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# Capricorn Metals Ltd (CMM)

## Exceptional position

**Recommendation**
**Hold** (unchanged)

**Price**
**\$9.71**
**Target (12 months)**
**\$9.10** (previously \$9.03)

**Sector**
**Materials**
**Expected Return**

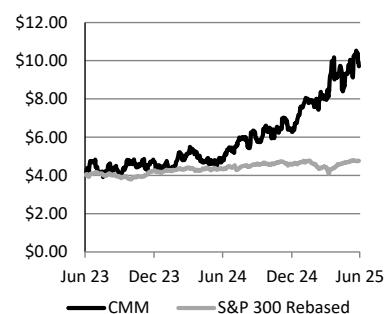
Capital growth	-6%
Dividend yield	0%
Total expected return	-6%

**Company Data & Ratios**

Enterprise value	<b>\$3,831m</b>
Market cap	<b>\$4,186m</b>
Issued capital	<b>431m</b>
Free float	<b>91%</b>
Avg. daily val. (52wk)	<b>\$11.8m</b>
12 month price range	<b>\$4.72-\$10.80</b>

**Price Performance**

	(1m)	(3m)	(12m)
Price (A\$)	9.34	8.12	4.82
Absolute (%)	4.0	19.6	101.5
Rel market (%)	2.1	12.3	91.4

**Absolute Price**


SOURCE: IRESS

## Unhedged and debt-free production growth

CMM has announced that it has repaid the remaining \$50m of its corporate debt facility and is now debt free. This had originally been established as a Project Finance Facility drawn to \$90m in July 2021. CMM's Board has assessed its funding needs and concluded current cash (\$405m at 31 March 2025, for net debt \$355m) and strong free cash flows will be sufficient to meet expansion plans. These comprise the development of the Mt Gibson Gold Project (MGGP) for total CAPEX of \$346m (including \$86m pre-strip) and the expansion of the Karlawinda Gold Project (KGP) for CAPEX of \$120m. Combined, these projects should lift CMM's gold production to ~300kozpa.

## Exceptionally strong position

We had previously modelled this facility to be rolled forward to supplement funding for development of the MGGP and expansion of the KGP. However, CMM's balance sheet has benefitted from having previously closed out gold hedging commitments (158koz forward sold at ~A\$2,300/oz) associated with the original Project Finance Facility. As a result, CMM has effectively been unhedged since June 2023. The higher free cash flows have boosted CMM's balance sheet, including the addition of ~\$40m in the March 2025 quarter (and after \$16m CAPEX). We estimate remaining CAPEX across both projects of ~\$430m (~\$310m at MGGP, ~\$120m at KGP) and, in our view, existing cash and free cash flow should be sufficient to fund the 12-month construction periods (to end FY26, pending receipt of permits). This is an exceptionally strong position to be in, ahead of delivering growth that will more than double production.

## Investment thesis: Hold, TP\$9.10/sh (from Hold, TP\$9.03/sh)

EPS changes in this report are immaterial, limited to removal of a single year's interest expense. CMM is a sector leading gold producer, fully funded to grow production from ~115kozpa to ~300kozpa at AISC of ~A\$1,700/oz from FY27, from two gold mines in WA, each with +10 year mine lives and run by a management team that has an excellent track record of delivery. Our NPV-based valuation is up 1% to \$9.10/sh. We retain our Hold recommendation.

**Earnings Forecast**

Year ending June	2024a	2025e	2026e	2027e
Sales (A\$m)	360	509	611	1,166
EBITDA (A\$m)	168	260	416	735
NPAT (reported) (A\$m)	48	148	257	441
NPAT (adjusted) (A\$m)	87	148	257	441
EPS (adjusted) (eps)	23.1	36.7	59.9	102.8
EPS growth (%)	980%	189%	63%	72%
PER (x)	76.4	26.4	16.2	9.4
FCF Yield (%)	3%	2%	1%	8%
EV/EBITDA (x)	22.8	14.7	9.2	5.2
Dividend (eps)	-	-	-	-
Yield (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Franking (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%
ROE (%)	17%	27%	28%	35%

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

# Exceptional position

## Changes to our forecasts

With this update we have made the following changes to our modelled assumptions:

- Updated for the early repayment of the \$50m debt facility; and
- Rolled our model forward and updated for CMM's latest capital structure and net cash position.

