



Advancing production upside potential in an uncertain market

Equus Mining Ltd (ASX:EQE) is a junior precious metals explorer and producer focused on gold-silver assets in southern Chile. The Cerro Bayo project provides the company with a production and cashflow base to underpin exploration across its now expanded portfolio of mining claims and, importantly, ownership of the flotation plant and associated mine infrastructure provides a clear pathway to growth. The quarterly results were solid with the first full period of gold and silver production and plans under way to optimise grade and tonnage throughput. Early appraisal drilling results are strongly encouraging, pointing to potentially higher grades and mineralisation along strike in the underground associated with the Taitao open pit. More drilling is required but we highlight the potential for significant upside to the current Inferred Resource estimate of 302koz Au (eq) @ 2.5g/t under the Taitao Pit, (subject to a Scoping Study) and the Marcela Mine (21.8koz Au @ 2.53g/t Au/;2.74Moz Ag @ 318 g/t). EQE remains well funded to drive value accretion over its pre-development portfolio.

## **Business model**

Equus Mining is a junior minerals explorer and producer with an extensive and concentrated portfolio of production, pre-production and exploration assets in a premier precious metals province of southern Chile. The completion of the Cerro Bayo acquisition provides a cashflow base to pursue an ambitious and potentially transformational gold-silver growth strategy. Although the assets can be considered as predominantly early-stage exploration, there are a number of high-value brownfields growth opportunities being evaluated and subject to feasibility studies. The company strategy is to pursue high-grade production through self-funded exploration campaigns aimed at delivering and building upon its existing resource base. Discoveries can be readily tied back to existing plant and associated infrastructure.

#### A good start on operations and drilling

The first full period of processing lends confidence to operations and with stockpile evaluation studies completed, high-grading of throughput should optimise returns and revenues from this point. Early assay results from drilling around the Taitao and Pegaso targets support the working model that high-grade mineralisation is present at depth and along strike from previous operations. Whilst further drilling is required, the company is on track to potentially move through feasibility studies and into an underground mining phase in an expedited timeframe, subject to successful results.

## Valuation of A\$50mn (A\$0.29/share) on a 'best case'

We model a risked NAV of A\$50mn (A\$0.29/share) against a **reference share price of A\$0.14/share** after adjusting for dilution to the equity capital base and commodity price adjustments. The discount to NAV likely reflects market systemic issues rather than operational concerns, with small-cap prices in particular impacted by investment uncertainties (on inflation and global growth). We highlight our current risk weightings and assumptions are subject to potentially significant adjustment as development data and operational outcomes become better defined, especially on feasibility and drilling success. The next 12-24 months could deliver transformational upside based on material increases and upgrades to existing resources, with speculative upside potential beyond our valuation range.

## Mining & Exploration

## 11th May 2022



#### Share Performance (12 months)



#### **Upside Case**

- Above-model production and financial outcomes from stockpile production on grade optimisation
- Further progress on the de-risking (and acceleration) of the brownfields growth potential at Taitao and discoveries of new, large and high-grade resources via exploration
- Metal prices above model cashflow is highly sensitive to grade and price outcomes

#### **Downside Case**

- Softer-than-expected results from the Taitao and Pegaso programmes
- Weaker gold and silver prices driven by global economic concerns (inflation and lower growth)
- Greater equity market uncertainty impacting financing options

#### **Board of Directors**

John Braham Managing Director

Mark Lochtenberg Non-Executive Chair

Damien Koerber Director and COO

Dr Robert Yeates Non-Executive Director

David Coupland Non-Executive Director

Ryan Austerberry Non-Executive Director

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## **Assay Results Point To Higher Prospectivity In Taitao Underground**

