Lion Selection Group

Quarterly Report
for the 3 months ended
31 July 2025

ASX:LSX

Lion has invested $41.0M in its Australian focussed strategy since January 2022. Those investments have created value of $77.7M (including the value of portfolio holdings as well as realised gains) at 31 July 2025, providing **an investment return to date of +89%**. Most of Lion's Australian investments were first put in place against the backdrop of an exceptionally weak market. Following a period of record high gold prices, junior gold companies have begun to perform and this has flowed through strongly to the Lion NTA.

The Lion Clock was moved to 5 o'clock in May this year recognising that investor sentiment for gold has led to a moderate improvement in liquidity. This trend has maintained and improved, with the emergence of M&A targeting development stage companies and several successful recent IPOs. The dawn of the next mining boom appears much closer.

As at 31 July 2025 Lion held $40.9M of net cash and $91.4M of equity investments with a combined aggregate value of $127.7M (after tax), against a market capitalisation of $118.9M. Lion is trading at around its NTA for the first time in seven years, a tremendous endorsement of Lion's investing strategy and performance.

Lion is building a portfolio of strategic investments in selected micro-capitalisation resources companies with strong growth outlook. The return profile from micro-capitalisation resources companies can be outstanding, especially through the duration of a mining boom. Lion is gathering investments in a weak market and has had strong investment performance despite this, with confidence of a cyclical return to boom conditions.

Quarter Highlights:

- Gold prices have remained at or near record levels into the quarter, but without the growth that characterised the previous quarter. This has moderated the performance of gold producers, however investor interest appears to have grown toward assessment and development stage gold companies, which have been among the better performers in the gold sector in 2025 so far.
- After a dismal start to 2025, the IPO market has reopened – with eight new listings of resources companies to date, including several multi-tens of million-dollar raisings, and generally strong after-market trading. These are encouraging indicators of liquidity.
- M&A deals in the mining sector in the past half year feature numerous development stage juniors, with an especial prominence of gold companies. This activity is expected to draw investor attention to the junior gold space, with the increasing takeover activity making many advanced players potential targets.
- Continued strong NTA performance driven by Lion's key gold holdings.
- Lion's discount to NTA reduced; share price now approximating or at only a small discount to NTA.
- Follow-on investments:
  - **Koonenberry** – $1.0M invested as part of a $5M placement at 6cps, and $0.75M acquisition of shares from Datt Capital Pty Limited and its associates at 3cps; Lion now holds 9.2% of Koonenberry.
  - **Medallion** – $2.0M invested as part of a $27.5M placement at 21cps.
- Takeover of Atlantic Tin has achieved 90% acceptance and become unconditional, which will return $2.1M net cash to Lion in the coming quarter.
- Lion continues to receive meaningful interest on cash finishing the quarter with $40.9M net cash and term deposits, strongly equipped to follow portfolio investments and further portfolio development.

Australia focus | Precious, base and strategic materials | Pre-development stage

Underpins greatest value growth potential

ASX : LSX
Share price
83.0¢ps
as at 31 July 2025

NTA
Pre-Tax **92.4¢ps**
Post-Tax **89.2¢ps**
as at 31 July 2025

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Hedley Widdup, Lion Managing Director said:

"Lion's investment portfolio is generating strong returns driven by record gold prices, and Lion's share price has appreciated to approximate NTA in the recent quarter, which is a strong validation of Lion's strategy and performance. That said, NTA is a snapshot of the current, theoretical liquidation value of our portfolio, it doesn't reflect what we think it is worth – we have targeted investments that are capable of generating returns in multiples of their current prices. Recent IPO performance and emergence of M&A for development stage companies are not only strong encouragement to investors, as liquidity markers they also suggest the mining boom is nearer than we thought, which presents an exciting outlook for the performance of share prices in the sector."

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Portfolio Overview

Portfolio development

Lion made substantial asset sales in 2021 and 2022 at the top of the last boom to move to a high cash holding. The prices of micro-capitalisation resources companies then collapsed, and Lion has been investing the proceeds in a heavily discounted market. Lion has so far deployed $41.0M into Australian investments during this once-in-a-cycle opportunity, which has grown to $77.7M of value (inclusive of equity holdings and realised gains) which is a performance of +89% as at 31 July 2025.

2025 has seen a strong performance from many of Lion's investments, resulting in a large increase in NTA, which has been accompanied by strong share price performance in the quarter. The best of these performances combines positive company catalysts supported by gold sentiment which is only just beginning to lift selected gold juniors, who have strongly lagged the gold price and share prices of gold producing peers.