The net impacts of these changes are summarised in the table below:

Table 1 – Changes to our earnings estimates									
	Previous			New			Change		
Year ending 30 June	2025e	2026e	2027e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2025e	2026e	2027e
<b>Prices &amp; currency</b>									
Gold (US\$/oz)	2,747	2,875	2,750	2,747	2,875	2,750	0%	0%	0%
US\$/A\$	0.64	0.63	0.67	0.64	0.63	0.67	0%	0%	0%
Gold (A\$/oz)	4,288	4,567	4,107	4,288	4,567	4,107	0%	0%	0%
<b>Production &amp; costs</b>									
Ore milled (kt)	4,259	4,780	10,900	4,259	4,780	10,900	0%	0%	0%
Gold produced (koz)	116	134	285	116	134	285	0%	0%	0%
Cash costs (A\$/oz)	1,292	1,096	1,286	1,292	1,089	1,278	0%	-1%	-1%
AISC (A\$/oz)	1,493	1,920	1,660	1,493	1,913	1,652	0%	0%	0%
<b>Earnings</b>									
Revenue (A\$m)	509	611	1,166	509	611	1,166	0%	0%	0%
EBITDA (A\$m)	260	415	732	260	416	735	0%	0%	0%
EBIT (A\$m)	226	370	631	226	371	634	0%	0%	0%
NPAT (adjusted) (A\$m)	148	255	439	148	257	441	0%	1%	0%
EPS (reported) (cps)	36.6	59.4	102.5	36.7	59.9	102.8	0%	1%	0%
PER (x)	14.4	14.8	13.7	26.4	16.2	9.4	12.0	1.5	(4.3)
EPS growth (%)	188%	62%	72%	189%	63%	72%	1%	1%	-1%
DPS (reported) (cps)	-	-	-	-	-	-	na	na	na
Yield	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NPV (\$/sh)	8.23	9.03	9.72	8.29	9.10	9.79	1%	1%	1%
Price Target (\$/sh)		9.03			9.10			1%	

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

EPS changes in this report are immaterial, limited to removal of a single year's interest expense in FY26. Our NPV-based valuation lifts 1%, to \$9.10/sh as a result of this and rolling our model forward.

## Upcoming catalysts

Upcoming catalysts for CMM include:

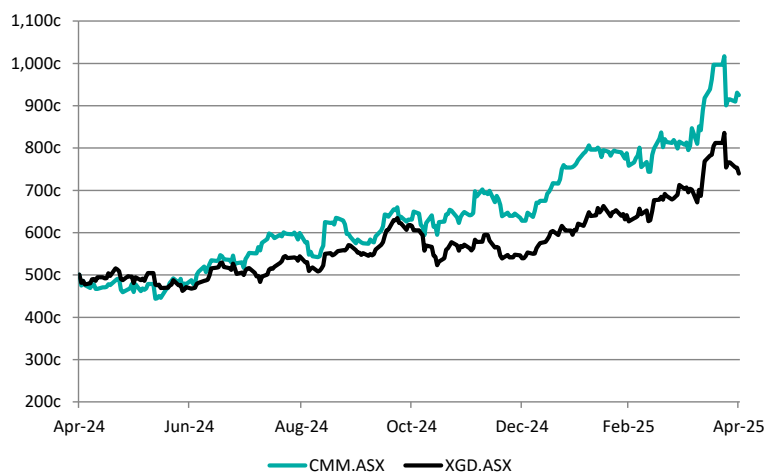
- The release of the June 2025 quarter production and cost report, expected in late July 2025;
- Progress updates on the expansion of the KGP, including receipt of approvals and finalisation of detailed engineering and procurement by mid-CY25;
- Updates on early works, permitting progress and the ongoing workstreams feeding into the optimisation and development of the Mt Gibson Gold Project (MGGP);
- The receipt of statutory development approvals, hopefully in 1HCY25, to enable the commencement of a planned 12-month construction period for the MGGP;

