

## **INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The ASX Corporate Governance Council requires that the Company must disclose the extent to which it has followed its recommendations, identify which recommendations have not been followed and the reason for not adopting the recommendations.

The ASX Corporate Governance Council recognises that not all recommendations are appropriate for all companies and that companies should only adopt those recommendations that are suitable in each individual case.

The following is a summary of policies adopted by the Company and where appropriate, explanations of where the recommendations have not been applied. Implementation dates of policies are shown on the last page of this Corporate Governance Statement. The various policies and procedures were followed throughout the entire financial year.

### **Board Composition and Functions**

Under the Company's Constitution, the Board is required to consist of at least 3 and no more than 10 directors. If the Company has 3 or more directors, one third of the directors, with the exception of the Managing Director, must retire and seek re-election at the Annual General Meeting each year.

The Board of the Company currently consists of 2 executive directors and 4 independent non-executive directors. The Board includes the Managing Director (executive) and the Chairman (non-executive). Directors of the Company during the financial year and information pertaining to individual directors are included in the Directors' Report.

The Board composition complies with ASX recommendations, in that a majority of directors are independent. The roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (or Managing Director) are not exercised by the same person, and the Board is considered to be comprised of directors with the experience and qualifications best suited to the Company's size and range of activities.

The Company has an independent Chairman (Oscar Aamodt). The Company has followed ASX recommendations in the assessment of whether a director is considered to be "Independent". The other independent directors are Rod Marston, John Christie and Peter Bilbe.

The Board is responsible for corporate strategy, implementation of business plans, allocation of resources, approval of budgets and capital expenditure, and the adherence to Company policies. The Board is also responsible for compliance with the Code of Conduct, overseeing risk management and internal controls, and the assessment, appointment and removal of the Managing Director, Company Secretary and other senior management.

The Board delegates other responsibilities to committees, executive directors and senior management. The matters reserved to the Board are in the Board Charter in the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website. The roles of and matters reserved to senior executives are considered internal matters and are not publicly available.

The process for evaluating the performance of the Board and individual directors and senior executives is detailed in the Remuneration Policy which is in the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website. Executive directors and senior executives' performance was last evaluated in December 2008. Performance of non-executive directors was last evaluated in March 2009. The process for evaluating performance was in accordance with the Company's Remuneration Policy.

Board members have the right to seek independent professional advice in the furtherance of their duties as directors at the Company's expense.

### **Director Independence**

The Company has established guidelines for testing the independence of directors.

A director is considered to be independent if they satisfy certain criteria, the most significant being as follows:

- The director must be in a non-executive role where any fees payable by the Company could not be considered to make the director reliant on such remuneration. The director must have no other material contractual relationship with the Company other than as a director of the Company;
- The director is not a substantial shareholder of the Company;
- The director has not been employed in an executive capacity by the Company and has not been a principal of a material adviser or consultant to the Company within the last 3 years; and
- The director is free from any interest which could reasonably be perceived to materially interfere with the director's ability to act in the best interests of the Company.

The full policy on determining the independence of directors is available in the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website.

### **Risk Management**

The Board is responsible for the identification of significant areas of business risk, implementing procedures to manage such risks and developing policies regarding the establishment and maintenance of appropriate ethical standards to:

## **INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

- ensure compliance in legal, statutory and ethical matters;
- monitor the business environment;
- identify business risk areas;
- identify business opportunities; and
- monitor systems established to ensure prompt and appropriate responses to shareholder complaints and enquiries.

Management has implemented a risk management system whereby all identified risks are entered into a risk register. Any controls implemented to mitigate these risks are then linked to the risks to produce a mitigated risk register. The register is updated on a monthly basis by management and a quarterly update of the register is provided to the Board. The Board meets at least annually with senior management to interrogate the risk register and to ensure that all reasonable procedures are put in place to mitigate the Company's risks. The last full risk management review by the Board was held in May 2009.

The Board meets on a regular basis. The Company commissions an internal audit to be performed by an independent consultant twice each year to assess compliance with the Company's internal financial control policies and procedures. The independent consultant reports to the Audit Committee.

The Managing Director and Company Secretary are required to provide written assurance to the Board that the Company has a sound system of risk management, that internal compliance and control systems are in place to ensure the implementation of Board policies, and that those systems are operating effectively in all material respects in relation to the Company's identified risks.

The Company has put in place guidelines to ensure that directors and officers do not trade in the Company's shares if they are aware of non-public information that could be expected to have a material effect on the market price of the Company's shares. The Company has also put in place a restriction on any employee or director securing 3% or more of the Company's shares by way of margin loans. Directors and employees are prohibited from entering into transactions or arrangements which limit the risk of participating in unvested employee entitlements (ie. hedging arrangements). The full Share Trading Policy is available on the Company's website.

As the Company operates an underground mine, subsidence or rock falls are considered to be the main operational risk. The mine site has a Ground Management Plan ("GMP") which is regularly updated as part of the risk management process. Daily operations and proposals for development of new areas in the mine take into account the procedures and recommendations of the GMP, which takes into account seismic activity and ground support requirements under various conditions.

The oversight and management of other categories of material business risk are addressed specifically elsewhere in this report.

### **Audit Committee**

The Company has established an Audit Committee which is responsible for the following:

- oversee the existence and maintenance of internal controls and accounting systems, including the implementation of mandatory and non-mandatory accounting policies and reporting requirements;
- oversee the financial reporting process, including reviewing and reporting to the Board on the accuracy of all financial reports lodged with ASX which include the quarterly, half-yearly and annual financial reports;
- recommend to the Board the nomination, removal and remuneration of the external auditors; and
- review the external audit arrangements, including ensuring that any non-audit services provided do not impair auditor independence.

The Audit Committee reports to the Board and meets as required, but in any case at least twice each year. Current members are Rod Marston, John Christie and Oscar Aamodt. Rod Marston is a geologist with corporate experience. John Christie is a qualified accountant/chartered secretary and Oscar Aamodt is a chartered secretary, both having considerable financial and managerial experience. The Committee has authority to seek any pertinent information it requires from any employee or external party. Qualifications held by the individuals on the Audit Committee are included in the Directors' Report. The chairman of the Committee is John Christie.

The Audit Committee follows ASX recommendations as the members are all independent non-executive directors.

Any member of the Committee is able, and obliged, to bring any matter to the attention of the Board where the member believes the matter has not been adequately dealt with by the Committee, or is of significant importance that the Board should be informed.

The Managing Director and Company Secretary are required to state in writing to the Board that the Company's financial reports present a true and fair view of the Company's financial condition and that operational results are reported in accordance with relevant accounting standards. The Auditor is required to attend the Company's annual general meeting. Providing the external auditor performs the satisfaction of the Audit Committee and audit independence is not considered to be impaired, there is no requirement for a rotation of external audit partners, other than as required by law and to comply with accounting standards and interpretations.

## **INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Audit Committee Charter is available on the Company's website.

### **Hedging Committee**

The Company has established a Hedging Committee to make recommendations to the Board on hedging policies and to maintain the hedging portfolio. The members of the Hedging Committee at the date of this report are Oscar Aamodt, John Christie and Kelly Ross.

### **Procedure for the Selection of New Directors**

The Company believes it is not of a size to justify having a Nomination Committee. If any vacancies arise on the Board, all directors are involved in the search and recruitment of a replacement. Incumbent directors due to retire by rotation are automatically nominated for re-election, subject to the willingness of the director to continue on the Board and providing there are no objections raised by other Board members.

Corporate performance is enhanced when the Board has an appropriate mix of skills and experience. The Board is evaluated before a candidate is selected to join the Board. Candidates are nominated by existing Board members and independent search consultants are also utilised if necessary. Where a director nominates a candidate for the Board, the director must disclose any pre-existing relationship with the nominee.

New directors are provided with a letter of appointment setting out their responsibilities and rights, and are provided with a copy of the Company's Constitution and corporate governance policies.

The full policy for nomination of directors is available on the Company's website.

### **Compensation of Board Members**

The Company's policies and procedures relating to the remuneration of board members and senior management are contained in the Remuneration Report which forms part of the Directors' Report.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

The Board has implemented Code of Conduct and Share Trading Policies which have been designed to ensure that all directors and employees of the Company act ethically and do not use confidential information for personal gain.

These policies are available on the Company's website.

### **Code of Conduct**

The Board is responsible for setting the tone of legal, ethical and moral conduct to ensure that the Company is considered reputable by the industry and other outside entities. This involves considering the impact of the Company's decisions on the industry, colleagues and the general community. The Code of Conduct adopted by the Company requires that all employees abide by the laws, regulations and business practices wherever the Company operates. The Board maintains an approach that preserves the integrity of any laws or regulations under which the Company operates. The Company has also put in place various internal policies which provide internal controls to ensure employees only act within the authority given to them by the Board. This is to ensure that the Board has responsibility for any material transactions and dealings with outside parties, and that any legal, environmental and social consequences of such dealings will be properly considered before any action is taken.

### **Environmental Policy**

The Company has an Environmental Policy which requires that all employees comply with the environmental regulations in force in the region in which work is undertaken. The Company is committed to dealing fairly and equitably with interested parties relating to environmental issues, such as landholders, governmental agencies and native title claimants.

### **Sustainability Report**

The Company purchased and commenced operations at the Long Nickel Mine in the last quarter of 2002. This mine had been operating for approximately 21 years before being placed on care and maintenance about 3 years before being purchased by the Company.

At the time of the acquisition the Company was cognizant of the difficulty of re-opening what was historically a challenging mining operation. The primary focus of management was ensuring that the operations could be conducted with safety as a priority, with operating procedures and production targets that did not jeopardize that objective. As a result the safety record of the Company has been of a high standard. The details are provided in the Operations Report section of this Annual Report.

The Company has also aimed to employ as many of its people from the local community, as without this ongoing employment the community in which we operate will diminish and local facilities will be neglected due to lower population numbers. The Company also assists the local community by contributing to the development of facilities needed to encourage people to remain in the area and has spent \$387,000 on community activities and facilities since commencing operations in 2002.

## **INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Company's environmental footprint has been impacted by the arrangements that were imposed pursuant to the purchase agreement and meant that the key inputs to the operation were already in place, leaving the Company with minimal scope to pursue alternative environmentally favourable supplies of key inputs. However, in the last twelve months by carrying out reviews of the consumption of key inputs to the mine, the quantity of water and electricity used has declined over the last two financial years by approximately 43% and 7% respectively.

In addition the Company has been using material from the surrounding tailings storage dams as backfill in the mine. This is assisting with the reduction in the potential environmental impact in the area.

The reporting requirements under The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 became effective from 1 July 2008. As the Company is an energy consumer it has registered under the Act and will report its emissions as a result of power and diesel fuel usage on an annual basis.

The Company has developed specific policies and procedures to ensure that we are able to comply with the laws and regulations that affect the mining and exploration activities being conducted by the Company. These are reviewed as part of the Company's risk management procedures and varied as necessary to ensure compliance in all jurisdictions in which we operate.

### **Disclosure of Information to ASX and Investors**

The Company has established policies and procedures relating to the disclosure of information to interested parties. The Company Secretary is responsible for ensuring the Company complies with ASX Listing Rules and general continuous disclosure obligations. The following policies and procedures are contained in the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website:

- Code of Conduct
- Director Independence
- Legal, Environmental & Social Responsibilities
- Remuneration Policy
- Risk Management & Internal Control Procedures
- Audit Committee
- Board and Management Responsibilities
- Compliance with ASX Disclosure Requirements
- Nomination of Directors
- Directors' and Officers' Trading in Securities
- Communication with Shareholders
- Investor Relations and Media Interaction

## **INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES DIRECTORS' REPORT**

Your directors present their report on the Company and its controlled entities for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

### **Directors**

The names of directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are Oscar Aamodt, Christopher Bonwick, Kelly Ross, John Christie, Rod Marston and Peter Bilbe. Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report except for Peter Bilbe who was appointed as a director on 31 March 2009.

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the Group during the financial year were mineral exploration and nickel mining.

There were no significant changes in principal activities during the financial year.

### **Operating Results**

The consolidated profit of the Group after providing for income tax amounted to \$16,121 thousand (2008: \$51,538 thousand).

### **Dividends Paid or Recommended**

The Company paid a fully franked 5 cent final dividend to shareholders in respect of the year ended 30 June 2008 in September 2008.

The Company paid a fully franked 2 cent interim dividend to shareholders in respect of the year ended 30 June 2009.

The Company has announced that a fully franked 3 cent dividend will be paid to shareholders on 29 September 2009.

Franking credits of \$69,824 thousand are currently available.

### **Review of Operations**

The Group focused on the Long Nickel Mine operation. The Group concentrated its exploration activities on various targets generated by regional exploration programs.

The consolidated profit before income tax decreased by 66% to \$25,054 thousand (2008: \$74,199 thousand).

Nickel revenue for the year decreased by 32% to \$93,855 thousand (2008: \$137,665 thousand).

Fully diluted earnings per share decreased from 43.82 cents in 2008 to 14.01 cents in 2009. The Group had cash assets of \$127,238 thousand (2008: \$145,384 thousand) and net assets of \$195,436 thousand (2008: \$192,957 thousand) at the end of the financial year.

A summary of the Company's activities during the year is contained in the Managing Director's Operations Report section of the Annual Report.

### **Future Developments**

The likely developments in the operations of the Group and the expected results of those operations in future financial years are the exploration of new and existing project areas in the search for gold, nickel, platinumoids, copper and other minerals, and the production of nickel and copper from the Long Nickel Mine.

The Board anticipates that the Long Nickel Mine's cash flow will allow the Group to vigorously explore existing tenement interests, as well as provide the opportunity to develop any discoveries to their full potential. These expected future cash flows are subject to future nickel prices and exchange rates. The Company will also consider corporate investments or acquisition of projects should suitable opportunities arise, as well as pay regular dividends to shareholders.

The Board anticipates that the Company will contribute to its share of costs for the development of the Tropicana Gold Project. Detailed information relating to the project is included in the Managing Director's Operations Report which forms part of this Annual Report.

Further information about likely developments in the operations of the Group and the expected results of those operations in future financial years has not been included in this report because disclosure of the information would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Group.

### **Audit Independence**

The Auditor's Independence Declaration included in this report forms part of the Directors' Report.

### **Audit Services**

The auditor did not provide any non-audit services to the Company or the Group. Details of audit services provided are in note 5 to the financial statements.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Unlisted Options**

No options were granted over unissued shares during or since the end of the financial year by the Company to directors or any of the five most highly remunerated officers as part of their remuneration.

Unlisted options issued as at the date of this report are as follows:

Number	Expiry Date	Exercise Price
25,000	30/06/10	\$3.07
100,000	30/06/10	\$2.94
37,500	30/06/10	\$1.59
112,500	30/06/11	\$4.85
225,000	30/06/11	\$4.64
<u>750,000</u>	30/06/11	\$4.44
<u>1,250,000</u>		

No person entitled to exercise the options had or has any right by virtue of the option to participate in any share issue of any other body corporate. 37,500 shares have been issued since the end of the financial year as a result of the exercise of unlisted options. Further information relating to unlisted options is included in note 7 of Additional Information for Listed Public Companies.

**Information on Directors**

The experience of each director is included in the Managing Director's Operations Report section of the Annual Report.

**Oscar Aamodt - Chairman (Non-executive) Age 63**

Qualifications FCIS

Tenure Board member since 2005. Chairman since 31 March 2009.

