,191	-	
- Change in tax rate	(398,982)	-	
- Recognition of current year movements	(566,888)	(146,882)	
Total	(1,418,574)	(595,983)	

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## ii. The prima facie tax on profit before income tax is reconciled to the income tax as follows:

	Consolidated		
	2017 \$	2016 \$	
Prima facie tax payable on profit 27.5% (2016: 30%)			
- continuing operations	(1,102,590)	(1,501,254)	
	(1,102,590)	(1,501,254)	
Add/(Less) Tax effect of:			
- non-deductible Gambia	37,121	284,036	
- other non-deductible items	(213,602)	(634,237)	
<ul> <li>deferred tax asset not recognised on overseas entities</li> </ul>	730,322	728,341	
- change in tax rates	(398,982)	-	
- research & development incentive	(727,895)	(449,101)	
- over/(under) provision for income tax in prior year	275,191	1,013,162	
- impact of overseas tax differential	(18,139)	(36,930)	
Income tax attributable to entity	(1,418,574)	(595,983)	

The applicable weighted average effective tax rates are as follows: (35.4)

(35.4)% (11.9)%

The decrease in the weighted average effective consolidated tax rate for 2017 is mainly the result of exploration and feasibility expenditure claimed and offset by research and development rebates.

### iii. Income tax rates

#### Australia

In accordance with the Australian Income Tax Act, Astron Limited and its 100% owned Australian subsidiaries have formed a tax consolidated group, tax funding or sharing agreements have been entered into. Australia has a double tax agreement with China and there are currently no impediments to repatriating profits from China to Australia. Dividends paid to Astron Limited from Chinese subsidiaries are non-assessable under current Australian Income Tax Legislation.

### China (including Hong Kong)

Astron Corporation Limited is subject to Hong Kong tax law.

The Group's subsidiaries in China and are subject to Chinese income tax laws.

Chinese taxation obligations have been fully complied with, confirmed by regular audits completed by the Chinese tax authorities.

### iv. Items not chargeable or not deductible for tax purposes

Items not chargeable or deductible for tax purposes for the Group principally represent costs associated with the Gambian litigation and other costs incurred but not related to Australian operations.

### v. Tax on other comprehensive items

No deferred tax liabilities have been recognised in relation to available for sale financial assets reserve due to the existence of significant capital losses. Accordingly, no movement in income tax is recorded in current or prior financial years. No tax is applicable to other comprehensive item: foreign currency translation differences and share based payments reserve.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## 8. Earnings Per Share

## i. Reconciliation of earnings used in the calculation of earnings per share to loss/(profit):

	Consolida	ted
	2017 \$	2016 \$
(Loss)/Profit attributable to owners	(2,590,844)	(4,408,196)
(Loss)/Earnings used to calculate basic EPS	(2,590,844)	(4,408,196)
(Loss)/Earnings used in calculation of dilutive EPS	(2,590,844)	(4,408,196)

## ii. Weighted average number of ordinary shares (diluted):

	Consolida	ated
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the year - used in calculating basic EPS Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding	122,479,784	122,479,784
during the year used in calculating dilutive EPS	122,479,784	122,479,784

### iii. Dilutive shares

There were no shares issued under escrow at or post year end. There were no rights or options for shares outstanding at year-end.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### 9. Auditors' Remuneration

	Consolidate	ed
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Audit and review of financial statements		
Grant Thornton	151,516	153,149
	151,516	153,149
Other services		
- taxation services	7,500	35,760
- other assurance services	-	10,064

### 10. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	Consolidat	ted
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Cash on hand Current & call account balances	10,812 1,306,419	5,652 5,098,942
Short term deposits  Total	- 1,317,231	5,104,594

Cash on hand is non-interest bearing. Bank balances and short-term deposits at call bear floating interest rates between 0.0% and 2.15% (2016: 0.0% and 2.15%). Deposits have an average maturity of 90 days (2016: 90 days). Bank balances included letter of credit deposits of \$248,038 as at 30 June 2017 (2016: \$0).

## a) Geographic concentration of risk – cash and cash equivalents

	Consolida	ated
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Australia	291,140	722,983
China	921,686	4,344,268
Hong Kong	2,351	2,444
USA	25,456	28,687
United Kingdom	-	3,125
Senegal	76,598	3,087
Total	1,317,231	5,104,594

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### b) Concentration of risk by bank - cash and cash equivalents

	Consolidate	ed
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Australia		
Commonwealth Bank-S&P rating of AA- (2016:AA-)	255,003	252,018
Goldman Sachs JB Were-A- (2016:A-)	-	84,458
Westpac Bank-S&P rating of AA- (2016:AA-)	1,636	1,745
Bank of China-S&P rating of A (2016:A)	11,923	12,326
Other Australian banks	22,040	372,436
	290,602	722,983
China		
Bank of China-S&P rating of A+ (2016:A)	192,369	1,979,916
Construction Bank-S&P rating of A (2016:A)	73,551	2,357,793
China Zheshang Bank – BA1	453,867	-
Other Chinese banks	191,625	6,559
	911,412	4,344,268
Other countries		
Other banks	104,405	37,343
	104,405	37,343

### i. Restrictions on cash

The Chinese domiciled cash on hand may have some restriction on repatriation to Australia depending on basis on which the funds are transferred to Australia. Depending on the basis, there may be taxes (including withholding tax) of 16% to be paid.

### c) Term deposits greater than 90 days

	Consolidate	ed
	2017	2016
	<b></b> \$	\$
Term deposits with maturity over 90 days	60,898	60,685

As at 30 June 2017, term deposits with maturity over 90 days of \$60,898 (2016: \$60,685) bear fixed interest rates of 0.9% (2016: 2.2%) and have a maturity of 3-6 months.