- Ongoing drilling results from the Resource definition and extension drilling programs at the MGGP, which continue to show potential for further Resource growth, plus high-grade extensions that are being assessed for underground mining. An updated Resource Estimate is anticipated for mid-CY25; and
- Updates on permitting progress and information submissions for the KGP, following the approval of its expansion from 4.5Mtpa to 6.5Mtpa and 150kozpa gold production.

## Share price performance vs ASX Gold Index

Relative performance chart below:

Figure 1 - CMM relative share price performance vs XGD



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

# Capricorn Metals Limited (CMM)

## Company description

CMM is a gold exploration and development company whose primary asset is its 100%-owned Karlawinda Gold Project (KGP), located ~65km south-east of Newman in WA. The KGP is an open-pit gold mine producing ~110-120kozpa and a 2,052km<sup>2</sup> tenement package, which includes the Bibra gold deposit and numerous exploration targets across identified greenstone belts. The KGP has a Mineral Resource of 99Mt @ 0.7g/t Au for 2.3Moz and Ore Reserve of 58Mt @ 0.8g/t Au for 1.4Moz. Open-pit mining operations and a 4.5Mtpa gold processing plant designed to produce 110-120kozpa over a 10 year mine life (based on Reserves only). CMM is advancing its second asset, the Mt Gibson Gold Project (MGGP), which has a Resource of 125Mt @ 0.8g/t Au for 3.3Moz and Reserve of 62Mt @ 0.9g/t Au for 1.8Moz. Production of ~150kozpa is planned over an 11 year mine life. CMM's management team has a track record of capital efficient project funding, development, commissioning and operation and is dominated by key personnel previously with Regis Resources and Equigold.

## Investment thesis: Hold, TP\$9.10/sh (from Hold, TP\$9.03/sh)

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## Valuation

Our valuation for CMM is based upon the 12-month forward NPV of our forecast free cash flows from the Karlawinda Gold Project (KGP) and a risk-adjusted 12-month forward NPV of our forecast free cash flows from the Mt Gibson Gold Project (MGGP). This is included in a sum-of-the-parts valuation for the company which also includes a notional estimate for the value of the un-mined portion of the KGP and MGGP Resources. We also include a discounted cash flow estimate of corporate costs, adjust for CMM's net cash position and dilute our valuation for in-the-money options.

**Table 2 - CMM sum-of-the-parts valuation**

Sum-of-the-parts (+12 month valuation)	\$m	\$/sh
Karlawinda (NPV10)	1,679.7	3.90
Mt Gibson (risk adjusted NPV10)	1,455.0	3.38
Other exploration and investments	420.0	0.97
Corporate overheads	(87.7)	(0.20)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,467.0</b>	<b>8.04</b>
Net cash (debt)	470.4	1.09
<b>Total (undiluted)</b>	<b>3,937.4</b>	<b>9.13</b>
Add options in the money (m)		1.7
Add cash	-	-
<b>Total (diluted)</b>	<b>3,937.4</b>	<b>9.10</b>

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Our NPV-based target price increases 1% to \$9.10/sh. With downside of 6% from the last closing price of \$9.71/sh, we retain our Hold recommendation. This is marginally outside our rating structure guidelines, but we retain the Hold on our view that CMM remains a high-quality name offering reliable gold price exposure.

