



Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## US Federal Grant for Critical Metals Study at West Desert

- **The Utah Geological Survey has been awarded a Federal grant to study critical metals at the West Desert Deposit**
- **West Desert is the only established resource of indium in the US, and also contains large volumes of zinc and copper**
- **The Federal grant highlights the focus in the US on securing domestic supply of critical minerals and the emerging importance of West Desert to the supply chain**
- **The results of the Critical Metals Study are expected to provide significant exploration and commercial benefits across American West Metals 100% owned land holding**

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American West Metals Limited (**American West** or **the Company**) (ASX: AW1 | OTCQB: AWMLF) is pleased to announce that the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) has received a US Federal grant to study critical and strategic metals at the West Desert Project in Utah (**West Desert** or the **Project**).

Large resources of zinc, an essential component for many metal alloys, and copper, one of the most important commodities for electric vehicles and efficient energy grids, have been defined at West Desert. Significantly, the West Desert deposit also contains unusually high levels of indium – which is classified as a critical metal in the US and widely used in the defense, energy and telecommunications sectors.

No indium was produced in the United States in 2021. The West Desert deposit is the only established domestic resource of indium and is ideally positioned to potentially provide long-term supply of this critical metal to the US market.

**Dr Stephanie Mills, Senior Geologist with the UGS and principal investigator of the study said:**

*"We are excited for the opportunity to study the unique geology of this deposit and learn more about why so many important critical mineral resources are concentrated here."*

*"This study is a great example of government and industry collaboration and knowledge sharing to further a common goal: understanding what domestic mineral resources we have and what we can learn from them towards finding future deposits."*

**Dave O'Neill, Managing Director of American West Metals also commented:**

*"Geopolitical alignment of supply chains in the resources sector has emerged as an important global issue for governments."*



*"This study is recognition of the unique characteristics of West Desert and its importance to the supply of critical and strategic metals in the US.*

*"West Desert is uniquely placed in the US as an exciting development opportunity with outstanding exploration upside.*

*"Utah is one of the world's top mining jurisdictions and I cant speak highly enough of the local government and mining industry. They have been fantastic to work with and have been strongly supportive of our strategy to advance this project.*

*"We look forward to continuing the relationship with our partners at the UGS on this important program."*



*Figure 1: Indium rich chalcopyrite and sphalerite in drill core from WD22-01C (approx. 418m downhole)*

## CRITICAL METALS STUDY

The funding for the study comes from the U.S. Geological Survey **Earth Mapping Resource Initiative (Earth MRI)** program, which is dedicated to improving geological knowledge about domestic critical mineral resources.

The \$300,000 grant will run over three years and is being conducted by the Utah Geological Survey (UGS). The UGS research will focus on how the West Desert deposit formed, the deportment of the indium throughout the deposit and mineral district, and exploration indicators that may help find similar deposits in the future.

The collaboration will allow UGS unprecedented access to geological information and data related to West Desert, and support research into how this important deposit formed.

The results of the study will be shared with American West throughout the duration of the project, and will be used to assist in project development and exploration targeting.

## ABOUT INDIUM

Indium is considered a critical and strategic mineral because of its use in the aerospace, defense, energy, and telecommunications sectors. In 2021, the U.S. was a 100 percent net importer reliant on indium from China, Canada, Republic of Korea, and France (U.S. Geological Survey, 2022).

Indium is most commonly recovered from sphalerite, a zinc-sulphide mineral, wherein the indium occurs in quantities of less than 1 part per million (ppm) to 100 ppm (U.S. Geological Survey, 2022). In the U.S., indium is mostly found in porphyry and skarn deposits.

The West Desert deposit in Utah is the only deposit in the U.S. with a modern National Instrument 43-101 (NI 43-101) compliant resource estimate of indium (Dyer and others, 2014), and over 56 million ounces of indium have been estimated within the deposit (InZinc PEA 2014). Only 35% of drill samples used in the 2014 PEA were assayed for indium, suggesting that the scale of the indium endowment at West Desert is potentially much larger than currently defined.