Special Responsibilities Mr Aamodt is on the Hedging, Remuneration and Audit Committees.

**Christopher Bonwick - Managing Director (Executive) Age 50**

Qualifications BSc (Hons), MAusIMM

Tenure Managing Director and Board member since 2000.

Special Responsibilities Mr Bonwick is the executive in charge of operations and corporate development.

**Kelly Ross - Director (Executive) Age 47**

Qualifications CPA, Grad.Dip.CSP

Tenure Board member since 2002.

Special Responsibilities Ms Ross is the Company Secretary and is on the Hedging Committee.

**John Christie - Director (Non-executive) Age 71**

Qualifications CPA, ACIS

Tenure Board member since 2002.

Special Responsibilities Mr Christie is on the Remuneration, Audit and Hedging Committees.

**Rod Marston - Director (Non-executive) Age 66**

Qualifications BSc (Hons), PhD, MAIG, MSEG

Tenure Board member since 2001. Chairman from 20 August 2003 to 31 March 2009.

Special Responsibilities Dr Marston is on the Remuneration and Audit Committees.

**Peter Bilbe - Director (Non-executive) Age 59**

Qualifications BE (Mining) (Hons)

Tenure Board member since 31 March 2009.

Special Responsibilities Mr Bilbe is on the Remuneration Committee.

**Other Listed Company Directorships Held During Past 3 Years**

Dr Marston has been a director of Kasbah Resources Limited since November 2006. Mr Aamodt has been a director of Energy Metals Limited since July 2005. Mr Bilbe is a past director of Mount Gibson Iron Limited and Aztec Resources Limited. Mr Bilbe is currently a director of Aurox Resources Limited, RMA Energy Limited, Northern Iron Limited and Norseman Gold plc.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Company Secretary Qualifications**

The Company Secretary is Kelly Ross, who is a qualified accountant holding a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) and has the designation CPA from the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants. Ms Ross is a Chartered Secretary with over 25 years experience in accounting and administration in the mining industry and has been the Company Secretary of Independence Group NL since 2001.

**Meetings of Directors**

During the financial year, 21 meetings of directors (including committees of directors) were held. The number of meetings attended by each director during the year is as follows:

	DIRECTORS' MEETINGS		REMUNERATION COMMITTEE		AUDIT COMMITTEE		HEDGING COMMITTEE	
	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended
Oscar Aamodt	10	10	1	1	5	5	5	5
Christopher Bonwick	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kelly Ross	10	10	-	-	-	-	5	4
John Christie	10	10	1	1	5	5	5	5
Rod Marston	10	10	1	1	5	4	-	-
Peter Bilbe	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Interests in Shares and Options Held by Key Management Personnel at the Date of This Report**

	Ordinary Fully Paid Shares	Unlisted Options
Mr C Bonwick	3,003,506	500,000
Mr R Marston	1,315,000	-
Ms K Ross	445,000	250,000
Mr J Christie	545,000	-
Mr O Aamodt	20,000	-
Mr P Bilbe	-	-
Mr B Hartmann	37,500	-
Mr T Moran	-	-
Mr G Davison	2,700	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,368,706</b>	<b>750,000</b>

Details of the terms and conditions for these securities are disclosed in note 29 of the Financial Statements and in notes 1 and 7 of Additional Information for Listed Public Companies.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**DIRECTORS' REPORT**  
**Audited Remuneration Report**

The Information provided in this Remuneration Report has been audited as required by section 308 (3C) of the Corporations Act 2001.

**Remuneration Policy and Procedures**

The Company has established a Remuneration Committee to oversee the remuneration of senior executives and executive directors. At the date of this report, the Committee members were independent directors Rod Marston, John Christie, Oscar Aamodt and Peter Bilbe.

The Committee reviews executive directors' and senior management's remuneration and other terms of employment annually, having regard to performance, relative industry remuneration levels, and where appropriate, the Committee seeks independent advice to ensure appropriate remuneration levels are in place. No director may be involved in setting their own remuneration or terms and conditions.

The remuneration of non-executive directors is determined by the Board within the maximum amount approved by shareholders in general meeting. Non-executive directors are not entitled to retirement benefits other than statutory superannuation or other statutory required benefits. Non-executive directors do not participate in share or bonus schemes designed for executive directors or employees. The remuneration of non-executive directors is fixed to encourage impartiality, high ethical standards and independence on the Board. The available non-executive directors' fees pool is \$300,000 which was approved by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting on 18 November 2003, of which \$300,000 (2008: \$230,000) is currently being utilised.

Non-executive directors may provide consulting services to the Company, which are over and above the services normally provided by a non-executive director in the performance of their duty as a member of the Board. Where the Company requests that specific projects are investigated by a non-executive director that fall outside their normal duties as a director, additional services may be charged to the Company, at a rate approved by the Board. No such services were provided during the year ending 30 June 2009.

Performance evaluations for all Board members are held annually and are undertaken with a view to comparing the performance of individual directors to the performance and growth of companies of similar size and complexity within the mining industry. The current base remuneration was last reviewed with effect from 6 April 2009.

Bonuses and performance-based rewards are given where the Committee believes performance of an individual senior manager compares favourably with their peers within the industry. The objective of the reward schemes is to both reinforce the short and long term goals of the Company and to provide a common interest between management and shareholders. The following summarises the performance of the Company over the last 5 financial years:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Revenue (\$ millions)</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>113.4</b>	<b>226.5</b>	<b>149.1</b>	<b>101.1</b>
<b>Net profit after income tax (\$ millions)</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>105.3</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>16.1</b>
<b>Share price at year end (\$/share)</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>6.95</b>	<b>5.10</b>	<b>4.63</b>
<b>Dividends paid (cents/share)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>

**Performance Based Remuneration**

**Short Term Incentives (STI)**

The objective of STI is to link the creation of shareholder wealth in the short term with the remuneration of those employees who are charged with the management of the Company and are primarily responsible for its performance. The total potential STI available is set annually at a level to provide sufficient incentive to executive directors and senior managers to achieve operational targets at a cost to the Company that is reasonable in the circumstances.

For executive directors, these performance based incentives are based on Total Shareholder Return (TSR) growth for the Company compared with its peers. For senior managers, these performance based incentives are based on actual outcomes compared with budgets and Key Performance Indicators (KPI's).

TSR is used as a performance hurdle because it is recognised as one of the best measures of shareholder return. As the Company's results are subject to market conditions for its products that are outside its control, the Company's results are best judged by a comparison with its peers and not on the absolute results achieved. The TSR measure is readily comparable with similar companies.

The peer group of ASX listed companies against which the Company's TSR performance was measured for the 2008 TSR were Western Areas NL (WSA), Oxiana Limited (OXR), Straits Resources Limited (SRL), Mincor Resources NL (MCR) and Panoramic Resources Limited (PAN) The companies in the peer group are reviewed each year to take account of any new Australian-based and ASX listed entities producing the same or similar products as those produced by the Company and to eliminate any entity that ceased to produce the same or similar products or was merged into a multi-commodity entity having no ongoing similarity to the Company.

The maximum STI payable each financial year is set by the Remuneration Committee on an individual basis after taking into account employment market conditions and the amount determined to be paid as the variable component.

The maximum amount of the STI is to be paid where the Company's TSR for the relevant period is greater than the average of the peer group. Where the Company's TSR for the relevant period is less than 50% of the peer group average no STI is payable. Between 50% and 100% a proportional amount is paid. The KPI's selected are designed to ensure a maximum return on assets and to reflect the effect of the executives' performance on shareholder wealth.

For senior managers the STI payment will depend on the extent to which specific operating targets set at the beginning of the year are met. The operational targets consist of a number of KPI's relevant to the individual senior manager's position.

STI payments are normally delivered as a yearly cash bonus payable in the subsequent financial year. During the year executive directors received 0% of the total allocated bonus for the 2008 year.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Audited Remuneration Report (continued)**

**Long Term Incentives (LTI) – Executives**

The LTI component of the remuneration package is to reward executive directors and senior managers in a manner which aligns a proportion of their remuneration package with the creation of shareholder wealth over a longer period than the STI.

The LTI benefits are delivered in the form of options to acquire ordinary shares in the Company. The use of options that are issued with an exercise price at market price ensures that the executive director or senior manager only receives a benefit where shareholder wealth has increased through an increase in the market value of the Company's shares. The issue of options has been to ensure quality staff remain within the organisation and have therefore been linked to employment service periods rather than performance measures.

The options are issued on the basis that 25 percent of the total number issued to an executive director or senior manager will vest on each of the 4 anniversary dates following their issue, with the exception of the options issued in November 2006 which vest after 12 months. The options have a 5 year life and can be exercised at any time after they have vested. The exercise price is set at the prevailing market price of the Company's ordinary shares at the time of the issue of the options, with the exception of the options issued in November 2006 which have an exercise price of the average market price of the Company's ordinary shares over the 5 days prior to the date of issue.

The options do not entitle the holder to voting or dividend rights.

Options that have not vested are cancelled if the executive director or senior manager ceases to be an employee of the Company.

The options are allocated to executive directors and senior management personnel on the basis of the incumbent's position and responsibilities on the recommendation of the Managing Director and the approval of the Board. Options issued to the Managing Director are on the recommendation of the Chairman and are approved by the Board.

All options granted to executive directors are approved in advance by shareholders.

No options were granted or issued to directors or key management personnel during the year.

**Long Term Incentives (LTI) – Non-executive Directors**

In 2003 the Company issued options to non-executive directors which aimed to align a proportion of their remuneration package with the creation of shareholder wealth.

However, no options have been granted or issued to non-executive directors since those issued in 2003 and there is no intention to issue options to non-executive directors in the foreseeable future. Accordingly, there is no current LTI plan for non-executive directors.

**Key Management Personnel**

The directors who held office during the financial year were Oscar Aamodt (Chairman), Christopher Bonwick (Managing Director), Kelly Ross (Executive Director), John Christie (Non-executive Director), Rod Marston (Non-executive Director) and Peter Bilbe (Non-executive Director). The directors held office during the entire financial year except for Peter Bilbe who was appointed on 31 March 2009. Rod Marston held the position of Chairman until 31 March 2009.

The only other person who qualified as key management personnel during the financial year, and to whom this Remuneration Report also relates, is Brett Hartmann (General Manager – Long Nickel Mine). The General Manager – Long Nickel Mine is employed by the Company's subsidiary Lightning Nickel Pty Ltd. Also included in remuneration disclosures are Tim Moran and Gary Davison who are classified as relevant group executives as they are non-executive directors of subsidiary Lightning Nickel Pty Ltd.

**Employment Contracts**

Terms and conditions of employment contracts:

- i) Non-executive directors do not have employment contracts with the Company. Executive directors are employed under contracts which do not have a defined term. These contracts include provision for termination benefits of 1 month's remuneration for every year of service should the Company terminate the employment contract without cause. Termination benefits of 12 month's remuneration is payable to the executive should the Company terminate the employment contract due to a takeover event, but only if such payment would not breach ASX Listing Rules. In all other circumstances the contracts can be terminated by either party after provision of one month's notice, in which case only accrued leave and other accrued remuneration is payable. Current employment contracts provide for base remuneration of \$550,000 (2008: \$550,000) for Christopher Bonwick and \$310,000 (2008: \$310,000) for Kelly Ross.
- ii) Executive directors are entitled to receive cash and/or equity based bonuses in addition to the remuneration stated in their employment contracts. The Company pays any fringe benefits tax cost relating to executive directors' remuneration payments and that cost is included in the executive directors' total compensation in the table below.
- iii) The executive Brett Hartmann is employed under a contract which does not have a defined term and can be terminated by either party after provision of one month's notice, in which case only accrued leave and other accrued remuneration is payable. The current employment contract provides for total remuneration of \$275,000 (2008: \$275,000) plus motor vehicle expenses and superannuation contributions. Mr Hartmann may also receive performance based bonuses should the Remuneration Committee so recommend and those bonuses are approved by the Board.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Audited Remuneration Report (continued)**

**Compensation Paid for the Financial Year**

Key management personnel during the financial year received the following remuneration:

2009	Cash Salary & Fees	Short-term Benefits		Post-employment Benefits Superannuation	Share-based Payments Options (ii)	Total
		Cash Bonus	Non-monetary Benefits			
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
O Aamodt <i>Non-executive Chairman</i>	75,000	-	-	-	-	75,000
C Bonwick <i>Managing Director</i>	504,587	-	-	45,413	-	550,000
K Ross <i>Executive Director/Company Secretary</i>	270,416	-	21,977	25,596	-	317,989
J Christie <i>Non-executive Director</i>	70,000	-	-	-	-	70,000
R Marston <i>Non-executive Director</i>	85,000	-	-	-	-	85,000
P Bilbe (i) <i>Non-executive Director</i>	17,500	-	-	-	-	17,500
B Hartmann <i>General Manager – Long Nickel Mine</i>	275,000	1,680	9,382	24,750	1,418	312,230
T Moran <i>Non-executive Director of subsidiary</i>	43,333	-	-	-	-	43,333
G Davison <i>Non-executive Director of subsidiary</i>	43,333	-	-	-	-	43,333
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>1,384,169</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>31,359</b>	<b>95,759</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>1,514,385</b>
<b>2008</b>						
O Aamodt <i>Non-executive Director</i>	62,404	-	-	1,125	-	63,529
C Bonwick <i>Managing Director</i>	466,736	100,000	-	41,597	16,063	624,396
K Ross <i>Executive Director/Company Secretary</i>	255,024	40,000	23,110	23,778	8,032	349,944
J Christie <i>Non-executive Director</i>	65,825	-	-	-	3,588	69,413
R Marston <i>Non-executive Chairman</i>	85,825	-	-	-	7,176	93,001
B Hartmann <i>General Manager – Long Nickel Mine</i>	262,499	85,000	13,871	23,625	4,130	389,125
T Moran <i>Non-executive Director of subsidiary</i>	36,667	-	-	-	-	36,667
G Davison <i>Non-executive Director of subsidiary</i>	36,667	-	-	-	-	36,667
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>1,271,647</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>36,981</b>	<b>90,125</b>	<b>38,989</b>	<b>1,662,742</b>

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Audited Remuneration Report (continued)**

(i) P Bilbe was appointed to the board on 31 March 2009.

2009	At Risk – LTI		At Risk – STI	
	Name	Equity Compensation	Performance Based Bonuses	Fixed Remuneration
	O Aamodt	0%	0%	100.0%
	C Bonwick	0%	0%	100.0%
	K Ross	0%	0%	100.0%
	J Christie	0%	0%	100.0%
	R Marston	0%	0%	100.0%
	P Bilbe	0%	0%	100.0%
	B Hartmann	0.5%	0%	99.5%
	T Moran	0%	0%	100.0%
	G Davison	0%	0%	100.0%
<b>2008</b>				
	O Aamodt	0%	0%	100.0%
	C Bonwick	2.6%	16.0%	81.4%
	K Ross	2.3%	11.4%	86.3%
	J Christie	5.2%	0%	94.8%
	R Marston	7.6%	0%	92.4%
	B Hartmann	1.1%	21.8%	77.1%
	T Moran	0%	0%	100.0%
	G Davison	0%	0%	100.0%

Non-performance based remuneration paid is not based upon any measurable performance indicators. Non-performance based remuneration is based on relative industry remuneration levels and is set at a level designed to retain the services of the director or senior executive.