# Resource sector risks

Risks to CMM include, but are not limited to:

- **Operating and development risks:** Mining companies' assets are subject to risks associated with their operation and development. Risks for each company can be heightened depending on method of operation (e.g. underground versus open pit mining) or whether it is a single mine company. Development of mining assets may be subject to receiving permits, approvals timelines or weather events, causing delays to commissioning and commercial production.
- **COVID-19 risks:** Mining companies' rely on freedom of movement of workforces, functioning transport routes, reliable logistics services including road, rail, aviation and ports in order to maintain operations and get their products to market. They also rely on liquid, functioning markets to sell their products. Measures being put in place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic are posing risks to these conditions.
- **Operating and capital cost fluctuations:** The cost and availability of exploration, development and mining inputs can fluctuate widely and cause significant differences between planned and actual operating and capital costs. Key operating costs are linked to energy and labour costs as well as access to, and availability of, technical skills, operating equipment and consumables.
- **Commodity price and exchange rate fluctuations:** The future earnings and valuations of exploration, development and producing Resources companies are subject to fluctuations in underlying commodity prices and foreign currency exchange rates.
- **Funding and capital management risks:** Funding and capital management risks can include access to debt and equity finance, maintaining covenants on debt finance, managing dividend payments and managing debt repayments. Exploration and development companies with no sales revenues are reliant on access to equity markets and debt financing to fund the advancement and development of their projects.
- **Resource growth and mine life extensions:** The viability of future operations and the earnings forecasts and valuations reliant upon them may depend upon resource and reserve growth to extend mine lives, which is in turn dependent upon exploration success, of which there are no guarantees.
- **Regulatory changes risks:** Changes to the regulation of infrastructure and taxation (among other things) can impact the earnings and valuation of mining companies.
- **Geopolitical risks:** Mining companies' assets are subject to geopolitical risks, arising from events in, and outside, the jurisdictions they operate in.
- **Sovereign risks:** Mining companies' assets are subject to the sovereign risks of the jurisdiction within which they are operating.
- **Corporate/M&A risks:** Risks associated with M&A activity including differences between the entity's and the market's perception of value associated with completed transactions.

