THIS CIRCULAR IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

If you are in any doubt as to any aspect of this circular or as to the action to be taken, you should consult a stockbroker or other registered dealer in securities, bank manager, solicitor, professional accountant or other professional adviser.

If you have sold or transferred all your shares in Wanguo Gold Group Limited, you should at once hand this circular and the accompanying form of proxy to the purchaser or transferee or to the bank, stockbroker or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was effected for transmission to the purchaser or transferee.

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Wanguo Gold Group Limited 萬國黃金集團有限公司

(formerly known as Wanguo International Mining Group Limited)
(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 3939)

DISCLOSEABLE AND CONNECTED TRANSACTION ACQUISITION OF 20.22% INTEREST IN THE TARGET COMPANY AND

ISSUE OF CONSIDERATION SHARES UNDER SPECIFIC MANDATE

Independent Financial Adviser to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders



Unless the context otherwise requires, capitalised terms used in this cover page shall have the same meanings as those defined in the section headed "Definitions" in this circular.

A letter from the Board is set out on pages 5 to 19 of this circular and a letter from the Independent Board Committee containing its recommendations to the Independent Shareholders is set out on pages 20 to 21 of this circular. A letter from the Independent Financial Adviser to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders, containing its advice to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders is set out on pages 22 to 49 of this circular.

A notice convening the EGM of the Company to be held at 1601-03, 16/F, YF Life Centre, 38 Gloucester Rd, Wan Chai, Hong Kong on Friday, 4 October 2024 at 10:00 a.m. is set out on pages EGM-1 to EGM-3 of this circular. Whether or not you intend to attend the EGM, you are requested to complete and return the accompanying form of proxy in accordance with the instructions printed thereon to the Company's branch share registrar in Hong Kong, Tricor Investor Services Limited at 17/F., Far East Finance Centre, 16 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong as soon as possible and in any event not less than 48 hours before the time of the meeting (i.e. not later than 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 2 October 2024) or any adjournment thereof. Completion and return of the form of proxy will not preclude you from attending and voting in person at the EGM or any adjournment thereof (as the case may be) should you so wish and in such case, the form of proxy previously submitted shall be deemed to be revoked.

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In this circular, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

"Acquisition" the acquisition of the Sale Shares by the Company from the

Vendors pursuant to the terms and conditions set out in the

Sale and Purchase Agreement

"Announcement" the announcement of the Company dated 9 August 2024 in

relation to, among other things, the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder

"associate(s)" has the meaning ascribed thereto under the Listing Rules

"AUD" Australian dollars, the lawful currency of Australia

"Board" board of Directors

"Business Day" a day (other than a Saturday and a Sunday) on which banks

in Hong Kong are normally open for banking business to

the public

"Company" Wanguo Gold Group Limited (萬國黃金集團有限公司),

(formerly known as Wanguo International Mining Group Limited (萬國國際礦業集團有限公司)), a company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands with limited liability, the Shares of which are listed on the Main

Board of the Stock Exchange

"Completion" completion of the Acquisition

"connected person(s)" has the meaning as ascribed to it under the Listing Rules

"Consideration Shares" new Shares to be alloted and issued by the Company to the

Vendor

"Director(s)" the director(s) of the Company

"EGM" the extraordinary general meeting of the Company to be

convened and held to consider, and if thought fit, to approve, among other things, the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder (including the grant of the Specific Mandate) or any

adjournment thereof

"Golden Crane" Golden Crane Holdings Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of British Virgin Islands, holding 1,617 shares of the Target Company "Gold Ridge Mine" A gold mine located on the Guadalcanal Island, in the southwest of Pacific Ocean at Latitude 9°35' south. Longitude 160°08" east on the island of Guadalcanal. approximately 30 km southeast of Honiara, the capital city of Solomon Islands. Access from Honiara to the Gold Ridge Mine is via state highway east for 25 km then south for 15 km by local roads "Gold Ridge Project" the project concerning the exploitation and operations of the Gold Ridge Mine "Group" the Company and its subsidiaries from time to time "HK\$" Hong Kong dollars, the lawful currency of Hong Kong "Hong Kong" the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC "Independent Board Committee" the independent committee of the Board, comprising Mr. Tsang Wai Hung, Mr. Wong Chi Ming Ming, Mr. Wang Xin, which has been established to make recommendations to the Independent Shareholders in respect of the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder (including the grant of the Specific Mandate) "Independent Financial Adviser" CMBC International Capital Limited, a licensed corporation to carry out type 1 (dealing in securities) and type 6 (advising on corporate finance) regulated activities under the SFO, being the independent financial adviser appointed by the Company for the purpose of advising the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders in relation to the Acquisition

> Shareholders who are not required to abstain under the Listing Rules from voting at the EGM for the resolution(s) approving the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder (including the grant

of the Specific Mandate)

"Independent Shareholders"

"Independent Third Part(ies)" third part(ies) independent of and not connected with the Company and its subsidiaries and its connected persons

"JORC Code" the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (2004 edition), as published by the Joint Ore Reserves Committee, as amended from time to time "Latest Practicable Date" 6 September 2024, being the latest practicable date prior to the printing of this circular for ascertaining certain information contained herein "Listing Rules" the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (as amended from time to time) "PRC" the People's Republic of China, which for the purpose of this circular, excludes Hong Kong, Macau Special Administrative Region and Taiwan "Prominence Investment" Prominence Investment Holding Company Limited, a company incorporated in British Virgin Islands, holding 405 shares of the Target Company "RMB" Renminbi, the lawful currency of the PRC "Sale and Purchase Agreement" the sale and purchase agreement dated 9 August 2024 and entered into between the Company and Golden Crane and Prominence Investment respectively in relation to the Acquisition "Sale Shares" 2,022 shares of the Target Company (comprising 1,617 shares held by Golden Crane and 405 shares held by Prominence Investment), representing 20.22% of the issued share capital of the Target Company "SFO" the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) "Share(s)" ordinary shares with nominal value of HK\$0.10 each in the share capital of the Company "Shareholder(s)" holder(s) of the Share(s) "Specific Mandate" the specific mandate proposed to be granted to the Directors by the Independent Shareholders at the EGM to allot and issue the Consideration Shares

"Stock Exchange" The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited

"subsidiary(ies)" has the meaning ascribed to it under the Listing Rules

"Target Company" AXF Gold Ridge Pty Ltd, a company incorporated under

the laws of the Western Australia with limited liability

"Target Group" the Target Company and its subsidiaries

"Vendors" collectively represent both Golden Crane and Prominence

Investment

"%" per cent.

For the purpose of this circular and for illustrative purpose only, RMB is converted into HK\$ at the rate of RMB1: HK\$1.1; and AUD is converted into HK\$ at the rate of AUD1: HK\$5.1. No representation is made that any amounts in RMB or AUD has been or could be converted at the above rates or at any other rates.



Wanguo Gold Group Limited 萬國黃金集團有限公司

(formerly known as Wanguo International Mining Group Limited) (Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 3939)

Executive Directors:

Mr. Gao Mingqing (Chairman)

Mr. Li Feilong

Mr. Liu Zhichun

Mr. Wang Renxiang

Ms. Wang Nan

Independent Non-executive Directors:

Mr. Tsang Wai Hung

Mr. Wong Chi Ming Ming

Mr. Wang Xin

Registered Office:

Harneys Fiduciary (Cayman) Limited

4th Floor, Harbour Place

103 South Church Street

P.O. Box 10240

Grand Cayman, KY1-1002

Cayman Islands

Principal Place of Business in Hong Kong:

Unit 1, 28/F

Singga Commercial Centre 144-151 Connaught Road West

Hong Kong

11 September 2024

To the Shareholders

Dear Sir or Madam,

DISCLOSEABLE AND CONNECTED TRANSACTION ACQUISITION OF 20.22% INTEREST IN THE TARGET COMPANY AND

ISSUE OF CONSIDERATION SHARES UNDER SPECIFIC MANDATE

I. INTRODUCTION

Reference is made to the Announcement in relation to, among others, the Acquisition. As disclosed in the Announcement, the Acquisition constitutes a discloseable transaction for the Company under Chapter 14 of the Listing Rules and is subject to the reporting and announcement requirements under Chapter 14 of the Listing Rules. As at the date of this circular, one of the

Vendors, Golden Crane, being a substantial shareholder of the Target Company which is a subsidiary of the Company, is interested in approximately 16.17% of the issued share capital of the Target Company, Golden Crane is therefore a connected person of the Company at the subsidiary level under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules. The Acquisition constitutes a connected transaction of the Company under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules and is subject to the reporting, announcement and the Independent Shareholders' approval requirements under the Listing Rules.

The purpose of this circular is to provide you with, among other things, (i) a letter from the Board containing further details of the Acquisition; (ii) a letter from the Independent Board Committee containing the view of the Independent Board Committee on the Acquisition; (iii) a letter from the Independent Financial Adviser advising the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders in relation to the Acquisition; (iv) notice of the EGM and (v) other information as required under the Listing Rules.

II. INTRODUCTION

On 9 August 2024 (after trading hours), the Company entered into the Sale and Purchase Agreement with the Vendors, pursuant to which, the Company has conditionally agreed to acquire and the Vendors have conditionally agreed to sell the Sale Shares, representing 20.22% share capital of the Target Company, at a consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million, which will be settled by the allotment and issue of the 90,227,200 Consideration Shares by the Company to the Vendors at the price of HK\$8.12 per Consideration Share. Upon Completion, the Group will hold 98% share capital of the Target Company.

III. THE SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT

The principal terms of the Sale and Purchase Agreement are as follows:

Date

9 August 2024

Parties

- (1) the Company, as purchaser; and
- (2) Golden Crane and Prominence Investment, collectively as the Vendors.

Subject Matter to be Acquired

The Company has conditionally agreed to acquire and the Vendors have conditionally agreed to sell the Sale Shares, representing 20.22% share capital of the Target Company, at a consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million. The below table summarises the Sale Shares to be sold by the Vendors and Consideration Shares to be issued by the Company.

Vendor	Number of Sale Shares	Consideration Approximate (HK\$ million)	Consideration Shares to be issued
Golden Crane	1,617	585.9	72,154,986
Prominence Investment	405	146.7	18,072,214
Total	2,022	732.6	90,227,200

The Company and the Vendors agree that neither the Vendors shall be obliged to sell any of the Sale Shares nor the Company shall be obliged to allot and issue any of the Consideration Shares unless the sale and purchase of the Sale Shares and the subscription of the Consideration Shares are completed simultaneously.

Consideration

The consideration for the Acquisition is approximately HK\$732.6 million, which will be settled by the allotment and issue of the 90,227,200 Consideration Shares by the Company to the Vendors at the price of HK\$8.12 per Consideration Share.

The consideration for the Acquisition has been arrived at after arm's length negotiations between the parties, having taken into account of, among other factors, (i) an average price to earning ratio of the Company of approximately 17.7 times computed based on the average closing price of HK\$7.88 per Share as quoted on the Stock Exchange for all trading days in the period from April 2024 to July 2024; and (ii) historical profit of the Target Company in the amount of approximately RMB186.1 million (equivalent to approximately HK\$204.8 million) for the year ended 31 December 2023 as disclosed in the 2023 annual report of the Company.

