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# Weekly Commentary

The Mining Investment Experts

23 March 2019 Charts on Friday's Close Analyst : Warwick Grigor

### **Graphene Sales and Marketing Update**

Markets continued to be well behaved with low volatility over the last week. The notable economic event was the determination of the Fed to continue with its recent acquired dovish stance, saying there would be no foreseeable interest rate rises in 2019. It seems like the Fed has listened to the warnings from economists, that further rises in rates would be a step too far given the leading indictors being witnessed. This means we have to adjust our stance and look for a longer period of sideways movements of the Dow rather than expectations of stepping down in a downtrend.

Stable interest rates will limit upward pressure on the US dollar and therefore downward pressure on commodity prices, but we do need to wait and watch to see if anything comes along that will cause a change in the policy.

The Dow has recovered by 13% this calendar year, largely due to the sigh of relief on the Fed taking a softer stance. This is taking it closer to the high point seen last September. Confidence of US investors has been improving in tandem, with investors becoming more interested in tech and innovation stocks. It is likely that all we have seen is a rally as there is nothing happening, anywhere in world, to suggest we should be getting excited by the upside in growth.

### Gold has been improving as well

Gold has traditionally been seen as a hedge against inflation because of the inelastic supply of gold. You can't print gold like you can print paper money, so you can't debase the value of gold currency. But like so many aspects of financial markets there is a contrary argument that can be espoused, like the recent commentary that the weaker USA inflation figures caused the recovery of the gold price back above US\$1,300/oz. The logic here is that the weaker inflation is causing the more dovish approach to interest rates. Therefore, the opportunity cost of holding gold, which is a non-income earning asset, becomes less onerous, and the gold price goes up. It is a bit of a guess as to which argument has the greatest impact on the outlook for the gold price, at any given point.

## Should we be buying copper and nickel stocks for the EV revolution?

Copper and nickel companies are wanting us to believe they are part of the battery materials input boom, as both commodities are expected to benefit from increased demand. Sure, they will participate to some extent, but not enough that we should be getting FOMO. We don't need to scramble to get set as there are plenty of companies to choose from.

What will be the best ones? Fundamental analysis will tell us which are the best managed and have the best projects. The alternative energy argument is at best incremental to other decision criteria.

### FGR - Graphene Sales and marketing Update

On Tuesday, First Graphene released a Graphene Sales & Marketing Update to the ASX. The shares responded strongly as investors seem to have understood the implications.

We all know that graphene is a wonderful new material, but it has suffered from over promotion by ... promoters. For the most part it has been the blind leading the blind with many ASX releases by graphene companies being more concerned with promoting the sizzle rather than the sausage. So, isn't that normal for juniors in the stock market as enthusiasm rolls from one commodity or technology to the next? Less than 5% of junior companies ever achieve sustainable commercial outcomes.

At the risk of talking my own book, First Graphene is destined to be one of those rare commercial successes, as evidenced by the release last week. FGR correctly observed that one of the greatest obstacles to the commercialisation of graphene was the inability of this nascent industry to demonstrate reliable supply capability to industry. Further, there is a wide range of product quality, such that industry had low confidence in what it was receiving. Was it being delivered graphene or graphene nanoplatelets, or even only micro-graphite?

FGR addressed these issues initially by installing a 100 tpa p.a. commercial production facility at Fremantle, and then spending six months on fine tuning the finishing of its high aspect ratio graphene platelets to achieve three very specific product lines; PureGRAPH™ 20, 10 and 5. The numbers relate to the diameter of the platelets measured in microns, that are mostly 5-10 layers thick.

Having addressed the concerns regarding reliable quality and supply, FGR is now dealing with a number of Australian buyers who are champing at the bit to add PureGRAPH™ to their products, once it completes the NICNAS registration process (expected by May). Interestingly, these customers mostly came knocking on the company's door, eager to gain a technical advantage over their competitors.

The Company believes that the initial 5-6 customers already identified will enable it to reach breakeven levels by the end of 2019. Significantly, these are WA-based, from a population of 2.5 million people. Transposing similar product lines to the European market, for example, where the population is more than 700 million, could lead to very exciting growth projections.

While FGR has acted responsibly in seeking compliance with European and Australian authorities regarding the selling of graphene, it recognises that there are many individual product verticals that have additional layers of regulatory approvals, such as those associated with mass transport, concrete and fire retardancy. Commercialisation of these will take longer. While these present excellent long term growth opportunities, FGR is concentrating on

products with faster adoption cycles and less onerous regulatory hurdles. It is about making money in the short term, and being assessed on its ability to do so. It is about delivering the sausage.