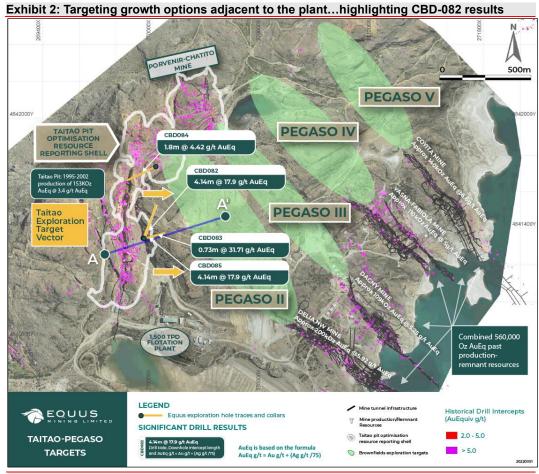
A solid quarter of production and highly encouraging drilling results underpin a solid period for the company. Although operating costs were higher for the Cerro Bayo project, productivity and margins should improve through the current period on simple 'tweaks' to improve throughput grades. Successful results from the Taitao and Pegaso drilling could support a material upgrading of current Inferred Resources estimates.

Production and revenue		Q2 FY22 Q4 FY21*	Q3 FY22 Q1 FY22	QoQ	Year ended 31 March 2022			
Throughput was steady q-o-q on a	Ore processed (t)	123,213	120,401	Steady on a daily rate	500,090			
daily rate basis	Au grade (g/t)	0.52	0.47		0.51			
Gold grades through the period were lower	Ag grade (g/t)	26.8	33.6		28.8			
	Contained Au (oz)	2,062	1,834	Lower grade	8,18			
	Contained Ag (oz)	106,230	129,908	Higher grade	462,59			
Payable AuEq was higher q-o-q but	Recovery	82.6%	81.9%	Consistent Au recovery	82.89			
noting that some Q2 FY22 data has	Payable Au (oz)	1,703	1,503		6,77			
been back-solved and estimated so may contain significant error margins	Recovery	73.9%	79.3%	Variable Ag recovery	76.59			
may contain significant error margins	Payable Ag (oz)	106,230	103,074	,	353,89			
	Payable AuEq (oz)	2,722	2,819		11,55			
Unit costs higher on lower Au grades	Cash costs (AuEg oz)	\$1,285	\$1,518	Energy costs (fuel and	\$1,22			
and rising energy costs	Au realised price (oz)	\$1,798	\$1,874	transport) impacting the	\$1,818.			
Q4 data prices - monthly average only (investing.com)	Ag realised price (oz)	\$23.38	\$23.9	period	\$24.			
Operations are progressing according to model and nameplate capapcity	Operationally, the processing of the low-grade stockpiles, which commenced on 20-Feb-2021, remains on target with throughput modelled to close to the nameplate capacity of 500kt pa expected by 30-Jun-2022.							
				throughout the Cerro Bayo distr				
	suggest may provide exten Management is looking at r size screening' to lift feed g	sion tonnages to the nethods to optimise rades. This may be	e operations beyo processing tonna as simple as add	infoughout the Cerro Bayo distr nd the anticpated 3-3.5 years o ges via 'increased selectivity ing a screening component, at l jely completed to identify areas	f project life. and particle ow capital cost			
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## **Chasing More And Higher-Grade Resources**

We point to our Initiation Report ('Cerro Bayo...a path to growth' [3-Feb]) as the reference marker, with the company having completed and announced results from an initial round of drilling in and around the Taitao open pit and Pegaso target zones. Refer to Exh. 2 for location references.



Source: Company data

The five-hole programme was aimed at providing data on grade distribution and better defining the strike-length extent of mineralisation. Additional work will be required to de-risk the mapping of individual veins and breccias to support a return to mining.

The assay results returned strongly positive, high-grade results, particularly from the CBD-082 hole, being relatively shallow and grading up to ~26g/t AuEq - refer to Exh. 3 for specific results and cross-sectional locations.

The data provides an early validation of the Equus model, which postulates extensions of economic resources beneath and along strike of the existing mined areas.

It's worth reiterating that the success case has significant positive implications with respect to upgrading current Inferred Resources at Taitao and potentially linking with the Pegaso targets.