The Company has considered various evaluation methods that are suitable for mining companies, and has negotiated with the Vendors to use price to earning ratio of the Company as the basis for determining the consideration for the following reasons:

- (i) Gold Ridge Mine has a great development potential given its JORC Code compliant resources volume, life of mine and the current consensus on gold price forecast. Evaluation methods that use the Gold Ridge Mine's fundamentals have returned a much higher valuation and therefore a much higher consideration. However, given the short track record of the Gold Ridge Mine operation, applying this potentially higher valuation approach may not be appropriate and reflective of market valuation given the inherent uncertainties, and it was difficult to agree on the appropriate level of discount if this approach was taken.
- (ii) While the Gold Ridge Mine has only been in trial production since November 2022, it has already made significant contribution to the Company's revenue and profit in 2023 and first half of 2024, and the Company's overall value. For the six months ended 30 June 2024, the Target Group has contributed 60.5% of total revenue for the Company compared with that of 50.0% revenue contribution in 2023. Segment profit contribution by operations in Solomon Islands was 70.7% for the six months ended 30 June 2024 compared with that of 48.8% for the year ended 31 December 2023. Based on information currently available to the Company, the current business plan and production schedule, the Company expects that the revenue and profit contribution by the Gold Ridge Mine will continue to grow and be significant for the Company. As such, it is reasonable to use the Company's price to earning ratio to value the Target Group.
- (iii) The Company considered the valuation of the Target Group will increase with the continuing ramping up of production volume, and aims to seize the opportunity to acquire the interest prior to further valuation increases.
- (iv) Other multiples such as price to book (PB) ratio or price to sales (P/S) ratio are considered to be not suitable. PB ratio is not suitable as the Target Group's core intangible assets, and mineral resources, were not accounted for and reflected in the financial statements of the Target Group. P/S ratio is mainly applicable to the start-up business or internet or unprofitable companies.
- (v) The net assets value of the Target Group of RMB498.9 million was considered to be not truly reflective of the valuation of the Target Group. The valuation of gold resources was not taken in account in the financial statements. Furthermore, the Target Group has been funded by loans from the Group and accounted as liabilities, which resulted in low net assets value.

Golden Crane acquired 1,617 shares of the Target Company at a consideration of AUD89,700,000 (equivalent to approximately HK\$457.5 million). Prominence Investment acquired 405 shares of the Target Company at a consideration of AUD22,400,000 (equivalent to approximately HK\$114.2 million).

Both Golden Crane and Prominence Investment acquired their respective interests of the Target Company by cash in July 2024. Compared with the Vendors' acquisition costs of HK\$571.7 million in aggregate, the proposed aggregate consideration of the current transaction of HK\$732.6 million represents a premium of approximately 28.1% primarily for the following reasons:

- i. The relevant ex-shareholder of the Target Company had a strong preference for cash, and the Vendors offered cash. The Group considered that the cash offer would adversely affect the financial status and liquidity of the Group if the Group had made the same cash offer funded by short-term borrowing. This would result in gearing ratio¹ changing from 25.5% to 49.7% and current ratio² changing from 1.4 to 0.6 respectively as at 31 December 2023, and gearing ratio changing from 29.1% to 50.3% and current ratio changing from 1.6 to 0.8 respectively as at 30 June 2024.
- ii. As disclosed below, 60,000,000 Consideration Shares out of 90,227,200 Consideration Shares will be locked-up for one year, and 30,000,000 Consideration Shares out of 90,227,200 Consideration Shares will be locked-up for two years. The Vendors have to bear considerable restriction and share fluctuation uncertainties for two years following the Completion (whereas the price of Consideration Share is agreed to be HKD8.12 each, representing a premium of approximately 8% and 12.6% respectively to the closing price of the Share at the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement (i.e. HK\$7.52 per Share), and the last five consecutive trading days immediately preceding the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement (i.e. HK\$7.214 per Share), and also representing a modest "actual" premium of approximately 18.7% and 13.9% to cost of the Vendors respectively with reference to closing price of the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the last five consecutive trading days immediately preceding the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement).

Notes:

- (1): Gearing ratio is calculated by dividing total liabilities by total assets
- (2): Current ratio is calculated by dividing current assets by current liabilities

The Sale and Purchase Agreement does not provide for any profit guarantee arrangement, or any option or similar right under which the Company and/or the Group would be entitled to sell the equity interest back to the Vendors. There is also no guarantee of net tangible assets or other matters regarding the financial performance of the Target Company provided by the Vendors.

The Consideration Shares

The 90,227,200 Consideration Shares represent approximately 10.9% of the issued share capital of the Company as at the date of this circular and approximately 9.8% of the issued share capital of the Company as enlarged by the Consideration Shares (assuming there will be no change in the total number of issued Shares of the Company between the date of this circular and the allotment and issue of the Consideration Shares).

The price of HK\$8.12 per Consideration Share represents:

- (1) a premium of approximately 8.0% to the closing price per Share of HK\$7.52 as quoted on the Stock Exchange on 9 August 2024, being the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement; and
- (2) a premium of approximately 12.6% to the average closing price per Share of HK\$7.214 as quoted on the Stock Exchange for the last five consecutive trading days immediately preceding the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement.

The price was determined on an arm's length basis between the Company and the Vendors and was arrived with reference to the closing prices of the Share as quoted on the Stock Exchange for all trading days in the period from April 2024 to July 2024. The Directors (including the independent non-executive Directors, with further details of their view set out in the letter from the Independent Board Committee) consider that the issue price is fair and reasonable.

Conditions Precedent of the Acquisition

The Completion is conditional upon fulfilment or, where applicable, waiver of the following conditions:

(i) the relevant transactions under the Sale and Purchase Agreement, including but not limited to, the issue of the Consideration Shares, having been approved by the Independent Shareholders of the Company at the EGM in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules;

- (ii) the approval for the listing of, and permission to deal in, the Consideration Shares by the Listing Committee of Stock Exchange having been obtained by the Company, and such approval not having been revoked or withdrawn prior to the date of Completion;
- (iii) the subscription of the Consideration Shares by the Vendors being completed simultaneously;
- (iv) each of the representations, warranties and/or undertakings contained in or referred to or as set out in the Sale and Purchase Agreement is true, accurate and not misleading in all respects; and
- (v) all necessary consents from any relevant governmental or regulatory authorities or other relevant third parties in connection with the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder having been obtained.

If any of the conditions set out above has not been satisfied or waived by the Company (other than conditions (i), (ii) and (v) which may not be waived and save for conditions (iii) and (iv) which shall be satisfied up to Completion) on or before 31 October 2024 or such other date as the parties may agree, the Sale and Purchase Agreement will be terminated unless the parties otherwise agree.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, none of the above conditions have been fully satisfied or waived.

Completion

Completion shall take place on the date that is the fifth Business Day after the day on which the conditions precedent of the Sale and Purchase Agreement have been satisfied or waived or such other day as the parties may agree.

Upon Completion, the Group will hold 98% share capital of the Target Company.

Lock-up Arrangement

The Vendors agree that the Consideration Shares shall be subject to lock-up arrangement as follows:

Vendor	Number of Consideration Shares locked-up in the first year from the date of Completion	Number of Consideration Shares continued to be locked-up in the second year from the date of Completion
Golden Crane Prominence Investment	48,000,000 12,000,000	24,000,000 6,000,000
Total	60,000,000	30,000,000

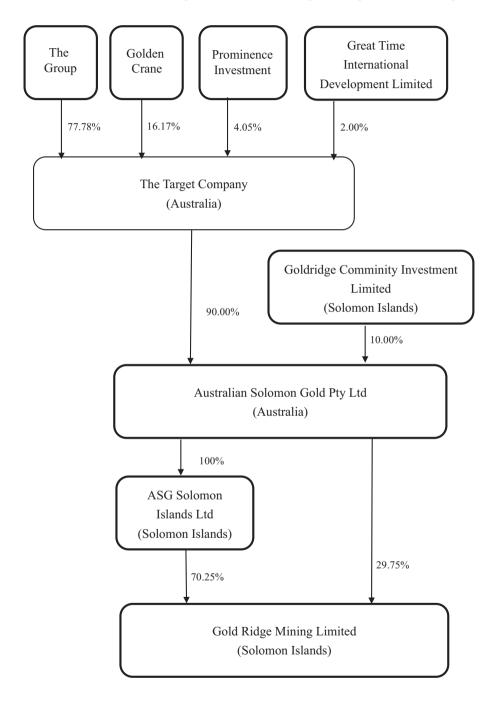
IV. EFFECT OF THE CONSIDERATION SHARES ON THE SHAREHOLDING STRUCTURE

Set out below is the shareholding structure of the Company (i) as at the date of this circular and (ii) immediately after the Completion and the allotment and issue of the Consideration Shares in full as contemplated under the Acquisition (assuming there will be no change in the total number of issued Shares of the Company between the date of this circular and the allotment and issue of the Consideration Shares):

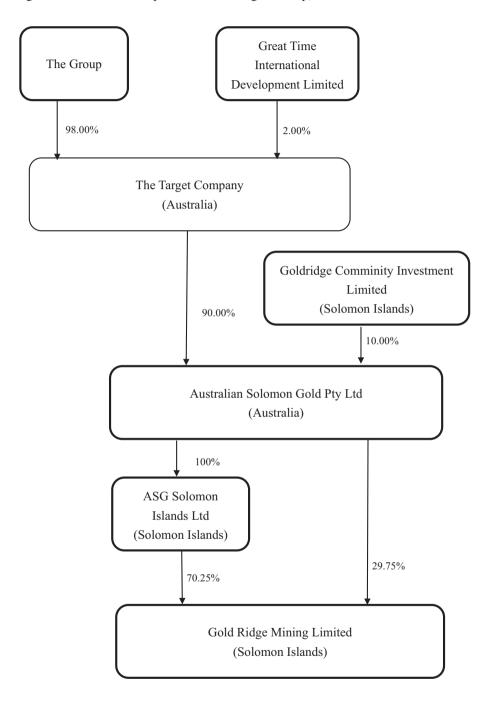
			Immediately after	er Completion
			and the allotmer	nt and issue of
	As at the	date of	the Considera	tion Shares
Shareholders	this circular		in full	
	Number of	Approximate	Number of	Approximate
	Shares	% ⁽¹⁾	Shares	$\%^{(1)}$
Golden Crane	_	-	72,154,986	7.86
Prominence Investment	_	_	18,072,214	1.97
Victor Soar Investments Limited	281,400,000	33.99	281,400,000	30.65
Achieve Ample Investments Limited	138,600,000	16.74	138,600,000	15.09
Shandong Humon Mining Development Limited	172,814,000	20.87	172,814,000	18.82
Public shareholders	235,186,000	28.40	235,186,000	25.61
Total	828,000,000	100.00	918,227,200	100.00

V. SHAREHOLDING STRUCTURE OF THE TARGET GROUP BEFORE AND AFTER THE ACQUISITION

Set out below is the shareholding structure of the Target Group before the Acquisition: -



Set out below is the shareholding structure of the Target Group after the Acquisition (assuming apart from the Acquisition, there will be no change in the capital structure of, or the shareholding in, the relevant companies in the Target Group): –



VI. GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE PARTIES

Information of the Company

The Company is a company incorporated in Cayman Islands with limited liability, whose shares are listed on the main board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (stock code: 3939) and is an investment holding company whose subsidiaries are principally engaged in the business of mining, ore processing and sale of concentrates products in the PRC and Solomon Islands.

Information of the Vendors

Golden Crane is a company incorporated under the laws of British Virgin Islands. It principally engages in the business of investment holding. The ultimate beneficial owners of Golden Crane is Mr. He Guangping. Golden Crane, being a substantial shareholder of the Target Company which is a subsidiary of the Company, is interested in 16.17% of the issued share capital of the Target Company, and is therefore a connected person of the Company at the subsidiary level under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules. Mr. He Guanping is the controller of Golden Crane, an investment holding company, and is therefore a substantial shareholder of the Target Company and a connected person of the Company.

Prominence Investment is also a company incorporated under the laws of British Virgin Islands. It principally engages in the business of investment holding. The ultimate beneficial owners of Prominence Investment are Ms. Wei Jiaming and Mr. Wu Zhengxi. Prominence Investment is interested in 4.05% of the issued share capital of the Target Company. Each of Ms. Wei and Mr. Wu is an Independent Third Party.

VII. INFORMATION OF THE TARGET COMPANY

The Target Company is a company incorporated in Western Australia which holds 90% equity interest of Australian Solomons Gold Pty Ltd ("ASG"), a company incorporated in Queensland, Australia, and is engaged in investment holding. The Target Company is a subsidiary of the Company. As at the Latest Practicable Date, Great Time International Development Limited holds 2% shares in the Target Company and Goldridge Comminity Investment Limited holds 10% shares in ASG. To the best knowledge, information and belief of the Directors having made all reasonable enquiries, each of Great Time International Development Limited and Goldridge Comminity Investment Limited and their respective ultimate beneficial owners is an Independent Third Party.