(ii) Remuneration options: Granted and vested during the year

The Company uses the fair value measurement provisions of AASB 124 "Related Party Disclosures" and AASB 2 "Share-based Payments" for all options granted to directors and relevant executives. The fair value of such grants is being amortised and disclosed as part of director and executive emoluments on a straight-line basis from grant to vesting date. Fair values at grant date are independently determined using a Binomial option pricing model that takes into account the exercise price, the term of the option, the impact of dilution, the share price at grant date, the expected price volatility of the underlying share, the expected dividend yield, the risk-free interest rate and the term of the option. No adjustments have been made to reverse amounts previously disclosed in relation to options that never vest (ie. forfeitures). The following options which were granted in prior years, were exercised during the year:

- 37,500 options at \$1.16 each by key management person B Hartmann (2008: 37,500)

There were no options granted to directors or executives during the year (2008: nil).

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Audited Remuneration Report (continued)**

The terms and conditions of each grant of options affecting remuneration in the previous, this or future reporting periods are as follows:

Grant date	Date vested and exercisable	Expiry date	Exercise price	Value per option at grant date
10 February 2005	4 February 2008	30 June 2010	\$1.16	\$0.21
26 November 2003	26 November 2006	30 June 2008	\$1.33	\$0.29
26 November 2003	26 November 2006	30 June 2008	\$1.03	\$0.44
27 November 2006	27 November 2007	30 June 2011	\$4.44	\$1.71

The fair value of options issued is recognised as an expense in the financial statements. Further information relating to the options issued by the Company during prior years is included in note 29 to the financial statements.

Options granted carry no dividend or voting rights. The exercise price is based on the closing price at which the Company's shares traded on the Australian Securities Exchange on the day the options were issued, except for those in note (i) which were issued at a 30% premium to the closing price. When exercisable, each option is convertible into one ordinary share.

Share options were issued to directors and executives of the Company in prior years. Options may be exercised at any time from the date on which they vest to the date of their expiry. Share options issued by Independence Group NL to key management personnel are as follows:

	Balance Vested at end of year	Vested and Exercisable	Options Vested during year	Options Unvested at end of year
	No.	No.	No.	No.
<b>2009</b>				
C Bonwick (ii), (iv)	500,000	500,000	-	-
K Ross (ii), (iv)	250,000	250,000	-	-
B Hartmann (iii)	-	-	37,500	-
	<b>750,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2008</b>				
R Marston (i)	-	-	250,000	-
C Bonwick (ii), (iv)	500,000	500,000	875,000	-
K Ross (ii), (iv)	250,000	250,000	437,500	-
J Christie (i)	-	-	125,000	-
B Hartmann (iii)	-	-	37,500	37,500
	<b>750,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>1,725,000</b>	<b>37,500</b>

(i) The options were issued to non-executive directors pursuant to resolutions 6 and 7 passed at the 2003 Annual General Meeting. The options were issued on 26 November 2003. The options vested 25% each 12 month period and were exercisable at \$1.33. The options were only exercisable once payment of 10.3 cents each was received by the Company. This cash payment was required to be made within 30 days of the commencement of each vesting period. The cash payment was non-refundable but formed part of the exercise price should the options eventually be exercised. The options have all been exercised. The fair value of the options at their grant date was 29.2 cents each.

(ii) The options were issued to executive directors pursuant to resolutions 4 and 5 passed at the 2003 Annual General Meeting. The options were issued on 26 November 2003. The options vest 25% each 12 month period and were exercisable at \$1.03. Any options that have not vested are cancelled should the director resign or be removed as an employee of the Company. The options have all been exercised. The fair value of the options at their grant date was 43.8 cents each.

(iii) The options were issued to the executive on 10 February 2005. The options vest 25% each 12 month period and are exercisable at \$1.16. Any options that have not vested are cancelled should the executive resign or be removed as an employee of the Company. The options expire on 30 June 2010. The fair value of the options at their grant date was 21.1 cents each.

(iv) The options were issued to executive directors pursuant to resolutions 3 and 4 passed at the 2006 Annual General Meeting. The options were issued on 27 November 2006 with an exercise price of \$4.44 and vest 12 months after the issue date. Any options that have not vested are cancelled should the director resign or be removed as an employee of the Company. The options expire on 30 June 2011. The fair value of the options at their grant date was \$1.71 each.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**DIRECTORS' REPORT**  
**Audited Remuneration Report (Continued)**

**TSR – Independence Group NL versus Peer Group**

Total Shareholder Returns was adopted as a key performance indicator for executive remuneration in 2004. In 2003 executive remuneration was based on a broad range of criteria considered appropriate by the Remuneration Committee for the Company at its stage of development at that time. There were no bonuses paid to executives in 2002. The following table shows the TSR of the Company relative to its peer group. The 2009 TSR measure will be used for evaluating executives' performance in the 2010 financial year.

	Total Shareholder Returns				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Company	206	29	1.45	4.36	(24.03)
Peer Group	176	16	0.66	3.87	22.65

**Details of Remuneration Cash Bonuses and Options**

For each cash bonus and grant of options included in the tables in the Remuneration Report the percentage of the available bonus or grant that was paid or that vested in the financial year is set out below. No cash bonus or option granted was forfeited because the person did not meet the performance criteria. No part of the bonuses is payable in future years. The options vest 25% each year for 4 years, except for the options issued to C Bonwick and K Ross in 2006 which vested after 12 months. The options only vest if the key person is still employed by the Company on vesting date. The minimum value of the options is nil. The maximum value of the options yet to vest has been determined as the amount of the grant date fair value of the options that is yet to be expensed.

Name	Cash bonus			Options	
	Paid %	Year granted	Vested %	Financial years in which options may vest	Total value of grant yet to vest \$
B Hartmann	0	2005	100	-	-

No cash bonuses or options issued as part of any key management personnel's remuneration were forfeited during the year.

Further details relating to options are set out below:

Name	A	B	C	D
	Remuneration consisting of options	Value at grant date \$	Value at exercise date \$	Value at lapse date \$
B Hartmann	0.5%	-	90,000	-

A The percentage of the value of remuneration consisting of options based on the value of options expensed during the current year

B The value at grant date calculated in accordance with AASB 2 of options granted during the year as part of remuneration

C The value at exercise date of options that were granted as part of remuneration, either in the current year or any previous year, and were exercised during the year, being the intrinsic value of the options at that date

D The value at lapse date of options that were granted as part of remuneration and that lapsed during the year

End of Audited Remuneration Report

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Indemnifying Officers or Auditor**

During the financial year, the Company paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the directors and executive officers of the Company and of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such a director or executive officer to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001. The contract of insurance prohibits disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium.

The Company has not otherwise, during or since the end of the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer of the Company or of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such an officer.

The Company has not paid any premiums to indemnify or insure the auditors of the Company.

**Proceedings on Behalf of Company**

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company or 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 any part of those proceedings.

The Company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

**Significant Changes in State of Affairs**

During the year the Company received \$545 thousand as a result of the exercise of 465 thousand unlisted options. During the year the Company bought back 3,792 thousand shares on-market at a total cost of \$10,697 thousand.

No other significant changes in the state of affairs of the Group occurred during the financial year.

**Environmental Regulation**

The Group's operations are subject to significant environmental regulation under the laws of the Commonwealth and various States of Australia. During the year there were no non-compliance incidents.

The Group is likely to be affected by the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme ("CPRS") recently announced by the Australian Government. The proposed scheme will put a price on carbon by requiring entities to hold a permit for every tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emitted. The CPRS is intended to apply to entities from 1 July 2010.

The Group is likely to be classed as a liable entity under the CPRS, which will mean it will need to acquire carbon permits. Based on existing scheme information, this is not expected to have a significant effect on the financial results of the Group.

The Group will be subject to the reporting obligations of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007, under which the Group will report its greenhouse emissions, energy consumption and production from 1 July 2008. Systems have been put in place to comply with these reporting requirements. The Directors have considered compliance with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 which requires entities to report annual greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. For the first measurement period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 the directors have assessed that there are no current reporting requirements, but may be required to do so in the future.

The Group is not expecting to be subject to the requirements of the Energy Efficiency Opportunity Act 2006, under which entities will be required to assess their energy use and report publicly on the results and business response to that assessment.

The Environmental Policy is available in the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website.

**After Balance Date Events**

On 27 August 2009 the Company announced that a final dividend for 2008/9 would be paid on 29 September 2009. The dividend is 3 cents per share and will be fully franked.

No other matter or circumstance has 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.

**Rounding of Amounts**

The Company is of a kind referred to in Class Order 98/0100 issued by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission, relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the directors' report. Amounts have been rounded off in accordance with that Class Order to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, to the nearest dollar.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



O Aamodt  
Chairman

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2009



BDO Kendalls

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ABN 79 112 284 787

11 September 2009

The Directors  
Independence Group NL  
PO Box 496  
SOUTH PERTH WA 6951

Dear Sirs

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY BRAD MCVEIGH TO THE DIRECTORS OF INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL**

As lead auditor of Independence Group NL for the year ended 30 June 2009, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Independence Group NL and the entities it controlled during the period.

**Brad McVeigh**  
Director

**BDO Kendalls Audit & Assurance (WA) Pty Ltd**  
Perth, Western Australia.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**INCOME STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	<i>Note</i>	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Revenues from continuing operations	2a	100,083	147,937	30,721	31,232
Other income	2b	1,018	1,208	85	832
Mining and development costs		(17,280)	(20,262)	-	-
Employee costs		(18,120)	(18,529)	(2,073)	(1,770)
Share-based payment expense		(189)	(930)	(189)	(930)
Fair value adjustment of listed investments		(8,276)	(5,326)	(8,276)	(5,326)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(11,998)	(8,800)	(496)	(373)
Rehabilitation reversal/(provision)		1,308	(417)	-	-
Finance costs expensed		(23)	(106)	-	-
Royalty expense		(3,451)	(4,651)	-	-
Ore tolling costs		(8,205)	(8,913)	-	-
Exploration costs expensed		(1,437)	(1,279)	(1,437)	(1,279)
Impairment of capitalised exploration costs		(4,936)	(1,208)	(3,097)	(969)
Impairment of investment in associated company		-	(564)	-	(564)
Impairment of loan to associated company		(63)	(1,325)	(63)	(1,325)
Other expenses		(3,377)	(2,636)	(3,377)	(2,635)
Profit before income tax	3	25,054	74,199	11,798	16,893
Income tax benefit/(expense)	4	(8,933)	(22,661)	2,724	3,401
Profit from continuing operations		16,121	51,538	14,522	20,294
Profit attributable to equity holders of Independence Group NL		16,121	51,538	14,522	20,294
Basic earnings per share (cents per share)	7	14.14	44.54		
Diluted earnings per share (cents per share)	7	14.11	43.82		

**THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM PART OF THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**BALANCE SHEETS**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2009**

	<i>Note</i>	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	8	127,238	145,384	21,387	9,332
Current tax receivable	4	1,393	8,721	1,393	8,721
Trade and other receivables	9	25,646	13,485	543	434
Inventories	10	310	369	-	-
Other financial assets	11	2,445	18,913	1,175	9,469
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>157,032</b>	<b>186,872</b>	<b>24,498</b>	<b>27,956</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Trade and other receivables	9	30	25	30	8,555
Deferred tax assets	4	6,367	9,558	774	401
Other financial assets	11	20	-	-	-
Investments accounted for using the equity method	12	-	-	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	14	6,108	6,108	643	734
Exploration, evaluation and development expenditure	15	58,791	45,293	33,118	21,792
Mine acquisition and pre-production costs	16	1,394	1,751	-	-
Intangible assets	17	1,281	-	1,281	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>73,991</b>	<b>62,735</b>	<b>35,846</b>	<b>31,482</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>231,023</b>	<b>249,607</b>	<b>60,344</b>	<b>59,438</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Trade and other payables	18	13,338	16,906	2,747	5,425
Borrowings	19	-	632	-	-
Other financial liabilities	20	392	20,722	-	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>13,730</b>	<b>38,260</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>5,425</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Trade and other payables	18	-	-	4,298	-
Deferred tax liabilities	4	17,438	16,043	10,547	7,728
Other financial liabilities	20	3,214	-	-	-
Provisions	21	1,205	2,347	-	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>21,857</b>	<b>18,390</b>	<b>14,845</b>	<b>7,728</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>35,587</b>	<b>56,650</b>	<b>17,592</b>	<b>13,153</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>195,436</b>	<b>192,957</b>	<b>42,752</b>	<b>46,285</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>					
Contributed equity	22	29,078	29,481	29,078	29,481
Reserves	23	2,446	(2,156)	3,954	3,765
Retained earnings	24	163,912	165,632	9,720	13,039
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>195,436</b>	<b>192,957</b>	<b>42,752</b>	<b>46,285</b>

**THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM PART OF THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2009**

	Consolidated				Parent Entity			
	Issued Capital	Retained Earnings	Other Reserves	Total Equity	Issued Capital	Retained Earnings	Other Reserves	Total Equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>At 1 July 2007</b>	26,621	133,712	(57,452)	102,881	26,621	12,362	2,835	41,818
Gain on cash flow hedges, net of tax	-	-	54,366	54,366	-	-	-	-
Total income and expense for the period recognised directly in equity	-	-	54,366	54,366	-	-	-	-
Profit for the year	-	51,538	-	51,538	-	20,294	-	20,294
<b>Total income/expense recognised for the year</b>	-	<b>51,538</b>	<b>54,366</b>	<b>105,904</b>	-	<b>20,294</b>	-	<b>20,294</b>
Cost of share-based payment	-	-	930	930	-	-	930	930
Exercise of options	2,860	-	-	2,860	2,860	-	-	2,860
Equity dividends	-	(19,618)	-	(19,618)	-	(19,617)	-	(19,617)
<b>At 30 June 2008</b>	29,481	165,632	(2,156)	192,957	29,481	13,039	3,765	46,285
<b>At 1 July 2008</b>	29,481	165,632	(2,156)	192,957	29,481	13,039	3,765	46,285
Gain on cash flow hedges, net of tax	-	-	4,413	4,413	-	-	-	-
Total income and expense for the period recognised directly in equity	-	-	4,413	4,413	-	-	-	-
Profit for the year	-	16,121	-	16,121	-	14,522	-	14,522
<b>Total income/expense recognised for the year</b>	-	<b>16,121</b>	<b>4,413</b>	<b>20,534</b>	-	<b>14,522</b>	-	<b>14,522</b>
Cost of share-based payment	-	-	189	189	-	-	189	189
Exercise of options	545	-	-	545	545	-	-	545
On-market share buy-back	(948)	(9,749)	-	(10,697)	(948)	(9,749)	-	(10,697)
Equity dividends	-	(8,092)	-	(8,092)	-	(8,092)	-	(8,092)
<b>At 30 June 2009</b>	29,078	163,912	2,446	195,436	29,078	9,720	3,954	42,752

**THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM PART OF THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**CASH FLOW STATEMENTS**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2009**

	Note	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>					
Receipts from customers (inclusive of goods and services tax)		78,220	137,975	-	-
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of goods and services tax)		(50,039)	(53,557)	(5,637)	(4,957)
Finance costs		(23)	(106)	-	-
Income tax receipts		15,318	-	15,318	-
Income tax payments		(14,229)	(51,087)	(14,229)	(51,087)
Receipts from insurance claims		900	-	-	-
Other income		103	76	85	40
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	27a	30,250	33,301	(4,463)	(56,004)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(4,283)	(2,533)	(308)	(369)
Proceeds on sale of equipment		220	580	-	-
Payments for purchase of listed investments		(45)	(1,140)	(45)	(1,140)
Payments for purchase of mine prospects		-	(4,000)	-	(4,000)
Proceeds on sale of listed investments		-	3,690	-	3,690
Interest received		6,228	10,272	721	1,232
Dividends received from subsidiary		-	-	30,000	30,000
Loans to associated company		(63)	(425)	(63)	(425)
Payment of security bonds		(4)	-	(4)	-
Payments relating to mine development		(5,755)	(4,512)	-	-
Payments for intangible assets		(1,378)	-	(1,378)	-
Payments for exploration and evaluation expenditure		(24,440)	(23,799)	(18,397)	(14,235)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities		(29,520)	(21,867)	10,526	14,753
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>					
Proceeds from issue of share capital		545	2,860	545	2,860
Payments to buy-back shares		(10,697)	-	(10,697)	-
Payment of dividends		(8,092)	(19,617)	(8,092)	(19,617)
Repayment of loan from subsidiary		-	-	24,236	49,972
Repayment of hire purchase debt		(632)	(1,279)	-	-
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities		(18,876)	(18,036)	5,992	33,215
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		(18,146)	(6,602)	12,055	(8,036)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		145,384	151,986	9,332	17,368
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	8	127,238	145,384	21,387	9,332

**THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM PART OF THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial report covers the consolidated entity of Independence Group NL and its controlled entities (the "Group"). Independence Group NL is a listed public company, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The functional and presentation currency of Independence Group NL is Australian dollars.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs as modified by the revaluation of fair value assets through profit or loss (including derivatives in a designated hedge accounting relationship).