Perhaps the most exciting immediate potential comes from industrial composite range of products (fibreglass). The industrial composite market is forecast to reach US\$130bn p.a. by 2024 by growing at 7-8% p.a. Fibreglass accounts for 64% of this market. Other product verticals may include marine, sports & leisure, roofing and wind turbine blades. One customer of FGR has found that it can cut production costs by approximately 30% by adding 1% PureGRAPH™. It is hard to argue against this sort of performance.

We have attached the ASX release for your perusal. It is a little wordy, but very informative.

Disclosure: Interests associated with the author own shares in First Graphene and the author is the non-executive chairman.

### Big increases in diamonds resources at Lulo

One of the biggest concerns with alluvial diamond producers is the ability to come up a with reserves and resources, with respect to tonnages and grade. It is difficult for alluvial resources to fit within the confines of the JORC standards, so they are seen as riskier projects. We usually

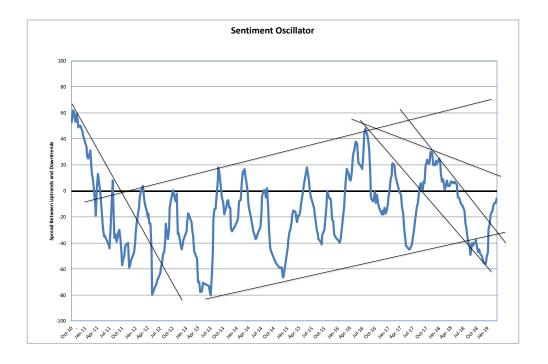
have to look at what has been recovered to date in order to form a view and hope that history will be repeated.

Back in May 2017, Lucapa reported an inferred resource of 603,700 m³ at a grade of 6.99 cphm³ for 42,200 carats, worth US\$51m at a valuation of US\$1,215/ct.

Last Thursday, Lucapa reported a 90% increase in the resource (on contained carats), with 454,000 m³ at a grade of 17.7 cphm³ for 80,400 carats, worth US\$114m at a valuation of US\$1,420/ct. That is a 123% increase in the value of diamonds in situ. Notably, this increase was after Lucapa had been mining for 19 months and recovered 30,000 carats worth US\$62m.

Since operations commenced Lulo has yielded US\$141m worth of diamond sales. The latest upgrade implies another four years of life on known resources, at a rate of 20,000 carats p.a., with expectation of longer life based on exploration targets. Lucapa continues to be a "hidden gem", in my view.

Disclosure: Interests associated with the author own shares in Lucapa Diamond Company



**Sentiment Oscillator:** There were 32% (30%) of the charts in uptrend and 37% (38%) in downtrend on Friday's close. No material change.

### **Detailed Chart Comments**

NB. Only the bold comments have been updated. Comments in grey type are from previous weeks and will be less relevant. Please note that this list is a cross section of the market. It IS NOT a list of recommendations.

Indices	Code	Trend Comment	
All Ordinaries	XAO	but testing steep uptrend	
Metals and Mining	XMM	sideways at top	
Energy	XEJ	but testing steep uptrend	
Stocks	Code	Trend Comment (updated comments in bold)	Main Interest
Adriatic Resources	ADT	new high	zinc
Aeon Metals	AML	testing downtrend	copper + cobalt
Alacer Gold	AQG	new high	gold – production
Alkane Resources	ALK	testing downtrend	gold, zirconia
Acacia Resources	AJC	Sideways at the bottom	coal
Alchemy Resources	ALY	breached downtrend	nickel, cobalt
Alicanto Minerals	AQI	back to lows	gold exploration
Allegiance Coal	AHQ	back into uptrend	coal
Alliance Resources	AGS	new low - 1 for 2 issue at 9.5¢	gold exploration
Altech Chemicals	ATC	new uptrend forming	industrial minerals - synthetic sapphire
Anova Metals	AWV	new low on poor production report	gold
Apollo Consolidated	AOP	testing resistance	gold exploration
Argent Minerals	ARD	still in downtrend	silver
Aurelia Metals	AMI	new high	gold + base metals
AusTin	ANW	holding support line	tin, cobalt
Australian Bauxite	ABX	sideways	bauxite
Australian Potash	APC	pullback to support line	potash
Australian Mines	AUZ	hitting resistance	cobalt/nickel
Australian Vanadium	AVL	rallying, but hitting resistance	vanadium
Bounty Coal	B2Y	back to lows	coal
BHP	ВНР	correcting near highs	diversified
Base Resources	BSE	risen to long term resistance	mineral sands
Bathurst Resources	BRL	testing resistance line	coal
Battery Minerals	BAT	new uptrend forming	graphite
BBX Minerals	BBX	rising again	gold
Beach Energy	BPT	surged higher	oil and gas
Bellevue Gold	BGL	new high	gold
Berkeley Energia	BKY	consolidating pattern after steep rise	uranium
Blackstone Minerals	BSX	back to lows	gold, cobalt
Breaker Resources	BRB	up again	gold
Broken Hill Prospecting	BPL	new low	minerals sands
Buru Energy	BRU	breaching downtrend	oil
Cardinal Resources	CDV	new low	gold exploration
Cassini Resources	CZI	consolidating	nickel/Cu expl.
Celsius Resources	CLA	back to lows	copper/cobalt