ASG, incorporated in Queensland, Australia, is an investment holding company which through its subsidiary ASG Solomon Islands Ltd together with ASG owns a 100% attributable interest of Gold Ridge Mining Limited ("GRML"), a company incorporated in Solomon Islands. GRML owns the mining license and the exploration license in respect of the Gold Ridge Project on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The Gold Ridge Project is a gold resource project located at lower northern slopes of Mount Chaunapaho in the central ranges of Guadalcanal Island. The Gold Ridge deposits are concentrations of low-sulphidation intrusion related epithermal gold mineralisation. It consists of five known mineralised deposits of Valehaichichi, Charivunga, Namachamata, Kupers and Dawsons. The Group has commenced the trial production since November 2022. Products of the Gold Ridge Project include gold doré and gold concentrates.

The following table sets out the financial information of the Target Group prepared based on its accounts for the two years ended 31 December 2022 and 2023 respectively:

	Year ended 31 December	
	2022	2023
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Audited)	(Audited)
Net(loss)/profit before and after taxation and		
extraordinary items	(35,609)	186,144
	(equivalent to	(equivalent to
	approximately	approximately
	(HK\$39,170,000))	HK\$204,758,000)

As disclosed in the 2022 annual report of the Company, the Target Group was in a loss position due to the fact that the Target Group had been engaging in mine development activities until the Gold Ridge Mine commenced trial production towards the end of November 2022. In 2023, the Gold Ridge Mine had a full year of production ramp up. This has resulted in profit position of the Target Group as revenue generated from sales of gold dore and gold concentrate had sufficiently covered costs and expenses incurred.

As at 31 December 2023, the audited net asset value of the Target Group was approximately RMB498.9 million (equivalent to approximately HK\$548.8 million).

VIII. REASONS FOR THE ACQUISITION

The Company is an investment holding company whose subsidiaries are principally engaged in the business of mining, ore processing and sale of concentrates products in the PRC and Solomon Islands.

As disclosed in the prospectus of the Company dated 28 June 2012, one of the growth strategies of the Group is to expand its mineral resources and ore reserves through acquisition of new mines. The Board believes that the Gold Ridge Project would continue to contribute to sales revenue and profits to the Group. Unlike most other commodities, gold has been a stable performer in recent years, which is expected to enhance the stability of the Group's income in the future under impact of economy fluctuation. The Group developed the Gold Ridge Mine which has been in trial production since November 2022. Gold Ridge Mine produces gold doré and gold concentrates. Flotation concentrate production has been steadily ramping up towards its design capacity during this trial production phase. Plant modification and upgrade continued to improve the metallurgical recovery. Installation of additional crushing, grinding and Knelson gravity circuits is expected to be completed by October 2024. Construction of the tailings dry stack facility is progressing well, with the first phase completed and operational in 2023, and the second phase expected to be completed in 2024.

For the year ended 31 December 2023, sale of gold doré and gold concentrates have already accounted for more than 50% of the Group's revenue and gross profit. As the exploration programs continue to progress and production process continue to improve at the Gold Ridge Mine, the Group expects gold mining and processing will become the major revenue and profit contributor of the Group in the near future. The Board is therefore of the view that the Acquisition aligns with the Group's development strategy.

As at the date of this circular, the Group owns 70% attributable interest of GRML, which will be increased to approximately 88.2% attributable interest of GRML upon completion of the Acquisition.

After considering the above factors including the reasons set out in the section headed "Consideration" above, the Directors (including the independent non-executive Directors, with further details of their view set out in the letter from the Independent Board Committee) are of the view that the transactions contemplated under the Sale and Purchase Agreement are on normal commercial terms that are fair and reasonable and are in the interests of the Company and its Shareholders as a whole.

IX. THE SPECIFIC MANDATE

The Consideration Shares will be allotted and issued pursuant to the Specific Mandate proposed to be sought from the Independent Shareholders at the EGM.

X. APPLICATION FOR LISTING

Application will be made to the Stock Exchange for the listing of, and permission to deal in, the Consideration Shares. The Consideration Shares, when allotted and issued on Completion, will rank *pari passu* in all respects with the existing Shares in issue.

XI. LISTING RULES IMPLICATIONS

Discloseable Transaction

As one or more of the applicable percentage ratios (as defined under Rule 14.07 of the Listing Rules) in respect of the Acquisition exceed 5% but less than 25%, the Acquisition constitutes a discloseable transaction of the Company under Chapter 14 of the Listing Rules and is subject to the reporting and announcement requirements under the Listing Rules.

Connected Transaction

As at the date of this circular, one of the Vendors, Golden Crane, being a substantial shareholder of the Target Company which is a subsidiary of the Company, is interested in approximately 16.17% of the issued share capital of the Target Company, Golden Crane is therefore a connected person of the Company at the subsidiary level under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules. The Acquisition constitutes a connected transaction of the Company under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules and is subject to the reporting, announcement and Independent Shareholders' approval requirements under the Listing Rules.

No Director has a material interest in the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder or is required to abstain from voting on the Board resolutions in relation to the aforesaid matters. To the best of the Directors' knowledge, information and belief, having made all reasonable enquiries, no other Shareholder has any material interest in the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder (including the grant of the Specific Mandate) and therefore no other Shareholder is required to abstain from voting at the EGM in respect of the resolution(s) approving the aforesaid matters.

XII. GENERAL

The EGM will be convened and held for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, approving the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder (including the grant of the Specific Mandate).

The Independent Board Committee, comprising Mr. Tsang Wai Hung, Mr. Wong Chi Ming Ming and Mr. Wang Xin, has been established to advise the Independent Shareholders in relation to the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder (including the grant of the Specific Mandate).

The Independent Financial Adviser, CMBC International Capital Limited, has been appointed to advise the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders regarding, among other things, the terms of the Sales and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder.

Your attention is also drawn to (i) the letter from the Independent Board Committee; (ii) the letter from the Independent Financial Adviser; and (iii) the additional information set out in the appendix to this circular.

Completion of the Acquisition is conditional upon the fulfilment of the conditions set out under the paragraph headed "Conditions Precedent of the Acquisition" in this circular, which may or may not be fulfilled. Accordingly, the Acquisition may or may not proceed. Shareholders and potential investors of the Company should exercise caution when they deal or contemplate dealing in the Shares and other securities of the Company.

Yours faithfully
By order of the Board
Wanguo Gold Group Limited
Gao Mingqing
Chairman

LETTER FROM THE INDEPENDENT BOARD COMMITTEE

The following is the text of a letter from the Independent Board Committee to the Independent Shareholders setting out its recommendation to the Independent Shareholders in connection with the transactions contemplated under the Sale and Purchase Agreement, including the issue of the Consideration Shares, which has been prepared for the purpose of inclusion in this circular.



Wanguo Gold Group Limited 萬國黃金集團有限公司

(formerly known as Wanguo International Mining Group Limited)
(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 3939)

11 September 2024

To the Independent Shareholders

Dear Sir or Madam,

DISCLOSEABLE AND CONNECTED TRANSACTION ACQUISITION OF 20.22% INTEREST IN THE TARGET COMPANY AND

ISSUE OF CONSIDERATION SHARES UNDER SPECIFIC MANDATE

We refer to the circular dated 11 September 2024 (the "Circular") issued by the Company to the Shareholders of which this letter forms part. Unless the context requires otherwise, capitalised terms used in this letter shall have the same meanings as defined in the Circular.

Under the Listing Rules, the issue of the Consideration Shares as part of the settlement of consideration of the Acquisition pursuant to the Sale and Purchase Agreement constitutes a connected transaction of the Company, and is subject to the approval of the Independent Shareholders at the EGM.

We have been appointed as the Independent Board Committee to consider the terms of the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder and to advise the Independent Shareholders as to whether the issue of the Consideration Shares as part of the settlement of consideration of the Acquisition as contemplated under the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder, details of which are set out in the "Letter from the Board" contained in the Circular, are fair and reasonable insofar as the

LETTER FROM THE INDEPENDENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Independent Shareholders are concerned. CMBC International Capital Limited has been appointed as the Independent Financial Adviser to advise us and the Independent Shareholders in this regard.

We wish to draw your attention to the "Letter from the Board" set out on pages 5 to 19 of the Circular and the "Letter from the Independent Financial Adviser" to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders set out on pages 22 to 49 of the Circular.

Having taken into account, among other things, (i) the terms of the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder, including the issue of the Consideration Shares; and (ii) the advice of the Independent Financial Adviser as set out in the "Letter from the Independent Financial Adviser", we are of the opinion that the issue of the Consideration Shares as part of the settlement of consideration of the Acquisition as contemplated under the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder are (i) fair and reasonable insofar far as the Independent Shareholders are concerned; (ii) on normal commercial terms; and (iii) in the interests of the Company and the Independent Shareholders as a whole.

Accordingly, we recommend the Independent Shareholders to vote in favour of the ordinary resolution(s) to be proposed at the EGM to approve the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder, including the issue of the Consideration Shares.

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of the

The Independent Board Committee

Mr. Tsang Wai Hung
Independent
Non-executive Director

Mr. Wong Chi Ming Ming
Independent
Non-executive Director

Mr. Wang Xin

Independent

Non-executive Director

The following is the text of a letter of advice from CMBC International Capital Limited to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders in respect of the transactions contemplated under the Sale and Purchase Agreement, including the issue of the Consideration Shares, which has been prepared for the purpose of inclusion in this circular.



CMBC International Capital Limited

45/F, One Exchange Square 8 Connaught Place, Central Hong Kong

11 September 2024

To The Independent Board Committee and The Independent Shareholders of Wanguo Gold Group Limited

Dear Sir or Madam,

DISCLOSABLE AND CONNECTED TRANSACTION ACQUISITION OF 20.22% INTEREST IN THE TARGET COMPANY AND

ISSUE OF CONSIDERATION SHARES UNDER SPECIFIC MANDATE

INTRODUCTION

We refer to our appointment as the independent financial adviser to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders in respect of the terms of the Sale and Purchase Agreement and transactions contemplated thereunder, details of which are set out in the letter from the Board (the "Letter from the Board") contained in the circular issued by the Company to the Shareholders dated 11 September 2024 (the "Circular"), of which this letter forms part. Capitalised terms used in this letter shall have the same meanings as those defined in the Circular unless the context otherwise requires.

On 9 August 2024 (after trading hours), the Company entered into the Sale and Purchase Agreement with the Vendors, pursuant to which, the Company has conditionally agreed to acquire and the Vendors have conditionally agreed to sell the Sale Shares, representing 20.22% of the issued share capital of the Target Company, at a consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million (the "Consideration"), which will be settled by the allotment and issue of 90,227,200 Consideration Shares under the Specific Mandate by the Company to the Vendors at the price of HK\$8.12 per Consideration Share.

LISTING RULES IMPLICATION

Discloseable Transaction

As one or more of the applicable percentage ratios (as defined under Rule 14.07 of the Listing Rules) in respect of the Acquisition exceed 5% but less than 25%, the Acquisition constitutes a discloseable transaction of the Company under Chapter 14 of the Listing Rules and is subject to the reporting and announcement requirements under the Listing Rules.

Connected Transaction

As at the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement, one of the Vendors, Golden Crane, being a substantial shareholder of the Target Company which is a subsidiary of the Company, is interested in 16.17% of the issued share capital of the Target Company, and Golden Crane is therefore a connected person of the Company at the subsidiary level under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules. The Acquisition constitutes a connected transaction of the Company under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules and is subject to the reporting, announcement, circular and Independent Shareholders' approval requirements under the Listing Rules.

The EGM will be convened and held for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, approving the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder (including the grant of the Specific Mandate). No Director has a material interest in the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder or is required to abstain from voting on the Board resolutions in relation to the aforesaid matters. Details regarding the EGM are set out in the Circular.

THE INDEPENDENT BOARD COMMITTEE

The Independent Board Committee comprising all the independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Tsang Wai Hung, Mr. Wong Chi Ming Ming and Mr. Wang Xin, has been established by the Company to advise the Independent Shareholders as to (i) whether the terms of the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder are on normal commercial terms and in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Group; and (ii) whether the terms of the Acquisition are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole. We, CMBC International Capital Limited, have been appointed as the independent financial adviser to advise the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders in such regard.