The strongest performance for a portfolio of micro-capitalisation resources stocks would be expected to occur in a mining boom, which has not as yet begun. The Lion Clock was moved to 5 o'clock in May 2025, recognising a potential thawing in market conditions and investor attitudes to early-stage resources companies. This has been led by gold juniors, who having lagged the performance of their larger capitalisation producing peers have shown strong performances and access to capital in 2025. This trend has been continued, with several M&A transactions and successful IPOs emerging recently, which are likely to encourage investors and suggest a continued improvement in liquidity. We may be getting near to 6 o'clock and the market conditions that enable a mining boom to commence.

Lion is strongly positioned for the mining boom, which is expected to be the most significant macro factor to drive returns from Lion's portfolio. Lion's portfolio is well developed and with $40.9M of net cash at 31 July 2025, Lion is well funded to be able to follow its investments and add new companies to its portfolio, in a market where most micro-capitalisation (including many gold explorers) remain at severely depressed prices and deal flow is strong.

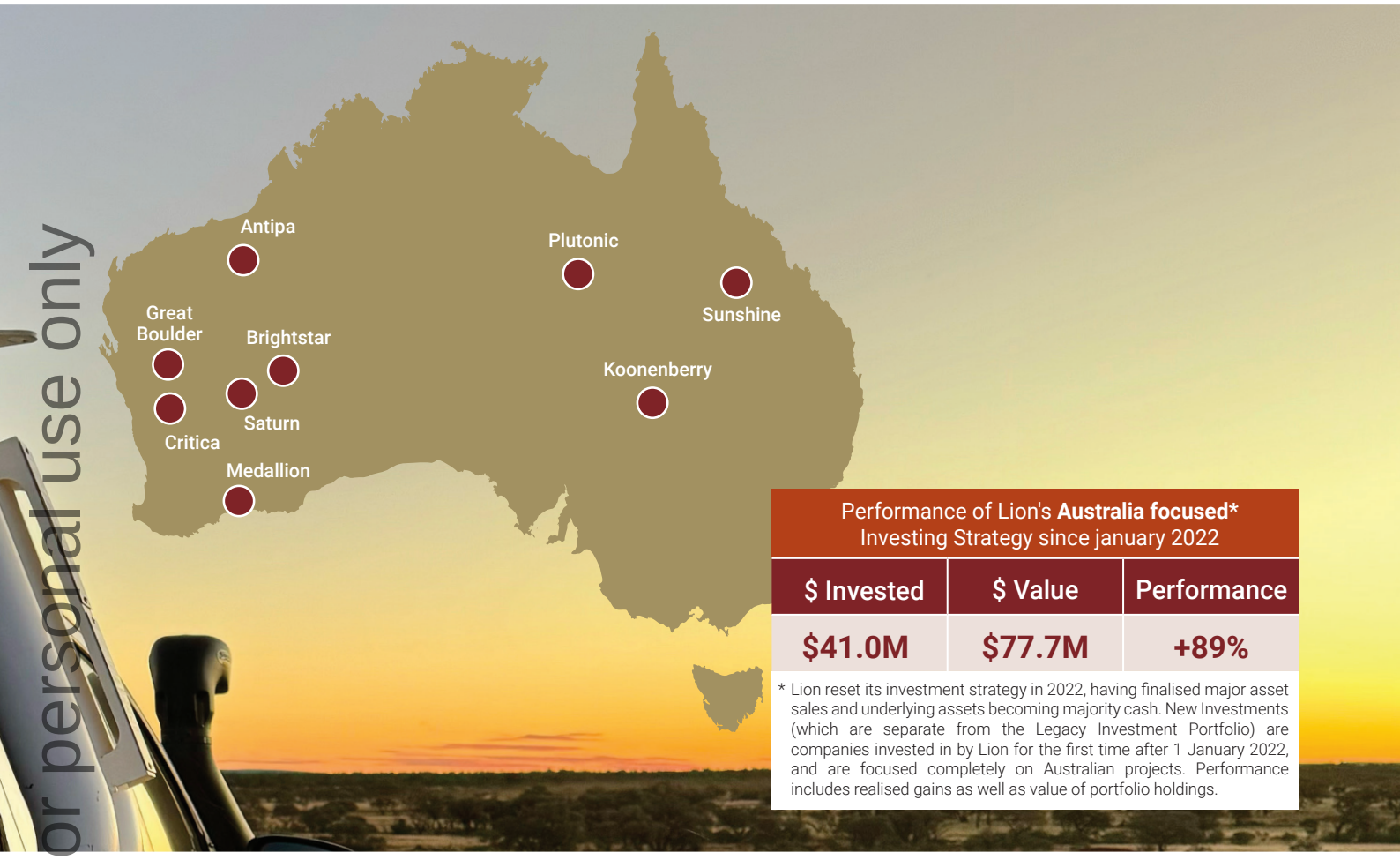
Lion is targeting an Australian portfolio of 12 to 15 investments (currently 9).