PROFIT AND LOSS						
Year ending June	Unit	2023a	2024a	2025e	2026e	2027e
Revenue	\$m	320.8	359.8	509.2	610.8	1,165.6
Expense	\$m	(158.9)	(191.5)	(248.8)	(194.8)	(430.8)
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>161.9</b>	<b>168.3</b>	<b>260.4</b>	<b>416.0</b>	<b>734.8</b>
Depreciation	\$m	(27.5)	(28.7)	(34.1)	(45.1)	(101.1)
EBIT	\$m	134.4	139.6	226.3	370.9	633.7
Net interest expense	\$m	(4.2)	(0.9)	(0.8)	5.6	5.9
Unrealised gains (Impairments)	\$m	-	(39.3)	-	-	-
Other	\$m	(121.1)	(13.0)	(14.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)
<b>PBT</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>211.5</b>	<b>366.6</b>	<b>629.6</b>
Tax expense	\$m	4.8	38.5	63.4	110.0	188.9
<b>NPAT (reported)</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>148.0</b>	<b>256.6</b>	<b>440.8</b>
NPAT (underlying)	\$m	4.4	87.1	148.0	256.6	440.8
CASH FLOW						
Year ending June	Unit	2023a	2024a	2025e	2026e	2027e
OPERATING CASHFLOW						
Receipts	\$m	320.7	359.7	487.0	605.8	1,137.9
Payments	\$m	(164.1)	(200.8)	(236.9)	(208.3)	(371.8)
Tax	\$m	-	-	(63.4)	(110.0)	(188.9)
Net interest	\$m	(4.2)	(1.0)	(0.8)	5.6	5.9
Other	\$m	0.1	0.3	(8.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)
<b>Operating cash flow</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>152.6</b>	<b>158.2</b>	<b>177.8</b>	<b>283.1</b>	<b>573.1</b>
INVESTING CASHFLOW						
Property, plant and equipment	\$m	(11.5)	(16.9)	(37.7)	(146.2)	(142.1)
Mine development	\$m	(0.0)	(16.8)	(16.2)	(97.5)	(94.7)
Exploration & evaluation	\$m	(35.6)	(32.0)	(37.5)	(15.2)	(17.9)
Other	\$m	(0.2)	-	(18.1)	-	-
<b>Investing cash flow</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>(47.3)</b>	<b>(65.6)</b>	<b>(109.5)</b>	<b>(258.9)</b>	<b>(254.7)</b>
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>105.3</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>318.5</b>
FINANCING CASHFLOW						
Share issues/(buy-backs)	\$m	-	-	339.8	-	-
Debt proceeds	\$m	-	-	-	-	-
Debt repayments	\$m	(15.0)	-	(50.7)	-	-
Dividends	\$m	-	-	-	-	-
Other	\$m	(45.3)	(79.1)	(7.0)	-	-
<b>Financing cash flow</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>(60.3)</b>	<b>(79.1)</b>	<b>282.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Change in cash	\$m	45.0	13.4	350.5	24.2	318.5
BALANCE SHEET						
Year ending June	Unit	2023a	2024a	2025e	2026e	2027e
ASSETS						
Cash & short term investments	\$m	106.5	119.9	470.4	494.6	813.1
Accounts receivable	\$m	2.5	3.3	25.5	30.5	58.3
Property, plant & equipment	\$m	203.1	200.8	214.7	329.4	400.7
Mine development expenditure	\$m	-	18.8	34.3	130.9	223.6
Exploration & evaluation	\$m	105.7	137.0	165.0	167.6	157.1
Other	\$m	118.7	143.7	161.8	161.8	161.8
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>536.5</b>	<b>623.6</b>	<b>1,071.7</b>	<b>1,314.8</b>	<b>1,814.5</b>
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	\$m	33.2	50.3	62.2	48.7	107.7
Income tax payable	\$m	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowings	\$m	50.6	50.7	-	-	-
Unearned income	\$m	-	-	-	-	-
Other	\$m	196.1	213.3	212.3	212.3	212.3
Total liabilities	\$m	279.9	314.3	274.5	261.1	320.0
SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY						
Share capital	\$m	203.4	203.3	543.1	543.1	543.1
Reserves	\$m	3.1	(35.8)	(35.8)	(35.8)	(35.8)
Retained earnings	\$m	50.0	141.8	289.8	546.4	987.1
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>256.5</b>	<b>309.3</b>	<b>797.1</b>	<b>1,053.7</b>	<b>1,494.5</b>
Weighted average shares	m	373.8	376.8	403.0	428.6	428.6
CAPITAL STRUCTURE						
Shares on issue	m					431.1
<b>Total shares on issue</b>	<b>m</b>					<b>431.1</b>
<b>Share price</b>	<b>\$/sh</b>					<b>9.71</b>
Market capitalisation	\$m				4,185.8	
Net cash	\$m				354.6	
<b>Enterprise value (undiluted)</b>	<b>\$m</b>				<b>3,831.2</b>	
Options outstanding (m)	m					1.7
Options (in the money)	m					1.7
Issued shares (diluted for options)	m					432.8
Market capitalisation (diluted)	m					

# BELL POTTER

**Recommendation structure**

**Buy:** Expect >15% total return on a 12 month view. For stocks regarded as 'Speculative' a return of >30% is expected.

**Hold:** Expect total return between -5% and 15% on a 12 month view

**Sell:** Expect <-5% total return on a 12 month view

*Speculative Investments are either start-up enterprises with nil or only prospective operations or recently commenced operations with only forecast cash flows, or companies that have commenced operations or have been in operation for some time but have only forecast cash flows and/or a stressed balance sheet.*

*Such investments may carry an exceptionally high level of capital risk and volatility of returns.*

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