



## ASX/MEDIA RELEASE

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# GAVIN BECKER APPOINTED METALLICA CEO TO LEAD FLAGSHIP NORNICCO PROJECT

Metallica Minerals Limited (ASX: "MLM") – currently preparing for feasibility study into the development of its 100%-owned NORNICCO tri-metals operation in North Queensland – is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Gavin Becker as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to take effect from 29 July, 2011.

Mr Becker, 58, joins Metallica in the newly-created CEO position with a mining and mineral processing background of over 35 years, predominantly in Australia and Africa. Mr Becker holds a Bachelor of Science (Engineering) Honours degree in Metallurgy from the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, at London University and is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy. He also holds a Masters of Business Administration (Bond University) and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

His expertise includes recent key executive and project development positions, most recently as Business Leader – Mining & Metals with the internationally diversified, Australian-based GHD consulting engineering group, and previously as General Manager with Gladstone Pacific Nickel.

Nickel laterite projects Mr Becker has previously been involved with include; Bulong, Murrin Murrin, Marlborough and the Yabulu nickel-cobalt operations.



Previously Mr Becker held senior project management and operational roles with Dominion Mining Ltd, WMC Resources (including Kwinana Nickel Refinery and Kambalda Nickel Operations), and Anglo American/ZCCM in Zambia. He also has a significant Research & Development background, having been intimately involved with the development of the Carbon-In-Pulp (C-I-P) process during his time with Mintek in South Africa, 1976-79.

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Metallica Minerals is a multi-commodity Australian resource development company. The main focus of its current activities is the ongoing evaluation of, and preliminary work towards the feasibility study into, its proposed combined nickel-cobalt-scandium (Ni-Co & Sc) mining and processing operations at Greenvale, north-west of Townsville. Subject to successful completion of feasibility and permitting, the company is anticipating a 2014 production start-up at an annual Ni-Co & Sc ore throughput of at least 500,000 tonnes.

Chairman of Metallica Minerals, Mr David Barwick, said Mr Becker would report to the Company's Managing Director, Mr Andrew Gillies, and be responsible for day-to-day operating and development activities, including specifically championing the advancement of the NORNICO project.

"We welcome the wide-ranging project management skills and considerable relevant experience in nickel and High Pressure Acid Leach (HPAL) feasibility and processing that Gavin brings to Metallica, at a critical time when the Company is progressing the NORNICO project's transition from advanced exploration to the current detailed evaluation phase and approaching feasibility stage, and ultimately through to a commercial mining and processing operation," Mr Barwick said.

"Combined with our experienced Managing Director, Andrew Gillies, our substantial ASX listed investment portfolio - with a market value of over \$50 million - and healthy cash position, Metallica is in great shape to take our projects forward to the benefit of the Company and its shareholders, he said."

Mr Gillies said Gavin Becker's specific skills would prove invaluable across all of Metallica's activities, including the development, refinement and management of the business plans for the Company's various projects and investments.

"The priority is clearly on progressing NORNICO through feasibility study and permitting in preparation for the proposed future development. Gavin's background provides us not only with additional expertise and confidence in those areas but also added support in communicating Metallica's development messages to our key stakeholders and the market generally," Mr Gillies said.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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