Stage and location of Lion's Australian investment portfolio

Note that legacy investments in Erdene, Atlantic Tin, Kin Gin and PhosCo are not shown

Australia focus | **Precious, base and strategic materials** | **Pre-development stage**

Underpins greatest value growth potential



Performance of Lion's **Australia focused*** Investing Strategy since january 2022		
$ Invested	$ Value	Performance
$41.0M	$77.7M	+89%

* Lion reset its investment strategy in 2022, having finalised major asset sales and underlying assets becoming majority cash. New Investments (which are separate from the Legacy Investment Portfolio) are companies invested in by Lion for the first time after 1 January 2022, and are focused completely on Australian projects. Performance includes realised gains as well as value of portfolio holdings.

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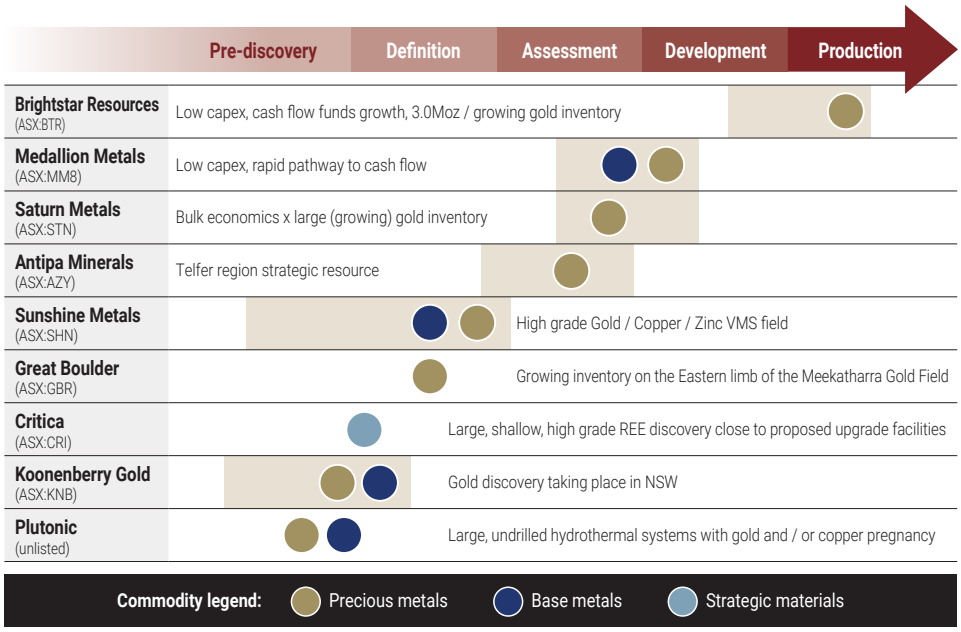


	$ Invested	$ Value	Performance	
Brightstar Resources (ASX:BTR)	$10.6M	$11.6M	+10%	
Medallion Metals (ASX:MM8)	$3.0M	$4.7M	+56%	*
Saturn Metals (ASX:STN)	$12.0M	$31.0M	+158%	
Antipa Minerals (ASX:AZY)	$4.0M	$13.0M	+224%	
Sunshine Metals (ASX:SHN)	$1.3M	$1.9M	+56%	
Great Boulder (ASX:GBR)	$1.0M	$0.9M	-9%	
Critica (ASX:CRI)	$1.0M	$0.8M	-16%	
Koonenberry Gold (ASX:KNB)	$2.4M	$4.7M	+102%	*
Plutonic (unlisted)	$4.8M	$4.8M	0%	

* Denotes a company that Lion invested in during the quarter

Value creation in the Lion Portfolio

The two largest components of Lion's portfolio at present are equity investments in gold juniors and cash. This results in Lion currently being strongly leveraged to gold which is trading at all-time record highs and having a strong capacity to follow on or add to its portfolio.

The gold bull market has been driven by BRIC nation central bank buying, and western markets were slow to acknowledge the trend. Gold producers have been re-rated but smaller capitalisation assessment and development stage peers were largely overlooked, this is attributed to a risk averseness in equity markets that affected all small and micro capitalisation companies at the same time as gold developers were also lumped in with most other explorers.