### i. Restrictions on cash

The short-term deposits include \$60,000 (2016: \$60,000) of cash backed Bank Guarantees for the operations of the Donald Mineral Sands project and WIM 150 Pty Limited.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### d) Geographic concentration of risk - term deposits

dated	Consolidated
2016	2017
\$	\$
60,685	60,898

### e) Concentration of risk by bank - term deposits

	Consolidated	
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Australia Commonwealth Bank-S&P rating of AA- (2016:AA-)	50,000	50,000
Other	10,898	10,325
	60,898	60,325

### 11. Trade and Other Receivables

		Consolidated		
	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$	
Current			_	
Trade debtors	11(b)(c)	459,127	55,295	
Net trade debtors		459,127	55,295	
Other receivables	11(a)	4,545,089	13,311,586	
Prepayments	11(c)	1,429,645	1,141,770	
Impairments	11(c)	(346,100)	(365,272)	
Net prepayments		1,083,545	776,498	
		6,087,761	14,143,379	
Non Current				
Other Receivables	11(a)	6,396,921	<u>-</u>	
Total	11(a)	12,484,682	14,143,379	

# (a) Other receivables

During the year ended 30 June 2015, the Group entered into a contract of sale for leasehold land held in Yingkou province China, the net proceeds of \$20,356,248 to be received in instalments. As at 30 June 2017 the receivable amounts to \$10,050,196 which was to be paid in instalments. While the receivable is currently outside terms, the Group is confident that the receivable will be received in instalments by December 2018, accordingly no impairment has been recognised. A proportion of the receivable has been reclassified to current and non-current in accordance with anticipated receipt.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### (b) Ageing analysis

The ageing analysis of trade receivables is as follows:

	Consolidated	
	2017 \$	2016 \$
0-30 days (not past due)	54,396	22,931
31-60 days (past due not impaired)	390,948	23,540
61-90 days (past due not impaired)	4,039	8,284
91+ days (past due not impaired)	9,744	540
Total	459,127	55,295

At the end of the reporting period the Group's trade debtors are predominantly receivable from Chinese trading partners. The Chinese debtors are regularly reviewed and as is common practice in China the terms may be extended without which there would be overdue balances. Where applicable the Group has impaired significantly overdue receivables.

It is the Group's policy that where possible that sales are made in exchange for notes (guaranteed by a Chinese bank) minimising the Group's exposure to an impairment issue.

### (c) Prepayments

At year end the Group had made advances to suppliers for inventory purchases to secure the inventory at favourable prices.

Included in prepayments is an amount of \$346,100 (2016: \$365,272) which is the prepayment for construction. This amount has been impaired due to low possibility of collection.

### 12. Inventories

	Consolidated	
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Raw materials – at net realisable value	1,435,673	602,786
Finished goods – at net realisable value	177,776	125,193
Goods in transit	274,904	2,585
Total	1,888,353	730,564

There is a \$481,101 (2016: \$849,194) provision against inventory to net realisable value.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

### 13. Investments in Gambia and Senegal

Carnegie Minerals (Gambia) Limited is a 100% subsidiary of Astron Limited. It was incorporated to commence mining activities in Gambia. The investments and receivables associated with the company have been impaired in full. The original agreement prior to the seizure of the assets was that Astron Limited had an obligation to fund the development and operating costs of the mine by way of loans.

Exploration and evaluation on the Niafarang project in Senegal in current financial year (and in 2016) has been capitalised. Furthermore, expenditure in 2017 of \$136,259 (2016: \$946,786) relating to Gambia litigation claim has been expensed directly to profit and loss.

As announced to the ASX on 23 July 2015 Astron has received a successful finding in its favour. Astron and the Gambian government made submissions on damages to the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes ("ICSID"). ICSID has now determined the award including damages in favour of Astron.

The determination was for US\$18,658,358 in damages for breach of the mining licence, interest of US\$993,683, arbitration costs of US\$445,860 (minus any sums refunded to Astron by ICSID on its final accounting) and £2,250,000 for legal costs. In total this is approximately AUD\$31 million.

On 2 December 2015 Astron notified the ASX that The Gambia has submitted an application for annulment to ICSID, on the grounds of the constitution of the arbitral tribunal, and arguments about admissibility and jurisdiction. An application for annulment is the only form of action open to The Gambia under the ICSID rules, as there is no form of appeal process. In due course ICSID will appoint a panel of 3 arbitrators to form a committee to determine whether the Award should be annulled in whole or in part. Astron confirms that any such application will be strenuously opposed.

### 14. Available-For-Sale Financial Assets

	Consolida	ated
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Listed Securities		
Current listed investments, at fair value		
shares in listed corporations	217,293	540,237
Total available-for-sale financial assets	217,293	540,237

Available-for-sale financial assets comprise investments in the ordinary issued capital of three public companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). The cost of these investments was \$1,877,716. There are no fixed returns or fixed maturity date attached to these investments. In the current financial year, the combined market value of these investments has increased by \$164,798 (2016 increased by \$352,614) however this was offset by proceeds from the sale of Altona Mining shares totaling \$466,602. The increase in market value of these investments has been netted off against the Financial Assets Available for Sale Reserve, under IAS 139, in the consolidated statement of financial position.

There will be no capital gains tax payable on the sale of these assets due to existing capital losses carried forward.

For listed equity securities and preference shares, fair value is determined by reference to closing bid prices on the ASX.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## 15. Subsidiaries

Financial Year 2017	Country of incorporation	Percentage Owned Ordinary Shares 2017	Percentage Owned Ordinary Shares 2016
Parent entity			
Astron Corporation Limited	Hong Kong		
Subsidiaries of parent entity			
Astron Limited	Australia	100	100
Astron Advanced Materials Limited #	UK	-	100
Astron Mineral Sands Pty Limited	Australia	100	100
Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Co Ltd	China	100	100
Carnegie Minerals (Gambia) Inc	USA	100	100
Carnegie Minerals (Gambia) Limited	The Gambia	100	100
Camden Sands Inc	USA	100	100
Coast Resources Limited	Isle of Man	100	100
Dickson & Johnson Pty Limited	Australia	100	100
Donald Mineral Sands Pty Ltd	Australia	100	100
Sovereign Gold NL	Australia	100	100
WIM 150 Pty Limited	Australia	100	100
Yingkou Astron Mineral Resources Co Ltd	China	100	100
Astron Senegal Holding Pty Ltd	Hong Kong	100	100
Senegal Mineral Sands Ltd	Hong Kong	100	100
Zirtanium Pty Limited	Australia	100	100

<sup>#</sup> Astron Advanced Materials Limited was dissolved 2 May 2017.

## i. Equity

The proportion of ownership interest is equal to the proportion of voting power held.

## ii. Disposal of subsidiaries

During the current year and prior years no subsidiaries were disposed.