Inferred Resources at Taitao currently stand at:3,816kt @ 1.9g/t Au, 48g/t Ag (2.5g/t AuEq), containing 227koz Au, 5,844kz Ag (302koz AuEq).

Based on long-term prices (Au US\$1,850/oz, Ag US\$24/oz)

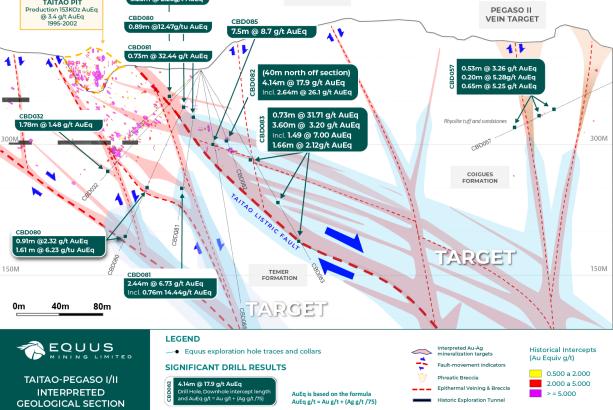


#### We cite from our Scoping Study note:

Mine-restart studies are continuing, supported by further planned drilling aiming to expand the underground resource, facilitating the conversion of key areas of the resource to a higher level of classification (indicated and measured).

Broad guidance suggests an underground development at Taitao may be achievable within 18-24 months subject to further positive evaluation and the requisite administrative approvals processes. This would dovetail nicely with the current stockpile processing project.

lole	Thickness	Grade (g/t)			Depth			
	(m)	Au	Ag	AuEq	(m)			
BD-082	4.14	11.00	520.0	17.9	92.01	Inc. 2.64m @ 16.3g/t Au, 736.1g/t Ag, (26.1g/t AuE		
	0.42	18.65	19.0	18.9	105.73			
	0.59	3.66	182.0	6.1	134.92			
3D-080	0.89	1.80	800.4	12.4	45.31			
	1.61	6.1	9.8	6.23	153.3			
3D-081	0.73	3.64	1,500.0	23.64	56.1			
	2.44	6.13	44.5	6.73	135.9	Inc. 0.76m @ 13.45g/t Au, 74.0g/t Ag, (14.4g/t Au		
3D-085	7.50	6.00	206.3	8.7	86.08	Inc. 2.47m @ 17.7g/t Au, 483.9g/t Ag, (24.1g/t Au		
3D-083	0.73	16.97	1,105.1	31.7	117.12	Inc. 0.49m @ 24.8g/t Au, 1,640.0g/t Ag, (46.67g/t Au		
	3.60	2.20	74.77	3.2	172.51	Inc. 1.49m @ 4.91g/t Au, 157.0g/t Ag, (7.0g/t Aul		
Productio @ 3.4	TAO PIT n 153KOz AuEq 4 g/t AuEq 95-2002	CBD033 3.25m @ 2.25 CBD080 0.89m @12.47	la ltu Ausa	GBD085 7.5m @ 8.7 g/t	PEGASO I VEIN TARGET	PEGASO II VEIN TARGET		



Source: Company data



Exhibit 4: How it looks on the ground...with approximate trend direction of Pegaso targets





Source: Company data



## The NAV Continues To Highlight The Investment Opportunity

We lower our 'best' fit value to \$0.29/share on adjustments to the issued capital base and commodity forward curves, noting our application of a discretionary risk weighting dependent on the relative position of the assets along the value chain.

We highlight the somewhat subjective nature of Taitao and the exploration components, but we suggest these are reasonable assumptions based on the early-stage nature of the projects. Taitao, in particular, could deliver a significant re-rating towards the upper end of our range should the Mine Reactivation Study return commercially positive findings.

Recent exploration drilling results point to potential extensions of the Taitao resource with upside to (and upgrading of) the current Inferred Resources estimates – this could provide material upside beyond our present valuation.

Our valuation range should be considered as indicative only and subject to material adjustments pending further feasibility and exploration results.