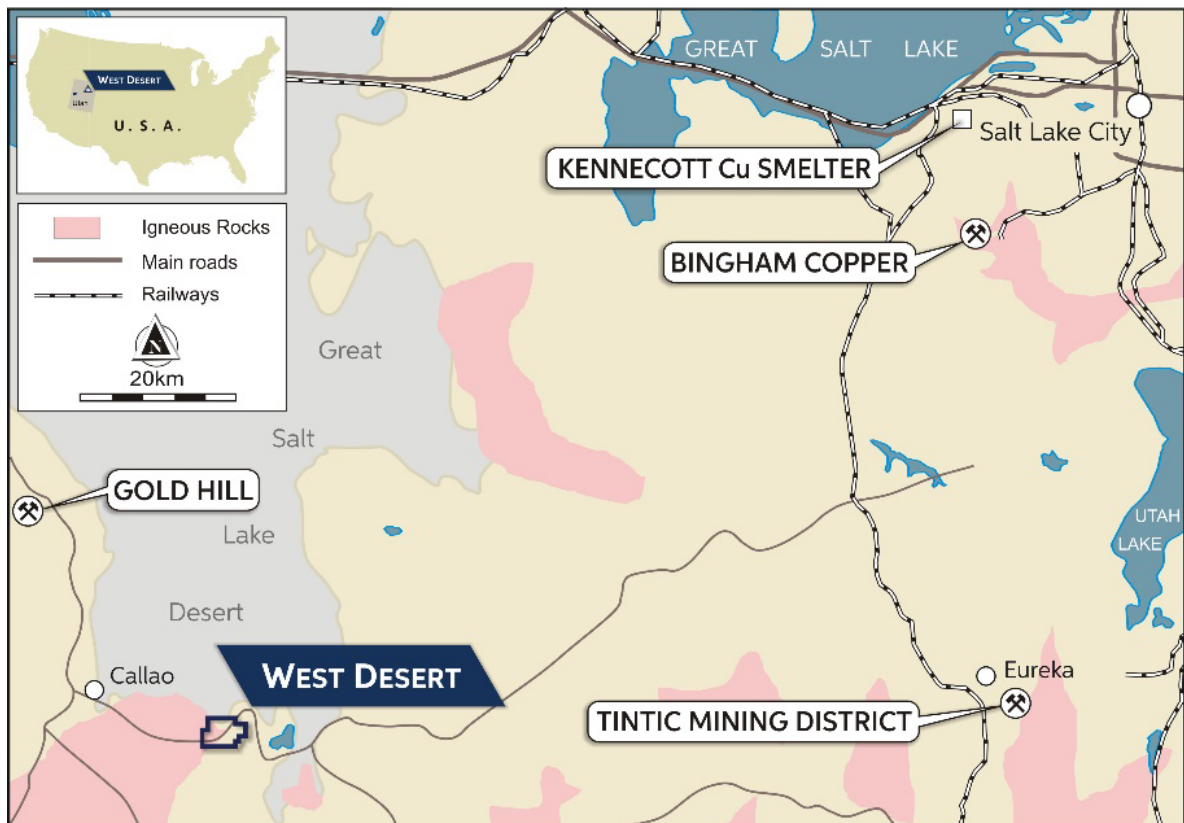
## ABOUT THE WEST DESERT PROJECT, UTAH

The West Desert Project is located 160km southwest of Salt Lake City, Utah, within the heart of the Sevier Orogenic Belt which hosts the world class Bingham Canyon copper deposit and Tintic Mining District. The Project comprises 330 acres of private land, 336 unpatented lode mining claims and a single State Metalliferous Mineral Lease, for a total land holding of approximately 32km<sup>2</sup>.

The West Desert Deposit is 100% owned by American West Metals, and contains a historical and foreign resource (NI 43-101 compliant) of over **59Mt**, which contains a higher-grade core of approximately **16.5Mt @ 6.3% Zn, 0.3% Cu and 33g/t In** (1.03Mt Zn, 45Kt Cu and 545t In).







This announcement has been approved for release by the Board of American West Metals Limited.

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## **ASX Listing Rule 5.12**

The Company has previously addressed the requirements of Listing Rule 5.12 in its Initial Public Offer prospectus dated 29 October 2021 (released to ASX on 9 December 2021) (**Prospectus**) in relation to the West Desert Project. The Company is not in possession of any new information or data relating to the West Desert Project that materially impacts on the reliability of the estimates or the Company's ability to verify the estimates as mineral resources or ore reserves in accordance with the JORC Code. The Company confirms that the supporting information provided in the Prospectus continues to apply and has not materially changed.

This ASX announcement contains information extracted from the following reports which are available on the Company's website at <https://www.americanwestmetals.com/site/content/>:

- 29 October 2021 Prospectus

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the exploration results included in the Prospectus. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the Prospectus.

## **Competent Person Statement**

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Targets and Exploration Results for the West Desert Project is based on information compiled by Mr Dave O'Neill, a Competent Person who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr O'Neill is employed by American West Metals Limited as Managing Director, and is a substantial shareholder in the Company.

Mr O'Neill has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr O'Neill consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.



# ABOUT US



## ABOUT AMERICAN WEST METALS

**AMERICAN WEST METALS LIMITED (ASX: AW1)** is an Australian clean energy mining company focused on growth through the discovery and development of major base metal mineral deposits in Tier 1 jurisdictions of North America. Our strategy is focused on developing mines that have a low-footprint and support the global energy transformation.

Our portfolio of copper and zinc projects in Utah and Canada include significant existing resource inventories and high-grade mineralisation that can generate robust mining proposals. Core to our approach is our commitment to the ethical extraction and processing of minerals and making a meaningful contribution to the communities where our projects are located.

Led by a highly experienced leadership team, our strategic initiatives lay the foundation for a sustainable business which aims to deliver high-multiplier returns on shareholder investment and economic benefits to all stakeholders.