## iii. Acquisition of subsidiaries

No new subsidiaries were incorporated during the year. In the prior year Carnegie Minerals (Gambia), Inc was incorporated (in Delaware USA) as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Astron Limited.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

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## 16. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Consolidated	
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Land and buildings		
Land		
At cost	5,254,000	5,254,000
Total land	5,254,000	5,254,000
Buildings and Leasehold buildings		
At cost	9,972,309	10,524,633
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,400,914)	(1,053,025)
Less accumulated impairment losses	-	-
Total buildings and leasehold buildings	8,571,395	9,471,608
Total land and buildings	13,825,395	14,725,608
Plant and equipment and works in progress		
Capital works in progress		
At cost	9,239,867	9,625,008
Less accumulated impairment losses	(3,525,885)	(3,721,206)
Total capital works in progress	5,713,982	5,903,802
Plant and equipment		
At cost	2,461,135	2,460,578
Less accumulated depreciation	(2,046,591)	(2,043,797)
Total plant and equipment	414,544	416,781
Total plant and equipment and works in progress	6,128,526	6,320,583
Total property, plant and equipment	19,953,921	21,046,191

## (a) Assets pledged as security

As at 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2016 there were no mortgages granted as security over bank loans.

## (b) Capital works in progress

Capital works in progress are not ready for use and not yet being depreciated.

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## (c) Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amount for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

		(	Consolidated		
	Capital works in progress \$	Land \$	Buildings \$	Plant and equipment	Total
Year ended 30 June 2017 Balance at the beginning of year	5,903,802	5,254,000	9,471,608	416,781	21,046,191
Additions	120,063	-	-	133,922	253,985
Depreciation expense	, -	-	(408,436)	(116,301)	(524,737)
Foreign exchange movements	(309,883)	-	(491,777)	(19,858)	(821,518)
Carrying amount at the end of year	5,713,982	5,254,000	8,571,395	414,544	19,953,921
Year ended 30 June 2016 Balance at the beginning of					
year	6,126,818	5,254,000	10,461,226	521,273	22,363,317
Additions	108,487	-	1,900	72,517	182,904
Depreciation expense	-	-	(446,912)	(157,516)	(604,428)
Foreign exchange movements	(331,503)	-	(544,606)	(19,493)	(895,602)
Carrying amount at the end of year	5,903,802	5,254,000	9,471,608	416,781	21,046,191

## (d) Impairment of capital works in progress

No impairment loss has been recognised in profit or loss in 2017. During the 2016 year the Group brought to account an impairment expense for the Zr Sponge project in China. The project while of significant potential has long lead times and hence it was appropriate to impair at 30 June 2016.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### 17. Intangible Assets

		Consolic	lated
	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Evaluation costs			<u>.</u>
Cost	17(b)	15,110,380	12,982,274
Accumulated impairment loss	17(b)	(7,945,901)	(7,991,712)
Net carrying value	17(b)	7,164,479	4,990,562
Exploration expenditure capitalised			
Exploration and evaluation phases	17(a)(c)	52,513,029	49,435,974
Net carrying value		52,513,029	49,435,974
Water rights	17(a)(g)		
Net carrying value		13,973,278	14,691,622
Total Intangibles	17(f)	73,650,786	69,118,158

#### (a) Intangible assets

Movements during the year ended 30 June 2017 in intangible assets represent additions, movements in foreign exchange and amortisation. For capital expenditure commitments refer note 27(ii).

## (b) Evaluation costs and impairment losses

The development costs of \$14,197,965 (2016: \$12,982,274) and the accumulated impairment of \$7,945,901 (2016: \$7,991,712) as at 30 June 2017 relates to the following:

- 1. TiO2 project costs of \$7,804,351 (2016: \$7,565,591) was fully impaired in 2009. The current year movement represents the movement in foreign exchange.
- 2. The Senegal project of \$7,306,029 (2016: \$4,690,227) represents evaluation costs incurred in Senegal. This was netted off by an impairment of \$426,121 which was carried forward from prior years and shifted due to the movement in foreign exchange. The costs incurred in the years prior to June 2011 were fully impaired due to doubt as to whether the project would continue at that time. The current year additions represented the resumption of activities following the grant of the exploration license in June 2011.
- 3. The remaining balance of \$284,571 (2016: \$300,335) relates to capitalised testing and design fees for the MSP. The current year movement represents the movement in foreign exchange.

## (c) Exploration and evaluation expenditure

This expenditure relates to the Group's investment in the Donald Mineral Sands Project. As at 30 June 2017 the Group has complied with the conditions of the granting of EL5186, EL5255, EL5472, ML5532, RL 2002, RL 2003 and RL 2006. As such the Directors believe that the tenements are in good standing with the Department of Primary Industries in Victoria, who administers the Mineral Resources Development Act 1990.

The recoverability of the carrying amount of the exploration and evaluation assets is dependent upon the successful development and commercial exploitation or alternatively sale of the area of interest.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## (d) Movement in net carrying value

			Consolidated		
	Exploration and Evaluation Phase \$	Development costs	Water Rights	Software \$	Total \$
Year ended 30 June 2017					
Opening balance	49,435,974	4,990,562	14,691,622	-	69,118,158
Additions	3,077,055	2,175,013	-	-	5,252,068
Amortisation	-	-	(718,344)	-	(718,344)
Foreign exchange movements		(1,096)	-	-	(1,096)
Balance at 30 June 2017	52,513,029	7,164,479	13,973,278	-	73,650,786
Year ended 30 June 2016					
Opening balance	45,066,696	4,371,150	15,409,966	79,003	64,926,815
Additions	4,369,278	619,626	-	-	4,988,904
Amortisation Foreign exchange	-	-	(718,344)	(79,003)	(797,347)
movements	-	(214)	-	-	(214)
Balance at 30 June 2016	49,435,974	4,990,562	14,691,622	_	69,118,158

## (e) Finite lives

Intangible assets, other than goodwill have finite useful lives. To date no amortisation has been charged in respect of intangible assets due to the stage of development for each project.

## (f) Water rights

In 2012 the Group acquired rights to the supply of water for the Donald project. The water rights are currently being amortised over 25 years in line with entitlements.

