ASX ANNOUNCEMENT 29 July 2026

Quarterly Activities Report
June 2026 Quarter

Litchfield Advances Belt-Scale Mineral Systems Model as BHP Xplor Reframes Harts Range as a Copper-Nickel Discovery District.

HIGHLIGHTS

- BHP Xplor-backed technical work reframed the Harts Range corridor from a series of isolated copper-nickel prospects into a belt-scale copper-nickel mineral system, underpinned by the deep conductor sitting beneath the Blackadder-Baldrick Ni-Cu-PGE prospects[1]
- Phase 3 RC and diamond drilling completed at Oonagalabi (11 RC holes for 1,772m; 3 diamond holes for 1,217.9m), confirmed continued broad copper-zinc mineralisation within the Main Zone, including[2]:
  - 68.26m @ 0.62% Cu, 1.44% Zn and 4.3g/t Ag from 10m
  - 120m @ 0.35% Cu, 0.92% Zn and 4.1g/t Ag from 52m
  - 39m @ 0.69% Cu, 1.14% Zn and 5.3g/t Ag from 60m
- An unusual hydrothermal molybdenite–nickel-bearing sulphide quartz vein was intersected at Bomb Diggity, supporting the possibility of a multi-event mineralising system across the district
- High-grade silver-lead-copper rock chip results returned from Silver Valley, including 378g/t Ag, 0.91g/t Au, 5.04% Cu and 44.9% Pb (SV2-04)[3]
- Two ~50km-long regional MT and gravity survey lines planned across the Harts Range corridor, supported by the BHP Xplor Program, to test for further C2-style deep conductors
- Combined MT/gravity (Oonagalabi) and IP (Silver Valley) surveys scheduled to commence in early July 2026, supported by up to A$100,000 in NT Geological Survey co-funding

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[1] *LMS ASX Announcement, Harts Range: Defining a New Copper-Nickel Discovery District, dated 18 June 2026*
[2] *LMS ASX Announcement, Oonagalabi Drilling Strengthens Geological and Targeting Models, dated 3 June 2026*
[3] *LMS ASX Announcement, Diamond and RC Drill Program Completed at Oonagalabi & Silver Valley Delivers High-Grade Silver-Lead-Copper Results, dated 23 April 2026*

OVERVIEW

Litchfield Minerals Limited (ASX: LMS) ("Litchfield" or "the Company") is pleased to provide its Quarterly Activities Report for the period ended 30 June 2026.

The June 2026 quarter delivered continued progress across the Company's Northern Territory exploration portfolio, including completion of the Phase 3 drilling program at Oonagalabi, advancement of the Harts Range mineral systems framework through the BHP Xplor Program and preparation for the next phase of geophysical surveys at Oonagalabi and Silver Valley.

Operations Overview

The June quarter was characterised by strong technical progress across the Company's project portfolio, despite operational challenges encountered during the Phase 3 drilling campaign at Oonagalabi.

The RC and diamond drilling program was affected by weather disruptions, access constraints and personnel changes. Despite these challenges, the Company completed the planned drilling program across the Main Zone, Bomb Diggity, VT1 and VT2 targets. The results confirmed continued copper-zinc mineralisation at the Main Zone while improving the Company's geological and structural understanding of the broader Oonagalabi mineral system. The program also refined the Company's exploration model by improving understanding of key geophysical targets and structural controls across the project.

In parallel, work completed through the BHP Xplor Program integrated magnetotelluric, seismic reflection, gravity, structural and isotopic datasets across the Harts Range corridor. This work strengthened the Company's regional exploration framework and supported the interpretation of the corridor as a district-scale copper-nickel mineral system.

Oonagalabi Project, Northern Territory

Phase 3 RC and Diamond Drilling Completed

RC drilling commenced at Oonagalabi on 26 March 2026 following completion of diamond drilling at Bomb Diggity (OGRD001), the Main Zone (OGDD002) and the Oonagalabi Magnetic Finger target (OGDD003). The initial seven-hole RC program was designed to test priority electromagnetic (EM) and induced polarisation (IP) chargeability targets across VT1, VT2 and the Main Zone.

The program was subsequently expanded, with the Company completing a total of 11 RC holes for 1,772m and three diamond holes for 1,217.9m by late April. Drilling tested extensions to the Main Zone, the Bomb Diggity target and a series of EM conductor, magnetic and IP targets across EL32279. Samples were submitted for laboratory analysis, with assay results released during June.