OUR INDEPENDENCE

As at the Latest Practicable Date, CMBC International Capital Limited did not have any relationships or interests with the Company, the Vendors or any other parties that could reasonably be regarded as relevant to the independence of CMBC International Capital Limited. In the last two years, CMBC International Capital Limited had not acted as independent financial adviser to the Company. We are not aware of any of the circumstances set out in Rule 13.84 of the Listing Rules, that would affect our independence to advise you on the Acquisition, existed as at the Latest Practicable Date.

BASIS OF OUR OPINION

In formulating our opinion, we have relied on the information, statements supplied, facts and representations contained or referred to in the Circular and the information, facts and representations provided by, and the opinions expressed by the Directors, management of the Group (the "Management"), as well as, our reference to the relevant public information. We have assumed that all the information provided, statements supplied, and representations and opinions expressed to us or contained or referred to in the Circular were true, accurate and complete in all material respects at the time they were provided and continue to be true up to the date of the EGM and all such statements of belief, opinions and intention of the Directors and the Management and those as set out or referred to in the Circular were reasonably made after due and careful enquiry. We have no reason to doubt the truth, accuracy and completeness of the information and representations provided to us by the Directors and/or the Management. We have also sought and received confirmation from the Company and the Directors that no material facts have been withheld or omitted from the information and statements provided as well as opinions and representations expressed to us.

We consider that we have reviewed the relevant information currently available to reach an informed view and to justify our reliance on the accuracy of the information contained in the Circular so as to provide a reasonable basis for our recommendation. We have not, however, carried out any independent verification of the information provided, statement supplied, representations made or opinion expressed by the Directors and the Management, nor have we conducted any form of in-depth investigation into the business, affairs, operations, financial position or future prospects of the Company or any of their respective subsidiaries or associates.

PRINCIPAL FACTORS AND REASONS CONSIDERED

In formulating our opinion in respect of the Acquisition, we have taken into consideration the following principal factors and reasons:

1. Background information of the Acquisition

On 9 August 2024 (after trading hours), the Company entered into the Sale and Purchase Agreement with the Vendors, pursuant to which, the Company has conditionally agreed to acquire and the Vendors has conditionally agreed to sell the Sale Shares, representing 20.22% share capital of the Target Company, at a consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million, which will be settled by the allotment and issue of the 90,227,200 Consideration Shares by the Company to the Vendors at the price of HK\$8.12 per Consideration Share.

The Target Company (together with its subsidiaries, the "Target Group") is a company incorporated in Western Australia which holds 90% equity interest of Australian Solomons Gold Pty Ltd ("ASG"), a company incorporated in Queensland, Australia, and is engaged in investment holding. ASG, together with its indirect wholly-owned subsidiary ASG Solomon Islands Ltd, own 100% equity interest of Gold Ridge Mining Limited ("GRML"), a company incorporated in Solomon Islands. GRML owns the mining license and the exploration license in respect of a gold ridge mine on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands ("Gold Ridge Mine"). The Target Company is a subsidiary of the Company. A detailed shareholding structure of the Target Group is set out in the sub-section headed "Information on the Target Company" below.

Golden Crane, being a substantial shareholder of the Target Company which is a subsidiary of the Company, is interested in 16.17% of the issued share capital of the Target Company, and therefore is a connected person of the Company at subsidiary level under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

2. The Sale and Purchase Agreement

The principal terms of the Sale and Purchase Agreement are set out as below:

Parties:

- (i) The Company, as purchaser; and
- (ii) The Vendors

Subject matter to be acquired:

the Sale Shares, being 20.22% of the issued share capital of the Target Company, at a consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million. The below table summarises the Sale Shares to be sold by the Vendors and Consideration Shares to be issued by the Company respectively:

Vendor	Number of Sale Shares	Consideration (HK\$ million)	Consideration Shares to be issued
Golden Crane Prominence	1,617	585.9	72,154,986
Investment	405	146.7	18,072,214
Total	2,022	732.6	90,227,200

Consideration:

Approximately HK\$732.6 million (being 20.22% of the consideration of approximately HK\$3,624.0 million for 100% interest of the Target Company agreed among the parties), which will be settled by the allotment and issue of the 90,227,200 Consideration Shares by the Company to the Vendors at the price of HK\$8.12 per Consideration Share.

The issue price of the Consideration Shares of HK\$8.12 each was determined after arm's length negotiations between the Company and the Vendors with reference to, among others, the closing prices of the Share as quoted on the Stock Exchange for all trading days in the period from April 2024 to July 2024.

Consideration Shares:

The 90,227,200 Consideration Shares represent approximately 10.9% of the issued share capital of the Company as at the Latest Practicable Date and approximately 9.8% of the issued share capital of the Company as enlarged by the Consideration Shares (assuming there will be no change in the total number of issued Shares of the Company between the Latest Practicable Date and the allotment and issue of the Consideration Shares).

Conditions

The Completion is conditional upon fulfilment or, where applicable, waiver of the following conditions:

- (i) the relevant transactions under the Sale and Purchase Agreement, including but not limited to, the issue of the Consideration Shares, having been approved by the Independent Shareholders of the Company at the EGM in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules;
- (ii) the approval for the listing of, and permission to deal in, the Consideration Shares by the Listing Committee of Stock Exchange having been obtained by the Company, and such approval not having been revoked or withdrawn prior to the date of Completion;

- (iii) the subscription of the Consideration Shares by the Vendors being completed simultaneously;
- (iv) each of the representations, warranties and/or undertakings contained in or referred to or as set out in the Sale and Purchase Agreement is true, accurate and not misleading in all respects;
 and
- (v) all necessary consents from any relevant governmental or regulatory authorities or other relevant third parties in connection with the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder having been obtained.

If any of the conditions set out above has not been satisfied or waived by the Company (other than conditions (i), (ii) and (v) which may not be waived and save for conditions (iii) and (iv) which shall be satisfied up to Completion) on or before 31 October 2024 or such other date as the parties may agree, the Sale and Purchase Agreement will be terminated unless the parties otherwise agree.

Completion shall take place on the date that is the fifth Business Day after the day on which the conditions precedent of the Sale and Purchase Agreement have been satisfied or waived or such other day as the parties may agree.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, (a) none of the conditions of the Sale and Purchase Agreement had been satisfied or waived (as the case may be); and (b) the Company had no intention to waive any conditions of the Sale and Purchase Agreement.

Completion:

3. Information on the Group

The Group is principally engaged in the business of mining, ore processing and sale of concentrates products in the PRC and Solomon Islands. The Company, through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, owns the entire equity interest in Jiangxi Province Yifeng Wanguo Mining Company Limited which in turn owns an operating mine located in Jiangxi Province, the PRC ("Xinzhuang Mine") in which the Group conducts underground mining. The Xinzhuang Mine has a substantial volume of non-ferrous polymetallic mineral resources. Products of Xinzhuang Mine primarily include copper concentrates, iron concentrates, zinc concentrates, sulfur concentrates, lead concentrates as well as by-products of gold and silver.

The Group has, on 13 July 2017, completed acquisition of 51% attributable interest of Xizang Changdu County Dadi Mining Company Limited, which owns the lead mine in Walege of Changdu Country, the PRC ("Walege Mine") in which the Group may further exploit for openpit and underground mining. The Walege Mine has a significant volume of mineral resources of lead and silver.

In addition, the Group has on 30 April 2020, completed acquisition of 77.78% interest of the Target Company, which then indirectly owns 90% interest of the Gold Ridge Mine in which the Group may further exploit for open-pit and underground mining. The Group commenced trial production of Gold Ridge Mine since November 2022. Products of Gold Ridge Mine include gold doré and gold concentrates.

Financial performance of the Group

Set out below are selected financial information of the Group for the three years ended 31 December 2021, 2022 and 2023 as extracted from the annual report of the Company for the years ended 31 December 2022 and 2023 (the "2023 Annual Report") respectively:

	For the year ended 31 December		
	2021	2022	2023
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(audited)	(audited)	(audited)
Revenue	2,014,395	681,418	1,315,217
Gross Profit	316,207	315,684	619,237
Profit for the year	181,640	169,718	390,939

	As at 31 December		
	2021	2022	2023
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(audited)	(audited)	(audited)
Total assets	1,798,760	2,037,963	2,361,603
Total liabilities	471,349	588,364	601,137
Net assets	1,327,411	1,449,599	1,760,466

(i) Revenue and gross profit

As illustrated in the table above, the Group's revenue decreased from approximately RMB2,014.4 million for the year ended 31 December 2021 to approximately RMB681.4 million for the year ended 31 December 2022, representing a decrease of approximately RMB1,333.0 million or 66.2%. It was mainly due to the decrease in the sales of electrolytic copper as the Group has gradually terminated the trading of electrolytic copper that was of low profit margin. Therefore, despite there was a significant decrease in revenue from 2021 to 2022, the gross profit of the Group only slightly decreased by approximately 0.2% from approximately RMB316.2 million for the year ended 31 December 2021 to approximately RMB315.7 million for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Revenue of the Group amounted to approximately RMB1,315.2 million for the year ended 31 December 2023, representing an increase of approximately 93.0% as compared to that of approximately RMB681.4 million for the year ended 31 December 2022, which was primarily due to the increase in sales generated by the Group's Gold Ridge Mine. The gross profit of the Group increased by approximately 96.2% from approximately RMB315.7 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to approximately RMB619.2 million for the year ended 31 December 2023 due to the same reason.

(ii) Profit for the year

The net profit of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2022 decreased by approximately RMB11.9 million or 6.6% to approximately RMB169.7 million from approximately RMB181.6 million for the year ended 31 December 2021, which was mainly due to the increase in administrative expenses and finance costs.

The net profit of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2023 amounted to approximately RMB390.9 million, illustrated a significant improvement as compared to the net profit of approximately RMB169.7 million for the year ended 31 December 2022. According to the 2023 Annual Report, the improved performance of the Group was primarily due to the profit contribution from the Group's Gold Ridge Mine, which 90% equity interest is held by the Target Group, as a result of the increase in sales of gold doré and gold concentrates.

(iii) Net assets

As at 31 December 2022, the net assets of the Group were approximately RMB1,449.6 million, representing an increase of approximately 9.2% as compared to that of approximately RMB1,327.4 million as at 31 December 2021. The increase in net assets as at 31 December 2022 were attributable to the profit made of approximately RMB169.7 million, which were partially offset by a dividend of approximately RMB83.6 million.

As at 31 December 2023, the net assets of the Group were approximately RMB1,760.5 million, representing an increase of approximately 21.4% as compared to that of approximately RMB1,449.6 million as at 31 December 2022. The increase in net assets as at 31 December 2023 were attributable to the profit made of approximately RMB390.9 million, which were partially offset by a dividend of approximately RMB82.8 million.

Market outlook on gold price and strategy of the Group

In 2023, Commodity Exchange ("COMEX") gold futures recorded overall gains in the first and fourth quarters, with some pullback in the second and third quarters. Gold prices have broken its historical high and the overall trend for the year remained at a high level.

Specifically, in the first quarter of 2023, a sudden crisis in the European and American banking industry pushed up the price of gold, with COMEX gold futures briefly surging to US\$2,083.8 per ounce, marking the first historical high of the year.

In the second and third quarters of 2023, as market risk events were digested and US inflation data continued to decline, the gold price retreated from its high levels and came under pressure, with a cumulative decline of over 8% due to ongoing disturbances in interest rate expectations.

However, in the fourth quarter of 2023, geopolitical tensions resurged, leading to a significant surge in gold prices and another historical high. On 4 December 2023, the gold price reached US\$2,152.3 per ounce, setting a new record once again.

The Target Group has largely benefited from the surge in gold prices since late 2022. The Gold Ridge Mine has a substantial volume of gold mineral resources and commenced trial production since the end of November 2022. Flotation production has been steadily ramping up towards its design capacity during this trial production phase. Plant modification and upgrade continued to improve the metallurgy process. Construction of the tailings dry stack facility is progressing well, with the first phase completed and operational in 2023, and the second phase is expected to be completed in 2024. Installation of additional crushing, grinding and Knelson gravity circuits is expected to be completed by October 2024.