## 18. Land Use Rights

olidated	Consolid
7 2016	2017
\$	\$
3,255,981	3,010,784

During the year ended 30 June 2015, management entered into an agreement to transfer 1,065,384 sqm of land held in Yingkou province China to a state-owned entity. As the under-development of this land resulted from a change of government development plan and restructure, this land transfer has been subsidised by the Chinese Government. Final contracts over the land sale were exchanged and the disposal was brought to account in the year ended 30 June 2015 with the net proceeds of \$20,356,248 to be received in instalments. As at 30 June 2017 the receivable amounts to \$10,050,196 which was to be paid in equal instalments. While the receivable is currently outside terms the Group is confident that the receivable will be received in instalments by 31 December 2018.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## (a) Reconciliation

	Consoli	dated
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Opening balance	3,255,981	3,525,124
Additions	-	-
Amortisation	(75,267)	(82,358)
Transfer to assets classified as held for sale	-	-
Foreign exchange movements	(169,930)	(186,785)
Closing balance	3,010,784	3,255,981

## 19. Trade and Other Payables

_	Consolidated		
	2017 \$	2016 \$	
Unsecured liabilities			
Trade payables	2,436,546	2,208,322	
Other payables	2,926,095	1,340,633	
	5,362,641	3,548,955	

## 20. Borrowings

		Consolidate	ed
	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Current			
Short term borrowings	26	76,080	
		76,080	-

During the year ended 30 June 2017 Executive Director Mdm Kang Rong advanced Astron \$76,080 for working capital. The loan is provided interest free and repayable on demand.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

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## 21. Provisions

		Consolida	ted
	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Current			
Employee entitlements		58,088	67,783
		58,088	67,783
Non-current			
Environmental rehabilitation	21(a)	40,000	40,000
		40,000	40,000

## (a) Provision for environmental rehabilitation

The provision for rehabilitation represents the estimated costs to rehabilitate the Donald Mineral Sands evaluation excavation.

## 22. Taxation

#### i. Liabilities

	Consolid	ated
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Current tax liability	-	-
Deferred tax liability arises from the following:		
Capitalised expenditure	4,466,931	5,151,117
Provisions and other timing differences	(73,666)	(60,522)
Blackhole expenditure	(4,465)	(11,116)
	4,388,800	5,079,479

## ii. Deferred tax assets not brought to account

Deferred tax assets are not brought to account, as benefits will only be realised if the conditions for deductibility set out in note 2(e) occur.

C	nsoli	dated
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Tax losses:		
- Revenue losses (China) 4,67	3,660	3,961,477
- Capital losses 13,53	3,262	14,769,013

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## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## iii. Current Tax Asset

This represents payment of provisional tax which is recoverable as there is no tax liability in view of the tax losses incurred.

	Consolidated	<u> </u>
	2017	20
-	\$	
	-	460,380

#### 23. Issued Capital

	Consolidated	
	2017 \$	2016 \$
122,479,784 (2016: 122,479,784) Fully Paid Ordinary Shares at HK\$0.1	1,605,048	1,605,048
Total	1,605,048	1,605,048

The shares in Astron Corporation Limited are par value shares with a par value of HK\$0.1.

## (a) Reconciliation of ordinary shares (number)

	Consolid	Consolidated	
	2017	2016	
At the beginning of year	122,479,784	122,479,784	
At reporting date	122,479,784	122,479,784	

## (b) Reconciliation of ordinary shares (value)

	Consolid	Consolidated		
	2017 \$	2016 \$		
At the beginning of the year	1,605,048	1,605,048		
Total at end of the year	1,605,048	1,605,048		

## (c) Ordinary shares

Ordinary shares participate in dividends and the proceeds on winding up of the parent entity in proportion to the number of shares held.

At the shareholders meetings, each ordinary share is entitled to one vote when a poll is called; otherwise each shareholder has one vote on a show of hands.

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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### (d) Capital risk management

The Group considers its capital to comprise its ordinary share capital, reserves, accumulated retained earnings and net debt.

In managing its capital, the Group's primary objective is to ensure its continued ability to provide a consistent return for its equity shareholders through a combination of capital growth and dividends. In order to achieve this objective, the Group has made decisions to adjust its capital structure to achieve these aims, either through altering its dividend policy, new share issues, or share buy backs, the Group considers not only its short-term position but also its long term operational and strategic objectives.

Consolid	dated
2017 \$	2016 \$
-	-
102,658,231	105,723,952

There have been no significant changes to the Group's capital management objectives, policies and processes in the year nor has there been any change in what the Group considers to be its capital.

#### (e) Share based payments

As at 30 June 2017 there were no key executives that had any rights to acquire shares in terms of a share-based payment scheme for employee remuneration. The creation and grant would be subject to shareholder approval.

A share based payment of \$913,104 was recognised after the achievement of certain milestones with respect to the Senegal project were achieved by a project consultant. This represents a 3% equity interest in the Senegal project, calculated by reference to the Senegal project fair value and will be satisfied by the issue of shares in a Senegalese subsidiary which took place subsequent to year end.

#### 24. Reserves

## i. Foreign currency translation reserve

The foreign currency translation reserve records exchange differences arising on translation of foreign controlled subsidiaries. The reserve balance at 30 June 2017 is \$8,799,756 (2016: \$10,352,428).

## ii. Share based payment reserve

The share-based payment reserve records the amount of expense raised in terms of equity-settled share-based payment transactions. The reserve recognised in the current financial year is \$913,104 (2016: \$nil).

## iii. Financial assets available for sale reserve

The financial assets available for sale reserve represents the cumulative gains and losses arising on the revaluation of available for sale financial assets that have been recognised in other comprehensive income, net of amounts reclassified to profit or loss when those assets have been disposed of or are determined to be impaired.

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## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## 25. Dividends

During the current and prior years no dividend was proposed or paid.

Franking account balance	Consolida	ated
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Franking credits available for the subsequent financial years based on a tax rate of 27.5% (2016: 30%)	286.770	1.014.665

The above amount represents the balance on the franking account at the end of the financial year arising from income tax payable.

## 26. Related party transactions

## i. Parent entity

Astron Corporation Limited is the parent entity of the Group.

#### ii. Subsidiaries

Interests in subsidiaries are disclosed in note 15.

## iii. Transactions with key management personnel

Key management of the Group are the executive members of the Board of Directors. Key Management Personnel remuneration includes the following expenses:

	2017 \$	2016
Short term employee benefits	<del>_</del>	<u></u>
Salaries and fees	895,428	979,719
Non-cash benefits	22,559	79,297
Total short-term employee benefits	917,987	1,059,016
Post-employment benefits		
Payments in lieu of notice	-	42,281
Superannuation	31,146	26,403
Total post-employment benefits	31,146	68,684
Total Remuneration	949,133	1,127,700

#### iv. Rental of offices

From 1 July 2011 to September 2015, the Group leased offices at level 18, Building B, Fortune Plaza, 53 Beizhan Road, Shenhe District, Shenyang China, property owned by Mdm Kang Rong, who is an executive Director of the Astron Corporation Limited.