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Company in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

**a. Principles of Consolidation**

**(i) Subsidiaries**

A controlled entity is any entity controlled by Independence Group NL. Control exists where Independence Group NL has the capacity to dominate the decision-making in relation to the financial and operating policies of another entity so that the other entity operates with Independence Group NL to achieve the objectives of Independence Group NL. A list of controlled entities is contained in note 13 to the financial statements. Investments in subsidiaries are carried at cost, less impairment, in the parent company.

All inter-company balances and transactions between entities in the Group, including any unrealised profits or losses, have been eliminated on consolidation. Where controlled entities have entered or left the Group during the year, their operating results have been included from the date control was obtained or until the date control ceased.

**(ii) Associates**

Associates are all entities over which the Group has significant influence but not control, generally accompanying a shareholding of between 20% and 50% of the voting rights. Investments in associates are accounted for in the parent entity using the cost method and consolidated financial statements using the equity method. The Group's share of its associates' post-acquisition profits or losses is not recognised in the income statement due to the application of materiality.

**b. Income Tax**

Deferred income tax is provided on all temporary differences at the balance sheet date between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each balance sheet date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred income tax asset to be utilised.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the year when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

Income and deferred taxes relating to items recognised directly in equity are recognised in equity and not in the income statement.

Independence Group NL and its wholly owned subsidiaries have formed an income tax consolidated group under the Tax Consolidation Regime. Independence Group NL is responsible for recognising the current and deferred tax liabilities for the tax consolidated group. The group formed an income tax consolidated group on 1 July 2002.

**c. Investments**

All investments are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration given and including acquisition charges associated with the investment.

After initial recognition, investments which are classified as held for trading are measured at fair value. Gains or losses on investments held for trading are recognised in the income statement. The Group has investments in listed entities which are considered to be tradeable by the board and which the Company expects to sell for cash in the foreseeable future.

For investments carried at amortised cost, gains and losses are recognised in income when the investments are de-recognised or impaired, as well as through the amortisation process.

Fair value of quoted investments is based on current bid prices. If the market for a financial asset is not active (eg. unlisted securities), a valuation technique is applied and if this is deemed unsuitable, they are held at initial cost.

Purchases and sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the time frame generally established by regulation or convention in the market place are recognised on the trade date (ie. the date that the Company commits to purchase the asset).

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

**d. Interests in Joint Ventures and Joint Arrangements**

The Company's share of the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of joint operations are included in the appropriate items of the balance sheet and income statement. Details of the Group's interests, if any, are shown in note 36.

The Company's interests in joint venture entities, if any, are brought to account at cost using the equity method of accounting in the financial statements.

**e. Property, Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment in value. The carrying values of plant and equipment are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

For an asset that does not generate largely independent cash inflows, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

If any such impairment indication exists and where the carrying values exceed the estimated recoverable amount, the assets or cash-generating units are written down to their recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement as an expense.

The recoverable amount of plant and equipment is the greater of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

An item of property, plant and equipment is de-recognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset.

Any gain or loss arising on de-recognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the item) is included in the income statement in the period the item is de-recognised.

**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to the Company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The useful lives for each class of depreciable assets are:

<i>Class of Fixed Asset</i>	<i>Useful Life</i>
Office furniture and equipment	3-5 years
Mine plant and equipment	2-5 years

Refer to note 1(h) for the amortisation policy applying to exploration and development costs and note 1(u) for the policy applying to the amortisation of pre-production and acquisition costs.

**f. Impairment of Assets**

At each reporting date, the Company assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where an indicator of impairment exists, the Company makes a formal estimate of recoverable amount.

Where the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount.

Recoverable amount is the greater of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. It is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset's value in use cannot be estimated to be close to its fair value less costs to sell and it does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets, in which case, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

**g. Leased Non-Current Assets**

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the period which they are incurred. Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a liability.

Finance leases are capitalised. A lease asset and liability are established at the present value of minimum lease payments. Lease payments are allocated between the principal and the interest component of the payment. The leased asset is depreciated over the shorter of its useful life and the lease term.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

**h. Exploration and Development Expenditure and Amortisation**

Exploration, evaluation and development expenditure incurred is accumulated in respect of each identifiable area of interest. These costs are only carried forward to the extent that they are expected to be recouped through the successful development of the area, or where activities in the area have not yet reached a stage which permits reasonable assessment of the existence of economically recoverable reserves.

Accumulated costs in relation to an abandoned area are written off in full against profit in the year in which the decision to abandon the area is made.

When production commences, the accumulated costs for the relevant area of interest are amortised over the life of the area according to the rate of depletion of the economically recoverable reserves.

A review is undertaken of each area of interest on a quarterly basis to determine the appropriateness of continuing to carry forward costs in relation to that area of interest, and at each reporting date, the Company assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where an indicator of impairment exists, the Company makes a formal estimate of recoverable amount.

When further development expenditure is incurred in respect of a mine property after the commencement of production, such expenditure is carried forward as part of development costs only when future economic benefits are established, otherwise such expenditure is classified as part of the cost of production.

Amortisation of costs is provided on the unit-of-production method with separate calculations being made for each mineral resource. The unit-of-production basis results in an amortisation charge proportional to the depletion of the economically recoverable mineral reserves.

The net carrying value of each mine property is reviewed regularly. If this value exceeds its recoverable amount, the excess is either fully provided for or written off in the financial year in which this is determined.

**i. Restoration and Rehabilitation Expenditure**

The Company provides for the future cost of rehabilitating and closing its mining operation, regardless of when that operation is expected to cease. A provision for restoration is required to be brought to account as soon as there is a probable outflow of resources that can be measured reliably. The provision for restoration is based on the discounted cash flow of the expected future cost, discounted at 9%.

**j. Employee Entitlements**

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their nominal amount. Other employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those entitlements.

Contributions are made by the Group to employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

**k. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, net of bank overdrafts.

**l. Comparative Figures**

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

**m. Revenue**

Sales revenue comprises revenue earned from the provision of products to entities outside the Group. Sales revenue is recognised when the product is delivered and risk has been passed to the customer.

Sales revenue represents gross proceeds receivable from the customer. Sales are initially recognised at estimated sales value when the product is delivered. Adjustments are made for variations in metal price, assay, weight and currency between the time of delivery and the time of final settlement of sales proceeds.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**n. Payables**

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition. Payables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost.

**o. Receivables**

Receivables represents GST recoverable together with trade debtors and monies held on deposit. All receivables are recognised at the full value

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

of the amount receivable on initial recognition and subsequently at amortised cost.

Trade debtors represents gross sales revenue proceeds receivable from the customer. A receivable is recognised at estimated sales value when the product is delivered. Adjustments are made for variations in metal price, assay, weight and currency between the time of shipment and the time of final settlement of sales proceeds, which is 120 days following the month of delivery of the product to the customer.

Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off. An allowance is raised where there is objective evidence of doubt as to the collectability of a debt.

**p. Earnings per Share**

Basic EPS earnings are calculated using net profit or loss after income tax attributable to members of the Company. Diluted EPS earnings are calculated by adjusting the basic EPS earnings for the after tax effect of financing costs and the effect of conversion to ordinary shares associated with dilutive potential ordinary shares, rather than the notional earnings on the funds that would have been received by the entity had the potential ordinary shares been converted.

The diluted EPS weighted average number of shares includes the number of ordinary shares assumed to be issued for no consideration in relation to dilutive potential ordinary shares, rather than the total number of dilutive potential ordinary shares. The number of ordinary shares assumed to be issued for no consideration represents the difference between the number that would have been issued at the exercise price and the number that would have been issued at the average market price.

The identification of dilutive potential ordinary shares is based on net profit or loss from continuing ordinary operations, and is applied on a cumulative basis, taking into account the incremental earnings and incremental number of shares for each series of potential ordinary share.

Where diluted earnings per share are not dilutive, they are not disclosed.

**q. Foreign Currency Transactions**

Foreign currency transactions are initially converted to Australian currency at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of each transaction. At balance date amounts payable and receivable in foreign currencies are translated to Australian currency at rates of exchange current at that date. Resulting exchange differences are recognised in determining the profit or loss for the year in the income statement.

**r. Derivatives**

The Company uses derivative financial instruments such as foreign currency contracts and commodity contracts to hedge its risks associated with nickel price and foreign currency fluctuations. Such derivative financial instruments are recognised at fair value.

The fair value of forward exchange contracts is calculated by reference to current forward exchange rates for contracts with similar maturity profiles. The fair value of commodity contracts is determined by reference to market values for similar instruments.

For the purposes of hedge accounting, hedges are classified as cash flow hedges where they hedge exposure to variability in cash flows that is either attributable to a particular risk associated with a recognised asset or liability or a forecasted transaction.

In relation to cash flow hedges (forward foreign currency contracts and nickel commodity contracts) to hedge firm commitments which meet the conditions for hedge accounting, the portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument that is determined to be an effective hedge is recognised directly in equity and the ineffective portion is recognised in the income statement. If the hedge accounting conditions are not met, movements in fair value are recognised in the income statement.

Amounts accumulated in equity are recycled in the income statement in the periods when the hedged item will affect profit or loss, for instance when the forecast sale that is hedged takes place. The gain or loss relating to the effective portion of forward foreign exchange contracts and forward commodity contracts is recognised in the income statement within sales.

**s. Share-based Payments**

The Company provides benefits to employees (including directors) of the Company in the form of share-based payment transactions, whereby employees render services in exchange for shares or rights over shares ('equity-settled transactions').

There is currently one plan in place to provide these benefits, the Employee Share Option Plan (ESOP), which provides benefits to executive directors and other employees.

The cost of these equity-settled transactions is measured by reference to the fair value at the date at which they are granted. The fair value is determined by an external valuer using a binomial model. In valuing equity-settled transactions, no account is taken of any performance conditions, other than conditions linked to the price of the shares of Independence Group NL ('market conditions').

The cost of equity-settled transactions is recognised, together with a corresponding increase in equity, over the period in which the performance conditions are fulfilled, ending on the date on which the relevant employees become fully entitled to the award ('vesting date').

The cumulative expense recognised for equity-settled transactions at each reporting date until vesting date reflects (i) the extent to which the vesting period has expired and (ii) the number of awards that, in the opinion of the directors of the Company, will ultimately vest. This opinion is formed based on the best available information at balance date.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

No expense is recognised for awards that do not ultimately vest, except for awards where vesting is conditional upon a market condition.

Where the terms of an equity-settled award are modified, as a minimum an expense is recognised as if the terms had not been modified. In addition, an expense is recognised for any increase in the value of the transaction as a result of the modification, as measured at the date of modification.

Where an equity-settled award is cancelled, it is treated as if it had vested on the date of cancellation, and any expense not yet recognised for the award is recognised immediately. However, if a new award is substituted for the cancelled award, and designated as a replacement award on the date that it is granted, the cancelled and new award are treated as if they were a modification of the original award, as described in the previous paragraph.

The dilutive effect, if any, of outstanding options is reflected as additional share dilution in the computation of diluted earnings per share.

**t. Inventories**

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of stock on the basis of weighted average costs.

**u. Mine Pre-production and Acquisition Costs**

When an operation is acquired, various costs are incurred prior to operations commencing on the mine property. Acquisition Costs, such as legal expenses, financing arrangement expenses and feasibility costs, are capitalised and included in the balance sheet (see note 16).

Prior to commencing production at a mine property, various costs are incurred to enable the commencement of mining operations, such as recruitment of staff, repair and maintenance of the site and its related equipment, and mine planning and scheduling. These Pre-production Costs are capitalised and included in the balance sheet (see note 16).

Mine Acquisition Costs and Pre-production Costs are amortised on a unit-of-production basis, based upon the recoverable mineral reserves estimated at the time of acquisition of the mine property.

**v. Royalties**

Royalties are accrued and charged against earnings in the period in which the minerals are extracted.

**w. Rounding of Amounts and Currency**

The Company is of a kind referred to in Class Order 98/0100 issued by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission, relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the financial statements. Amounts have been rounded off in accordance with that Class Order to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, to the nearest dollar.

All references to dollars in this report are to Australian Dollars, unless otherwise stated.

**x. International Financial Reporting Standards**

The financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards ('AIFRS'). Compliance with AIFRS ensures that the financial report of Independence Group NL complies with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS').

**y. Segment Reporting**

A business segment is identified for a group of assets and operations engaged in providing products or services that are subject to risks and returns that are different to those of other business segments. A geographical segment is identified when products or services are provided within a particular economic environment subject to risks and returns that are different from those of segments operating in other economic environments.

**z. Intangible Assets**

The database for research purposes is carried at fair value at the date of acquisition less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Amortisation is calculated based on the time it will take to complete the research on the database which is currently 5 years.

**aa. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments**

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Carbon Emissions - As the legislation around the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is still being finalised, the directors are unable to reliably quantify the potential future impact of both direct and indirect costs related to this scheme. These have therefore not been taken into account when preparing budgets, forecasts and/or valuation models for measurement of recognised amounts.

Trade receivables – The Group estimates the value of trade receivables in accordance with the accounting policy disclosed in note 1(o).

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Investments held at fair value through profit and loss – Investments in Australian listed equity securities are deemed to be actively traded and thus the market price has been used to value investments held. See note 1(c) for detailed policy.

Exploration and evaluation expenditure – Such capitalised expenditure is carried at \$58,971 thousand. See note 1(h) for detailed policy.