Investor interest has begun to filter down to selected gold juniors.So far in 2025, gold assessment/development stage companies have performed more strongly than gold producers. There are probably several factors that coincide to procure these performances:

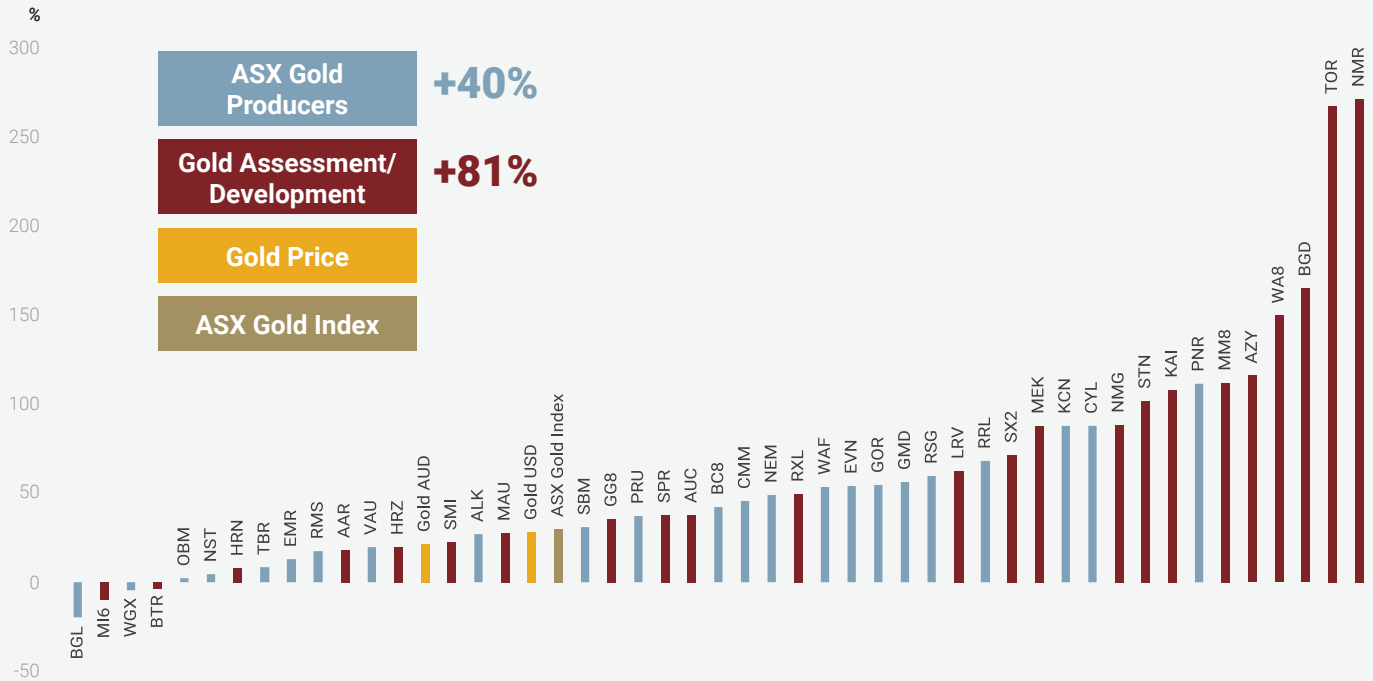
- Gradual thawing of risk appetite;
- Matched with recycling of profits out of investments in gold producers;
- And is likely to have been encouraged by the emergence of acquisition appetite for large gold resources as demonstrated by recently announced merger and acquisition deals.

The strong lag in performance that gold juniors have experienced compared with their gold producer peers provides a huge value arbitrage opportunity, to which Lion is well exposed.

With the market beginning to selectively recognise and reward value in junior gold players, the fundamentals and outlook for micro-capitalisation resources companies remain strong.

- Record gold prices continue to attract investor attention.
- Emergence of M&A – makes multi-million-ounce gold plays a target as established gold producers look to bolster their development pipelines and establish growth avenues.
- Liquidity conditions indicate the next mining boom is very near. This is a strong macro-driver for the entire sector and would be expected to underpin share price performances broadly.
- After a period of being deeply depressed, large discrepancy remains between comparative performances of producers and explorers.

Lion's investees are at various stages, but mostly early, in the process of derisking their assets. They are ideally positioned to benefit from both the appreciating risk weighted value of their assets and a recovering market and commencement of a mining boom.



Share price returns for ASX listed gold companies so far in 2025, shaded as producers (blue) and assessment/developers (brown), as well as the performance of the gold price and ASX Gold Index. Average performance for producing companies is +40%, whereas the average performance for the assessment/development companies is +81% with assessment and development stage companies strongly represented in the best performers.

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LION MADE TWO FOLLOW ON INVESTMENTS WITHIN THE PORTFOLIO DURING THE QUARTER

Both of these top up investments were viewed by Lion as ideal opportunities to build larger percentage interests in two companies that are progressing strongly, at very attractive prices.