The lease agreement has now concluded and the office is now situated in property owned by the Group rent free (2016: \$97,230).

#### v. Interest free loans

All subsidiary companies are wholly owned with any interest free loans being eliminated on consolidation.

#### vi. Management services provided

Management and administrative services are provided at no cost to subsidiaries.

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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## vii. Related Party Loans

During the year ended 30 June 2017 Executive Director Mdm Kang Rong advanced Astron \$76,080 for working capital. The loan is provided interest free and repayable on demand.

Dring the year ended 30 June 2015 the Group entered into a short term related party loan from Executive Director Mdm Kang Rong who advanced Astron \$1,000,000 for working capital. The advance was provided on an interest free basis and repayable on demand. The loan was repaid during the year ended 30 June 2016.

As at 30 June 2017 there are unpaid Directors and management fees payable to Directors' related entities as follows:

- Mdm Kang Rong, Juhua International Limited of \$693,732 (2016: \$456,284); and
- Mr Alex Brown, Firback Finance Limited of \$845,839 (2016: \$597,753)

The above liabilities have been subordinated and will not be called upon unless and until such time that Astron Corporation Limited has available funds or is generating positive operating cash flows from operations.

## 27. Commitments

#### i. Operating lease commitments

There are no non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements (2016: nil)

## ii. Capital expenditure commitments

	Consolidated	
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Capital expenditure commitments contracted for:		
Chinese capital projects	1,105,040	68,972
Senegal	912,415	942,760
Donald Mineral Sands	50,000	50,000
	2,067,455	1,061,732
Payable:		
- not later than 12 months	2,067,455	1,061,732
	2,067,455	1,061,732

#### iii. Water rights

In terms of the contract with GWMW the Group is required to pay a usage fee in 2017 of \$218,178 (2016: \$215,318) per guarter for the remaining life of the water rights.

#### iv. Guarantees between subsidiaries

Astron Limited has provided a letter of support to the Victorian Department of Primary Industries to fund any expenditure incurred by Donald Mineral Sands Pty Limited.

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## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## v. Other commitments and contingencies

Land

In 2008 Astron Titanium (Yingkou) Co Ltd acquired a land site from the Chinese Government. The Group is discussing possible changes to the usage rights with the Government. The Directors believe that no significant loss will be incurred to the Group in relation to the land use rights. As at the 30 June 2017 the net book value of this land is \$1,389,101 (2016: \$1,503,167).

The intention for the block of land held by Yingkou Astron Mineral Resources Co Ltd is currently being evaluated. As at 30 June 2017 the net book value of the land is \$1,621,683 (2016: \$1,752,814).

Minimum expenditure on exploration and mining licenses

To maintain the Exploration and Mining License's at Donald the Group is required to spend \$1,748,540 on exploration and development expenditure over the next year (2016: \$1,998,540). The minimum expenditure amount per annum will normally increase over the life of an exploration license. The minimum expenditure on the mining license 5532 is \$556,800 per annum. The amount of this expenditure could be reduced should the Group decide to relinquish land.

#### 28. Cash Flow Information

## i. Reconciliation of cash provided by operating activities with profit attributable to members

	Consolidated	
	2017 \$	2016 \$
Net (loss)/ profit for the year	(2,590,844)	(4,408,196)
Non-cash flows in profit (loss) from ordinary activities		
Depreciation and amortisation	563,737	732,484
Other provisions	_	(13,083)
Gain on sale of property, plant & equipment	_	(31,409)
Gain/(Loss) on disposal of available-for-sale assets	21,140	(23,177)
Impairment of construction in progress	_	-
Decrease/ (increase) in trade and other receivables	163,760	891,523
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	(1,157,789)	66,734
Increase in trade payables and accruals	397,742	1,017,110
Increase in deferred tax liabilities	(690,679)	(595,983)
Effects on foreign exchange rate movement	(5,258)	(154,042)
	(3,298,191)	(2,518,039)

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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### ii. Reconciliation of cash

		Consolidated	
	Note	2017	2016
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to items in the consolidated statement of financial position as follows:	Note	Ψ	Ψ
Cash on hand	10	10,812	5,652
Current & call account balances	10	1,306,419	5,098,942
Short term deposits	10	-	-
		1,317,231	5,104,594

#### iii. Loan facilities

As at 30 June 2017 the Group did not have any loan facilities.

## iv. Non cash financing and investing activities

No dividends were paid in cash or by the issue of shares under a dividend reinvestment plan during the current year and prior year.

## v. Acquisition of entities

During the year or during the previous year Astron Corporation Limited did not invest any funds into Chinese subsidiaries. During the current year Astron did not acquire any new entities.

#### vi. Disposal of entities

There were no disposals of entities in the current or prior financial years.

#### vii. Restrictions on cash

Bank balances did not include any letter of credit deposits at 30 June 2017 (2016: \$nil).

#### 29. Employee Benefit Obligations

As at 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2016, the majority of employees are employed in China. In accordance with normal business practice in China employee benefits must be fully utilized annually. Any Chinese provisions for employee entitlements at year end would be insignificant.

## 30. Subsequent events

As at 30 June 2017 \$10,050,196 is due to the Group from the 2015 sale of surplus land in China. Subsequent to year end, \$1.7 million has been received against this receivable. Approximately \$3.8 million has been received pursuant to pre-payment for the future supply of materials under an offtake agreement to fund the development of the Senegal project.

In September 2017, Astron incorporated a new Senegalese entity "Senegal Mineral Resources" for the Senegal project with a 3% non controlling interest.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Group, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Group in future financial years.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 29 September 2017 by the board of Directors.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## 31. Financial Instruments

#### i. General objectives, policies and processes

In common with all other businesses, the Group is exposed to risks that arise from its use of financial instruments. This note describes the Group's objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks and the methods used to measure them. Further quantitative information in respect of these risks is presented throughout these financial statements.

There have been no substantive changes in the Group's exposure to financial instrument risks, its objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks or the methods used to measure them from previous periods unless otherwise stated in this note. The principal financial instruments from which financial instrument risk arises are cash at bank, term deposits greater than 90 days, trade receivables and payables and available-for-sale investments.