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
NOTE 2: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME				
a. Revenue				
Sale of goods	93,855	137,665	-	-
Interest received – other parties	6,228	10,272	721	1,232
Dividend received from wholly-owned entity	-	-	30,000	30,000
Total Revenue	100,083	147,937	30,721	31,232
b. Other Income				
Net gain on sale of held for trading investments	-	792	-	792
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	925	340	-	-
Other revenue	93	76	85	40
Total Other Income	1,018	1,208	85	832

NOTE 3: PROFIT

Profit before income tax has been determined after charging the following items:

Cost of sale of goods	44,984	53,242	-	-
Employee entitlements provision	73	222	78	61
Superannuation expense	1,569	1,546	328	283
Share-based payment expense	189	930	189	930
Finance costs - other entities	23	106	-	-
Amortisation of non-current assets	7,920	5,312	97	-
Depreciation of non-current assets	4,078	3,488	399	373
Exploration costs expensed	1,437	1,279	1,437	1,279
Write-off of investment in associated company	-	564	-	564
Impairment of loan to associated company	63	1,325	63	1,325
Foreign exchange losses	491	3,135	-	-
Rental expense relating to operating leases	312	186	312	186
Impairment of capitalised exploration expenditure	4,936	1,208	3,097	969
Reversal/(provision) for mine restoration	(1,308)	417	-	-

NOTE 4: INCOME TAX

a. The major components of income tax expense are:

**Income Statement**

*Current income tax*

Current Income Tax Charge	6,437	11,299	(5,835)	(7,911)
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*Deferred income tax*

Relating to origination and reversal of temporary differences	2,496	11,362	3,111	4,510
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Income tax expense reported in the income statement	8,933	22,661	(2,724)	(3,401)
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Deferred income tax expense/(benefit) included in income tax expense comprises:

(Decrease)/increase in deferred tax assets	4,931	(4,713)	1,704	218
Decrease/(increase) in deferred tax liabilities	(7,427)	(6,649)	(4,815)	(4,728)
	(2,496)	(11,362)	3,111	(4,510)

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 4: INCOME TAX (continued)

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>Statement of Changes in Equity</b>				
Deferred income tax related to items charged or credited directly to equity				
Recognition of commodity hedge contracts	1,891	23,580	-	-
Rehabilitation	-	-	-	-
Income tax expense reported in equity	1,891	23,580	-	-
A reconciliation between tax expense and the product of accounting profit before income tax multiplied by the Group's applicable income tax rate is as follows:				
Profit before tax from continuing operations	25,054	74,199	11,798	16,893
At the Group's statutory income tax rate of 30% (2008: 30%)	7,516	22,260	3,540	5,068
Share-based payments	56	279	56	279
Non-deductible legal expenses	47	-	47	-
Expenditure not allowable for income tax purposes	218	14	112	8
Intercompany dividend	-	-	(9,000)	(9,000)
Unrecognised temporary difference – reduction in carrying value of investment below its original cost	2,127	304	2,127	304
Other	(1,031)	(196)	394	(60)
	8,933	22,661	(2,724)	(3,401)
Income tax expense/(benefit) reported in the consolidated income statement	8,933	22,661	(2,724)	(3,401)
Income tax attributable to discontinued operations	-	-	-	-
	8,933	22,661	(2,724)	(3,401)
The applicable weighted average effective tax rates are as follows:	30%	30%	-	-

	Balance Sheet		Income Statement	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>Deferred Income Tax</b>				
Deferred income tax at 30 June relates to the following:				
<b>CONSOLIDATED</b>				
<i>Deferred tax liabilities</i>				
Consumable inventories	(93)	(111)	(18)	20
Accrued income	(155)	(362)	(248)	352
Revaluation of hedged trade debtors	-	-	-	-
Revaluations on financial assets through profit or loss	(147)	(522)	(375)	(1,824)
Capitalised exploration, pre-production and acquisition costs	(13,346)	(11,604)	1,357	7,606
Deferred gains and losses on foreign exchange contracts	(387)	(2,833)	(644)	-
Capitalised development expenditure	(3,339)	(588)	2,849	480
Other	29	(23)	3	15
Gross deferred income tax liabilities	(17,438)	(16,043)	2,924	6,649
<b>CONSOLIDATED</b>				
<i>Deferred tax assets</i>				
Plant and equipment	1,815	1,606	(228)	(295)
Trade debtors	1,655	331	(1,324)	1,728

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 4: INCOME TAX (continued)

	Balance Sheet		Income Statement	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Accrued expenses	277	98	(179)	12
Deferred loss on hedged commodity contracts	1,082	6,217	1,442	3,725
Capitalised exploration and pre-production costs	39	-	(39)	-
Provisions for employee entitlements	679	607	(71)	(66)
Provision for rehabilitation	235	478	392	(125)
Other	585	221	(401)	(266)
Gross deferred income tax assets	<u>6,367</u>	<u>9,558</u>	<u>(408)</u>	<u>4,713</u>
Deferred tax (income)/expense			<u>2,516</u>	<u>11,362</u>
<b>PARENT ENTITY</b>				
<i>Deferred tax liabilities</i>				
Accrued income	(80)	(6)	74	(11)
Revaluations on financial assets through profit or loss	(147)	(522)	(375)	(1,824)
Capitalised exploration expenditure	(10,320)	(7,200)	3,783	6,563
Gross deferred income tax liabilities	<u>(10,547)</u>	<u>(7,728)</u>	<u>3,482</u>	<u>4,728</u>
<b>PARENT ENTITY</b>				
<i>Deferred tax assets</i>				
Plant and equipment	106	76	(30)	(27)
Accrued expenses	42	35	(7)	4
Provisions for employee entitlements	92	69	(23)	(18)
Other	534	221	(311)	(177)
Gross deferred income tax assets	<u>774</u>	<u>401</u>	<u>(371)</u>	<u>(218)</u>
Deferred tax (income)/expense			<u>3,111</u>	<u>4,551</u>

b. Tax Consolidation

Independence Group NL and its wholly owned subsidiaries formed a tax consolidated group effective 1 July 2002. Independence Group NL is the head entity of the tax-consolidated group. Tax expense/income, deferred tax liabilities, and deferred tax assets arising from temporary differences of the members of the tax consolidated group are recognised in the separate financial statements of the members of the tax-consolidated group using the "separate tax payer within group" approach. Current tax liabilities and assets and deferred tax assets arising from unused tax losses and tax credits on the members of the tax-consolidated group are recognised by the Company, as head entity in the tax-consolidated group.

Due to the existence of a tax funding arrangement between entities in the tax-consolidated group, amounts are recognised as payable to or receivable by the Company and each member of the Group in relation to the tax contribution amounts paid or payable between the parent entity and the other members of the tax-consolidated group in accordance with the arrangement.

The amounts receivable/payable under the tax funding agreement are due upon receipt of the funding advice from the head entity, which is issued as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year. The head entity may also require payment of interim funding amounts to assist with its obligations to pay tax instalments. The funding amounts are recognised as current intercompany receivables or payables (see notes 9 and 18).

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>NOTE 5: AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION</b>				
Remuneration of the auditor of the Group for:				
a. audit and review of financial reports	86	64	86	64
b. other services	-	-	-	-

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>NOTE 6: DIVIDENDS PAID</b>				
a. Interim ordinary dividend franked at the tax rate of 30%				
2009: 2 cents (2008: 5 cents) per share	2,267	5,826	2,267	5,826
b. Final ordinary dividend franked at the tax rate of 30%				
2009: 5 cents (2008: 12 cents) per share	5,825	13,791	5,825	13,791
Total dividends paid during the financial year	<u>8,092</u>	<u>19,617</u>	<u>8,092</u>	<u>19,617</u>
c. Franking account balance at the end of the financial year	<u>69,824</u>	<u>78,364</u>	<u>69,824</u>	<u>78,364</u>

d. In addition to the above dividends, since year end the directors have recommended the payment of a final dividend of 3 cents (2008: 5 cents) per share, fully franked at the tax rate of 30%. The aggregate amount of the proposed dividend expected to be paid on 29 September 2009 but not recognised as a liability at year end is:

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
	<u>3,410</u>	<u>5,847</u>	<u>3,410</u>	<u>5,847</u>

**NOTE 7: EARNINGS PER SHARE**

	2009	2008
	'000	'000
	No.	No.
a. Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the year used in calculation of basic EPS	114,010	115,709
Weighted average number of options outstanding	224	1,897
Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the year used in the calculation of diluted EPS	114,234	117,606
	\$'000	\$'000
b. Earnings used in the calculation of basic EPS	16,121	51,538

c. Options outstanding have been classified as potential ordinary shares and have been included in the determination of diluted EPS.

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>NOTE 8: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>				
Cash at bank and on hand	11,061	6,637	(197)	(101)
Deposits at call	21,081	20,747	6,584	1,433
Fixed term deposits	95,096	118,000	15,000	8,000
	<u>127,238</u>	<u>145,384</u>	<u>21,387</u>	<u>9,332</u>

*The Group's exposure to interest rate risk and a sensitivity analysis for financial assets and liabilities are disclosed in note 31.*

	Note	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>NOTE 9: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>					
<b>CURRENT</b>					
Trade debtors (i)	1(o)	23,908	10,931	-	-
Other debtors (iii)		576	1,499	317	163
Prepayments		636	406	-	-
GST receivable		526	649	226	271
		<u>25,646</u>	<u>13,485</u>	<u>543</u>	<u>434</u>

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
NOTE 9: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES (continued)				
NON-CURRENT				
Deposits	30	25	30	25
Amounts owing from associated entities	1,388	1,325	1,388	1,325
Less: Provision for diminution (ii)	-	(1,325)	-	(1,325)
Less: Amounts written off	(1,388)	-	(1,388)	-
Amounts owing from wholly-owned entities (iv)	-	-	-	8,530
	30	25	30	8,555

(i) Trade debtors consist of payments outstanding from BHP Billiton Ltd for nickel delivered prior to the end of the financial period. Proceeds from nickel deliveries are paid in US dollars and are finalised on the average LME nickel price prevailing in the third month after the month of delivery. The Group is therefore required to use a "forecast" price when valuing the outstanding payments. The result is that the actual proceeds received in the future may be different to the trade debtor amount shown and may result in an adjustment being required to be made to subsequent financial statements.

*The Group or Parent has no trade or other debtors that are past due or impaired. The Group's exposure to credit risk, foreign exchange and commodity price risk in relation to trade receivables is disclosed in note 31.*

(ii) A provision was created in the prior year as the Company did not expect to be able to recover the loan from Southstar Diamonds Ltd. The amount owing increased from \$1,325 thousand in 2008 to \$1,388 thousand at the end of the current financial year. Southstar Diamonds Ltd was de-registered during the year and consequently the loan amount was fully written off at the end of the financial year.

(iii) Other debtors consists mainly of interest accrued but not yet paid on short term deposits at the end of the year.

(iv) The current year amount owing to wholly-owned entities is shown in note 18.

	Note	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
NOTE 10: INVENTORIES					
CURRENT					
Mine spares and stores		310	369	-	-
NOTE 11: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS					
CURRENT					
Forward foreign exchange contracts – cash flow hedges (i)	31(d)	1,270	9,444	-	-
Australian listed equity securities (ii)		1,175	9,469	1,175	9,469
		2,445	18,913	1,175	9,469
NON-CURRENT					
Forward foreign exchange contracts – Cash flow hedges (i)	31(d)	20	-	-	-

(i) *Movements in cash flow hedges held at fair value are recorded in equity.*

(ii) *Australian listed equity securities at fair value through profit or loss are all held for trading. Changes in fair values of these financial assets are recorded in the income statement. Equity securities are valued using bid prices at year end. The Board reviews the performance of the investments at fair value each month.*

*The Group's exposure to price risk and a sensitivity analysis for financial assets are disclosed in note 31.*

**NOTE 12: INVESTMENTS ACCOUNTED FOR USING THE EQUITY METHOD**

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
a. Movements during the year in equity accounted investment in associated companies:				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	-	564	-	564
Investments written off during the year	-	(564)	-	(564)
Balance at end of the financial year	-	-	-	-
b. Retained earnings attributable to associate:				
Share of loss after income tax expense	-	(474)	-	(474)
Share of retained losses at beginning of the financial year	-	(808)	-	(808)
Share of retained losses at end of the financial year	-	(1,282)	-	(1,282)

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 12: INVESTMENTS ACCOUNTED FOR USING THE EQUITY METHOD (continued)	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
c. Summarised presentation of aggregate assets, liabilities and performance of associates:				
Current Assets	-	4	-	4
Non-current Assets	-	13	-	13
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17</b>
Current Liabilities	-	49	-	49
Non-current Liabilities	-	2,500	-	2,500
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,549</b>
Net Liabilities	-	(2,532)	-	(2,532)
Net loss after income tax of associates	-	(948)	-	(948)

- d. Due to the immaterial balance of the associated company's retained losses, the Group did not reflect its share of the associate's losses in the investment balance.
- e. The associated company was an unlisted company incorporated in Australia, Southstar Diamonds Limited. Independence Group NL had a 50% (2008: 50%) ownership interest until the company was de-registered on 20 May 2009.

**NOTE 13: CONTROLLED ENTITIES**

- a. Controlled entities and their contribution to consolidated profit after income tax were as follows:

	Country of Incorporation	Class of Share	Percentage Owned		Contribution to Profit	
			2009	2008	2009	2008
			%	%	\$'000	\$'000
Controlled Entity: Lightning Nickel Pty Ltd	Australia	Ord	100	100	31,599	61,121

NOTE 14: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Mine plant and equipment – leased	-	3,676	-	-
Accumulated amortisation	-	(3,336)	-	-
	-	340	-	-
Mine plant and equipment - other	27,727	22,989	-	-
Accumulated depreciation	(22,348)	(17,955)	-	-
	5,379	5,034	-	-
Other plant and equipment	2,916	1,937	2,246	1,937
Accumulated depreciation	(2,187)	(1,203)	(1,603)	(1,203)
	729	734	643	734
<b>Total written down value</b>	<b>6,108</b>	<b>6,108</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>734</b>
<i>Reconciliation of the movement for the year:</i>				
<i>Carrying amount at the beginning of year</i>	6,108	8,525	734	738
<i>Additions</i>	4,283	2,293	308	369
<i>Disposals</i>	(1,657)	-	-	-
<i>Depreciation/amortisation expense</i>	(2,626)	(4,710)	(399)	(373)
<i>Carrying amount at the end of year</i>	6,108	6,108	643	734

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>NOTE 15: EXPLORATION, EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE</b>				
Exploration and evaluation expenditure:				
Opening balance	35,124	12,339	21,792	2,121
Current year's expenditure	20,481	26,349	14,423	20,640
Transfer to development expenditure	(5,355)	-	-	-
Written off during the year	(4,936)	(1,208)	(3,097)	(969)
Amortisation expense	(3,553)	(2,356)	-	-
	<u>41,761</u>	<u>35,124</u>	<u>33,118</u>	<u>21,792</u>
Development expenditure:				
Opening balance	10,169	7,245	-	-
Current year's expenditure	5,754	4,512	-	-
Transfer from exploration expenditure	5,355	-	-	-
Amortisation expense	(4,248)	(1,588)	-	-
	<u>17,030</u>	<u>10,169</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>58,791</u>	<u>45,293</u>	<u>33,118</u>	<u>21,792</u>

*Note 1(h) describes the policy relating to the carrying value of interests in exploration, evaluation and development expenditure.*

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>NOTE 16: MINE ACQUISITION COSTS</b>				
Opening balance	1,752	1,896	-	-
Current year's expenditure	-	2	-	-
Transfer to prepayments	(336)	-	-	-
Amortisation expense	(22)	(146)	-	-
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>1,394</u>	<u>1,752</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

*Note 1(u) describes the policy relating to the carrying value of interests in mine acquisition costs.*

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>NOTE 17: INTANGIBLE ASSETS</b>				
Data base at cost	1,378	-	1,378	-
Amortisation expense	(97)	-	(97)	-
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>1,281</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,281</u>	<u>-</u>

**NOTE 18: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES**

**CURRENT**

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
Trade creditors	7,713	7,364	1,766	712
GST Payable	893	1,038	25	5
Employee entitlements	1,341	1,268	307	229
Sundry creditors and accrued expenses	3,391	7,236	649	4,479
	<u>13,338</u>	<u>16,906</u>	<u>2,747</u>	<u>5,425</u>

**NON-CURRENT**

Amounts owing to wholly-owned entities (i)	-	-	4,298	-
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*(i) The prior period amount owing from wholly-owned entities is shown in note 9.*

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Note	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
NOTE 19: BORROWINGS					
CURRENT					
Lease liabilities		-	632	-	-
The Group had access to the following financing arrangements at balance date:					
Guarantee facility (i)		1,500	1,500	-	-
Less: drawn down portion		(768)	(301)	-	-
		732	1,199	-	-

(i) The facility is denominated in Australian dollars and interest is charged at the BBSY rate plus an applicable margin.

