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## **ASX/Media Announcement**

Perth: 9 June 2016



## **Director Appointment and Board Changes**

## • Gary Johnson appointed as Chairman of Platypus

Consequent on the finalisation of the acquisition of Lepidico Ltd, Platypus Minerals Ltd (**ASX:PLP**)("Platypus" or "Company") is pleased to announce the appointment, effective immediately, of Gary Johnson the chairman of Lepidico to the Board of Platypus as non-executive Chairman of the Company.

Gary Johnson has over thirty-five years' experience in the mining industry as a metallurgist, manager, owner, director and managing director during which time he has amassed broad technical, practical and managerial experience in the workings and strategies required to build and lead successful mining companies.

In addition to founding and leading the growth of Lepidico, Gary is also Managing Director and major shareholder of Strategic Metallurgy Pty Ltd, which specialises in providing metallurgical and strategic consulting solutions to the mining industry.

Prior to 2011 Gary was Managing Director of Norilsk Nickel Australia, the Australian arm of the world's largest nickel producer. Gary is also a former Board member of ASX-listed Potash West NL and TSX-listed Hard Creek Nickel Corporation.

In 1998, Gary's company, Aqueous Metallurgy Pty Ltd, and LionOre International came together to form Western Minerals Technology (WMT) with the principal objective being the further development and commercialisation of Activox<sup>®</sup>, a process technology for treating sulphide concentrates. Prior to establishing Aqueous Metallurgy Pty Ltd, Gary was Chief Metallurgist for Dominion Mining Limited, at the time one of the largest gold producers in Australia. Gary also has extensive uranium experience, having worked with Rossing Uranium Ltd in Namibia and with WMC at Olympic Dam.

Mr Johnson is currently a non-executive director of ASX-listed Antipa Minerals Ltd, TSX-V-listed St George Platinum and Base Metals Ltd, and is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS) and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Managing Director Tom Dukovcic said, "It is with great pleasure that we welcome Gary to the Board. Having someone of Gary's calibre is a great asset to the Company and we look forward to working with him to growing Platypus into one of the leading names in the global lithium industry. We now have the assets, the L-Max<sup>®</sup> technology, a strategic business plan and the team to implement it so we have every reason to be bullish about the Company's future."

Simultaneously, Laurie Ziatas has resigned from the Board. Laurie has been a non-executive director of Platypus for two and a half years and has served as Chairman since October 2015 during which time he played an integral part in the transition of the Company into the lithium sector. Laurie has been a tireless promoter of the Company and his service and dedication throughout this time is appreciated. Laurie intends to pursue new opportunities in the lithium space and the Board wishes him well in his future endeavours.

For further information, please contact:

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## About Lepidico Ltd

Lepidico was a public unlisted lithium company that is now 100% owned by Platypus Minerals Ltd. Lepidico has interests in lithium exploration assets and processing technology. It's current exploration assets include an option over the Lemare project in Canada; ownership of the Euriowie project near Broken Hill in New South Wales; a joint venture agreement with ASX-listed Crusader Resources (ASX:CAS) to jointly exploit lithium opportunities in Brazil; and an agreement with ASX-listed Latin Resources (ASX:LRS) to jointly exploit lithium opportunities in Peru and Argentina. Lepidico also owns the L-Max<sup>®</sup> technology, a metallurgical process that extracts lithium from non-conventional sources, specifically Li-rich mica minerals such as lepidolite and zinnwaldite. Prior to the acquisition by Platypus, Lepidico's largest shareholders were Strategic Metallurgy Pty Ltd and Potash West Ltd (ASX:PWN).