With the continuous construction of various facilities, it is expected that the production capacity of the Gold Ridge Mine and revenue contribution by it would further increase in the near future.

4. Information on the Target Company

The Target Company is a company incorporated in Western Australia which holds 90% equity interest of ASG, a company incorporated in Queensland, Australia, and is engaged in investment holding. The Target Company is a subsidiary of the Company. As at the Latest Practicable Date, Great Time International Development Limited holds 2% shares in the Target Company and Goldridge Comminity Investment Limited holds 10% shares in ASG. To the best knowledge, information and belief of the Directors having made all reasonable enquiries, each of Great Time International Development Limited and Goldridge Comminity Investment Limited and their respective ultimate beneficial owners is an Independent Third Party.

ASG, incorporated in Queensland, Australia, is an investment holding company which together with its indirect wholly-owned subsidiary, ASG Solomon Islands Ltd, own 100% equity interest of GRML, a company incorporated in Solomon Islands. GRML owns the mining license and the exploration license in respect of Gold Ridge Project on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The Gold Ridge Project is a gold resource project located at lower northern slopes of Mount Chaunapaho in the central ranges of Guadalcanal Island. The Gold Ridge Mine deposits are concentrations of low-sulphidation intrusion related epithermal gold mineralisation. It consists of five known mineralised deposits of Valehaichichi, Charivunga, Namachamata, Kupers and Dawsons. The Group has commenced the trial production since the end of November 2022. Products of the Gold Ridge Project include gold doré and gold concentrates.

As at the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement and up to the Latest Practicable Date, 20.22% of the entire issued share capital in the Target Company was owned by the Vendors. Upon Completion, the Company will hold 98% equity interest of the Target Company.

Financial performance of the Target Group

Set out below are selected financial information of the Target Group for the two years ended 31 December 2022 and 2023 as extracted from its respective accounts:

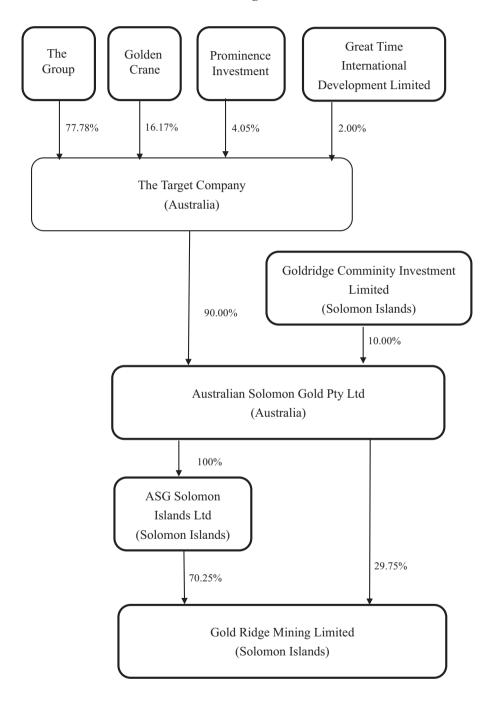
	For the year ended 31 December		
	2022	2023	
	RMB'000	RMB'000	
	(audited)	(audited)	
Revenue	47,959	658,316	
Net (loss)/profit before and after taxation and			
extraordinary items	(35,609)	186,144	

The Target Group had audited net assets of approximately RMB498.9 million (equivalent to approximately HK\$548.8 million) as at 31 December 2023.

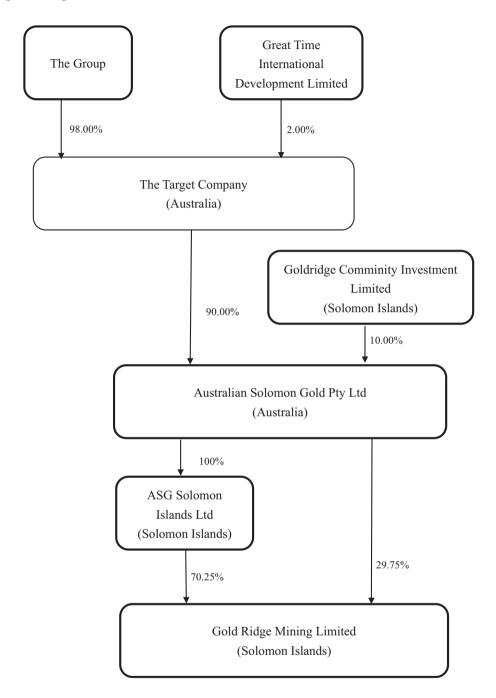
There was a significant increase in revenue of the Target Group and it recorded a net profit for the year ended 31 December 2023 as compared to the net loss for the year ended 31 December 2022. This was primarily because the trial production of Gold Ridge Mine was only commenced since the end of November 2022, therefore, only a comparatively small amount of sales of products were recognised for approximately one month ended 31 December 2022, which was yet to cover fixed costs incurred for the production, leading to a net loss position in 2022. With the increase in scale of production and sales of products, the financial performance of the Target Group improved significantly in 2023. For the year ended 31 December 2023, the Group mined 1,466,571 tonnes of ores in the Gold Ridge Mine (2022: 197,439 tonnes), of which it sold 1,142.90 kilogram of gold doré and 23,639 tonnes of gold concentrates. The gold resources held by the Gold Ridge Mine as of 31 December 2023 amounted to approximately 3,309,000 ounces.

Set out below are the simplified shareholding structures of the Target Group as at the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement and upon Completion:

As at the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement



Upon Completion



5. Reasons for and benefits of the Acquisition

As discussed in the Letter from the Board in the Circular and based on our understanding from the Management, the Acquisition is considered to be in line with the Group's development strategy taken into account:

- (i) the Target Company is currently a subsidiary of the Group which allows the Group to own approximately 70.0% (i.e. 77.78% x 90%) attributable interest of GRML indirectly. The Group will increase its attributable interest of GRML to approximately 88.2% upon Completion;
- (ii) one of the business strategies of the Group is to expand its mineral resources and ore reserves through acquisition of new mines;
- (iii) as compared to other commodities, gold has been a stable performer in recent years, which is expected to enhance the stability of the Group's income in the future under impact of economy fluctuation; and
- (iv) the Group developed the Gold Ridge Mine which has been in trial production since the end of November 2022. Sales of gold doré and gold concentrates have already accounted for more than 50% of the Group's revenue for the year ended 31 December 2023. As the exploration programs continue to progress and production process continue to improve at the Gold Ridge Mine, the Group expects gold mining and processing will become the major revenue and profit contributor of the Group in the near future.

Based on our discussion with the Management and our review of the 2023 Annual Report, in particular, the financial performance of the Group has improved significantly since the production works of Gold Ridge Mine commenced in late November 2022 and there is still approximately 3,309,000 ounces of gold resources held by the Gold Ridge Mine as at 31 December 2023, we concur with the view of the Management that the Acquisition is in line with the Group's principal business and its long-term development strategy.

6. Basis of consideration

We have discussed with and understand from the Management that the Company has considered, among others, (i) the average price-to-earnings ratio ("**PE Ratio**") of the Company in the period from April 2024 to July 2024 of approximately 17.7 times; and (ii) the profit of the Target Group amounted to RMB186.1 million (equivalent to approximately HK\$204.8 million) for the year ended 31 December 2023 as disclosed in the 2023 Annual Report, in determining the Consideration.

As discussed with the Management, we understand that the Company has been engaged in open-pit and underground mining activities since the acquisition of the Target Group in 2020. The trial production of the Gold Ridge Mine has only been commenced since November 2022, with the flotation production has been ramping up steadily towards its design capacity during the trial production phase. Prior to that, the Company made substantial investments, including plant modification and continuous upgrade to improve the metallurgy process, in order to bring the Gold Ridge Mine into commercial production.

We have further discussed with the Management to understand that, despite there was only a short track record, the Directors consider the profitability of the Target Group is promising with a potential growth after taking into account the factors below:

- the substantial investment in the mining capacity and stability of the Gold Ridge Mine, as well as rounds of trial production prior to the commencement of the commercial production. The first phase of Gold Ridge Mine has been completed with stable gold mining and processing capability in 2023;
- (ii) the Group would continue to invest in second phase of the Gold Ridge Mine, which is expected to be completed in 2024. Therefore, the exploration programs will continue to progress and the production process will continue to improve at the Gold Ridge Mine;
- (iii) while the Target Group was loss making in 2022, it has already contributed significantly to the Company's revenue and profit in 2023. The Company's profit attributable to the owners of the Company in 2023 has increased by approximately RMB154.9 million, or 85.6%, as compared to that in 2022. The growth was primarily attributable to the production of Gold Ridge Mine. In addition, for the six months ended 30 June 2024, the profit attributable to owners of the Company further increased by approximately RMB107.2 million as compared to that in the same period in 2023. For the six months ended 30 June 2024, the volume of ore processed at the Gold Ridge Mine has increased by approximately 416,000 tonnes, representing approximately an increase of 57.7% as compared to that in the same period last year; and

(iv) the Target Group has not experienced any material disruption to the production since the commencement of commercial production and the Directors do not aware of any factors that would potentially impact the mining and processing capacity of the Target Group.

All of the above information has further demonstrated the Target Group's profitability and sustainability. The Directors believe that the Target Group will contribute continuous, stable and efficient performance growth to the Group.

Taking into account of the above, we concur with the view of the Management that, despite the short track record, the operation of Gold Ridge Mine is sustainable and profitable. In addition, we have also assessed the historical Share price and market capitalisation of the Company during the Review Period (please refer to section headed "Principal Factors and Reasons Considered -Evaluation of the Consideration Shares" in this letter for details). It is noted that the Share price and market capitalisation of the Company shown an increasing trend after the Company published positive profit alert announcements anticipating increases in the Group's profit attributable to the owners of the Company resulting from the increased revenue and profit contribution of the Gold Ridge Mine for the six months ended 30 June 2023 and year ended 31 December 2023, respectively, on 26 July 2023 and 29 February 2024. In addition, price of the Shares also demonstrated an upward trend after the publication of positive profit alert dated 8 August 2024. We are of the view that the increase in Share price was correlated to the profitability of the Company and has reflected the valuation of the Target Group as it is the primary contributor to the growth of the Group's profit. While there may be other multiples such as price-to-book ratio (the "PB Ratio") and price-to-sales ratio (the "PS Ratio") that are commonly used for valuation purpose, we are of the view that using PE Ratio to determine the consideration of the Acquisition is fair and reasonable after considering:

- (i) the price movement of the Shares as discussed in section headed "Principal Factors and Reasons Considered Evaluation of the Consideration Shares":
- (ii) the PE Ratio is based on a company's earnings, which are a more direct indicator of a company's profitability and ability to generate returns for shareholders. Earnings take into account a company's revenue, costs, and expenses, providing a more comprehensive view of a company's financial performance;
- (iii) use of PB Ratio may not properly reflect the value of the Target Group as the mining assets were generally recognised at cost and may not properly reflect the value of the Target Group; and
- (iv) the PS Ratio is generally applicable to unprofitable companies which is not the case of the Target Group.

As at the date of entering into the Sale and Purchase Agreement, the Company had already owned 77.78% of the equity interests of the Target Company and indirect interests of approximately 70.0% of the Gold Ridge Mine. The Target Company is a subsidiary of the Group of which the Directors believe that the Group acts as a crucial role to the setting up of this mining project and the sales of gold doré and gold concentrates produced from the Gold Ridge Mine. The segment revenue and profit contributed by the Target Group accounted for approximately 50.1% and 48.8%, respectively, of the Group's total revenue and segment profit for the year ended 31 December 2023. Given the significance of the Group's interests in the Target Group and its contribution to the Group's financial performance and position, the Directors believe that the market capitalisation (or valuation) of the Group as a listed company has also reflected the value of the Target Group. It is therefore considered that the average PE Ratio of the Company is a reasonable proxy for comparative purpose and determining the Consideration. Reference is made to the PE Ratio of the Company of approximately 17.7 times based on the market capitalisation of the Shares of approximately HK\$6,528.6 million (being computed based on the average closing price of each Share in the period from April to July 2024) and the Group's profit attributable to Shareholders of approximately RMB335.4 million (equivalent to approximately HK\$368.9 million) as disclosed in the 2023 Annual Report. For the year ended 31 December 2023, the net profit of the Target Group was approximately RMB186.1 million (equivalent to approximately HK\$204.8 million). With reference to the average PE Ratio of the Company mentioned above and the net profit of the Target Group for the year ended 31 December 2023, the 100% equity value of the Target Group was agreed at HK\$3,624.0 million after arm's length negotiation, and the Consideration for 20.22% equity interest of the Target Company was approximately HK\$732.6 million.

