

# WESTERN AREAS NL



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ASX Release

Western Areas NL

ASX Code: WSA

24 September 2003

## OUTSTANDING NICKEL INTERSECTION IN FIRST DRILLHOLE INTO NEW TARGET AT FORRESTANIA

The Board is pleased to report an outstanding intersection of 6.6m @ 6.5% nickel (including 3.7m @ 7.5% nickel) from 454.6m downhole depth in the first diamond drillhole (FFD 132) completed by Western Areas at Flying Fox. The Company is awaiting confirmation from final assay results, but believes the intersection points to a major new discovery at the 100% owned Forrestania Nickel Project. The nickel occurs as massive sulphide offset 300m by a horizontal fault below the Flying Fox mine, which was operated by Outokumpu between 1994 and 1997.

The potential size of the discovery is supported by two strong offhole EM anomalies (announced on 17 September) centred 120m and 150m to the south and below the intersection in FFD 132. The massive sulphide intersected in FFD 132 is expected to be continuous with the interpreted source of the EM anomalies, which are undrilled. A second drillhole (FFD 133) is currently testing the shallower EM anomaly and should reach this target early next week. Another diamond drillrig is being sourced to accelerate the drilling program at Flying Fox and a geophysical team will be employed to test for possible extensions to the downhole EM anomalies.

Sections showing the location of FFD 132 and the interpreted EM anomalies are included with this release.

### RESULTS

| Drillhole | Collar East (local) | Collar North (local) | Collar Inclination | Collar Azimuth | End of Hole (m) |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| FFD 132   | 34,406              | 28,400               | -72                | 270            | 520             |

| Drillhole    | From (m) | To (m) | Interval (m) | Ni% Preliminary assays | Comments                       |
|--------------|----------|--------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| FFD 132      | 454.62   | 455.00 | 0.38         | 4.77                   | semi – massive sulphide        |
|              | 455.00   | 456.00 | 1.00         | 7.38                   | massive nickel sulphide        |
|              | 456.00   | 457.08 | 1.08         | 4.97                   | massive nickel sulphide        |
|              | 457.08   | 457.52 | 0.44         | 0.61                   | stringer sulphides in sediment |
|              | 457.52   | 458.00 | 0.48         | 7.00                   | massive nickel sulphide        |
|              | 458.00   | 459.00 | 1.00         | 8.12                   | massive nickel sulphide        |
|              | 459.00   | 460.00 | 1.00         | 7.28                   | massive nickel sulphide        |
|              | 460.00   | 461.22 | 1.22         | 7.46                   | massive nickel sulphide        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |          |        | <b>6.60</b>  | <b>6.47</b>            |                                |

### DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Assuming further positive results, Flying Fox may become Western Area's fourth mine at Forrestania and is expected to have a major impact on the development of the project. Results of the recent scoping study for the proposed Stage One Development (based on three underground mines with ore treated through a plant to be built