Koonenberry Gold
(ASX:KNB; Koonenberry)

Koonenberry is exploring a portfolio of exploration projects in NSW and currently has a focus over a new target at Enmore near Armidale in North-Eastern NSW. Enmore has been drill tested historically but Koonenberry is drilling an adjacent target area which has so far shown to be materially better mineralised than the historic results. The new target area is a sheared granite host rock (and is adjacent to previously drilled sediments), where Koonenberry has reported thick and high tenor gold drilling intersections such as 172.9m @ 2.07g/t Au from 171m (hole 002)[1]. Sheared granite also appears to be the host rock of mineralisation targeted by historic 'old timer' miners at Enmore, as confirmed by a Lion site visit during the quarter. Koonenberry's exploration success so far has come from the sort of mineralisation mined historically but has not been tested by modern explorers.

Drilling results have been returned from a small footprint area to date, however they demonstrate a thick mineralised and altered zone which contains intervals of high-grade gold. This represents a small portion of a target area that strikes for 2km as recently defined by new surface geochemistry results[2].

Lion increased its investment in Koonenberry during the quarter, investing $1M as part of a $5M placement at 6cps in May[3] and then acquiring 25M Koonenberry shares in June from Datt Capital Pty Limited and its associates through an off-market purchase for 3.0cps[4]. Lion has moved to a 9.2% interest in Koonenberry as a result of these acquisitions.

Koonenberry has progressed to become a key holding for Lion, providing exposure to an in-progress discovery that has strong hallmarks of scale and quality with a large, growing and mostly untested search space at Enmore. The latest purchases have been done at prices which are very attractive compared with the upside that Lion sees both at Enmore and across Koonenberry's portfolio.

1. Refer to Koonenberry's announcement to ASX on 23 June 2025 *(KNB returns 80.5m @ 1.45g/t gold from sixth drillhole, extending mineralisation at Enmore Project, NSW)* which provided new results for hole 006 and summarises the results of the other five holes that have been released.
2. Refer to Koonenberry's announcement to ASX on 24 June 2025 *(KNB extends Sunnyside Prospect by 1.6km to over 2km strike potential)*.
3. Refer to Lion announcement to ASX on 22 May 2025 *(Lion invests $1.0M in Koonenberry)*.
4. Refer to Lion announcement to ASX on 30 June 2025 *(Lion increases Koonenberry interest to 9.2%)*.

Medallion Metals
(ASX:MM8; Medallion)

Medallion has a well-established resource base at the Ravensthorpe gold-copper project located in the far south of WA and has agreed to acquire the Cosmic Boy nickel concentrator from IGO[1], which Medallion intends to repurpose to process their ore.

The process plant deal simultaneously provides a short cut development timeline, reduced funding requirement and a less cumbersome permitting pathway to production (than developing a new, stand-alone process facility at Ravensthorpe). The most recent funding positions Medallion with circa $31M cash[2], strongly positioned to de-risk and accelerate relevant pre-development activities. Medallion has described strong interest from potential offtakers for copper concentrate (a co-product of gold production), with indicative project finance solutions linked to securing offtake rights of up to $50 million. In addition to the strong value proposition offered by the project development scenario, Lion regards the acquisition of a large land position at Forrestania surrounding the Cosmic Boy plant as containing strong discovery optionality – this ground has been explored for nickel and contains a great deal of data, but has not had the eye of a gold company applied to it.

Lion increased its investment in Medallion during the quarter, investing $2M as part of a $27.2M placement at 21cps. This is one of Lion's most advanced investments, with a key attraction the near term and de-risked pathway to production. Importantly, the strong funding outlook (combination of existing cash and potential offtake related financing) compares favourably to the expected development funding requirement (Medallion's scoping study estimated a $73M pre-production capital cost[7]). Consequently, there is a strong prospect that little to none of the value that Lion perceives in Medallion would be lost via funding dilution, which is a common occurrence at development stage.

There have been no new additions to the portfolio during the quarter but a high volume of assessment work. Deal flow continues to be at a high level and Lion maintains a high volume of detailed opportunity assessment and due diligence.

1. Refer to Medallion's announcement to ASX on 4 August 2025, *(Acquisition of Forrestania Plant and Infrastructure Binding).*
2. Refer to Medallion announcement to ASX on 16 May 2025 *($27.5M Raise to Accelerate Gold Copper Production).*
3. Refer to Medallion announcement to ASX on 17 December 2024 *(Outstanding Ravensthorpe-Forrestania Study Metrics).*

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Lion investment process

Since January 2022 Lion has made ten additions to its portfolio, one of which was consolidated into another via a takeover. These companies are all focussed on Australian projects, span the spectrum from greenfields exploration through to production and contain a strong exposure to gold, along with lesser (at present) base metal and strategic materials.

All of the investments that Lion has made into the Australian portfolio were in a weak market, targeting multiples on the price, and contain upside through derisking, metal inventory additions and a more welcoming market as boom conditions take over.