Drilling Confirms Copper-Zinc Mineralisation and Refines Geological Model

Assay results from the Phase 3 program confirmed broad to narrow zones of copper-zinc mineralisation within the Main Zone, including multiple higher-grade intervals that demonstrated both lateral and vertical continuity of the mineralised system. Key combined intercepts included2:

- OGDD002: 68.26m @ 0.62% Cu, 1.44% Zn and 4.3g/t Ag from 10m, including 19.66m @ 0.66% Cu, 2.58% Zn and 5.6g/t Ag from 10m;
- OGRC029: 120m @ 0.35% Cu, 0.92% Zn and 4.1g/t Ag from 52m, including 60m @ 0.52% Cu, 1.26% Zn and 6.3g/t Ag from 52m;
- OGRC022: 50m @ 0.47% Cu, 1.36% Zn and 4.2g/t Ag from 2m; and
- OGRC028: 39m @ 0.69% Cu, 1.14% Zn and 5.3g/t Ag from 60m.

At Bomb Diggity, diamond hole OGRD001 intersected a hydrothermal molybdenite-iron sulphide-quartz-carbonate vein at 617.2m depth containing an unconfirmed nickel-bearing sulphide mineral. The association of nickel and molybdenum within a hydrothermal vein system is considered unusual and may represent a previously unrecognised mineralising event within the Oonagalabi region. Molybdenite from the vein has been submitted for Re-Os chronology to help constrain the timing of this mineralising event.

The magnetic anomalies targeted at Bomb Diggity and the Oonagalabi Magnetic Finger (OGDD003) remain unresolved and will be incorporated into updated geophysical models to refine future targeting.

At VT1, hole OGRC027 intersected disseminated pyrrhotite, pyrite and minor chalcopyrite associated with a modelled 3,000 Siemens EM conductor. However, the scale of sulphides intersected was insufficient to fully explain the strength of the conductor, which remains open. At VT2, holes OGRC024 and OGRC025 did not intersect significant copper or zinc mineralisation, and the target requires further assessment.

Next Phase: MT and Gravity Survey Contracted

Building on the exploration framework developed through the BHP Xplor Program, Litchfield has contracted Planetary Geophysics to undertake a combined magnetotelluric (MT) and gravity survey across the western group of tenements near Oonagalabi. The survey is designed to test a conductivity anomaly at approximately 2.5km depth, with MT data to be acquired at 1km station spacing and gravity data at 500m station spacing.

Field acquisition is expected to take approximately 40 to 50 days, with completion anticipated in mid-to-late August 2026. The survey is supported by up to A$100,000 in co-funding from the Northern Territory Geological Survey under Round 19 of the Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations (GDC) program.

Silver Valley Project

Rock chip sampling from a March 2026 reconnaissance program on EL32241 returned high-grade polymetallic assay results, confirming that parts of the Silver Valley quartz vein system host high-grade silver and lead mineralisation with associated copper and gold. Standout results included.[3]

- SV2-04: 378g/t Ag, 0.91g/t Au, 5.04% Cu and 44.9% Pb; and
- SV3-01: 128g/t Ag, 0.07g/t Au, 0.02% Cu and 16.1% Pb.

These results support the interpretation of a well-preserved, structurally controlled mineralised system with potential to extend at depth and beneath shallow cover.

Next Phase: IP Survey Contracted

Following the reconnaissance program, Litchfield contracted Australian Geophysical Services to undertake an induced polarisation (IP) survey at Silver Valley. The pole-dipole survey, scheduled to commence in early July 2026, is designed to identify sulphide-bearing extensions to the known high-grade mineralisation beneath cover and generate drill-ready targets.

Harts Range Corridor – BHP Xplor Program

A major highlight during the quarter was the completion and release of technical work undertaken through the BHP Xplor Program, which reframed the Harts Range corridor from a collection of individual copper and nickel prospects into a belt-scale copper-nickel mineral system. The work established a new exploration framework to guide future targeting across the Company's Harts Range tenure.

A key outcome was the identification of the deep C2 conductivity anomaly beneath the Blackadder-Baldrick Ni-Cu-PGE prospects through the reinterpretation of high-resolution magnetotelluric (MT) and seismic reflection datasets. Importantly, the C2 conductor is not evident in broader regional MT datasets, highlighting the potential for additional deep conductors to remain undetected across the Harts Range corridor until higher-resolution surveys are completed.

The BHP Xplor Program integrated magnetotelluric and seismic reflection data (Vox Geophysics), gravity, magnetic and structural datasets (PGN Geoscience), together with isotopic studies, to develop a mineral systems model linking a fertile mantle source to the geological pathways and structural settings interpreted to have focused and concentrated metals at Blackadder-Baldrick and other known mineral occurrences.

Building on this work, and supported by the Northern Territory Geological Survey, the Company has planned two approximately 50km-long MT and gravity survey lines across the Harts Range corridor. The surveys will be completed at 1km MT station spacing and 500m gravity station spacing and are designed to test for additional C2-style deep conductivity anomalies across the broader project area.