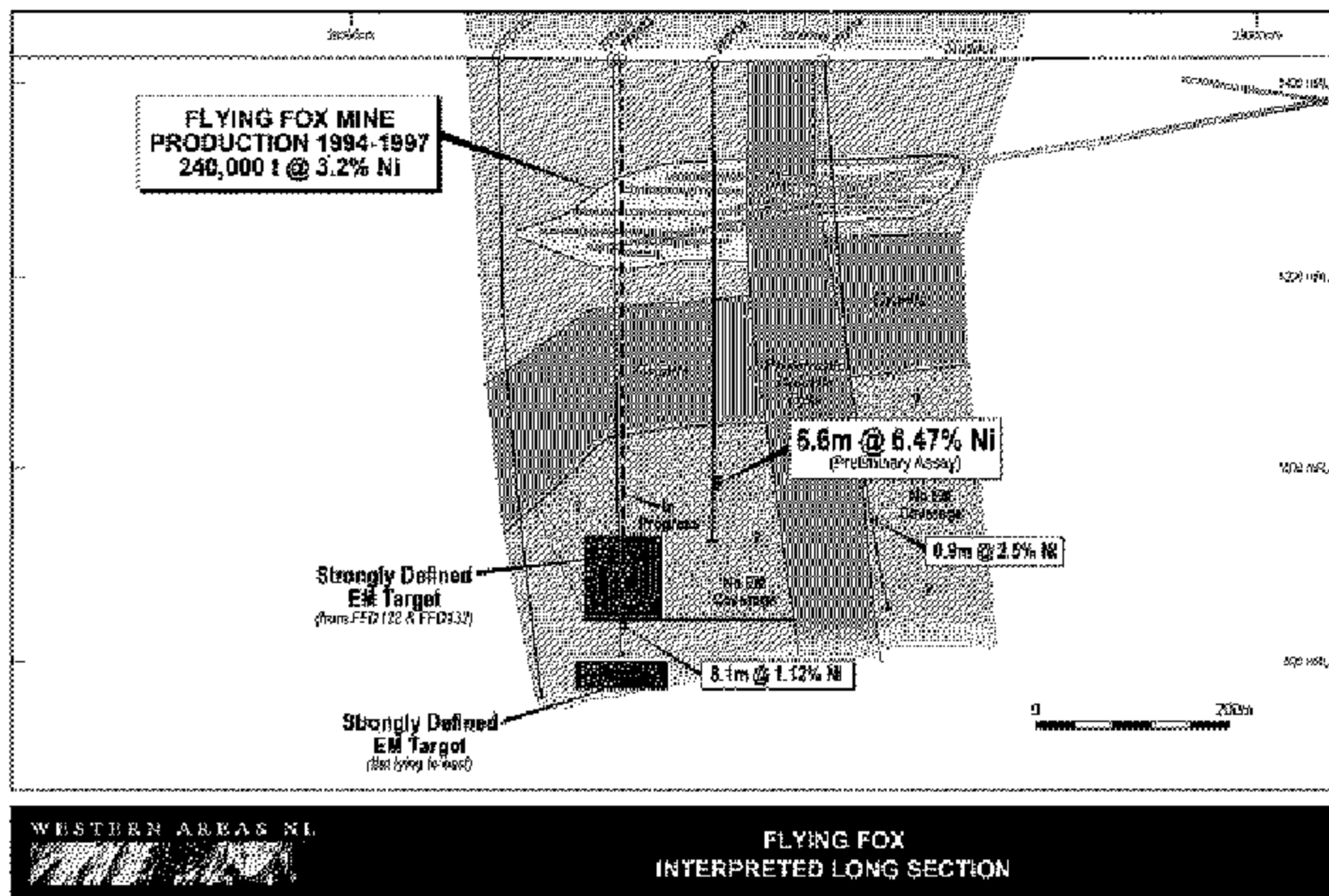
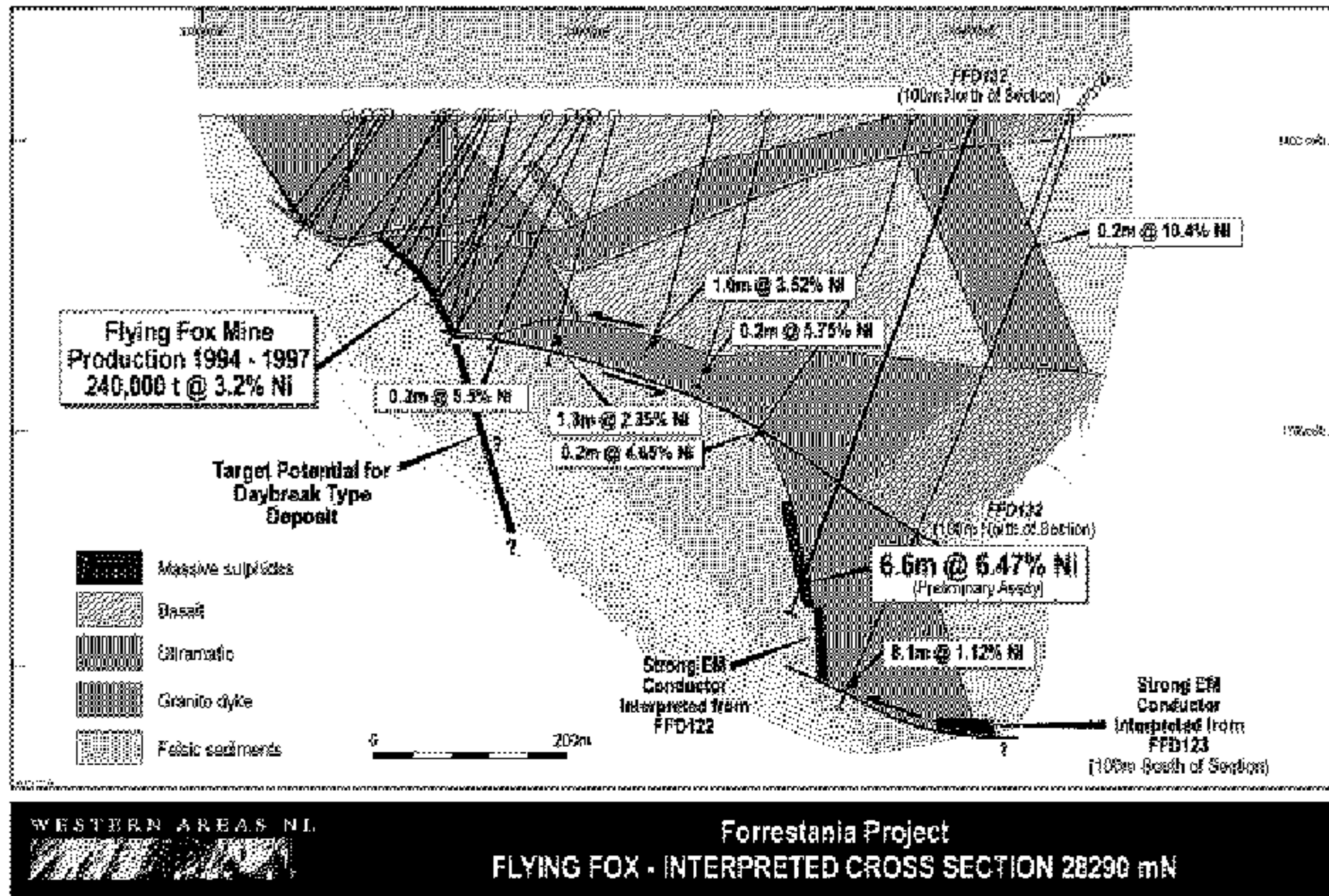
on site) indicates a robust project with a six year mine life. Flying Fox is the first target to be drilled in the current exploration campaign aimed at extending mine life and increasing annual production during Stage One.

The new zone at Flying Fox is the third nickel discovery by Western Areas at Forrestania since September 2002. As at Daybreak and Daybreak Deeps, Flying Fox occurs in sediments underlying the ultramafic units which have been the main target for previous explorers. Flying Fox is also the first of three recently announced EM targets which are planned to be tested during September and October - the others are Diggers West and Arrowhead.

Drillhole FFD 132 demonstrates the exceptional potential that exists for new discoveries at Forrestania. It also highlights the rapidly improving knowledge of the geology of the region as well as the effectiveness of the techniques employed by Newexco, Western Area's exploration consultants at the Forrestania Nickel Project.

Julian Hanna,  
Managing Director

24 September 2003



The information within this report as it relates to geology and mineralisation was compiled by Mr Julian Hanna and Mr Adrian Black from Newexco. Mr Hanna is a member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and Mr Black is a member of the Australian Institute of Geologists. Both are competent in the field of activity being reported on and consent to the inclusion of this information in the form and context in which it appears in this report.