We have also assessed the PE Ratio of the Company by researching PE Ratio of the listed companies who are principally engaged in gold mining business on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange with market capitalisation below HK\$10 billion and profit making in 2023. We set out the above selection criteria for the market comparable companies which we considered to be a fair and representative sample as such selection has refined the market comparable companies to directly compare with the Company in terms of business nature and company size. In particular, (i) the market capitalisation of the Company was within HK\$10 billion as at the date of Sale and Purchase Agreement; and (ii) more than 50% of revenue of the Company was derived from the gold mining business for the six months ended 30 June 2024 and the year ended 31 December 2023. Furthermore, market comparable companies that were non-profit making in 2023 were excluded from the below analysis as they do not provide any available PE Ratio for comparison with the PE Ratio of the Company. The PE Ratio analysis is as below:

	Company name	Stock code	PE Ratio
1	Tongguan Gold Group Ltd.	340	36.0
2	Dragon Mining Ltd.	1712	9.6
3	Persistence Resources Group Ltd.	2489	13.9
4	Lingbao Gold Group Co. Ltd.	3330	9.7
		Maximum	36.0
		Minimum	9.6
		Average	17.3
	The Company (Note)		17.7

Source: Stock Exchange as at the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement

Note: The PE Ratio of the Company of approximately 17.7 times is the average PE Ratio of the Company from April 2024 to July 2024, which being used as part of the basis for determing the Consideration.

Based on the above analysis, we consider the Company's PE Ratio is within the range of market comparable companies and comparable to the average PE Ratio of similar companies in the industry. We are of the view that making reference to the Company's PE Ratio when determining the Consideration is fair and reasonable.

7. Evaluation of the Consideration Shares

The Consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million is expected to be satisfied by 90,227,200 Consideration Shares at the issue price of HK\$8.12 each, which was determined after arm's length negotiations between the Company and the Vendors with reference to, among others, the average closing prices of HK\$7.88 per Share as quoted on the Stock Exchange for the 82 trading days in the period from April 2024 to July 2024.

(i) Share price performance

In assessing the fairness and reasonableness of the issue price of the Consideration Shares, we have considered the historical movement of the Share closing price. We have reviewed the daily closing prices of the Shares from 10 August 2023, up to and including 9 August 2024, being the date of the Announcement, and up to and including the Latest Practicable Date (the "Review Period"). We consider that a period of twelve months prior to the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement is adequate to illustrate the recent price movements of the Shares for conducting a reasonable comparison between the closing price of the Shares and the Issue Price. Set out below are the daily closing Share prices quoted on the Stock Exchange in the Review Period:



Source: Stock Exchange

During the Review Period, the lowest closing price of the Shares as quoted on the Stock Exchange were HK\$2.77 per Share recorded on 16 August 2023. The average daily closing price of the Shares during the Review Period was approximately HK\$5.58 per Share. The Share price was an uptrend in general during the Review Period and reached a high of HK\$10.06 on 12 April 2024. On 26 July 2023 and 29 February 2024, the Company issued positive profit alert announcements anticipating increases in the Group's profit attributable to the owners of the Company resulting from the increased revenue and profit contribution of the Gold Ridge Mine for the six months ended 30 June 2023 and year ended 31 December 2023, respectively.

The closing prices of the Shares dropped from its peak of HK\$10.06 on 12 April 2024 to HK\$8.24 on the Latest Practicable Date. Having made enquiry with the Company, the Management confirmed that they are not aware of any reason which could lead to the aforesaid movements of the closing prices of the Shares during the Review Period.

The Issue Price, being HK\$8.12 per Share, is within the range of the lowest and highest closing prices of Shares during the Review Period and represents a premium of approximately 8.0% to the closing price of HK\$7.52 Share as at the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement.

(ii) Liquidity analysis

In order to understand the market demand for the Shares and whether the Company has a readily available market for the issuance of new Shares to raise fund in the amount of approximately HK\$732.6 million for settlement of the Consideration, we have studied the historic trading liquidity of the Shares. The following table sets out the average daily trading volume of the Shares, as well as the percentage of the average daily trading volume of the Shares to the total number of issued Shares and total number of issued Shares held in public hand for each of the periods/months during the Review Period:

Month/Period	Average daily number of Shares traded	% to the total issued Shares	% to the issued Shares in public hands
2023			
August (10 to 31 August 2023)	662,625	0.08%	0.3%
September	430,526	0.05%	0.2%
October	287,500	0.03%	0.1%
November	304,909	0.04%	0.1%
December	476,526	0.06%	0.2%
2024			
January	571,441	0.07%	0.2%
February	361,632	0.04%	0.2%
March	1,399,150	0.17%	0.6%
April	2,501,962	0.30%	1.1%
May	2,053,452	0.25%	0.9%
June	882,621	0.11%	0.4%
July	1,119,518	0.14%	0.5%
August	1,042,010	0.13%	0.4%
September (1 September 2024 to			
Latest Practicable Date)	1,167,950	0.14%	0.5%

Source: Stock Exchange

Given the percentages of the average daily number of Shares traded to both the total issued Shares and the issued Shares in public hands shown above, the Directors have confirmed that there were no significant unusual movements in respect of the number of Shares traded during the Review Period, save and except for the increase in average trading volume from March to May 2024. The Directors believe that the increase in average trading volume from March to May 2024 was probably attributable to (i) the positive profit alert announcement issued on 29 February 2024; (ii) the annual result announcement for the year ended 31 December 2023 issued on 18 March 2024 of which the profit for year attributable to owners of the Company has increased significantly from RMB180.5 million in 2022 to RMB335.4 million in 2023; (iii) the announcement for payment of 2023 financial dividend issued on 15 April 2024; and (iv) the Annual Report 2023 issued on 26 April 2024.

Further to our discussion with the Management, despite the trading volume of the Shares increased from March 2024 to May 2024 due to the reasons discussed above, the liquidity of the Shares remained low and it may not be sustainable. In addition, the average daily number of Shares traded in the same period was approximately 1.4 million Shares to 2.5 million Shares only, which was relatively small as compared to the number of Consideration Shares to be issued. We concur with the Management's view that the liquidity of the Shares is relatively low, and it is unlikely that the Company is able to raise fund with similar size to the Consideration by issue of new Shares. In addition, the bank balances and cash amounted to approximately RMB171.9 million as at 31 December 2023, which was far below the Consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million, and it would be unfavorable to the Group in utilising all its available cash resource in settling the Consideration as it would affect the Group's other daily working capital needs. Taking into account of the above, we are of the view that the issue of the Consideration Shares is an appropriate method currently available to the Group for the settlement of the Consideration.

(iii) Evaluation analysis

The Issue Price of HK\$8.12 each represents:

- (a) a premium of 8.0% over the closing Share price of HK\$7.52 as quoted on the Stock Exchange on 9 August 2024 (being the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement);
- (b) a premium over or a discount to each of the average of the closing Share prices quoted on the Stock Exchange specified as follows:

Premium/		
(Discount)		Closing Share price
%		(HK\$)
12.6%	7.214	As an average for the last five consecutive trading days immediately preceding the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement ("5-Day Average")
12.0%	7.247	As an average for the last ten consecutive trading days immediately preceding the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement ("10-Day Average")
8.9%	7.455	As an average for the last 30 consecutive trading days immediately preceding the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement ("30-Day Average")
(1.5%)	8.24	As at the Latest Practicable Date

(c) a premium of approximately 334.8% over the net asset value attributable to the Shareholders of HK\$1.87 per Share as at 31 December 2023.

Furthermore, we have looked at all the transactions announced on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange in the period from 9 August 2023 to 8 August 2024 (both dates inclusive), being one year period prior to the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement ("Comparable Period") (Note 1) which involved the allotment and issue of consideration shares:

				Premium/(Discount) of the issue price over/to the average closing price over the last			
Date of		Stock		Closing price per share on the date of the Sale and Purchase	5 trading days prior to the date of the Sale and Purchase	10 trading days prior to the date of the Sale and Purchase	30 trading days prior to the date of the Sale and Purchase
announcement	Company name	code	Issue price	Agreement	Agreement	Agreement	Agreement
	osinpini, inini		(HK\$)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
23/8/2023	Asia Resources Holdings Limited	899	0.23	-	2.4	8.3	62.1
27/8/2023	Xpeng Inc.	9868	64.03	(1.6)	1.3	0.2	(4.2)
4/9/2023	Anchorstone Holdings Limited	1592	0.085	66.7	42.1	41.7	30.4
8/9/2023	Infinities Technology International (Cayman) Holding Limited	1961	1.4	-	(3.6)	(2.6)	(4.9)
14/9/2023	MOS House Group Limited	1653	0.34	(4.2)	(3.4)	(4.4)	(7.7)
19/9/2023	Alibaba Pictures Group Limited	1060	0.52	(5.5)	(0.4)	-	0.4
14/10/2023	Tongguan Gold Group Limited	340	0.8	81.8	85.2	80.6	68.4
16/10/2023	Gome Finance Technology Co., Ltd.	628	0.08	-	(2.7)	(1.0)	(10.1)
31/10/2023	Vongroup Limited	318	0.242	(13.6)	(14.8)	(15.5)	(16.6)
13/11/2023	Sanergy Group Limited	2459	3.6	(17.2)	(16.7)	(18.0)	(19.1)
21/12/2023	China HK Power Smart Energy Group Limited	931	0.43	(1.1)	(1.1)	(2.5)	(4.3)
29/12/2023	Huili Resources (Group) Limited	1303	0.4	37.9	31.1	32.7	28.7
21/2/2024	V.S. International Group Limited	1002	0.28	191.7	196.6	192.9	229.2
29/2/2024	Pak Tak International Limited	2668	0.336	(4.0)	3.1	(0.7)	5.0
22/3/2024	Unity Enterprise Holdings Limited	2195	0.126	(16.0)	(19.2)	(20.2)	(22.9)
9/4/2024	XD Inc.	2400	14.2	-	(0.4)	(7.3)	(5.5)
24/5/2024	Hans Energy Company Limited	554	0.7961	124.3	103.6	131.4	214.5
21/6/2024	Eagle Nice (International) Holdings Limited	2368	4.65	2.2	(0.4)	(1.3)	(2.7)
25/6/2024	Huili Resources (Group) Limited	1303	0.48	(12.7)	(17.2)	(11.5)	(1.4)
26/6/2024	Future World Holdings Limited (Note 2)	572	0.7	-	4.2	5.7	1.9
27/6/2024	Newborn Town Inc.	9911	4.5	3.2	1.1	4.9	13.2
5/7/2024	China Health Group Limited	673	0.8	(14.9)	(16.0)	(16.2)	(16.3)
9/7/2024	SY Holdings Group Limited	6069	4.7	0.6	3.2	4.6	7.1
22/7/2024	China Anchu Energy Storage Group Limited	2399	0.5	66.7	64.5	61.0	63.4
24/7/2024	Ruicheng (China) Media Group Limited	1640	0.6	(17.8)	(19.8)	(19.2)	(15.4)
26/7/2024	China Qidian Guofeng Holdings Limited	1280	0.4	(19.2)	(20.0)	(20.0)	(33.1)
31/7/2024	Capital Realm Financial Holdings Group Limited	204	0.47	(9.6)	(0.2)	(2.0)	(7.1)
			Maximum	191.7	196.6	192.9	229.2
			Minimum	(19.2)	(20.0)	(20.2)	(33.1)
			Average	16.2	14.9	15.6	20.5
			Median	-	(0.4)	(1.0)	(2.7)
9/8/2024	The Company	3939	8.12	8.0	12.6	12.0	8.9

Source: Stock Exchange

Notes:

- (1) We are of the view that Comparable Period are sufficiently recent and relevant in the context of the Acquisition and therefore are appropriate, sufficient, fair and representative for the purposes of our review. In connection with the selection of samples, our criteria are (a) the samples must be companies listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange; (b) announced transactions during the last one year period prior to the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement; and (c) involved the allotment and issue of consideration shares. Though the companies selected may not be necessarily comparable in terms of profile with the Company, we are of the view that such samples can provide an indication as to where the issue price of the Consideration Shares stood in the recent market transactions, which are fair, sufficient and representative from the perspective that they have covered exhaustively those transactions satisfying the selection criteria without any sample being excluded from the selection process; and
- (2) On 26 June 2024, Future World Holdings Limited announced two transactions which involved issue of consideration shares. Since the issue price of the consideration shares of both transactions are the same (i.e. HK\$0.7), we considered the two transactions as one in the above analysis to avoid distortion to the result.