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Lion's filtering and due diligence investment process is oriented at several key fundamentals:

- Select the best investments from the broadest opportunity deal flow. Very few other investors or groups get access to the full spectrum of listed, unlisted, transactional and seed stage opportunities in resources as Lion does.
- The key components of Lion's assessment are the quality of people involved, valuation and likelihood of a high investment return, and assessment of risks.
- Value can derive from 'cents in the dollar' type situations, as a hidden gem is favourably rerated by the market. Another strong value creation avenue is where there is high potential to add tonnes/metal/life to a project. This is the biggest potential variant to a project valuation and transcends the sensitivity of metal prices and costs.
- Exploration discoveries can result in extremely large value growth in short periods but are extremely speculative. Because of the associated risk with exploration outcomes, Lion only takes on exploration-oriented companies by exception and requires two critical factors: Multiple (10's or 100's) chances of a discovery, and very low entry cost, which minimises investment downside and enables Lion to establish a percentage position cheaply.
- Lion has favoured situations where there is more than one pathway to asset commercialisation in the near to medium term and alternatives to a full-scale greenfields project development, which might result in enhanced takeover attraction, opportunities for ore sales, or strategic mergers to create derisked companies.
- Lion looks to minimise risk across the portfolio. A key factor for Lion is jurisdiction – many foreign jurisdictions contain world class geology, but there is more often than not a poor trade-off for the overlying political or legal-commercial framework. The primary filter for new investments in Australia is to minimise jurisdiction risk as far as possible.

Lion's relatively low current exposure to the critical minerals area and heavier weighting to gold has been beneficial, especially considering heavy falls in nickel and lithium prices. The determining factor here is our ability to understand and have confidence in the markets for critical minerals which are frequently small and dominated by China with the added complexity of western governments' political statements and funding initiatives.

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Deal Flow

Listed and unlisted companies
1,000+ to assess and filter

People

Competence
Integrity

Valuation

Funding / dilution
Geological upside

Risk Assessment

Identify and avoid
existential risks

Lion investment process

The portfolio that Lion has now established spans a share of aggregate Resources of over 10M oz of gold plus selected base metals credits, a new and large-scale Rare Earth Element (REE) resource, and two exploration plays that offer multi-opportunities for discovery – one of which appears to be making an exciting new discovery.

Lion has targeted opportunities where our assessment of value, risk and relevant market conditions provides an opportunity for in excess of a 10x return on the initial entry price of each investment. We know from experience that these won't all work out as expected, however such a high hurdle for expected value is required to target investments we plan to hold for the years we expect it will take for them to be derisked and become exposed to the anticipated mining boom.

Lion's portfolio investees all provide ongoing disclosure which is available via company websites or ASX.

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Legacy Investments

Lion holds several legacy investments, which do not fit within the strategy of focussing on Australia, yet are awaiting realisation of their contained value and are not yet at the stage that Lion considers sale is warranted. Lion considers that modest follow-on investment may be required in some legacy investments but ultimately is focused on pathways to value realisation.

The total value of the Legacy portfolio on 31 July 2025 was $17.9M. This compares favourably with the aggregate amount invested in these holdings of $7.5M.

The largest individual component of the Legacy portfolio is **Erdene Resource Development Corp (ERD:TSX; Erdene)**, which accounted for $12.4M on 31 July 2025. Erdene is nearing completion of a new project development in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia and expects first gold production during 2025.

On 1 May 2025 unlisted **Atlantic Tin (Atlantic)** announced a recommended takeover offer from Xingye Silver & Tin for A$0.24 per Atlantic Tin Share[1], which values Lion's holding in Atlantic at $3.2M. Assuming that the takeover proceeds, Lion will be required to pay approximately $1.1M from the Atlantic Tin proceeds to the former shareholders of African Lion 3 Limited[2]. Takeover acceptances reached 90% on 12 June, and was declared unconditional on 14 July, so Lion anticipates the receipt of $2.1M cash proceeds in the coming quarter.

1. Refer to the Atlantic Tin Announcement.
2. Refer to Lion's announcement to ASX on 5 May 2025 *(Legacy investments update).*

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Net Tangible Asset Backing as at 31 July 2025

As at 31 July 2025 Lion held $40.9M of net cash and $91.4M of equity investments with a combined aggregate value of $127.7M (after tax), against a market capitalisation of $118.9M.

Lion advises that the unaudited net tangible asset backing of Lion at 31 July 2025 is 92.4 cents per share (before tax) and 89.2 cents per share (after tax).

	A$M	cps
Cash	40.9	28.5
Legacy Investments	17.9	63.8
New Investments Australia	73.5	
Tax	(4.6)	(3.2)
Total Value	**127.7**	**89.2**
Market Capitalisation	**118.9**	**83.0**

Notes to the NTA

- The NTA laid out above excludes $0.4M in contingent liabilities relating to Lion's acquisition of investments from African Lion 3. The contingent liabilities reduce over time and will become zero by 3 March 2026 if not crystallised by the sale of PhosCo prior.
- The NTA contains the value of the component parts of Lion's assets as at the NTA date, which is a snapshot in time. The majority of this includes the value of cash at bank, and value of investments at their closing price on NTA date. The NTA is not an expression of the ultimate, realisable value of the investments, which in many cases may far exceed the value contained in the NTA.