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Chalice Gold	CHN	sideways, but pushing higher	gold
Cobalt Blue	СОВ	new low	cobalt
Comet Resources	CRL	heavy correction	graphite
Dacian Gold	DCN	testing uptrend	gold
Danakali	DNK	sideways	potash
Davenport Resources	DAV	down	potash
Doray Minerals	DRM	rising	gold
Eden Innovations	EDE	down	carbon nanotubes in concrete
Egan Street Resources	EGA	risen to meet resistance line	gold
Emerald Resource	EMR	uptrend	gold
Evolution Mining	EVN	breaching uptrend	gold
Exore Resources	ERX	testing uptrend	gold exploration
FAR	FAR	crunched down on dud oil well	oil/gas
First Graphene	FGR	risen to meet resistance line	graphene
Fortescue Metals	FMG	surged higher	iron ore
Galaxy Resources	GXY	back into downtrend	lithium
Galena Mining	G1A	steep rise	lead
Galilee Energy	GLL	sideways after breaching downtrend	oil and gas, CBM
Gascoyne Resources	GCY	suspended	gold
Gold Road	GOR	rising	gold exploration
Golden Rim	GMR	new low	gold exploration
Graphex Mining	GPX	surge, testing downtrend	graphite
Heron Resources	HRR	breaching downtrend	zinc
Highfield Resources	HFR	rallied to meet resistance line	potash
Hillgrove Resources	HGO	sideways	copper
Hipo Resources	HIP	rallied to meet resistance line	battery metals
Iluka Resources	ILU	heavy correction	mineral sands
Image Resources	IMA	higher	mineral sands
Independence Group	IGO	new uptrend forming	gold, nickel
ioneer (was Global Geoscience)	INR	testing downtrend	lithium
Jervois Mining	JVR	testing uptrend	nickel/cobalt
Jindalee Resources	JRL	surge higher, then a pullback	lithium
Karoon Gas	KAR	breached downtrend	gas
Kasbah Resources	KAS	holding new uptrend	tin
Kibaran Resources	KNL	downtrend	graphite
Kin Mining	KIN	heavy fall	gold
Legend Mining	LEG	stronger	nickel exploration
Lepidico	LPD	rising	lithium
Lithium Australia	LIT	continuing downtrend	lithium
Lucapa Diamond	LOM	continuing downtrend	diamonds
Lynas Corp.	LYC	improving off the lows	rare earths
Macphersons Res.	MRP	down	gold/silver
Mako Gold	MKG	higher in new ST uptrend	gold
Marmota	MEU	sideways	gold exploration

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MetalsX	MLX	down heavily	tin, nickel
Metro Mining	MMI	new low	bauxite
Mincor Resources	MCR	breached resistance	gold
Musgrave Minerals	MGV	down	gold exploration
Myanmar Minerals	MYL	uptrend	zinc
Nelson Resources	NES	still struggling in downtrend	gold exploration
Neometals	NMT	down	lithium
Northern Cobalt	N27	down again	cobalt
Northern Minerals	NTU	spike out of downtrend	REE
Northern Star Res.	NST	struggling with uptrend	gold
NTM Gold	NTM	sideways	gold
Oceana Gold	OGC	bounce off support line	gold
Oklo Resources	OKU	down	gold expl.
Orecorp	ORR	rising	gold development
Orinoco Gold	OGX	down	gold development
Orocobre	ORE	testing downtrend	lithium
Oz Minerals	OZL	resumed uptrend	copper
Pacific American Coal	PAK	at lows	coal
Pantoro	PNR	breached downtrend, moving higher	gold
Panoramic Res	PAN	breached downtrend, at secondary resistance point	gold , nickel
Peak Resources	PEK	in wedge	rare earths
Peel Mining	PEX	testing downtrend	copper
Peninsula Energy	PEN	testing downtrend	uranium
Pensana Metals	PM8	sideways	rare earths
Perseus Mining	PRU	rising	gold
Pilbara Minerals	PLS	down heavily	lithium/tantalum
PNX Metals	PNX	lower	gold, silver, zinc
Polarex	PXX	new low	polymetallic exploration
Prodigy Gold	PRX	testing downtrend	gold exploration
Real Energy	RLE	slump after placement	gas
Red5	RED	breached step uptrend	gold
Red River Resources	RVR	breaching downtrend	zinc
Regis Resources	RRL	moving higher	gold
Resolute Mining	RSG	sideways through uptrend line	gold
RIO	RIO	pullback	diversified
Salt Lake Potash	SO4	re-entering downtrend	potash
Saracen Minerals	SAR	down	gold
St Barbara	SBM	collapse	gold
Sandfire Resources	SFR	rising	copper
Santos	STO	into uptrend	oil/gas
Sheffield Resources	SFX	down	mineral sands
St George Mining	SGQ	new, gentle uptrend forming	nickel
Sipa Resources	SRI	recovered, to sideways pattern	general exploration - Ni,Cu, Co, Au
Stanmore Coal	SMR	new high	coal