The Group's exposure to interest rate and liquidity risk and a sensitivity analysis for financial liabilities are disclosed in note 31.

	Note	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
NOTE 20: OTHER FINANCIAL LIABILITIES					
CURRENT					
Commodity hedging loss	30	392	20,722	-	-
NON-CURRENT					
Commodity hedging loss	30	3,214	-	-	-
NOTE 21: PROVISIONS					
NON-CURRENT					
Employee entitlements (i)		921	756	-	-
Provision for restoration (ii)		284	1,591	-	-
		1,205	2,347	-	-
<i>Provision for restoration movement for the year</i>					
Balance at start of the year		1,591	1,174	-	-
Reversal of over-stated provision		(1,321)	-	-	-
Provision recognised for the year		14	417	-	-
Balance at the end of the year		284	1,591	-	-

(i) This is a provision for long service leave entitlements. The Company estimates how many employees are likely to complete 7 years of service on the mine site based upon an estimated probability calculation. This forms the basis for the provision.

(ii) A provision for restoration is recognised in relation to mining activities for costs such as reclamation, waste site closure, plant closure and other costs associated with the restoration of the mining site. Estimates of the restoration obligations are based on current technology, legal requirements and future costs. In determining the restoration provision the entity has assumed no significant changes will occur in the relevant Federal and State legislation in relation to restoration of such mines in the future. The present value of the provision is based upon the current estimated life of the mine's ore reserves.

	Note	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
NOTE 22: CONTRIBUTED EQUITY					
113,613,539 (2008: 116,940,457) fully paid ordinary shares (a)		29,078	29,481	29,078	29,481
<b>a. Ordinary shares (i)</b>					
At the beginning of year		29,481	26,583	29,481	26,583
Shares issued during the year					
Issued 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008		-	2,898	-	2,898
175,000 unlisted options exercised at \$1.16 (iii)		203	-	203	-
65,000 unlisted options exercised at \$0.96 (iii)		62	-	62	-
62,500 unlisted options exercised at \$1.20 (iii)		75	-	75	-
37,500 unlisted options exercised at \$1.59 (iii)		60	-	60	-
125,000 unlisted options exercised at \$1.16 (iv)		145	-	145	-
Shares bought back on-market and cancelled		(948)	-	(948)	-
Transaction costs relating to share issues		-	-	-	-
At reporting date		29,078	29,481	29,481	29,078

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 22: CONTRIBUTED EQUITY (continued)

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	No. '000	No. '000	No. '000	No. '000
At the beginning of the year	116,940	114,712	116,940	114,712
Shares bought back on-market and cancelled	(3,791)	-	(3,791)	-
Shares issued during the year	465	2,228	465	2,228
At reporting date	<u>113,614</u>	<u>116,940</u>	<u>113,614</u>	<u>116,940</u>
<b>b. Options for Ordinary Shares – Partly Paid Unlisted (ii)</b>	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At beginning of the year	-	38	-	38
Converted to ordinary shares during the year	-	(38)	-	(38)
At reporting date	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	No. '000	No. '000	No. '000	No. '000
At beginning of the year	-	375	-	375
Converted to ordinary shares during the year	-	(375)	-	(375)
At reporting date	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

(i) Ordinary shares participate in dividends and the proceeds on winding up of the Company in proportion to the number of shares held. Each ordinary share is entitled to one vote.

(ii) On 26 November 2003 the Company issued 1,500,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$1.33 to non-executive directors. A cash payment of 10.3 cents was made on application for each of four tranches to be issued over 4 years. The 10.3 cents was non-refundable but is included in the exercise price when the options were exercised on vesting.

(iii) These options were issued under the Employee Option Plan.

(iv) These options were issued to employees in March 2004 and were not issued under the Employee Option Plan.

(v) During the year the Company purchased and cancelled 3,791,918 ordinary shares on-market. The shares were acquired at an average price of \$2.82 cents per share. The total cost of \$10,696 including \$53 thousand of transaction costs was deducted from shareholders' equity (\$948 thousand) and retained earnings (\$9,748 thousand).

(vi) At the end of the year there were 1,287,500 (2008: 1,777,500) unissued shares in respect of which options were outstanding.

**c. Unlisted Options**

Details relating to unpaid and unlisted options are disclosed in note 34.

	Note	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NOTE 23: RESERVES					
Share-based payment reserve (i)		3,954	3,765	3,954	3,765
Hedging reserve (ii)	30	(1,508)	(5,921)	-	-
		<u>2,446</u>	<u>(2,156)</u>	<u>3,954</u>	<u>3,765</u>
<i>Share-based payment reserve movement for the year:</i>					
Balance at the start of the year		3,765	2,835	3,765	2,835
Current year movements due to vesting		189	930	189	930
Balance at the end of the year		<u>3,954</u>	<u>3,765</u>	<u>3,954</u>	<u>3,765</u>
<i>Hedging reserve movement for the year:</i>					
Balance at the start of the year		(5,921)	(60,287)	-	-
Revaluation – gross		8,963	91,016	-	-
Deferred tax		(2,688)	(27,305)	-	-
Transfer to net profit – gross(iii)		(2,660)	(13,350)	-	-
Deferred tax		798	4,005	-	-
Balance at the end of the year		<u>(1,508)</u>	<u>(5,921)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 23: RESERVES (continued)

- (i) *The share-based payment reserve is used to record the value of options provided to employees and directors as part of their remuneration.*  
(ii) *The hedging reserve is used to record gains or losses on a hedged instrument in a cash flow hedge that are recognised directly in equity. Amounts are recognised in profit and loss when the associated hedged transaction affects profit and loss.*  
(iii) *These amounts have been included in sales revenue.*

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
NOTE 24: RETAINED EARNINGS				
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	165,632	133,712	13,039	12,363
Dividends paid – fully franked	(8,092)	(19,618)	(8,092)	(19,618)
On-market buy back of ordinary shares	(9,749)	-	(9,749)	-
Net profit attributable to the members of the parent entity	16,121	51,538	14,522	20,294
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	163,912	165,632	9,720	13,039

NOTE 25: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

**a. Operating Lease Commitments**

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements

Payable:

not later than 1 year	354	177	354	177
later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	1,210	708	1,210	708
later than 5 years	-	-	-	-
	1,564	885	1,564	885

*The property lease is a non-cancellable lease with a five-year term, with rent payable monthly in advance.*

**b. Finance Lease Commitments**

Finance and hire purchase rentals for plant and equipment are payable as follows:

not later than 1 year	-	647	-	-
later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	-	-	-	-
minimum lease payments	-	647	-	-
less: future lease finance charges	-	(15)	-	-
Recognised as a liability	-	632	-	-

Finance and hire purchase liabilities provided for in the financial statements:

Current	-	632	-	-
Non-current	-	-	-	-
Total liability	-	632	-	-

**c. Exploration Commitments**

In order to maintain current rights of tenure to exploration tenements, the Group will be required to spend \$4,305 thousand in 2009/10.

**d. Capital Commitments**

At the end of the financial year, the Group had no material orders of equipment to be delivered and paid for during 2009/10.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 26: SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Group operated in two industrial or Primary segments, which were the mining and mineral exploration industries. The Group operated only in one geographical or Secondary segment which was Australia.

Primary Industrial Segment Information 2009	Mining	Exploration	Inter-segment eliminations/ unallocated	Consolidated
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue from external customers	93,855	-	-	93,855
Inter-segment revenue	-	-	-	-
Other revenue	915	-	6,331	7,246
Total segment revenue	94,770	-	6,331	101,101
Segment profit/(loss) before income tax	37,749	(19,026)	6,331	25,054
Income tax expense				(8,933)
Group profit/(loss) for the year				16,121
Segment assets	50,593	45,432	134,998	231,023
Segment liabilities	15,401	2,748	17,438	35,587
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	1,733	309	-	2,042
Depreciation and amortisation expense	11,502	496	-	11,998
Other non-cash expenses	165	5,014	189	5,368
<b>Primary Industrial Segment Information 2008</b>				
Revenue from external customers	137,665	-	-	137,665
Other revenue	417	792	10,271	11,480
Total segment revenue	138,082	792	10,271	149,145
Segment profit/(loss) before income tax	78,144	(14,216)	10,271	74,199
Income tax expense				(22,661)
Group profit/(loss) for the year				51,538
Segment assets	40,157	54,518	154,932	249,607
Segment liabilities	35,182	5,425	16,043	56,650
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	1,924	369	-	2,293
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8,427	373	-	8,800
Other non-cash expenses	625	1,269	930	2,824

NOTE 27: CASH FLOW INFORMATION	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
a. Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit from ordinary activities after Income Tax				
Profit from ordinary activities after income tax	16,121	51,538	14,522	20,294
Devaluation/(revaluation) of investments in listed entities	8,339	5,326	8,339	5,326
Unrealised gain on trade debtors revaluation	(4,549)	(13,070)	-	-
Dividend and interest income	(6,228)	(10,272)	(30,806)	(31,232)
Gain on sale of assets	(915)	(1,132)	-	(793)
Depreciation	4,078	3,488	399	373
Write-off of capitalised expenditure	4,936	1,208	3,173	969
Write-off of investment in associated company	-	564	-	564
Write-off of plant and equipment	900	-	-	-
Provision against loan to associated company	63	1,325	63	1,325
Amortisation	7,920	5,312	97	-
Share-based payment expense	189	930	189	930

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
NOTE 27: CASH FLOW INFORMATION (continued)				
Changes in assets and liabilities:				
(Increase)/decrease in trade debtors	(12,977)	16,221	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in other debtors	1,046	(1,576)	(89)	(144)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	497	1,295	1,119	811
(Increase)/decrease in inventory	59	(68)	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in deferred tax asset	3,191	4,494	373	239
Increase/(decrease) in current tax payable	7,328	(39,788)	(7,406)	(59,456)
Increase in deferred tax liability	1,395	6,868	5,486	4,729
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(1,143)	638	78	61
Cash flows from operations	<u>30,250</u>	<u>33,301</u>	<u>(4,463)</u>	<u>(56,004)</u>

**b. Non-cash Financing and Investing Activities**

During the year the Group acquired leased plant and equipment with an aggregate value of \$nil (2008: \$nil).

**NOTE 28: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE**

On 27 August 2009 the Company announced a fully franked final dividend of 2 cents per share to be paid on 29 September 2009.

No other matter or circumstance has 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.

**NOTE 29: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated. Transactions with related parties are as follows:

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>a. Director-Related Entities</b>				
Consulting fees have been paid to Virtual Genius Pty Ltd, a company to which director Mr Bonwick is related	7	13	7	13
Consulting fees have been paid to MiningOne Pty Ltd, a company to which two directors of a subsidiary are associated. One director is a principal of MiningOne Pty Ltd and the other is a consultant to the company	104	120	27	107

**b. Share Transactions of Key Management Personnel**

Directors and director-related entities hold directly, indirectly or beneficially as at the reporting date the following equity interests in Independence Group NL:

	No.	No.	No.	No.
ordinary shares	5,378,506	6,583,506	5,378,506	6,583,506
options over ordinary shares (unlisted)	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000

Other key management personnel hold directly, indirectly or beneficially as at the reporting date the following equity interests in Independence Group NL:

	No.	No.	No.	No.
ordinary shares	40,200	40,200	-	-
options over ordinary shares (unlisted)	-	37,500	-	-

**c. Key Management Personnel**

The Company's key management personnel during the period were non-executive directors Oscar Aamodt (Chairman), John Christie, Rod Marston and Peter Bilbe, executive directors Christopher Bonwick (Managing Director) and Kelly Ross (Company Secretary), and employee Brett Hartmann (General Manager – Long Nickel Mine). Also included in Key Management Personnel are subsidiary non-executive directors Tim Moran and Gary Davison. All were in office for the entire financial year except for Peter Bilbe who was appointed on 31 March 2009.

Share options have been issued to directors and executives of the Company. Each share option converts into one ordinary share of Independence Group NL on exercise. Share options issued by Independence Group NL to key management personnel are as follows:

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 29: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

<b>2009</b>	Balance start of year	Granted during year	Exercised during year	Balance at end of year
	No.	No.	No.	No.
R Marston	-	-	-	-
C Bonwick	500,000	-	-	500,000
K Ross	250,000	-	-	250,000
J Christie	-	-	-	-
T Moran	-	-	-	-
G Davison	-	-	-	-
B Hartmann	37,500	-	(37,500)	-
	<b>787,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(37,500)</b>	<b>750,000</b>

**2008**

R Marston	250,000	-	(250,000)	-
C Bonwick	875,000	-	(375,000)	500,000
K Ross	525,000	-	(275,000)	250,000
J Christie	125,000	-	(125,000)	-
T Moran	-	-	-	-
G Davison	-	-	-	-
B Hartmann	75,000	-	(37,500)	37,500
	<b>1,850,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,062,500)</b>	<b>787,500</b>

The options do not entitle the holder to voting or dividend rights. Options may be exercised at any time from the date on which they vest to the date of their expiry.

The difference between the total market value of options issued during a financial year, at the date of issue, and the total amount received from directors and executives, is not recognised in the financial statements. The amounts are disclosed in key management personnel's compensation in respect of the financial years over which the entitlement is earned in the Remuneration Report, which forms part of the Directors' Report.

