

#### Jake Sekelsky

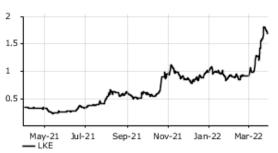
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(ASX: LKE)	
Price	AUD1.68
52 Week Range	(AUD0.21 - AUD1.87)
Price Target	AUD2.75
Market Cap (mil)	AUD2,123.67
Exchange rate	1US\$ = 1.34 AUD
Shares out (mil)	1,264.09
3-Mo Avg Vol	12,676,264

Revenues (millions) AUD						
Yr Dec	2020A	2021E		2022E		
	Actual	Curr	Prev	Curr	Prev	
YEAR	0A	-	-	0E	-	

EPS AU	D					
Yr Dec	2020A	202	21E	2022E		
	Actual	Curr	Prev	Curr	Prev	
YEAR	(0.01)A			(0.01)E		



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# Lake Resources

Buy

**Price Target Change** 

Volatility: 5

# Offtake MoU Serves as De-Risking Event at Kachi; Triggers Mine Plan Update and PT Increase

We view the signing of a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hanwa as a significant de-risking event for Kachi and Lake Resources as a whole. Although the agreement is non-binding, we believe it represents a significant step forward with respect to securing a major offtake partner and believe the MoU opens the door to Hanwa becoming an equity partner or financier of Kachi and Lake in the future. To this end, the company mentioned its intentions to develop a Clean Lithium Supply Chain with Hanwa and expect progress toward a binding agreement over the course of 2022. Given our belief that this MoU significantly de-risks Kachi from a financial perspective, we are reiterating our Buy rating and increasing our price target to A\$2.75 from A\$1.50 per share.

- MoU outlines potential offtake for up to ~50% of Kachi's annual production. The MoU with Hanwa contemplates an offtake for up to 25,000 tpa of Lithium Carbonate Equivalent (LCE) over a 10-year period with a minimum of 15,000 tpa LCE priced at average quarterly benchmark market prices. We are supporters of management's decision to have LCE prices float with market rates in the MoU as there is a considerable lack of visibility with respect to where long-term LCE prices stabilize, in our view. Additionally, the MoU allows for Hanwa to consider providing financial support including equity investments, a prepayment of offtake, trade finance facilities, and other forms of financing in order to secure and develop a long-term partnership with Lake. We expect both Lake and Hanwa to continue discussions with additional downstream partners to develop a novel supply chain for the battery revolution that is expected to take place in the coming years.
- Hanwa offtake MoU for 25,000 tpa LCE triggers update to our mine model. In an effort to remain conservative, our previous model for Kachi was based on the 25,500 tpa LCE scenario outlined in the company's most recent economic study. That said, during 1Q21, management announced its intentions to scale up production to ~50,000 tpa in the upcoming Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS). This, coupled with Hanwa's 25,000 tpa MoU agreement, gives us confidence that the 50,000 tpa scenario should prevail. As a result, we have updated our model to reflect the planned increase in production to 50,000 tpa. As such, we have increased our initial CapEx estimate by ~65% to approximately \$900M but continue to believe ~70% of capital requirements should be funded via debt from Export Credit Agencies with the remainder through a combination of support from Lilac Solutions, equity financings, and support from partners such as Hanwa. Despite the increase in CapEx, the updated production scenario had a significantly positive impact on our overall valuation of the company. In short, we believe Lake is ticking all the right boxes leading up to a Final Investment Decision in 2H22.
- We are reiterating our Buy rating and increasing our price target to A\$2.75 per share from A\$1.50 per share. Our increased price target is primarily a reflection of increasing our projected production rates at Kachi to 50,000 tpa LCE. Our valuation remains based on a NAV analysis of Kachi utilizing a 9% discount rate and long-term LCE price of \$15,500/tonne, which we believe is conservative relative to current LCE prices. In short, we believe the building blocks are in place for Lake to organically grow into a major lithium producer under its newly established Target 100 growth strategy and believe various de-risking events on the horizon should unlock further value as Lake marches toward its goal of becoming a major lithium producer.

#### Valuation:

Our A\$2.75 price target is predicated on a NAV analysis utilizing a 9% discount rate.