We note the >100% premium of our NAV 'best' versus the reference price (\$0.14/share) which stands at a discount to our 'low' estimate.

By the definition and nature of exploration, campaigns can deliver transformational upside to both the NAV and share price should evaluation campaigns deliver positive results.

A\$mn	Low	Best	High	Low	Best	High	
Using Au(eq) metrics							
Cerro Bayo							
Stockpile production	\$7	\$8	\$9				Using a risked-weighted NPV and broad
							guidance of three years of remaining
							production
Taitao	\$5	\$15	\$24				Using ASX peer-derived EV/oz metrics
Exploration	\$15	\$20	\$30				Nominal only
Other exploration	\$3	\$5	\$6				Cerro Diablo/Los Domos at book value
							(30-Jun-2021)
Net cash/(debt)		\$3					As at 31-Mar-2022
Corporate costs		(\$2)					
TOTAL	\$31	\$50	\$72	\$0.18	\$0.30	\$0.42	
Shares on issue (mn) 174							

We suggest the current share price most likely reflects uncertainty in global equity markets on inflation-driven, rising interest rates and risks of a major retraction in global growth.

Equity market uncertainties manifest initially in the divestment of smaller-cap, higher-risk investments, with a flight to cash and/or top-100 companies with sustainable dividend streams.

On the premise that gold is a 'crisis hedge' rather than an inflation hedge, we suggest gold exposures should continue to be an important component of investment portfolios.

#### A recent (3-May) Reuters poll

Gold prices are expected to hold firm this quarter as investors seek refuge from soaring inflation and risks such as the Ukraine war, before retreating later this year as interest rates rise (according to a Reuters poll reported on Tuesday 3-May).

Gold is traditionally seen as a safe place to invest during times of financial and economic uncertainty but, as it yields no interest, it tends to lose its attraction when interest rates rise.

The relationship has been complicated this time by fears that the aggressive pace of tightening signalled by the U.S. Federal Reserve to combat inflation may derail economic growth, which could bode well for gold.



In the latest quarterly survey of 31 analysts and traders carried out in April, the median forecast for gold prices came in at \$1,920/oz for the April-June quarter.

That compares with \$1,770/oz in the previous quarterly poll compiled in January and an average price so far this quarter of around \$1,930/oz.

The median forecast numbers for 2022 and 2023 are \$1,890.65 and \$1,762.50/oz respectively (some 6.5% higher across the period).

"A geopolitical risk premium is likely to keep gold prices elevated short-term...longer-term we expect the yield relationship to re-establish itself as the primary driver, and gold prices are likely to trend lower, albeit from elevated levels," said Standard Chartered analyst Suki Cooper.

#### A note of caution:

"The strong U.S. dollar is definitely not good for gold, and multiple rate hikes on the agenda in the U.S. are even worse," said Frank Schallenberger, head of commodity research at LBBW.

https://au.news.yahoo.com/inflation-war-risks-buoy-gold (highlighting added)



## **Exhibit 6: Financial Summary**

<b>EQUUS MINING L</b>	IMITED	EQE
YEAR END		June
NAV	A\$mn	
SHARE PRICE	A\$ps	0.14
MARKET CAP	A\$mn	24.4
ORDINARY SHARES	M	174
OPTIONS	M	22