Cash Management

As at 31 July 2025 Lion held $40.9M net cash available for investing.

Cash management

- Lion's net cash is held between an on-call account and term deposits which roll off on a regular basis.
- This arrangement provides a higher interest income than call accounts over a majority of the cash, but ensures Lion has sufficient access to liquidity to fund investment opportunities as they arise.
- Note that the interest on term deposits that Lion had in place as at 31 July 2025 ranges between 3.92% pa and 4.95% pa.

One of the biggest risks to investors in cyclical sectors is experiencing dilution when the market is weak, the cheapest opportunities to invest present, but they are unable to fund the opportunities that exist. Lion is extremely fortunate to have a strong cash holding, which enables Lion to be patient in assessment and aggressive when the best opportunities present, without needing to consider asset divestments for funding purposes. Accordingly, Lion is able to also make divestments when the best strategic opportunity arises, rather than to comply with the demands of funding.

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Market Review

In May this year, the Lion Clock was moved to 5o'clock reflecting growing gold sentiment that has enabled selected performance by gold focussed micro-cap companies. It has only been a few short months since, and we are already wondering if we will look back at now and think – it was six o'clock already.

Many of the world's major miners are trading healthily above their lows made between April and June. This is clearly a pretty short term turn around and nowhere near enough of a trend yet to pick the bottom. All the same, many of the key liquidity markers have made tentative encouraging progress since April and combine to suggest that the commencement of the boom might be nearer than we think.

Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) of exploration companies are one of the best barometers of the cycle because they reliably track liquidity. When liquidity is poor, it is very hard to achieve an IPO of an exploration company, and likewise when liquidity is freely flowing, investors gobble these up. In 2021, there were 105 IPO's of resources companies onto ASX and there has been a steadily diminishing pattern of annual numbers of resource IPO's since.

In 2025 so far there have been eight IPO's of mining entities onto ASX. Several have been false indicators.

The only two new listings in January to May were:

1. Southern Cross Gold Consolidated, which is the amalgamation of already ASX listed Southern Cross Gold and TSX listed Mawson Gold. Neither are new to being listed companies, so whilst a new listing, this was not an IPO and raised no money.
2. Compliance listing of TSX copper company Marimaca onto ASX, which only raised $600 (and hasn't yet had a trade executed on ASX).

These made for a dismal start to the year, with neither new listing testing liquidity thresholds. June and July in contrast have painted a stronger picture.

There have been six new IPOs and an additional backdoor listing taking fresh faces in the ranks of new ASX listed miners and explorers to seven in under two months. Within these listings are further encouraging signs:

- Ballard Mining raised $30M, which is a robust total for an exploration company, and closed up 48% on its first day.
- Broken Hill Mines raised $20M to acquire assets around Broken Hill and relist the former Coolabah Metals, and closed up 34% on its first day.
- In fact, of the seven new listings since the start of June, six have closed at a higher price than the associated capital raising at the end of their first day of trading.

Time will tell how these companies evolve, but to have raised these sums and traded so strongly on their first days are strong signals of the return of liquidity, especially against the backdrop of the IPO market essentially being closed for the first five months of the year.

If the tempo of IPOs in June and July are maintained for the rest of the year, 2025 could eclipse the total of 15 in 2024. The opening of the IPO market is typically a signal of 6 moving to 7 o'clock on in the cycle. These listings are a very encouraging signal, but as yet too premature to lead to a conclusion.

Investors perceived risk profile for assessment and development stage companies can adjust dramatically when the mergers and acquisitions (M&A) market opens up. The lack of investment in growth pipelines has been a prominent feature of mining industry commentary in recent years, where the industry held back spending on exploration and new project assessment to harvest cash from existing operations. This lacks long-sightedness but is required in bust periods to ensure survival.

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There are early signals that mid-tier and large miners are now minded to establish growth options, and to play catch up on this they need to transact, because accelerating organic options will be far too slow and uncertain.

So far in 2025 we have seen several notable assessment/development stage companies targeted by producers stocking their growth pipeline via M&A:

- Northern Star bid approximately $5 Billion in shares to acquire **De Grey** and its 11.2Moz of gold resources[1] in the biggest deal for a development stage company for some time, to add a totally new project development front to the Northern Star portfolio.
- Ramelius bid $2.4 Billion in cash and shares to acquire **Spartan Resources** and its 3.2Moz of gold resources[2], including the high grade Never Never and Pepper resources, which are located 50km from Ramelius' existing key production facility at Mt Magnet in WA.