Strandline Resources	STA		down	mineral sands
Sundance Energy	SEA		down again	oil/gas
Syrah Resources	SYR		new low	graphite
Talga Resources	TLG		steep rise	graphite
Tanami Gold	TAM		breached downtrend	gold
Technology Metals	TMT		short term down	vanadium
Tiger Realm	TIG		down	coal
Triton Minerals	TON		breached steepest downtrend	graphite
Troy Resources	TRY		sideways	gold
Vango Mining	VAN		down	gold
Vector Resources	VEC		down	gold
Venturex	VXR		stronger	zinc
Vimy Resources	VMY		new uptrend forming	uranium
Volt Resources	VRC		sideways	graphite
West African Resources	WAF		down	gold
Westwits	WWI		down	gold
Western Areas	WSA		ST uptrend breached	nickel
Whitehaven Coal	WHC		breached ST downtrend, resistance at \$5-\$5.20	coal
Totals	32%	45	Uptrend	
	37%	52	Downtrend	
		139	Total	

### **Guides to Chart Interpretations**

- Charts usually go pass from one trend (up or down) into the other via a period of indecision and uncertainty during which the trend can either recover or change. This period is signified by the orange colour. The orange represent both the greatest risk and greatest reward possibilities.
- · Once a chart is in confirmed up or downtrends it is not uncommon for 10-20% of that trend to have already transpired.
- There are trends within trends. The focus of this chart review is the immediate trend that affects the sentiment i.e. it can be a downtrend within a long-term uptrend.
- . Not every chart warrants a new comment every week. The new comments are in bold type. Grey type comments may be dated.
- Individual charts provide a single view. It is valuable to look at charts of other companies in similar commodities, and the overall sentiment is also very valuable. Not many stocks can swim against the tide.
- We periodically add or delete charts, some times for obscure reasons. If a chart consistent gives poor signals or is very erratic, we may delete it. Sometimes we add a chart because we want to see what all the fuss is about. We do have a preference for charting stocks that we cover in our research as well.
- Errors and omissions may occur from time to time, especially in fast moving markets.

Amber Lights in Tables: Just a reminder if when the amber light is used in the table – it is when the charts are ambiguous or when there is a change of trend taking place. If a chart is breaching a downtrend it can either be a positive sign or a trap. Only once it has done more work can it be confirmed as a new uptrend. Maybe it is a new uptrend (or conversely a new downtrend); the risk takers can decide to jump on board early (or sell). They will maximise their profits (or minimise their losses if indeed it is the start of the new uptrend (downtrend). More risk-averse investors should wait a little longer, being prepared to give up some of the gains in return for greater certainty.

Weightings of Sectors Represented in the Company Charts						
Sector	No. of	Weighting				
Gold	35	25.2%				
Gold Exploration	14	10.1%				
Graphite	8	5.8%				
Nickel	8	5.8%				
Coal	8	5.8%				

Oil/Gas	8	5.8%	
Lithium	8	5.8%	
Copper	6	4.3%	
Mineral Sands	6	4.3%	
Zinc/Lead	6	4.3%	
Potash/Phosphate	5	3.6%	
Cobalt	4	2.9%	
Tin	3	2.2%	
Uranium	3	2.2%	
Rare Earths	4	2.9%	
Silver	1	0.7%	
Bauxite	2	1.4%	
Diamonds	1	0.7%	
Vanadium	2	1.4%	
Iron Ore	1	0.7%	
Other	6		
Total	139		

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