nm = not meaningful na = not applicable

SHARE PRICE	A\$ps	0.14				
MARKET CAP	A\$mn	24.4				
ORDINARY SHARES	M	174				
OPTIONS	M	22				
COMMODITY ASSU	MOTIONIC	EV.	EVOAA	EVODE	EVODE	BRODUSTION
Gold price	US\$/oz	FY20A	FY21A	<b>FY22E</b> \$1,833	<b>FY23E</b> \$1,852	PRODUCTION Gold
Silver Price	US\$/oz			\$1,033	\$23.71	Silver
	A\$:US\$			0.7280	0.7265	Gold ea
Exchange Rate	A\$:U\$\$			0.7280	0.7265	GOIG eq
RATIO ANALYSIS		FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	
Shares Outstanding	M	1,412	2,297	174	174	Revenue
EPS (pre sig items)	Acps	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.2	1.3	Cash Costs
EPS (post sig items)	Acps	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.2	1.0	Ave Price Realise
	······					
PER (pre sig items)	×	na	na	na	na	Cash Costs
OCFPS	Acps	nm	nm	0.07	0.21	Cash Margin
CFR DPS	X	na	na	nm	66.1x	INFERRED RESC
Dividend Yield	Acps %					Taitao
BVPS	Acps	nm	nm	14.8	16.8	Taitao
Price/Book	Х	na	na	0.9x	0.0x	
ROE	%	nm	nm	1%	8%	Open pit
ROA	%	nm	nm	2%	10%	Underground
(Trailing) Debt/Cash	X			273	10/0	TOTAL
Interest Cover	×					
Gross Profit/share	Acps					
EBITDAX	A\$M			3,106	5,839	
EBITDAX Ratio	%			20%		
EARNINGS	A\$000s	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	
Revenue		0	0	15,171	28,553	
Cost of sales		0	0	(13,159)	(24,479)	
Gross Profit		0	0	2,012	4,074	
Other revenue		66	54	55	53	
Other income						
Exploration written of	f					
Finance costs						
Impairment						
Other expenses		(676)	(820)	(1,844)	(2,515)	
EBIT		(4.720)	(1.710)	372	2,311	
Profit before tax		(1,730)	(1,719)	317	2,257	
NPAT Reported		(1,730)	(1,719)	317	2,257	
Underlying Adjustmen	nte	(1,730)	(1,/15)	317	2,237	
NPAT Underlying	100					
CASHFLOW	A\$000s	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	
Operational Cash F		(1,303)	(1,246)	1,189	3,647	
Net Interest		13	4	41	39	
Taxes Paid						
Other						
Net Operating Cash	nflow	(1,290)	(1,243)	1,230	3,686	
Exploration		(2,506)	(3,591)	(4,500)	(4,500)	<b>EQUITY VALUA</b>
PP&E						
Mineral Assets				(560)	(1,099)	
Net Asset Sales/other						Cerro Bayo
Net Investing Cash	flow	(2,494)	(3,591)	(5,060)	(5,599)	
Dividends Paid						
Net Debt Drawdown						Other Exploration
Equity Issues/(Buybac	k)	4,687	8,258	5,402	0	
Other						
Net Financing Cash		4,687	8,258	5,402	0	
Net Change in Cash		902 EV204	3,425	1,572	(1,913)	
BALANCE SHEET	A\$000s	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	Net Ceel // J-L-1
Cash & Equivalents	ion	1,304	4,724	6,296	4,383	Net Cash/(debt)
Exploration & Evaluat	1011	5,229	11,204	15,957	19,792	Corporate costs
Inventories & Other Total Assets		6.012	15 004	1,628	1,628	TOTAL
Debt Debt		6,012	15,994	25,752	29,323	Ordinger Cha
Dent						Ordinary Shares

353

5.659

1,304

na

894

15,100

4,724

na

5,173

20,579

6,296

na

6,511

4,383

na

22,812

Gold	OZ	4,027	6,480
Silver	OZ	234,245	421,200
Gold <sub>eq</sub>	OZ	6,968	11,167
Revenue	A\$mn	15.2	28.6
Cash Costs	A\$mn	(12.1)	(22.7)
Ave Price Realised	A\$/Au <sub>∈q</sub> oz	2,177	2,557
Cash Costs	A\$∕Au <sub>eq</sub> oz	1,731	2,034
Cash Margin	%	26%	26%

FY20A FY21A

Taitao							
	Tonnes	Au	Ag	Au	Ag	Au <sub>eq</sub>	
	kt	g/t	g/t	koz	koz	koz	
Open pit	2,915	1.6	38	148	3,602	194	
Underground	901	2.7	77	79	2,242	108	
TOTAL	3,816	1.9	48	227	5,844	302	

