

ASX announcement/media release
26 February 2025

AJ LUCAS POST A FIRST HALF GROUP EBITDA OF \$8.8 MILLION

Drilling services and gas exploration group AJ Lucas Group Limited (ASX: AJL) (“Lucas”) today reported its results for the six months to December 31, 2024. The Group EBITDA was \$8.8 million (Dec 2023: \$10.6 million).

These results were driven by the Australian operations, which provide drilling services focussing on the highly specialised metallurgical coal underground mining sector. The Australian operations delivered a divisional EBITDA of \$10.2 million (Dec 2023: \$12.1 million), on revenues of \$75.9 million (Dec 2023: \$77.6 million).

These results were impacted by various client program delays and, in particular, a suspension of mining at the Grosvenor steelmaking coal mine following an explosion in June 2024. While management have mitigated much of the resulting excess rig capacity through new work, much of this work was not continuous throughout the period.

The Group’s UK operations incurred administration and other holding costs of \$1.5 million (Dec 2023: \$1.5 million). A moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, which was re-imposed by the UK government in October 2022, continues. Lucas continues to engage on this issue with the Regulator and other onshore oil and gas operators but sees limited prospect of a change in the short term. Lucas also continues to progress conventional gas opportunities on our UK licences, such as bringing an existing Elswick conventional gas well back into production and using the gas to generate and sell electricity.

Balance Sheet

The Group has undertaken a rigorous process to evaluate various competitive refinancing options and scenarios, having engaged with a number of potential new and existing financiers, which would allow the Company to either refinance or to extend the maturity dates of the existing loans falling due in April 2025 and October 2025.

Authorised for lodgement by Andrew Purcell, Chairman, on behalf of the Board.

Ends