**Shareholdings of Key Management Personnel for the year ending 30 June 2009**

	Balance at Start of Year	Remuneration Options Exercised	Net Other Change During the Year	Balance at End of Year
O Aamodt	20,000	-	-	20,000
C Bonwick	3,503,506	-	(500,000)	3,003,506
K Ross	795,000	-	(350,000)	445,000
J Christie	595,000	-	-	595,000
R Marston	1,670,000	-	(355,000)	1,315,000
P Bilbe	-	-	-	-
B Hartmann	37,500	37,500	(37,500)	37,500
T Moran	-	-	-	-
G Davison	2,700	-	-	2,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,623,706</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>(1,242,500)</b>	<b>5,418,706</b>

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 29: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

**Shareholdings of Key Management Personnel for the year ending 30 June 2008**

	Balance at Start of Year	Remuneration Options Exercised	Net Other Change During the Year	Balance at End of Year
O Aamodt	20,000	-	-	20,000
C Bonwick	3,248,506	375,000	(120,000)	3,503,506
K Ross	695,000	275,000	(175,000)	795,000
J Christie	470,000	125,000	-	595,000
R Marston	1,520,000	250,000	(100,000)	1,670,000
P Bilbe	-	-	-	-
B Hartmann	37,500	37,500	(37,500)	37,500
T Moran	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
G Davison	2,700	--	-	2,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,003,706</b>	<b>1,062,500</b>	<b>(442,500)</b>	<b>6,623,706</b>

**Key Management Personnel Compensation**

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2009 \$	2008 \$	2009 \$	2008 \$
Short-term employee benefits	1,417,208	1,533,628	1,041,062	1,098,924
Post-employment benefits	95,759	90,125	73,009	66,500
Long-term benefits	-	-	-	-
Share-based payments	1,418	38,989	1,418	34,859
	<b>1,514,385</b>	<b>1,662,742</b>	<b>1,115,489</b>	<b>1,200,283</b>

**d. Other Related Entities**

During the financial year a wholly-owned entity paid dividends of \$30,000,000 to Independence Group NL. This amount has been included in note 2 but has been eliminated on consolidation for the purposes of calculating the profit of the Group for the financial year.

	Parent Entity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Loan to/(from)subsidiary		
Balance at beginning of the year	8,530	39,313
Loan advances	18,862	24,003
Loan repayments	(31,690)	(54,786)
Balance at end of the year	<b>(4,298)</b>	<b>8,530</b>

NOTE 30: FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND COMMODITY CONTRACTS

At 30 June 2009 the Group held various nickel commodity contracts designated as hedges of expected future nickel sales. These hedge contracts are in US dollars. Foreign exchange contracts are also held which match the terms of the commodity contracts. These contracts are all designated as cash flow hedges and are used to reduce the exposure to a future decrease in the Australian dollar market value of nickel sales. Refer to notes 11 and 20 of the financial statements for marked to market values of these contracts.

The following summarises the hedge contracts held by the Group at 30 June 2009:

Year of Delivery	Sell (Nickel Tonnes)	USD/tonne	Exchange Rate	AUD/tonne
2009/10	2,400	14,815	\$A/US\$0.7792	19,013
2010/11	2,400	14,815	\$A/US\$0.7792	19,013

The hedge contracts are to be settled at the rate of 200 tonnes per month. The hedge contracts have been marked to market value as at 30 June 2009 and the resulting surplus/deficit compared to market value (net of tax) is reflected in the Hedge Reserve in the consolidated Balance Sheet.

The forecasted transaction is expected to occur 3 months prior to the maturity of its respective commodity and foreign exchange contracts.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 30: FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND COMMODITY CONTRACTS (continued)

The following table details the forward foreign currency contracts outstanding as at reporting date:

Outstanding contracts	Average exchange rate		USD		Contract value		Fair value	
			2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	Consolidated		USD \$'000	USD \$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Sell US dollars								
3 months or less	0.7792	0.7305	8,889	8,107	11,408	11,093	431	2,579
3 to 6 months	0.7792	0.7305	8,889	8,107	11,408	11,093	355	2,431
6 months to 1 year	0.7792	0.7305	17,778	16,215	22,816	22,186	484	4,434
1 to 2 years	0.7792	-	35,556	-	45,632	-	20	-

As at reporting date the aggregate amount of unrealised losses under forward foreign exchange contracts deferred in the hedging reserve relating to the exposure on the anticipated future sale of nickel is \$1,508 thousand (2008: \$5,921 thousand). It is anticipated that the sales will take place as scheduled in the table above at which stage the amount deferred in equity will be released into profit or loss.

The portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instruments to be an effective hedge is recognised directly in equity. When the forecasted transaction occurs, the Group adjusts the amounts deferred in equity to the income statement. During the year ended 30 June 2009, \$1,862 thousand (2008 \$9,345 thousand) was released from equity (net of tax) to sale of goods in the income statement for the Group only.

NOTE 31: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

**a. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks; market risk (including currency risk, interest rate risk, equity price risk and commodity price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Group's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Group. The Group uses derivative financial instruments such as foreign exchange contracts and forward commodity contracts to hedge certain risk exposures.

Risk management is overseen by the Risk Management and Hedging Committees under policies approved by the Board of Directors. The Board identifies, evaluates and hedges financial risks in close co-operation with the Group's operating units. The Board provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as mitigating foreign exchange, commodity price, interest rate and credit risks, use of derivative financial instruments and investing excess liquidity.

**b. Capital Risk Management**

The Board's policy is to maintain a strong capital base so as to maintain investor, creditor and market confidence and to sustain future development of the business.

The capital structure of the Group consists of debt, which includes the borrowings disclosed in note 19, cash and cash equivalents and equity, comprising issued capital, reserves and retained earnings as disclosed in notes 8, 22, 23, and 24 respectively. The Board monitors the return on capital, which the Group defines as net profit before tax divided by shareholders' equity, excluding reserves. The Board also monitors the level of dividends paid to ordinary shareholders. The group's gearing ratio as at balance date is 0% (2008: 0%).

The Board seeks to maintain a balance between the higher returns that might be possible with higher levels of borrowings and the advantages and security afforded by a sound capital position. The Group's current target is to achieve a real return on capital of at least 10%. During the financial year the return was 13% (2008: 38%). The Group defines a real return on capital as net profit before tax divided by net assets (net of non-distributable reserves).

Operating cash flows are used to maintain and expand the Group's operating and exploration assets, as well as to make the routine outflows of tax and dividends. The Board reassesses the Group's debt levels and capital structure prior to making any major investment or expansion decisions.

None of the Group's entities are currently subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

There were no changes in the Group's approach to capital management during the year.

**c. Interest Rate Risk Management**

The Company's exposure to interest rate risk, which is the risk that a financial instrument's value will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates, and the effective weighted average interest rates on classes of financial assets and financial liabilities, is as follows:

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate		Floating Interest		Total	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Parent	%	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets:						
Cash	2.95	7.60	6,388	1,333	6,388	1,333
Receivables - trade			-	-	-	-
Investments			-	-	-	-
Total Financial Assets			6,388	1,333	6,388	1,333

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 31: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate		Floating Interest		Total	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
<b>Parent</b>	%	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Liabilities:						
Payables			-	-	-	-
Bank Loans			-	-	-	-
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>			<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Consolidated</b>						
Financial Assets:						
Cash	1.90	7.30	32,142	27,384	32,142	27,384
Receivables - trade			-	-	-	-
Investments			-	-	-	-
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>			<b>32,142</b>	<b>27,384</b>	<b>32,142</b>	<b>27,384</b>
Financial Liabilities:						
Payables			-	-	-	-
Bank Loans			-	-	-	-
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>			<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Floating interest and non-interest bearing assets and liabilities have maturity periods of 1 year or less.

**Interest rate sensitivity analysis**

The sensitivity analysis below has been determined based on the exposure to interest rates at the reporting date and the stipulated change taking place at the beginning of the financial year and held constant throughout the reporting period. A 100 basis point increase or decrease is used when reporting interest rate risk internally to key management personnel and represents management's assessment of the possible change in interest rates.

At reporting date, if interest rates had been 100 basis points higher or lower and all other variables were held constant, the Group's net profit would increase/decrease by \$225 thousand (2008: increase/decrease by \$192 thousand). This is mainly due to the Group's exposure to interest rates on its cash and cash equivalents. The Group's sensitivity to interest rates has decreased during the current period due to the decrease in its cash and cash equivalents that are exposed to a variable interest rate.

**d. Credit Risk Management**

The Group has a concentration of credit risk in that it depends on BHP Billiton Ltd for a significant volume of revenue. During the year ended 30 June 2009 all sales revenue was sourced from this company. The risk is mitigated in that the agreement relating to sales revenue contains provision for the Group to seek alternative revenue providers in the event that BHP Billiton Ltd is unable to accept supply of the Group's product due to a force majeure event. The Group has policies in place to ensure that sales of products are made to customers with an appropriate credit history and BHP Billiton Ltd is considered to be a low risk customer.

Derivative counterparties and cash transactions are restricted to high credit quality financial institutions.

The at risk amounts are as follows:

	Consolidated 2009 \$'000	Consolidated 2008 \$'000	Parent 2009 \$'000	Parent 2008 \$'000
Cash	127,238	145,384	21,387	9,332
Trade receivables	23,908	10,931	-	-
Foreign exchange derivatives	1,290	9,444	-	-

No analysis of trade and other receivables are past due or impaired for either 30 June 2009 or 2008.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 31: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

**e. Market Risk Management**

(i) Foreign exchange risk

Foreign exchange risk arises when future commercial transactions and recognised assets and liabilities are denominated in a currency that is not the entity's functional currency.

The Group is paid in US dollars for its nickel deliveries and is exposed to foreign exchange risk arising from currency exposures to the US dollar.

**Foreign Currency Risk Management**

The Group receives nickel sales revenue denominated in US dollars ("USD") and is therefore exposed to exchange rate fluctuation risk. Exchange rate exposures are managed within approved policy parameters utilising forward foreign exchange contracts. All USD received are exchanged for AUD within 40 days of receipt. The parent company has no exposure to foreign exchange risk.

The carrying amount of the Group's monetary assets and monetary liabilities denominated in USD at the reporting date is as follows:

	Consolidated 2009 US Dollars A\$'000	Consolidated 2008 US Dollars A\$'000	Parent 2009 US Dollars A\$'000	Parent 2008 US Dollars A\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	10,498	6,627	-	-
Trade receivables	23,908	10,931	-	-
Foreign exchange derivatives	1,290	9,444	-	-
Commodity derivatives liability	(3,606)	(20,722)	-	-

Forward contracts transacted by the Hedging Committee are sometimes used to manage foreign exchange risk. The Board is responsible for managing exposures in foreign currency by using external forward currency contracts.

The Group's risk management policy is to hedge between 0% and 40% of anticipated transactions in US dollars for the period of the forecast transaction, which ranges between 12 and 24 months. All of the projected purchases qualify as "highly probable" forecast transactions for hedge accounting purposes.

**Foreign currency sensitivity analysis**

The following table details the Group's sensitivity to movement in the AUD against the USD. Sensitivity analysis is calculated using a reasonable possible change of 3% in the foreign rate in both directions based on the exposure period of the trade receivables and a 5% variation for derivative contracts in both directions. USD cash balances uses a 4% change in 2009 (4% change in 2008) in both directions.

	Impact on Profit (Net of Tax)				Impact on Equity (Net of Tax)			
	Consolidated		Parent		Consolidated		Parent	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>Currency Risk</b>								
Debtors revaluation	1,430	675	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derivative instruments (Sold)								
5% Increase	-	-	-	-	4,073	1,103	-	-
5% Decrease	-	-	-	-	(1,967)	(1,219)	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	308	164	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Group's sensitivity to foreign currency has decreased during the current period mainly due to the reduction in USD denominated trade receivables.

**(ii) Equity price risk**

The Group is exposed to equity securities price risk. This arises from investments held by the Group and classified on the balance sheet as fair value through profit or loss. The price risk exists as the market value of the investments is subject to supply and demand and other market forces. Equity price risk is managed by periodically reviewing market rates of return to optimise returns.

The group has 100% concentration of investments in Australian Listed mining companies (2008: 100%).

The at risk amount for the Group and the Parent Company is \$1,175 thousand (2008: \$9,469 thousand).

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 31: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

**Equity price risk sensitivity analysis**

The following sensitivity analysis has been determined based on the exposure to equity price risks at the reporting date. Each equity instrument is assessed on its individual price movement with the sensitivity rate based on a reasonably possible change of 45%. At reporting date, if the equity prices had been higher or lower, net profit for the year ended 30 June 2009 would have increased or decreased by \$370 thousand (2008: \$4,882 thousand). The Group's sensitivity to equity prices has reduced from the prior year due to an investment in an ASX listed entity going into administration during the year.

**f. Commodity Price Risk Management**

The Group's revenues, derivatives and trade receivables are exposed to commodity price risk fluctuations, namely nickel prices. Commodity price risk arises when nickel production is delivered to customers and a financial asset is created. The nickel price fluctuates for three months until final settlement with the customer.

Forward contracts are used to manage the commodity price fluctuation. It is the Board's policy to hedge between 0% and 40% of total nickel reserve tonnes. All of the hedges qualify as "highly probable" forecast transactions for hedge accounting purposes. It is the Board's policy to hedge anticipated nickel production operating costs, whilst remaining exposed to spot nickel prices for the remainder of the Group's revenue.

Refer to note 31e for a summary of the 'at risk amounts'.

**Commodity price risk sensitivity analysis**

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the fair value of financial instruments held at balance date to movement in the relevant forward commodity price, with all other variables held constant. Debtors valuation used a sensitivity analysis of 4% (2008: 4%) which is based upon the 3 month forward commodity rate as there is a 3 month lag-time between delivery and final nickel price received. A 20% sensitivity rate is used to value derivative contracts held and is based on reasonable assessment of the possible changes.

	Impact on Profit (Net of Tax)				Impact on Equity (Net of Tax)			
	Consolidated		Parent		Consolidated		Parent	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Commodity Price Risk</b>								
Trade Receivables	1,451	507	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commodity Liabilities								
20% Increase	-	-	-	-	(12,556)	(7,539)	-	-
20% Decrease	-	-	-	-	12,556	7,539	-	-

All other variables remain constant: A downward sensitivity analysis has not been performed from trade receivables as the numbers would be consistent with the increase.

**g. Liquidity Risk Management**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group will not be able to meet its financial liabilities as they fall due. The Group's approach to managing liquidity risk is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Group's reputation. The Board monitors liquidity levels on an ongoing basis.

Liquidity and interest risk tables

The following table details the Company's and the Group's remaining contractual maturity for its non-derivative financial liabilities. The tables are based on the undiscounted cash flows of financial liabilities based on the earliest date on which the Group can be required to pay.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 31: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3 months to 1 year	1-5 years	5+ years	Carrying Amount
<b>Consolidated</b>	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2009</b>						
Trade and other payables	11,104	-	-	-	-	11,104
Finance lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
	11,104	-	-	-	-	11,104
<b>2008</b>						
Trade and other payables	14,600	-	-	-	-	14,600
Finance lease liabilities	-	348	168	-	-	516
	14,600	348	168	-	-	15,116
<b>Company</b>						
<b>2009</b>						
Trade and other payables	2,415	-	-	-	-	2,415
	2,415	-	-	-	-	2,415
<b>2008</b>						
Trade and other payables	5,191	-	-	-	-	5,191
	5,191	-	-	-	-	5,191

The following table details the Group's liquidity analysis for its derivative financial instruments. The table is based on the undiscounted net cash inflows/(outflows) on the derivative instrument that settles on a net basis. When the amount payable or receivable is not fixed, the amount disclosed has been determined by reference to the projected interest rates as illustrated by the yield curves existing at the reporting date.

The parent company does not hold any derivative instruments (2008: nil).