The Board has overall responsibility for the determination of the Group's risk management objectives and policies. The Groups' risk management policies and objectives are therefore designed to minimise the potential impacts of these risks on the results of the Group where such impacts may be material. The Group has significant experience in its principal markets which provides the Directors with assurance as to the effectiveness of the processes put in place and the appropriateness of the objectives and policies it sets. The Group engages a number of external professionals to ensure compliance with best practice principles.

The overall objective of the Board is to set polices that seek to reduce risk as far as possible without unduly affecting the Group's competitiveness and flexibility. Further details regarding these policies are set out below:

#### ii. Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that the other party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge their obligation resulting in the Group incurring a financial loss. This usually occurs when debtors or counterparties to derivative contracts fail to settle their obligations owing to the Group.

In respect of cash investments the majority of cash, cash equivalents and term deposits greater than 90 days are held with institutions with a AA to A-credit rating.

In respect of trade receivables, there is no concentration of credit risk as the Group has a large number of customers. Group policy is that sales are only made to customers that are credit worthy. Trade receivables are predominantly situated in China.

Other Receivables include \$10,050,196 (2016: \$12,558,176) being the land sale receivable from the Yingkou Provincial government.

Credit risk is managed on a Group basis and reviewed regularly by management and Audit & Risk Committee. It arises from exposures to customers as well as through certain derivative financial instruments and deposits with financial institutions.

Refer to note 10 (a) & (b) for concentration of credit risk for cash and cash equivalents.

The maximum exposure of the Group to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	Consolidated	
	<b>2017</b> 20	
	\$	\$
Cash & cash equivalents	1,317,231	5,104,594
Term deposits with maturity over 90 days	60,898	60,685
Receivables (trade and other) – current and non-current	12,484,682	14,603,759
Total	13,862,811	19,769,038

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## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## iii. Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group may encounter difficulties raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial instruments, e.g. borrowing repayments. The Group manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows. As at the year end the Group had cash of \$1,317,231 (2016: \$5,104,594).

Maturity analysis

Consolidated				
		Carrying	Contractual	
		Amount		< 6 months
	Note	\$	\$	<u> </u>
Year ended 30 June 2017				
Non-derivatives				
Trade payables	19	2,436,546	2,436,546	2,436,546
Other payables and accruals	19	2,926,095	2,926,095	2,926,095
Borrowings	20	76,080	76,080	76,080
Total Non-interest bearing liabilities		5,438,721	5,438,721	5,438,721
Total liabilities		5,438,721	5,438,721	5,438,721
Year ended 30 June 2016				
Non-derivatives				
Trade payables	19	2,208,322	2,208,322	2,208,322
Other payables and accruals	19	1,340,633	1,340,633	1,340,633
Borrowings	20			
Total Non-interest bearing liabilities		3,548,955	3,548,955	3,548,955
Total liabilities		3,548,955	3,548,955	3,548,955

## iv. Fair value

The fair values of

- Listed investments have been valued at the quoted market bid price at the end of the reporting period.
- Other assets and other liabilities approximate their carrying value.

At 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2016, the aggregate fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities approximate their carrying amounts.

Available-for-sale financial instruments are recognised in the statement of financial position of the Group according to the hierarchy stipulated in IFRS 7.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Consolidated		
	2017 \$	2016	
Available-for-sale financial assets	·	Ψ_	
ASX Listed equity shares Level 1	217,293	540,237	
	217,293	540,237	

The Group does not have any Level 2 or 3 financial assets.

#### v. Price risk

Given that price movements are not considered material to the Group, the Group does not have a risk management policy for price risk. However, the Group's management regularly review the risks associated with fluctuating input and output prices.

As at 30 June 2017, the maximum exposure of price risk to the Group was the available-for-sale investments for \$217,293 (2016: \$540,237). 100% of the Group's holding is in the mining or energy sector.

The Group's exposure to equity price risk is as follows:

			Consolida	ated
			2017 \$	2016 \$
Carrying amount of listed equity shares on ASX			217,293	540,237
Sensitivity Analysis			217,293	540,237
		Consolid	lated	
		2017 \$		2016 \$
	Increase/(de share p		Increase/(dec	
	+10%	-10%	+10%	-10%
Listed equity shares on ASX  Profit before tax - decrease	-	(21,729)	-	(54,024)
Other comprehensive income - increase	21,729	-	54,024	-

The above analysis assumes all other variables remain constant.

## vi. Interest rate risk

The Group manages its interest rate risk by monitoring available interest rates and maintaining an overriding position of security whereby the majority of cash and cash equivalents and term deposits are held with institutions with a BA1 to A- credit rating.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

The Groups' exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate by maturity periods is set out in the tables below:

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate		Floating Int	erest Rate	Fixed Intere Maturing with		Non-interes	st Bearing	Tot	al
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
	%	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets:										
Cash and cash equivalents Term deposits greater than 90	0.90%	2.15%	1,203,107	4,996,599	103,312	102,343	10,812	5,652	1,317,231	5,104,594
days	1.0%	3.15%	-	-	60,898	60,685	-	-	60,898	60,685
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,484,682	14,603,759	12,484,682	14,603,759
Available-for-sale investments		-	-	-	-	-	217,293	540,237	217,293	540,237
Total Financial Assets			1,203,107	4,996,599	164,210	163,027	12,712,787	15,149,648	14,080,104	20,309,275
Financial Liabilities:										
Trade and sundry payables	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,362,641	3,548,955	5,362,641	3,548,955
Borrowings	-	-	-	-	-	-	76,080	-	76,080	-
Total Financial Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,438,721	3,548,955	5,438,721	3,548,955

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Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

## Sensitivity analysis

The following table shows the movements in profit due to higher/lower interest costs from variable interest rate financial instruments in Australia and China.

		Consolida	ated	
	+ 1% (100 ba	sis points)	-1% (100 bas	sis points)
	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016
Cash at bank	13,172	51,046	(13,172)	(51,046)
Term deposits greater than 90 days	609	607	(609)	(607)
Borrowings	(7,608)	-	7,608	_
	6,173	51,653	(6,173)	(51,653)
Tax charge of 27.5%	(1,698)	(14,205)	1,398	14,205
Total	4,475	37,448	(4,475)	(37,448)

## vii. Foreign currency risk

The Group is exposed to fluctuations in foreign currencies arising from the sale and purchase of goods and services in currencies other than the Group's measurement currency. The Group manages this risk through the offset of trade receivables and payables where the majority of trading is undertaken in either the USD or Chinese Reminbi which is pegged to the USD. Current trading terms ensure that foreign currency risk is reduced by not trading on terms but cash on delivery.