Lucy Creek Project

No material exploration activities were undertaken at the Lucy Creek Project during the June 2026 quarter.

Exploration Summary

The June 2026 quarter marked an important step forward in advancing Litchfield's exploration strategy across the Harts Range corridor. Phase 3 drilling at Oonagalabi confirmed the continuity of copper-zinc mineralisation within the Main Zone while refining the Company's geological and structural understanding of the broader Oonagalabi Project. At the regional scale, work completed through the BHP Xplor Program established a new mineral systems framework for the Harts Range corridor, providing a stronger technical basis for future exploration.

With MT, gravity and IP surveys scheduled to commence shortly after quarter end, Litchfield enters the September quarter with multiple technical workstreams underway that are expected to further refine exploration targeting across Oonagalabi, Silver Valley and the broader Harts Range corridor.

CORPORATE

Brand Refresh and Investor Communications

Subsequent to the end of the quarter, the Company launched a refreshed corporate brand, new website and dedicated Litchfield Investor Hub to strengthen shareholder engagement and improve access to Company information. The new website includes an interactive geological model, enhanced project information and a centralised platform for Company announcements and investor updates.

Position

At 30 June 2026, the Company held $4.6m cash at bank (unaudited).

Capital Structure

At 31 March 2026, the Company has 65,541,058 shares on issue.

There are 7,000,000 performance rights on issue, of which 1,000,000 have vested.
There are 14,147,500 unlisted options on issue,

- 3,547,500, 10c Exp 31/08/2027.
- 2,000,000 Board and Management
  - 1,000,000, 30c Exp 28/02/2027.
  - 1,000,000, 35c Exp 28/02/2027.
- 6,700,000 Broker options,
  - 4,700,000, 30c Exp 28/08/2026.
  - 2,000,000, 90c Exp 27/10/2027.
- 1,900,000 founder options, 30c Exp 25/10/2026.

ASX Listing Rule 5.3.1 Disclosure

$1.116 million exploration spend during the quarter can be summarised as:

- $1.032 million related exploration activities on Oonagalabi, and was spent predominately on drilling and geophysics;
- $0.070 million on Silver Valley;
- $0.014 million on general exploration activities.

ASX Listing Rule 5.3.2

The Company confirms that there was no mine production and development activities for the Quarter.

ASX Listing Rule 5.3.5

$91,000 was paid during the quarter to Related Parties, as reported in clause 6 of the ASX Appendix 5B (Cash Flow Report), comprised director fees.

TENEMENT INTERESTS

At 30 June 2026, the Company had interest in the following tenements (as required by Listing Rule 5.3.3).

Country	Location	Project	Tenement	Status	Current Interest (%)
Australia	Northern Territory	Mount Doreen	EL31305	Granted	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Lucy Creek	EL33568	Granted	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Lucy Creek 2	EL33888	Granted	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Oonagalabi	EL32279	Granted	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Paradise Well	EL32190	Granted	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Silver Valley	EL32241	Granted	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Silver Valley Extension	ELA34246	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Strangways	ELA34240	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 1	ELA34245	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 2	ELA34250	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 3	ELA34251	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 4	ELA34255	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 5	ELA34257	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 7	ELA34270	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 8	ELA34363	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 9	ELA34364	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 10	ELA34387	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 11	ELA34393	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 12	ELA34394	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 13	ELA34395	Application	100%

Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 15	ELA 34365	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 16	ELA34403	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 17	ELA34404	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 18	ELA34405	Application	100%
Australia	Northern Territory	Harts Range 19	ELA34406	Application	100%

AUTHORISATION

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board of Litchfield Minerals Limited.

Matthew Pustahya Managing Director

Matthew@litchfieldminerals.com.au

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www.litchfieldminerals.com.au

https://twitter.com/Litchfield_LMS

https://www.linkedin.com/company/litchfield-minerals-limited/

June 2026 Quarter ASX Announcements

Additional details, including JORC Code (2012 Edition) reporting tables where applicable, are contained in the following ASX announcements released prior to, during and immediately following the June 2026 quarter. These announcements contain the detailed exploration results and technical information referred to in this Quarterly Activities Report.