	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3 months to 1 year	1-5 years	5+ years	Carrying Amount
<b>Consolidated</b>	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2009</b>						
Net settled:						
Forward commodity contracts	124	268	1,370	1,844	-	3,606
	124	268	1,370	1,844	-	3,606
<b>2008</b>						
Net settled:						
Forward commodity contracts	1,727	3,471	15,524	-	-	20,722
	1,727	3,471	15,524	-	-	20,722

- (i) Trade and other payables and forward commodity contracts agree to the balance sheet values for their respective years. The Group believes these positions to be a true reflection of what would be paid assuming the position had to be paid immediately.
- (ii) The analysis is per a contractual obligation with the counterparty to the derivative instruments.
- (iii) The gross cash outflows in relation to foreign exchange contract derivatives have not been shown, as if the hedge positions were closed out the Group would benefit.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 31: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

**h. Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

Aggregate net fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets at balance date:

	2009		2009		2008		2008	
	Consolidated		Parent		Consolidated		Parent	
	Carrying Amount \$'000	Net Fair Value \$'000						
Australian Listed investments	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	9,469	9,469	9,469	9,469
Security deposit	29	29	29	29	25	25	25	25
Foreign exchange contracts	1,290	1,290	-	-	9,444	9,444	-	-
Commodity contracts	(3,606)	(3,606)	-	-	(20,722)	(20,722)	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	127,238	127,238	21,388	21,388	145,384	145,384	9,332	9,332
Trade and other receivables	24,484	22,040	317	317	12,430	12,430	8,693	8,693
	<u>150,610</u>	<u>148,166</u>	<u>22,909</u>	<u>22,909</u>	<u>156,030</u>	<u>156,030</u>	<u>27,519</u>	<u>27,519</u>

NOTE 32: COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the Company is Suite 1, 183 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont, Western Australia.

NOTE 33: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Lightning Nickel Pty Ltd, which is 100% owned by Independence Group NL, has guarantees of \$815 thousand outstanding to various third parties. The guarantees relate to environmental and rehabilitation bonds predominantly for the Long Nickel Mine and Tropicana Gold Project.

NOTE 34: SHARE-BASED PAYMENTS

**(i) The following share-based payment arrangements existed at 30 June 2009:**

(a) On 10 February 2005, the Company issued 800,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$1.16 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan. 762,500 options had been exercised or cancelled as at the end of the financial year. The remaining 37,500 expire on 30 June 2010.

(b) On 23 December 2005, the Company issued 150,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$1.59 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan. 112,500 options had been exercised at the end of the financial year. The remaining 37,500 expire on 30 June 2010.

(c) On 2 May 2006, the Company issued 100,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$2.94 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan and expire on 30 June 2010.

(d) On 16 May 2006, the Company issued 50,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$3.07 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan. 25,000 options had been exercised or cancelled at the end of the financial year. The remaining 25,000 options expire on 30 June 2010.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

NOTE 34: SHARE-BASED PAYMENTS (continued))

(e) On 31 October 2006, the Company issued 150,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$4.85 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan. 37,500 options had been exercised or cancelled as at the end of the financial year. The remaining 112,500 expire on 30 June 2011.

(f) On 13 November 2006, the Company issued 300,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$4.64 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan. 75,000 options had been exercised or cancelled as at the end of the financial year. The remaining 225,000 expire on 30 June 2011.

(g) On 27 November 2006, the Company issued 500,000 unlisted options to director Christopher Bonwick and 250,000 to director Kelly Ross. The options are exercisable at \$4.44. The options were issued pursuant to resolutions 3 and 4 passed at the 2006 Annual General Meeting and expire on 30 June 2011.

All options issued are exercisable 25% at the end of each year for four years with the exception of options detailed in note (g) above which are exercisable 12 months after the date of issue.

All options are only exercisable if the employee or director is still employed or engaged by the Company. If employment or directorship is terminated, only those options already vested will be exercisable with the unvested portion cancelled.

All options entitle the holder to one ordinary share in Independence Group NL for every option held and no dividend or voting rights attach to options on issue.

	Consolidated				Parent Entity			
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price \$	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price \$	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price \$	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price \$
Outstanding at the Beginning of the year	1,777,500	3.38	4,005,900	1.20	1,777,500	1.20	4,005,900	1.20
Granted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forfeited	(25,000)	3.07	-	-	(25,000)	3.07	-	-
Exercised	(465,000)	1.17	(2,228,400)	1.30	(465,000)	1.17	(2,228,400)	1.30
Expired	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outstanding at year-end	1,287,500	4.19	1,777,500	3.38	1,287,500	4.19	1,777,500	3.38
Exercisable at year-end	1,000,000	4.20	1,361,875	3.29	1,000,000	4.20	1,361,875	3.29

There were 465,000 options exercised during the year ended 30 June 2009. These options had a weighted average share price of \$3.24 at exercise date.

The options outstanding at 30 June 2009 had a weighted average exercise price of \$4.19 and a weighted average remaining contractual life of 1.8 years. Exercise prices range from \$1.16 to \$4.85 in respect of options outstanding at 30 June 2009.

The weighted average fair value of options granted during the year was nil. The weighted average fair value of options granted during the previous year was \$nil.

There were no options granted during the year.

Included under share-based payment expense in the income statement is \$189 thousand (2008: \$930 thousand), which relates, in full, to equity-settled share-based payment transactions.

**(ii) Employee option plan**

The establishment of the Independence Group NL Employee Option Plan was approved by shareholders at the 2000 annual general meeting. The Employee Option Plan is designed to provide long-term incentives for senior managers and executive directors to deliver long-term shareholder returns. Under the plan, participants are granted options which only vest if certain tenure of employment conditions are met. Participation in the plan is at the Board's discretion and no individual has a contractual right to participate in the plan or to receive any guaranteed benefits.

The amount of options that will vest depends on continued employment with the Company over the vesting period. Options granted vest 25% each year for four years. Once vested the options remain exercisable until their expiry date. Options are granted under the Plan for no consideration and carry no dividend or voting rights.

When exercisable, each option is convertible into one ordinary share. The exercise price of options is the price at which the Company's shares traded on the Australian Securities Exchange on the day the options are granted.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

NOTE 35: NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS NOT YET EFFECTIVE

The following Australian Accounting Standards have been issued or amended and are applicable to the parent and Group, but are not yet effective. They have therefore not been adopted in preparation of the financial statements at reporting date. No other standards, amendments or interpretations are expected to affect the accounting policies of the Group.

<b>AASB Amendment</b>	<b>AASB Standard Affected</b>	<b>Nature of change In Accounting Policy and Impact</b>	<b>Application Date of the Standard<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Application Date for the Group</b>
AASB 101 (revised September 2007)	AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements	As this is a disclosure standard only, there will be no impact on amounts recognised in the financial statements. However, there will be various changes to the way financial statements are presented and various changes to names of individual financial statements.	1 January 2009	1 July 2009
AASB 2008-1 (issued February 2008)	Amendments to AASB 2 – Share-based Payments – Vesting Conditions and Cancellations	The definition of <i>vesting conditions</i> has changed and the accounting treatment clarified for cancellations to share-based payment arrangements by the counterparty. To date the entity has not issued any options to employees that include non-vesting conditions and as such there will be no impact on the financial statements when this revised standard is adopted for the first time.	1 January 2009	1 July 2010
AASB 123 (revised June 2007)	AASB 123: Borrowing Costs	All borrowing costs for qualifying assets will have to be capitalised where commencement date for capitalisation is on or after 1 January 2009. As such, there will be no impact on prior period financial statements when this standard is adopted.	1 January 2009	1 July 2009
AASB 2009-2 (issued April 2009)	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Improving Disclosures about Financial Instruments	As this is a disclosure standard only, there will be no impact on amounts recognised in the financial statements. However, various additional disclosures will be required about fair values of financial instruments and the entity's liquidity risk. No comparative disclosures are required in the first year that these amendments are applied.	1 January 2009	1 July 2009
AASB 136	Impairment of Assets	Additional disclosure requirements about discounted cash flow assumptions used for the fair value less costs to sell method. There will be no financial impact when these amendments are first adopted because these amendments relate to disclosure requirements only.	1 January 2009	1 July 2009
AASB 8 (issued February 2007)	AASB 114: Operating Segments	This is a disclosure standard only in relation to reporting by operating segments instead of reporting by business and geographical segments.	1 January 2009	1 July 2009
AASB 107	Cash Flow Statements	Clarifies that only expenditures that result in a recognised asset in the balance sheet are eligible for classification as cash flows from investing activities. Initial adoption of this amendment will have no impact as the entity only recognises cash flows from investing activities for expenditures that result in a recognised asset in the balance sheet.	1 January 2010	1 July 2010

<sup>1</sup> Application date of the Standard refers to the annual reporting periods commencing on or after this date.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

**NOTE 36: INTEREST IN JOINT VENTURES**

The Company has a 30% equity interest in the tenements associated with the Tropicana Joint Venture (AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd owns 70% and is the Manager). As the venture is a joint controlled operation, the Company's share of costs in relation to the project are capitalised on the balance sheet of the parent entity under AASB 6. The Company contributes 30% of the project costs which includes bankable feasibility study costs. The parent entity has pledged \$8,866 thousand for these Tropicana budgets which is not included in the balance sheet as it relates to anticipated expenditure in 2009/10.

**NOTE 37: BOARD APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements were approved by the directors on 11 September 2009.

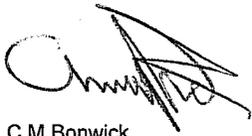
**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
DIRECTORS' DECLARATION**

The directors of the Company declare that in their opinion:

1. the financial statements and notes of the Company and the consolidated Group:
  - a. comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Act 2001;
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2009 and performance for the year ended on that date of the Company and the consolidated Group; and
  - c. the remuneration disclosures contained in the Remuneration Report comply with s300A of the Corporations Act 2001;
2. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration has been made after receiving the declarations required to be made to the directors in accordance with section 295A of the Corporations Act 2001 for the financial period ending 30 June 2009.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



C M Bonwick

Managing Director

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2009



BDO Kendalls

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www.bdo.com.au

ABN 79 112 284 787

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL

### Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Independence Group NL, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration of the consolidated entity comprising the company and the entities it controlled at the year's end or from time to time during the financial year.

#### *Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Act 2001*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In Note 1, the directors also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, that compliance with the Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards ensures that the financial report, comprising the financial statements and notes, complies with International Financial Reporting Standards.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

*Independence*

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001* would be in the same terms if it had been given to the directors at the time that this auditor's report was made.

*Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion:

- (a) the financial report of Independence Group NL is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's and consolidated entity's financial position as at 30 June 2009 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*; and
- (b) the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.

**Report on the Remuneration Report**

We have audited the Remuneration Report included within the directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2009. The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Remuneration Report in accordance with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Remuneration Report, based on our audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

*Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion, the Remuneration Report of Independence Group NL for the year ended 30 June 2009, complies with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

**BDO Kendalls Audit & Assurance (WA) Pty Ltd**

BDO Kendalls  
BM'Veigh

**Brad McVeigh**  
Director

Perth, Western Australia  
Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2009

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LISTED PUBLIC COMPANIES**

The following additional information not shown elsewhere in this report is required by ASX Limited in respect of listed public companies only. **This information is current as at 2 September 2009.**

1. Shareholding

a. Distribution of shareholders:

Category (size of Holding)	Ordinary Shares
1 – 1,000	1,009
1,001 – 5,000	1,546
5,001 – 10,000	510
10,001 – 100,000	579
100,001 – and over	74
	3,718

b. The number of shareholders holding less than a marketable parcel of fully paid ordinary shares is 103. The number of shareholders holding less than an economic parcel is 361.

c. The Company has received the following notices of substantial holding:

9,931,847 ordinary shares from JP Morgan Chase & Co. and its affiliates.

6,823,578 ordinary shares from National Australia Bank Limited and associated companies.

5,902,977 ordinary shares from Orion Asset Management Limited.

d. Voting Rights

The voting rights of each class of share are as follows:-

Fully Paid Ordinary Shares – one vote per share held.

Options – no voting rights are attached to unexercised options.

2. The name of the company secretary is Mrs Kelly Ross. Mrs Ross holds a Bachelor of Business in Accounting from Curtin University and the designation CPA from the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants.

3. The address of the principal registered office in Australia is Suite 1, 183 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont, Western Australia, Telephone (08) 9479 1777.

4. The Register of securities is held at Security Transfer Registrars Pty Ltd at 770 Canning Highway, Applecross, Western Australia.

5. No on-market share buy-back is current.

6. Stock Exchange Listing

Quotation has been granted for 113,651,039 ordinary shares of the Company on all Member Exchanges of the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX Limited). Unquoted securities are detailed in Note 7 below.

**INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL ABN 46 092 786 304 AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LISTED PUBLIC COMPANIES**

7. Unquoted Securities

The following securities have been issued and the Company has not requested their quotation by the Australian Stock Exchange:-

Unlisted Options

(a) On 10 February 2005, the Company issued 800,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$1.16 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan. 662,500 options had been exercised or cancelled as at the end of the financial year. The remaining 137,500 expire on 30 June 2010.

(b) On 23 December 2005, the Company issued 150,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$1.59 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan. 75,000 options had been exercised at the end of the financial year. The remaining 75,000 expire on 30 June 2010.

(c) On 2 May 2006, the Company issued 100,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$2.94 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan and expire on 30 June 2010.

(d) On 16 May 2006, the Company issued 50,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$3.07 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan and expire on 30 June 2010.

(e) On 31 October 2006, the Company issued 150,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$4.85 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan. 37,500 options had been exercised or cancelled as at the end of the financial year. The remaining 112,500 expire on 30 June 2011.

(f) On 13 November 2006, the Company issued 300,000 unlisted options exercisable at \$4.64 to employees. The options were issued pursuant to the Company's Employee Option Plan. 75,000 options had been exercised or cancelled as at the end of the financial year. The remaining 225,000 expire on 30 June 2011.

(g) On 27 November 2006, the Company issued 500,000 unlisted options to director Christopher Bonwick and 250,000 to director Kelly Ross. The options are exercisable at \$4.44. The options were issued pursuant to resolutions 3 and 4 passed at the 2006 Annual General Meeting and expire on 30 June 2011.

8. 20 Largest Holders of Ordinary Shares

Name	Number of Ordinary Fully Paid Shares Held	% Held of Issued Ordinary Capital
1. National Nominees Limited	17,351,264	15.27
2. HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited	13,997,401	12.32
3. JP Morgan Nominees Australia Limited	13,409,551	11.80
4. ANZ Nominees Limited	5,856,309	5.15
5. Citicorp Nominees Pty Limited	3,892,054	3.42
6. Cogent Nominees Pty Ltd	3,784,251	2022
7. Forty Traders Limited	3,134,000	2.76
8. Ron Medich Properties Pty Ltd	2,043,000	1.80
9. Virtual Genius Pty Ltd	2,000,000	1.76
10. Legend Mining Limited	1,900,000	1.67
11. UBS Nominees Pty Ltd	1,253,552	1.10
12. Queensland Investment Corporation	1,192,165	1.05
13. Karen Alana Schiller	975,000	0.86
14. Nattai Pty Ltd	945,000	0.83
15. Bonwick Superannuation Fund	930,648	0.82
16. Jeffrey Schiller	900,000	0.79
17. Yarandi Investments Pty Ltd	883,001	0.78
18. RBC Dexia Investor Services Australia Nominees Pty Limited	875,313	0.77
19. AMP Life Limited	831,385	0.73
20. Perpetual Corporate Trust	709,488	0.62
	76,863,382	67.63