The recent market transactions which involved the allotment and issue of consideration shares provide an indication as to where the Issue Price of the Consideration Shares stood in terms of premiums or discounts implied by such issue price against the closing Share price as at the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the average closing Share prices for various periods.

The increase in Share price was probably due to the improved financial performance as reported by the Group. The issue price of the Consideration Shares of HK\$8.12 each represents premium of approximately 8.0%, 12.6%, 12.0%, and 8.9% to the closing Share price as at the date of the Sale and Purchase Agreement, the 5-Day Average, the 10-Day Average and the 30-Day Average, where they are all no higher than the corresponding averages of the premiums implied by the recent market transactions respectively, which are considered acceptable given that all of such four (4) premiums fall within the corresponding ranges of premiums and discounts implied by the recent market transactions as illustrated in this sub-section. Therefore, we are satisfied that the issue price of the Consideration Shares is fair and reasonable and is in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole.

8. Specific Mandate and Dilution of Shareholding

Set out below are the shareholding structures of the Company as at the date of the Announcement and the Latest Practicable Date as well as after Completion:

			Immediat	ely after
			Completion and	the allotment
	As at the	Latest	and issue of the	Consideration
	Practical	ole Date	Shares in full	
		Approximate	Approximate	
	No. of Shares	%	No. of Shares	%
Victor Soar Investments Limited	281,400,000	33.99	281,400,000	30.65
Achieve Ample Investments Limited	138,600,000	16.74	138,600,000	15.09
Shandong Humon Mining Development Limited	172,814,000	20.87	172,814,000	18.82
Golden Crane	_	-	72,181,760	7.86
Prominence Investment	-	-	18,045,440	1.97
Public Shareholders	235,186,000	28.40	235,186,000	25.61
Total	828,000,000	100.00	918,227,200	100.00

The Consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million will be fully satisfied by the issue of 90,227,200 Consideration Shares to the Vendors, which represents approximately 10.9% of the existing issued Shares and 9.8% of the issued Shares as enlarged by such Consideration Shares, therefore the shareholding of the Independent Shareholders will be diluted by approximately 9.8% accordingly.

We consider that such dilution is acceptable and the Specific Mandate is fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole on the grounds that (i) the issue price of the Consideration Shares of HK\$8.12 each is fair and reasonable as discussed in section headed "Principal Factors and Reasons Considered – Evaluation of the Consideration Shares" in this letter; (ii) the issue of the Consideration Shares is construed as a means to finance the Acquisition without involving any cash outlay to the Group (other than insignificant professional fees and other expenses in this connection); and (iii) the Acquisition is in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole from the financial perspective as discussed in section headed "Principal Factors and Reasons Considered – Financial Effects of the Acquisition on the Group" in this letter.

In addition, the earnings per Share prior to the Acquisition was approximately RMB40.5 cents for the year ended 31 December 2023, which was computed based on the profit for the year attributable to owners of the Company of approximately RMB335.4 million divided by the total issued share capital of the Company of 828,000,000 Shares as at 31 December 2023. Assuming the Acquisition has been completed on 31 December 2023, the pro forma profit for the year attributable to owners of the Company would be approximately RMB369.3 million, with 918,227,200 enlarged Shares issued. The earnings per Share would therefore be approximately RMB40.2 cents. There was no material dilution of the earnings per Share upon completion of the Acquisition.

9. Financial effects of the Acquisition on the Group

Upon the Completion, the Group will increase its equity interest holding on the Target Company from 77.78% to 98.0% and the indirect equity interest in GRML would increase from approximately 70.0% to approximately 88.2%. The Directors anticipate that the professional fees and other expenses incurred by the Group in connection with the Acquisition would be insignificant. Set out below are the financial effects of the Acquisition on the Group:

(i) Net asset value

Currently, the assets and liabilities of the Target Company are consolidated into the Company's statement of financial position with non-controlling interests recognised for the portion attributable to the Vendors. Upon completion of the Acquisition, the Group would buy out all the equity interest of the Vendors in the Target Company with only 2% non-controlling interests held by Great Time International Development Limited. As the Consideration will be settled by Consideration Shares, the equity of the Group is expected to increase as a result of the enlarged capital base following the issue of Consideration Shares. Accordingly, the Group's net asset value attributable to the Shareholders is expected to increase after Completion.

(ii) Revenue and earnings

The revenue of the Target Group was consolidated into the Group's statement of profit and loss, which is not expected to change after Completion. As the exploration programs continue to progress and production process continue to improve at the Gold Ridge Mine, the Group expects the business of gold mining and processing of the Target Group will become the major revenue and profit contributor of the Group in the near future.

The earnings of the Target Group have been consolidated into the Company's statement of profit and loss with non-controlling interests recognised for the portion attributable to the Vendors. Upon completion of the Acquisition, the Group would buy out all the equity interests of the Vendors in the Target Company with only 2% non-controlling interests held by Great Time International Development Limited, the Group's profit attributable to the Shareholders is therefore expected to increase after Completion.

(iii) Cash flow

The Consideration will be fully satisfied by the issue of the Consideration Shares to the Vendors. Therefore, it is expected that there will be no cash outlay to the Group (other than some insignificant professional fees and other expenses in this connection).

Taking into account the expected increases in the Group's net asset value and potential increases in earnings, we consider that the Acquisition is in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole from the financial perspective.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Having taken into consideration of the above principal factors and reasons, including:

- (i) the Target Company is currently one of the major subsidiaries of the Company, where the revenue derived from the Gold Ridge Mine represented approximately 50.1% of the Group's total revenue for the year ended 31 December 2023. With the contribution from the Target Group since it commenced production in the end of November 2022, the net profit of the Group increased from approximately RMB169.7 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to approximately RMB390.9 million for the year ended 31 December 2023. Based on the discussion with the Management, it is expected that the profitability of the Target Group will further improve going forward after the second phase of expansion on the Gold Ridge Mine and the increase in production capacity, which will contribute continuous, stable and efficient performance growth to the Group. We are of the view that the Target Group should have a comparatively higher PE Ratio than the Group as the Target Group's profitability and growth rate is expected to be higher than the Group as a whole as the performance of the other business segment of the Group (i.e. Xinzhuang Mine) remained stable over the past three years without a significant growth rate. In this regard, we are of the view that using the PE Ratio of the Shares in determining the Consideration is fair and reasonable:
- (ii) the Consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million for the Acquisition was determined after arm's length negotiations between the parties with reference to, among others, (a) the average PE Ratio of the Company in the period from April to July 2024 of approximately 17.7 times; and (b) the profit of the Target Group in the amount of approximately RMB186.1 million (equivalent to approximately HK\$204.8 million) as disclosed in the 2023 Annual Report; and

(iii) the dilution of shareholding as a result of the issue of the Consideration Shares is acceptable and the Specific Mandate is fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole on the grounds that (a) the issue price of the Consideration Shares of HK\$8.12 each is fair and reasonable as discussed in section headed "Principal Factors and Reasons Considered – Evaluation of the Consideration Shares" in this letter; and (b) the issue of the Consideration Shares is construed as a means to finance the Acquisition without involving any cash outlay to the Group (other than some insignificant professional fees and other expenses in this connection),

we are of the view that the terms of the Acquisition are fair and reasonable and in the interest of the Company as a whole.

OPINION AND RECOMMENDATION

Having considered the above principal factors and reasons, we are of the opinion that:

- (a) the Acquisition, which is not in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Group, is on normal commercial terms; and
- (b) the terms of the Acquisition and the transactions contemplated thereunder are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole.

Accordingly, we recommend the Independent Board Committee to advise, and we ourselves advise, the Independent Shareholders to vote in favour of the resolution to be proposed at the EGM to approve the Sale and Purchase Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereunder.

Yours faithfully,
For and on behalf of
CMBC International Capital Limited

Holim Mak

Stan Sze

Executive Director

Director

Investment Banking Division

Investment Banking Division

Mr. Holim Mak ("Mr. Mak") and Mr. Stan Sze ("Mr. Sze") are licensed persons registered with the Securities and Futures Commission to carry out Type 1 (dealing in securities) and Type 6 (advising on corporate finance) regulated activities under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the laws of Hong Kong). Mr. Mak is a responsible officer of CMBC International Capital Limited and has over 15 years of experience in finance and investment banking industries. Mr. Sze is a responsible officer of CMBC International Capital Limited and has over 10 years of experience in the accounting and investment banking industries.

I. RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

This circular, for which the Directors collectively and individually accept full responsibility, includes particulars given in compliance with the Listing Rules for the purpose of giving information with regard to the Company. The Directors, having made all reasonable enquiries, confirm that to the best of their knowledge and belief the information contained in this circular is accurate and complete in all material respects and not misleading or deceptive and there are no other matters the omission of which would make any statement herein or this circular misleading.

II. RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

(a) Directors' and chief executive's interests and short positions in the shares, underlying shares or debentures of the Company or its associated corporations

As at the Latest Practicable Date, the interests or short positions of our Directors and chief executives in the shares, underlying shares or debentures of our Company and our associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) as notified to our Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to Divisions 7 and 8 of Part XV of the SFO (including interests and short positions which they are taken or deemed to have under such provisions of the SFO) or as recorded, pursuant to section 352 of the SFO, in the register referred to therein or which were required to be notified to our Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code contained in the Listing Rules, were as follows:

Long positions in Shares and underlying Shares

			Approximate percentage of
		Number of issued Shares	shareholding in the
Name of Director	Capacity/nature of interest	held	Company
Mr. Gao Mingqing	Interest in controlled corporation	281,400,000 ⁽¹⁾	33.99%

Note:

 The 281,400,000 Shares were owned by Victor Soar Investments Limited which is wholly owned and controlled by Mr. Gao Mingqing.

(b) Substantial shareholders' and other parties' interests in securities

As at the Latest Practicable Date, the following persons, other than the Directors and chief executives of the Company, had or were deemed or taken to have an interest and/or short position in the shares or the underlying shares which would fall to be disclosed under the provisions of Division 2 and 3 of Part XV of the SFO as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company under section 336 of the SFO, or who was, directly or indirectly, interested in 5% or more of the issued share capital of the Company.

