# Towards Increased Transparency in Critical Mineral Mining: Leveraging the Initiative on Responsible Mining Assurance for the Global Nickel Industry

D Dowdell1, and L Stephens2

1.Executive Consultant, RPMGlobal Ltd, Perth WA 6000. Email: ddowdell@rpmglobal.com

2.Vice President – ESG (Americas), RPMGlobal Ltd, Denver USA. Email: lstephens@rpmglobal.com

Keywords: Transparency, Nickel, IRMA, ESG

# ABSTRACT

As technological advancements escalate the demand for critical minerals, transparency in the mining processes becomes imperative. This paper focuses on enhancing transparency in the global nickel industry, including addressing concerns regarding environmental degradation, human rights violations, and opaque supply chains.

The Initiative on Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) can be a pivotal tool in this pursuit, offering a comprehensive framework to evaluate and improve the social, environmental, and governance aspects of mining operations. By adopting IRMA standards, stakeholders can address key challenges such as community engagement, biodiversity conservation, and labour rights within the nickel mining sector. Through rigorous assessment criteria and independent verification, IRMA facilitates the establishment of transparent and accountable mining practices.

Drawing on recent developments in the nickel industry, including controversies surrounding deforestation, indigenous land rights, and carbon emissions, this paper analyses the applicability of IRMA standards in addressing these challenges. It examines case studies from nickel mining regions worldwide to illustrate the potential impact of IRMA certification in mitigating environmental harm and fostering sustainable development.

The paper explores the role of multi-stakeholder collaboration in promoting transparency across the nickel supply chain. By engaging governments, corporations, civil society organisations, and local communities, IRMA facilitates dialogue and cooperation towards shared sustainability goals. Through partnerships and knowledge-sharing initiatives, stakeholders can leverage collective expertise to overcome barriers to transparency and accountability in the nickel mining sector.

In conclusion, this paper underscores the critical importance of transparency in the mining of critical minerals, particularly within the context of the global nickel industry. By embracing the Initiative on Responsible Mining Assurance as a tool for accountability and improvement, stakeholders can address pressing environmental and social concerns while safeguarding the long-term sustainability of mineral supply chains. Through collaborative efforts and concerted action, the vision of transparent and responsible nickel mining can be realised, paving the way for a more sustainable future.