**Declaration by Directors** 

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

The Directors of the company declare that:

- 1. The financial statements, comprising the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of financial position, consolidated statement of cash flows, consolidated statement of changes in equity, accompanying notes, are in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and give a true and fair view of the consolidated entity's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2. In the Directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors and is signed for and on behalf of the Directors by:

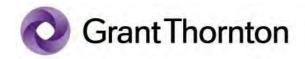
A Brown

**G** King

Director

Director

29 September 2017



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# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Astron Corporation Limited

#### Report on the audit of the financial report

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Astron Corporation Limited (the Company) and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Group:

- a gives a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b complies with International Financial Reporting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the independence requirements the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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#### **Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern**

We draw attention to Note 1(w) in the financial statements, which indicates that the Group incurred a net loss of \$2.6m during the year ended 30 June 2017, and had negative cash outflows from operations of \$3.2m and a cash balance of \$1.3m. These conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 1(w), indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt about the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

In addition to the matter described in the Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

Key audit matter	How our audit addressed the key audit matter
Donald Mineral Sands ('DMS') Project - Note 17(c) & Senegal Mineral Sands Project - Note 17(b)	
In accordance with IAS 6 Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources, the Group is required to assess at each reporting date if there are any triggers for impairment which may suggest the carrying value is in excess of the recoverable value.  The process undertaken by management to assess whether there are any impairment triggers in each area of interest involves an element of management judgement.  At 30 June 2017, the market capitalisation of the Group was significantly less than the consolidated net assets, which is a trigger for impairment.  Once impairment indicators trigger an impairment review, management is required to assess for impairment in accordance with IAS 36 Impairment of Assets.	<ul> <li>Our procedures included, amongst others:</li> <li>obtaining the management reconciliation of capitalised exploration and evaluation expenditure and agreeing to the general ledger;</li> <li>obtaining management's calculation of the recoverable amount of the projects and comparing to the methodology as required under IAS 36;</li> <li>assessing the commercial viability relating to exploration and evaluation activities including assessing the fair value less cost of disposal models prepared in relation to the projects and performing sensitivity analyses of the key assumptions in the models;</li> <li>tracing the ownership of licences to statutory registers maintained by third parties to determine whether a right of tenure existed;</li> <li>considering the Group's intention to carry out significant exploration and evaluation activity in the relevant exploration areas, including assessing the Group's cash flow forecast models;</li> <li>performing enquiries of management and the Directors as to the intentions and strategy of the Group;</li> <li>reviewing a paper prepared by management and challenging and corroborating key assumptions made by management relating to the recoverability of the projects;</li> <li>understanding whether any data exists to suggest that the carrying value of these exploration and evaluation assets are unlikely to be recovered through development or sale;</li> <li>assessing the ability of the Group to finance any planned future exploration and evaluation activity; and</li> <li>reviewing the appropriateness of the related disclosures within the financial statements.</li> </ul>



Key audit matter	How our audit addressed the key audit matter
Recoverability of land use right receivable - Note 11(a)	
In accordance with IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement at the end of each reporting period individually significant receivables are required to be assessed for objective evidence of impairment.  At 30 June 2017 the Group had a land use right receivable which is outside the terms of payment. Due to the expected timing of receipt of the balance, a portion of this has been classified as a non-current receivable.  This is a key audit matter due to the judgement required to assess the recoverability of the land use right receivable.	Our procedures included, amongst others:  meeting with a representative of the debtor and obtaining verbal confirmation from them of:  the amount due to the Group at 30 June 2017;  amounts remitted to the Group since 30 June 2017; and  their intention to pay the remaining balance including expected timing of the payments;  tracing subsequent receipts of RMB9,000,000 to post year end bank statements; and  reviewing the appropriateness of the related disclosures within the financial statements.

#### Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Group's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2017, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Responsibilities of the Directors' for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Group are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\_responsibilities/ar1.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD

irant Thornton

**Chartered Accountants** 

L M Worsley

Partner - Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 29 September 2017

#### **Investor Information**

## 2017/2018 Financial Calendar (on or before)

Release of quarterly report	31 October 2017
2017 Annual general meeting	5 December 2017
Release of quarterly report	30 January 2018
Release of half year report	27 February 2018
Release of quarterly report	30 April 2018
Release of Appendix 4E	28 August 2018

Additional information required by the Australian Securities Exchange Ltd and not shown elsewhere in this report is as follows.

The information is current as at 16 September 2017.

## Shareholders' interests

## (a) Distribution of equity securities

The number of shareholders by size of holding in each class of share are:

## **Range of Units Snapshot**

			% of
	Total holders	Units	Issued Capital
1-1,000	117	55,466	0.05
1,001-5,000	105	306,822	0.25
5,001-10,000	54	426,580	0.35
10,001-100,000	111	4,094,949	3.34
100,001-9,999,999,999	38	117,592,961	96.01
Rounding			
Total	425	122,476,778	100.00
Non CDI holders		000	
1-1,000	4	306	
1,001-5,000	1	2,700	
Total	5	3,006	
Unremarkable Parcels			
	Minimum		
	parcel size	Holders	Units
Minimum \$ 500.00 parcel at \$0.19 per unit	2,632	167	150,866

## **Investor Information continued**

## (b) Twenty largest CDI holders

The twenty largest CDI holders are as follows:

Rank	Name	Units	% of Total CDIs
1.	P T Arafua Mining Limited	94,165,972	76.88
2.	FSC Investment Holdings Ltd	7,437,092	6.07
3.	Juhua International Limited	4,000,000	3.27
4.	Mr Guodong Gong	2,135,840	1.74
5.	Mr Donald Alexander Black	1,389,053	1.13
6.	Mr Darrell Vaughan Manton + Mrs Veronica Josephine Manton < The Manton Family No 2 A/C>	933,364	0.76
7.	Mr Milton Yannis	742,846	0.61
8.	Mr Adrian Robert Nijman + Mrs Jenny Ann Nijman	650,000	0.53
9.	HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited	643,494	0.53
10.	Bond Street Custodians Limited <tmx -="" a="" c="" d62224=""></tmx>	390,000	0.32
11.	Cognition Australia Pty Ltd <a&m a="" c="" gall="" superannuation=""></a&m>	381,468	0.31
12.	Navigator Australia Ltd <mlc a="" c="" investment="" sett=""></mlc>	376,120	0.31
13.	Bresrim Nominees Pty Ltd <d #2="" a="" c="" fund="" hannes="" super=""></d>	328,342	0.27
14.	Max Short Pty Ltd <gl a="" c="" family="" short=""></gl>	289,260	0.24
15.	Ellrock Pty Ltd <elliott 3="" a="" c="" no=""></elliott>	260,000	0.21
16.	Clydebank Investments Pty Ltd <fran a="" c="" fund="" herd="" super=""></fran>	230,000	0.19
17.	Mr Malcolm Campbell	204,400	0.17
18.	Morgeo Nominees Pty Limited	200,000	0.16
19.	BNP Paribas Nominees Pty Ltd <lb au="" drp="" noms="" retailclient=""></lb>	182,716	0.15
20.	Connaught Consultants (Finance) Pty Ltd <super a="" c="" fund=""></super>	182,000	0.15
Totals	: Top 20 holders of CDI	115,121,967	94.00
Total F	Remaining Holders Balance	7,354,811	6.00
Total (	CDIs	122,476,778	100.00
Total n	on-CDI holders	3,006	
Total s	shares on issue	122,479,784	

## (c) Voting rights

All ordinary shares (whether fully paid or not) carry one vote per share without restriction.

#### **Investor Information continued**

## (d) Schedule of interests in mining tenements

Location	Tenement	Percentage held
Victoria Australia	EL5186	100
Victoria Australia	EL5255	100
Victoria Australia	EL5472	100
Victoria Australia	RL 2002	100
Victoria Australia	RL 2003	100
Victoria Australia	RL 2006	100
Victoria Australia	MIN5532	100

## Information policy

It is the policy of the Company to conform with the highest reporting and information standards to its shareholders. Company spokespeople are available and pleased to respond to queries from financial community, investors and shareholders.

During the year, the Group held one shareholder information session meeting and at the meeting active discussions took place and questions were answered.

All these initiatives will continue to be improved and expanded in the coming year with the objective of providing the fullest and most detailed information to shareholders consistent with the Company's objectives.

Information on the group and presentations to analysts can be obtained from the Company's Website www.astronlimited.com.

To assist and improve service to shareholders related to the administration of the fully registered shares shareholders can contact our share registry service.

Shareholders can also contact the Company directly by telephone in Australia +61 3 5385 7088

## **Investor Information continued**

Salient Financials								
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Share price* (\$)	0.16	0.17	0.15	0.32	0.71	1.30	1.50	0.90
EPS ( c )	(2.12)	(3.60)	6.52	(6.19)	(4.46)	(0.80)	0.70	0.90
Price earnings Ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	221.4	105.6
Interest Cover	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nos of Shares on issue (m)*	122.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	124.6	128.4
Profit and Loss (\$m)								
Total income	2.6	1.1	13.9	5.1	13.0	21.0	20.5	15.3
Costs	(6.0)	(5.4)	(8.3)	(10.9)	(17.8)	(20.4)	(17.0)	(12.2
EBITDA	(3.4)	(4.3)	5.6	(5.8)	(4.8)	0.6	3.5	3.1
Depreciation & Amortisation	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.3)
EBITDA	(4.0)	(5.0)	4.9	(6.3)	(5.4)	0.1	3.1	2.8
Borrowing Costs	-	-	-	-	(0.1)	-	-	(0.1)
NPBT	(4.0)	(5.0)	4.9	(6.3)	(5.5)	0.1	3.1	2.7
Income tax benefit/(expense)	1.4	0.6	3.1	(1.3)	(0.0)	(1.1)	(2.2)	(1.5)
NPAT	(2.6)	(4.4)	8.0	(7.6)	(5.5)	(1.0)	0.9	1.2
Balance Sheet (\$m)								
Cash & Term deposits	1.4	5.2	5.9	10.1	108.1	121.2	147.4	166.5
Receivables	6.1	14.1	17.4	1.6	5.0	4.2	7.5	2.6
Inventories	1.9	0.7	0.8	0.4	2.2	5.1	3.7	1.3
Other financial Assets	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.9	2.5	0.7
Current Tax Assets	-	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.3	-	-	-
Assets classified as available for sale	-	-	-	6.7	-	-	-	-
Total Current Assets	9.6	21.0	26.2	20.6	116.6	132.4	161.1	171.1
Property, Plant & Equipment	20.0	21.0	22.4	20.9	21.1	16.7	12.4	11.4
Trade & other receivables	6.4	-	3.9	-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	73.6	69.1	64.9	61.2	56.2	48.6	27.0	21.8
Land use rights	3.0	3.3	3.5	2.9	10.0	8.7	8.3	10.0
Deferred Tax Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Current Assets	103.0	93.4	94.7	85.0	87.3	74.0	47.7	43.2
TOTAL ASSETS	112.6	114.4	120.9	105.6	203.9	206.4	208.8	214.3
Payables	5.4	3.6	2.2	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.2	1.5
Borrowings	0.1	-	1.0	-	0.3	0.2	-	-
Tax Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total Current Liabilities	5.5	3.6	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	1.7
Deferred Tax	4.4	5.1	5.2	6.3	5.0	5.0	4.6	2.9
Total Non-Current Liabilities	4.4	5.1	5.2	6.3	5.0	5.0	4.6	2.9
Total liabilities	9.9	8.7	8.5	8.8	7.3	7.5	7.0	4.6
NET ASSETS	102.7	105.7	112.4	96.8	196.6	198.9	201.8	209.7
Cash Flows (\$m)								
Operating Activities	(3.2)	(2.5)	(3.7)	(8.0)	(3.3)	3.2	(1.5)	4.0
Investing Activities	-	3.3	3.8	49.8	(11.0)	(27.8)	(17.9)	(57.8
Financing Activities	-	(1.0)	1.0	92.1	0.1	(4.2)	(5.1)	(1.2)

<sup>\*</sup> After 2:1 share swap and return of capital in 2015

#### **Directors**

Mr Gerard King (Chairman)
Mr Alexander Brown (Managing Director)
Mdm Kang Rong (Executive Director)

#### Company Secretary and Registered Office

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#### Auditors

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