### Risks to achievement of target price:

• Commodity Price Risk. A significant increase/decrease in commodity prices can significantly impact our valuation and price target. That said, if a weaker price environment prevails in the lithium market, company's business may suffer from lower or negative margins. While we view this as a risk to the company, we believe the long-term outlook for lithium is bright.

- Political Risk. The company's primary asset is in Argentina. While we believe political risk is heightened in Argentina, we note that the company's projects are in close proximity to various operating lithium projects, which we believe lowers jurisdictional risk for the company.
- Financial Risk. Lake is a pre-revenue company. Given this, we believe additional capital may be required to execute on its objectives. We expect the company to raise additional capital over the next 12 months in various forms including but not limited to equity or debt. We note that there are no assurances as to the terms or whether the company can secure the necessary capital required to move forward with its business plan.
- Operational Risk. Although the company's technology has been proven at a small scale, we note that risks remain with respect to the successful operation of its DLE technology at a commercial scale.
- COVID-19 risk. We note that any escalations in the COVID-19 pandemic could cause delays in Lake procuring equipment, personnel, and financing required to advance its projects. \*Please see the company's EDGAR fillings for a more comprehensive discussion of potential risks.

## Company description:

Lake Resources NL explores for and develops lithium brine projects in Argentina. Its flagship project is its 100% owned Kachi lithium brine project that consists of 37 mining leases covering an area of approximately 70,400 hectares located in Catamarca province, Argentina. The company was founded in 1997 and is based in Sydney, Australia. *Source: Yahoo! Finance*.

Lake Resources Income Statement

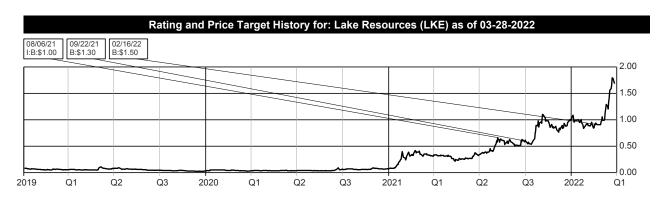
000s A\$		2020A	1H21A	2H21E	2021E	1H22E	2H22E	2022E
Revenue		-	-	-	-			-
Operating expenses		(4,393)	(1,484)	(1,666)	(3,150)	(2,426)	(3,126)	(5,551)
Operating income		(4,393)	(1,484)	(1,666)	(3,150)	(2,426)	(3,126)	(5,551)
Other expenses		(466)	(28)	(150)	(178)	(150)	(150)	(300)
Pretax income		(4,859)	(1,512)	(1,816)	(3,327)	(2,576)	(3,276)	(5,851)
Taxes		(44)		-	-		_	-
Net income		(4,903)	(1,512)	(1,816)	(3,327)	(2,576)	(3,276)	(5,851)
EPS		(\$0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.01)
Total valuation NAVPS	\$ 3,255,387 <b>\$2.75</b>							

Source: ASX Filings, Alliance Global Partners estimates, Lake Resources reports

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# **Important Research Disclosures**



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### Distribution of Ratings/IB Services

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Rating	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
BUY [BUY]	110	83.33	19	17.27	
HOLD [NEUTRAL]	15	11.36	0	0	
SELL [SELL]	0	0.00	0	0	
NOT RATED [NR]	7	5.30	1	14.29	
UNDER REVIEW [UR]	0	0.00	0	0	

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**Buy:** Expected to materially outperform sector average over 12 months and indicates total return of at least 10% over the next 12 months.

**Neutral:** Returns expected to be in line with sector average over 12 months and indicates total return between negative 10% and 10% over the next 12 months.

**Sell:** Returns expected to be materially below sector average over 12 months and indicates total price decline of at least 10% over the next 12 months.

**Not Rated:** We have not established a rating on the stock.

Under Review: The rating will be updated soon pending information disclosed from a near-term news event.

### Volatility Index

1 (Low): Little to no sharp movement in stock price in a 12 month period

2 (Low to medium): Modest changes in stock price in a 12 month period

3 (Medium): Average fluctuation in stock price in a 12 month period

4 (Medium to High): Higher than average changes in stock price in a 12 month period

5 (High): Extremely sharp movements in stock price in a 12 month period

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