  Both Northern Star's acquisition of De Grey and Ramelius' acquisition of Spartan are complete or completing imminently.
- **New World Resources** has been the subject of a bidding war between Central Asia Metals (CAML) and Private Equity bidder Kinterra Critical Materials & Infrastructure Opportunities Fund II (Kinterra). Bidding started in May, with CAML making a cash bid of 5cps which valued New World at $185M, which at that time was an aggressive 95.7% premium to New World's 30 day VWAP[3]. Kinterra's latest cash bid (following several iterations of offers along the way) of 6.7cps eventually claimed the ascendancy, a premium of over 158% above the undisturbed pre-bidding 30 day VWAP and valuing New World at approximately $248M[4]. New World's asset is an undeveloped copper project in Arizona.
- **Warriedar Resources** is the most recently announced deal, with Capricorn Metals offering 15.5cps, a 35% premium to Warriedar's 30-day VWAP valuing Warriedar at approximately $182M for their 2.3Moz of gold equivalent resources (consisting of gold and antimony) in the Murchison region of WA[5].

Every single one of these acquisition targets was a sub $50M market capitalisation micro-cap company in 2020.

Takeover activity such as these, especially when clustered in time, guides investors back to the pre-production space. Companies with established and strategic inventories can transform – in a weak market the major investor worry is: where will development finance come from? But when these companies become takeover targets this concern melts away and investors begin to wonder who is next and position accordingly, which can kick start investor speculation. Gold has been a strong flavour of the recent M&A activity, and says loud and clear – *companies with multi-million-ounce gold projects are a target.*

Six o'clock on the Lion Clock can pass with little fanfare – sometimes it is relatively obvious, as it was in 2016 when a six-month run in the gold price coincided with BHP and Rio turning their backs on progressive dividend policies, and the equity market reaction was clear and sharp. That boom ran through to 2020/2021 and was relatively subdued compared to other historic mining booms, principally because speculative money was preoccupied with massive capital growth taking place in the tech market during the same period.

At other times 6 o'clock has been far more gradual – such as the slow build up in the early 2000's as speculative money sulked after the dot com bust and China snuck into the commodity market as the world's soon to be largest consumer. That boom was monumentally large. Given the current outlook for restricted supply growth to meet expected demand, and a pending electrification driven boom, the scenario of a slow start followed by a long and strong boom is most analogous in our minds.

Lion continues to examine many non-gold, metals investment opportunities and Australia's geology offers great potential for discovery and development of new metal mines.

While gold is relatively simple to develop and its price has out-performed in recent years, the other metals have greater complexity in processing and marketing, sometimes with increased capital costs to transport and develop. This is especially the case where China controls the market in minor metals and rare earths, where this lack of certainty is a barrier to development funding.

Global increases in military spending should boost metal prices in coming years, but a solution to uncertain markets in junior, often critical metals, is required.

1. Admittedly, announced late 2024: refer to Northern Star and De Grey's announcements to ASX on 2 December 2024.
2. Refer to Ramelius and Spartan's announcements to ASX on 17 March 2025.
3. Refer to New World's announcement to ASX on 21 May 2025.
4. Refer to New World's announcement to ASX on 25 July 2025.
5. Refer to Capricorn and Warriedar's announcements to ASX on 24 July 2025.

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Recent media

During the quarter, Lion featured in numerous articles, research, interviews and podcasts. A selection is highlighted below, which can be accessed via the links.

Interested to hear more from Lion's Hedley Widdup about all things resources micro-cap investing? ….

Hedley will be participating in the following resources conferences for the remainder of 2025. Follow the links to register:

17-18 September 2025
Resources Rising Stars, Gold Coast

13-14 October 2025
Australian Gold Conference, Sydney

4 December 2025
Resources Rising Stars Summer Series, Melbourne

Media and research articles

Stockhead

https://stockhead.com.au/resources/tick-tick-boom-why-lion-selection-groups-hedley-widdup-thinks-minings-latest-bust-is-almost-over/

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https://mining.com.au/lions-legacy-investments-demonstrating-compelling-value/

Recordings

Lion's Managing Director Hedley Widdup caught up with Shae Russell of Mining.com.au at Noosa Mining Investor Conference to discuss the question on everyone's lips – **is the commodities boom here?**

Lion Selection Group Limited
ABN 26 077 729 572

Level 2, 175 Flinders Lane
Melbourne Vic 3000
T: +61 3 9614 8008
F: +61 3 9614 8009
www.lsg.com.au

Enquiries

Hedley Widdup
hwiddup@lsg.com.au
Jane Rose
jrose@lsg.com.au

Authorised for release by
Hedley Widdup
hwiddup@lsg.com.au