			Risk			
			Low	Best	High	
Cerro Bayo	Production		\$7	\$8	\$9	
	Taitao		\$5	\$16	\$27	
	Exploration		\$15	\$20	\$30	
Other Explorat	tion					
	Cerro Diablo					
	Los Domos					
	TOTAL		\$3	\$5	\$6	
			\$30	\$49	\$72	
Net Cash/(deb	t)			\$3		
Corporate cos				(\$2)		P/NA\
TOTAL			\$31	\$50	\$73	0.5
Ordinary Shares (M)		174	18	29	42 (	cps
Diluted (inc Options) (M)		196	16	26	37 (	cps

Source: RaaS estimates, company data

Total Liabilities

Gearing dn/(dn+e)

Total Net Assets/Equity
Net Cash/(Debt)



## FINANCIAL SERVICES GUIDE

# RaaS Advisory Pty Ltd ABN 99 614 783 363

Corporate Authorised Representative, number 1248415

of

BR SECURITIES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
ABN 92 168 734 530
AFSL 456663

Effective Date: 6th May 2021



#### **About Us**

BR Securities Australia Pty Ltd (BR) is the holder of Australian Financial Services License ("AFSL") number 456663. RaaS Advisory Pty Ltd (RaaS) is an Authorised Representative (number 1248415) of BR.

This Financial Service Guide (FSG) is designed to assist you in deciding whether to use RaaS's services and includes such things as

- who we are
- our services
- how we transact with you
- how we are paid, and
- complaint processes

Contact Details, BR and RaaS

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E: finola.burke@raasgroup.com

RaaS is the entity providing the authorised AFSL services to you as a retail or wholesale client.

## What Financial Services are we authorised to provide? RaaS is

authorised to

- provide general advice to retail and wholesale clients in relation to
  - Securities
- deal on behalf of retail and wholesale clients in relation to
  - Securities

The distribution of this FSG by RaaS is authorized by BR.

#### Our general advice service

Please note that any advice given by RaaS is general advice, as the information or advice given will not take into account your particular objectives, financial situation or needs. You should, before acting on the advice, consider the appropriateness of the advice, having regard to your objectives, financial situation and needs. If our advice relates to the acquisition, or possible acquisition, of a particular financial product you should read any relevant Prospectus, Product Disclosure Statement or like instrument. As we only provide general advice we will not be providing a Statement of Advice. We will provide you with recommendations on securities

#### Our dealing service

RaaS can arrange for you to invest in securities issued under a prospectus by firstly sending you the offer document and then assisting you fill out the application form if needed.

#### How are we paid?

RaaS earns fees for producing research reports. Sometimes these fees are from companies for producing research reports and/or a financial model. When the fee is derived from a company, this is clearly highlighted on the front page of the report and in the disclaimers and disclosures section of the report.

We may also receive a fee for our dealing service, from the company issuing the securities.

#### **Associations and Relationships**

BR, RaaS, its directors and related parties have no associations or relationships with any product issuers other than when advising retail clients to invest in managed funds when the managers of these funds may also be clients of BR. RaaS's representatives may from time to time deal in or otherwise have a financial interest in financial products recommended to you but any material ownership will be disclosed to you when relevant advice is provided.

#### **Complaints**

If you have a complaint about our service you should contact your representative and tell them about your complaint. The representative will follow BR's internal dispute resolution policy, which includes sending you a copy of the policy when required to. If you aren't satisfied with an outcome, you may contact AFCA, see below. BR is a member of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA). AFCA provide fair and independent financial services complaint resolution that is free to consumers.

Website: <a href="www.afca.org.au">www.afca.org.au</a>; Email: <a href="mailto:info@afca.org.au">info@afca.org.au</a>; Telephone: 1800931678 (free call)
In writing to: Australian Financial Complaints Authority, GPO Box 3, Melbourne, VIC, 3001.

#### **Professional Indemnity Insurance**

BR has in place Professional Indemnity Insurance which satisfies the requirements for compensation under s912B of the Corporations Act and that covers our authorized representatives.



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