Name of shareholder	Capacity/nature of interest	Number of issued Shares held	Approximate percentage of shareholding in the Company
Victor Soar Investments Limited ⁽¹⁾	Beneficial owner	281,400,000 ⁽¹⁾	33.99%
Ms. Lin Yinyin ⁽²⁾	Interest of spouse	281,400,000 ⁽²⁾	33.99%
Achieve Ample Investments Limited ⁽³⁾	Beneficial owner	138,600,000 ⁽³⁾	16.74%
Ms. Gao Jinzhu ⁽³⁾	Interest in controlled corporation	138,600,000 ⁽³⁾	16.74%
Mr. Wang Weimian ⁽⁴⁾	Interest of spouse	138,600,000 ⁽⁴⁾	16.74%
Shandong Humon Mining Development Limited ⁽⁵⁾	Beneficial owner	172,814,000	20.87%
Shandong Humon Smelting Co., Ltd ⁽⁵⁾	Interest in controlled corporation	172,814,000	20.87%
Jiangxi Copper Company Limited ⁽⁵⁾	Interest in controlled corporation	172,814,000	20.87%
Jiangxi Copper Corporation Limited ⁽⁵⁾	Interest in controlled corporation	172,814,000	20.87%
Haitong International Financial Solutions Limited ⁽⁶⁾	Security interest	447,920,000 ⁽⁶⁾	54.10%
Haitong International Securities Group Limited ⁽⁶⁾	Interest in controlled corporation	447,920,000 ⁽⁶⁾	54.10%
Haitong International Holdings Limited ⁽⁶⁾	Interest in controlled corporation	447,920,000 ⁽⁶⁾	54.10%
Haitong Securities Co., Ltd. (6)	Interest in controlled corporation	$447,920,000^{(6)}$	54.10%

Note:

- 1. Victor Soar Investments Limited is wholly owned and controlled by Mr. Gao Mingqing.
- Ms. Lin Yinyin is the wife of Mr. Gao Mingqing and is deemed to be interested in the 281,400,000
 Shares held by Victor Soar Investments Limited, a company controlled by Mr. Gao Mingqing.
- 3. Achieve Ample Investments Limited is wholly owned and controlled by Ms. Gao Jinzhu.
- Mr. Wang Weimian is the husband of Ms. Gao Jinzhu and is deemed to be interested in the 138,600,000 Shares held by Achieve Ample Investments Limited, a company controlled by Ms. Gao Jinzhu.

- 5. Shandong Humon Mining Development Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hong Kong Humon International Logistics Limited (香港恒邦國際物流有限公司), which in turn is wholly-owned by Shandong Humon Smelting Co., Ltd., a company listed on Shenzhen Stock Exchange with stock code: 002237. Shandong Humon Smelting Co., Ltd is owned as to 44.48% by Jiangxi Copper Company Limited, a company listed on both Shanghai Stock Exchange and Hong Kong Stock Exchange with stock code: 600362 and 358 respectively, which in turn is owned as to 43.72% by Jiangxi Copper Corporation Limited.
- 6. Haitong International Financial Solutions Limited is indirectly owned by Haitong International Securities Group Limited which in turn is owned as to 64.40% by Haitong International Holdings Limited and is ultimately owned by Haitong Securities Co., Ltd.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, none of the Directors was a director or an employee of a company who had interests or short positions in the Shares or underlying Shares of the Company which would fall to be disclosed to the Company under the provisions of Divisions 2 and 3 of Part XV of the SFO.

Save as disclosed above, as at the Latest Practicable Date, the Company was not notified by any persons (other than Directors or chief executive of the Company as discussed above) who had interests or short positions in the Shares or underlying Shares of the Company which would fall to be disclosed to the Company under the provisions of Divisions 2 and 3 of Part XV of the SFO, or which were recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company under Section 336 of the SFO.

III. MATERIAL ADVERSE CHANGE

As at the Latest Practicable Date, the Directors were not aware of any material adverse change in the financial or trading position of our Group since 31 December 2023, being the date to which the latest published audited financial statements of our Group were made.

IV. DIRECTORS' SERVICE CONTRACTS

As at the Latest Practicable Date, none of the Directors had any existing or proposed service contracts with any member of our Group which is not expiring or determinable by such member of our Group within one year without payment of compensation (other than statutory compensation).

V. DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN ASSETS AND CONTRACTS

As at the Latest Practicable Date, none of the Directors had any interest, direct or indirect, in any assets which had been acquired or disposed of by, or leased to, any member of our Group or were proposed to be acquired or disposed of by, or leased to, any member of our Group since 31 December 2023, being the date to which the latest published audited consolidated financial statements of the Company were made up.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, none of the Directors was materially interested in any contract or arrangement entered into by any member of our Group subsisting at the date of this circular and which is significant in relation to the businesses of our Group.

VI. DIRECTORS' COMPETING INTEREST

As at the Latest Practicable Date, none of the Directors or their respective close associates was interested in any business which competes or is likely to compete, either directly or indirectly, with the business of the Group which would fall to be discloseable under the Listing Rules.

VII. DOCUMENTS ON DISPLAY

Copies of the following documents will be published on the websites of the Stock Exchange (www.hkexnews.hk) and the Company (www.wgmine.com) from the date of this circular up to and including the date of the EGM:

- (a) the Sale and Purchase Agreement;
- (b) the letter from the Board, the text of which is set out in the section headed "Letter from the Board" in this circular;
- (c) the letter from the Independent Financial Adviser to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders, the text of which is set out in the section headed "Letter from the Independent Financial Adviser" in this circular; and
- (d) the written consent referred to in the paragraph headed "Qualification and Consents of the Expert" in this appendix.

VIII. QUALIFICATION AND CONSENTS OF THE EXPERT

The following sets out the qualifications of the expert who has given its opinions or advice or statements as contained in this circular:

Nam	e	Qualification
CME	3C International Capital	A licensed corporation to carry out type 1 (dealing in
Li	mited	securities) and type 6 (advising on corporate finance)
		regulated activities under the Securities and Futures
		Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong)

As at the Latest Practicable Date, the Independent Financial Adviser:

- (a) had given and had not withdrawn its written consent to the issue of this circular with the inclusion of its letter and/or opinion and references to its name, in the form and context in which it appears;
- (b) did not have any shareholding in any member of our Group or the right (whether legally enforceable or not) to subscribe for or to nominate persons to subscribe for securities in any member of our Group; and
- (c) did not have any direct or indirect interest in any assets which had been since 31 December 2023 (the date to which the latest published audited consolidated financial statements of the Company were made up), acquired, disposed of by, or leased to any member of our Group or were proposed to be acquired or disposed of by, or leased to any member of our Group.

The letter and recommendations from the Independent Financial Adviser are set out on pages 22 to 49 of this circular and are given for incorporation in this circular.

IX. MATERIAL CONTRACTS

As at the Latest Practicable Date, save as the Sale and Purchase Agreement, the Company or any member of the Group did not enter into any contracts (not being contracts in the ordinary course of business) within two years immediately preceding the Latest Practicable Date which are or may be material.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) The registered office of the Company is Harneys Fiduciary (Cayman) Limited at 4th Floor, Harbour Place, 103 South Church Street, P.O. Box 10240, Grand Cayman KY1-1002, Cayman Islands.
- (b) The head office and principal place of business of the Company in Hong Kong is at Unit 1, 28/F, Singga Commercial Centre, 144-151 Connaught Road West, Hong Kong.
- (c) The principal share registrar and transfer office of the Company is Maples Fund Services (Cayman) Limited at PO Box 1093, Boundary Hall, Cricket Square Grand Cayman KY1-1102, Cayman Islands.
- (d) The Hong Kong branch share registrar and transfer office of the Company in Hong Kong is Tricor Investor Services Limited at 17/F, Far East Finance Centre, 16 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong.
- (e) This circular and the accompanying proxy form have been prepared in both English and Chinese. In the event of discrepancies, the English text of this circular shall prevail over the Chinese text.

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited take no responsibility for the contents of this notice, make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaim any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this notice.



Wanguo Gold Group Limited 萬國黃金集團有限公司

(formerly known as Wanguo International Mining Group Limited)
(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 3939)

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an extraordinary general meeting (the "EGM") of Wanguo Gold Group Limited (the "Company") will be convened and held at 1601-03, 16/F, YF Life Centre, 38 Gloucester Rd, Wan Chai, Hong Kong on Friday, 4 October 2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing, with or without amendments, the following resolutions of the Company. Capitalised terms contained in the circular dated 11 September 2024 issued by the Company shall have the same meanings when used herein unless otherwise specified.

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

"THAT

(a) the acquisition pursuant to the sale and purchase agreement (the "Sale and Purchase Agreement") dated 9 August 2024 entered into between the Company, as the Purchaser, and Golden Crane Holdings Limited and Prominence Investment Holding Company Limited, together as the Vendors, relating to sale and purchase of an aggregate of 20.22% equity interest in AXF Gold Ridge Pty Ltd, for a consideration of approximately HK\$732.6 million, and the transactions contemplated thereunder (including but not limited to the allotment and issue of the issue of the consideration shares (i.e. 90,227,220 new shares) (the "Consideration Shares") by the Company under the Specific Mandate to settle the said consideration) (the "Acquisition") be and are hereby approved, confirmed and ratified in all respects;

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- (b) the board ("Board") of directors of the Company or a committee thereof be and is hereby specifically authorised to allot and issue the Consideration Shares in accordance with the terms of the Sale and Purchase Agreement; and
- (c) the Board or a committee thereof be and is authorised to do all such acts and things, to sign and execute such documents or agreements or deed on behalf of the Company and to do such other things and to take all such actions as they consider necessary, appropriate, desirable or expedient for the purposes of giving effect to or in connection with the Acquisition and to agree to such variation, amendments or waiver or matters relating thereto (excluding any variation, amendments or waiver of such documents or any terms thereof, which are fundamentally and materially different from those as provided for in the Sale and Purchase Agreement and which shall be subject to approval of the shareholders of the Company) as are, in the opinion of the Board or a committee thereof, in the interest of the Company and its shareholders as a whole."

By order of the Board

Wanguo Gold Group Limited

Gao Mingqing

Chairman

Hong Kong, 11 September 2024

Notes:

- 1. A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the meeting convened by the above notice is entitled to appoint another person as his/her/its proxy to attend and vote instead of him/her/it. A shareholder who is the holder of two or more shares may appoint more than one proxy to represent him/her/it and vote on his/her/its behalf at the meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Company but must be present in person to represent him/her/it.
- 2. In the case of joint holders of shares in the Company, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the vote(s) of the other joint holder(s), seniority being determined by the order in which names stand in the register of members.
- 3. In order to be valid, the form of proxy must be in writing under the hand of the appointor or of his attorney duly authorized in writing, or if the appointor is a corporation, either under seal, or under the hand of an officer or attorney or other person duly authorized, and must be deposited with the Hong Kong branch share registrar and transfer office of the Company, Tricor Investor Services Limited at 17/F., Far East Finance Centre, 16 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong (together with the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a certified copy thereof) not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for holding of the Meeting (i.e. not later than 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 2 October 2024) or any adjournment thereof.
- 4. Completion and return of the form of proxy will not preclude a shareholder from attending and voting in person at the meeting or any adjournment thereof and in such event, the instrument appointing a proxy shall be deemed to be revoked.

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- 5. For the purpose of determining the identity of the shareholders of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the meeting, the register of members of the Company will be closed from Monday, 30 September 2024 to Friday, 4 October 2024 both dates inclusive, during which period no transfer of Shares will be effected. All transfers accompanied by the relevant certificates must be lodged with the Company's branch share registrar in Hong Kong, Tricor Investor Services Limited at 17/F., Far East Finance Centre, 16 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong not later than 4:30pm on Friday, 27 September 2024.
- 6. Where a "black" rainstorm warning is in force or a tropical cyclone warning signal number 8 or above is hoisted or remains hoisted or "extreme conditions" caused by super typhoons is in force at 8: 00 a.m. on the date of the EGM, the EGM will be postponed. The Company will publish an announcement on the website of the Company (https://www.wgmine.com/) and the Stock Exchange (www.hkexnews.hk) to notify the Shareholders of the date, time and place of the rescheduled meeting. The EGM will be held as scheduled when an amber or red rainstorm warning signal is in force. Having considered their own situations, Shareholders should decide on their own whether they would attend the EGM under any bad weather condition and if they do so, they are advised to exercise care and caution.
- 7. The resolution at the EGM will be taken by poll pursuant to the Listing Rules and the results of the poll will be published on the respective websites of Stock Exchange and the Company in accordance with the Listing Rules.

As at the date of this notice, the Board comprises Mr. Gao Mingqing (Chairman), Mr. Li Feilong, Mr. Liu Zhichun, Mr. Wang Renxiang and Ms. Wang Nan as executive directors; and Mr. Tsang Wai Hung, Mr. Wong Chi Ming Ming and Mr. Wang Xin as independent non-executive directors.