- *Oonagalabi RC Drilling Update – dated 2 April 2026*
- *Diamond and RC Drill Program Completed at Oonagalabi & Silver Valley Delivers High-Grade Silver-Lead-Copper Results – dated 23 April 2026*
- *Oonagalabi Drilling Strengthens Geological and Targeting Models – dated 3 June 2026*
- *Harts Range: Defining a New Copper-Nickel Discovery District – dated 18 June 2026*
- *Litchfield Advances Exploration Strategy through Ground Geophysical Surveys – dated 30 June 2026*
- *Litchfield Unveils New Brand, Website and Investor Hub – dated 7 July 2026*

ABOUT LITCHFIELD MINERALS

Litchfield Minerals Limited (ASX: LMS) is a nimble, capital-efficient copper explorer in the Northern Territory, applying the disciplines used by major mining companies to discover and de-risk large-scale mineral systems. Our exploration strategy combines a Mineral Systems approach with structured decision gates, modern technology and rigorous capital allocation. Every exploration decision is guided by evidence, ensuring capital is deployed where it has the greatest potential to create value. By operating with the technical discipline, governance and decision-making processes expected by major mining companies, Litchfield is building high-quality exploration opportunities while positioning itself as a credible partner for future discovery.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED INFORMATION

This announcement refers to exploration results and geophysical interpretations previously reported by the Company, including the magnetotelluric reinterpretation reported on 18 June 2026 and the Silver Valley rock chip results reported on 23 April 2026. The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects those announcements, and that all material assumptions underpinning them continue to apply and have not materially changed.

COMPETENT PERSON STATEMENT

The information in this announcement that relates to Exploration Results is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation compiled by **Dr. Matthew McGloin** (MGeol, PhD), a Competent Person who is a Member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) and a full-time employee of Litchfield Minerals Limited. Dr. McGloin has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and types of deposits under consideration, and to the activity being undertaken, to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (the JORC Code). Dr McGloin consents to the inclusion in this announcement of the matters based on this information in the form and context in which it appears. With regard to the Company's ASX Announcements referenced in the above Announcement, the Company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the Announcements.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This announcement may contain forward-looking statements that are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors. Forward-looking statements include those that are predictive in nature, depend on or refer to future events or conditions, or include words such as may, will, expect, intend, plan, estimate, anticipate, believe, continue, target or similar expressions. Such statements are based on assumptions and judgements held by the company as at the date of this announcement and are not guarantees of future performance. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied. Litchfield Minerals Limited does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law or the ASX Listing Rules.

Appendix 5B

Mining exploration entity or oil and gas exploration entity quarterly cash flow report

Name of entity

Litchfield Minerals Limited

ABN	Quarter ended ("current quarter")
33 612 660 429	June 2026

	Consolidated statement of cash flows	Current quarter $A'000	Year to date (12 months) $A'000
1.	**Cash flows from operating activities**		
1.1	Receipts from customers		
1.2	Payments for		
	(a) exploration & evaluation	(77)	(95)
	(b) development		
	(c) production		
	(d) staff costs		
	(e) administration and corporate costs	(167)	(626)
1.3	Dividends received (see note 3)		
1.4	Interest received	16	55
1.5	Interest and other costs of finance paid		
1.6	Income taxes paid		
1.7	Government grants and tax incentives	98	189
1.8	Other (provide details if material)	342	684
1.9	**Net cash from / (used in) operating activities**	**212**	**205**

1.8 – Funds received from the BHP Xplor program

2.	**Cash flows from investing activities**		
2.1	Payments to acquire or for:		
	(a) entities		
	(b) tenements	-	(21)
	(c) property, plant and equipment	(17)	(213)
	(d) exploration & evaluation	(1,116)	(3,542)
	(e) investments		
	(f) other non-current assets		

Consolidated statement of cash flows		Current quarter $A'000	Year to date (12 months) $A'000
2.2	Proceeds from the disposal of:		
	(a) entities		
	(b) tenements		
	(c) property, plant and equipment		
	(d) investments		
	(e) other non-current assets		
2.3	Cash flows from loans to other entities		
2.4	Dividends received (see note 3)		
2.5	Other (provide details if material)		
2.6	**Net cash from / (used in) investing activities**	**(1,134)**	**(3,776)**

3.	**Cash flows from financing activities**		
3.1	Proceeds from issues of equity securities (excluding convertible debt securities)	-	7,480
3.2	Proceeds from issue of convertible debt securities		
3.3	Proceeds from exercise of options	115	500
3.4	Transaction costs related to issues of equity securities or convertible debt securities	(3)	(469)
3.5	Proceeds from borrowings		
3.6	Repayment of borrowings		
3.7	Transaction costs related to loans and borrowings		
3.8	Dividends paid		
3.9	Other (provide details if material)		
3.10	**Net cash from / (used in) financing activities**	**112**	**7,512**

4.	**Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents for the period**		
4.1	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	5,413	662
4.2	Net cash from / (used in) operating activities (item 1.9 above)	212	205
4.3	Net cash from / (used in) investing activities (item 2.6 above)	(1,134)	(3,776)
4.4	Net cash from / (used in) financing activities (item 3.10 above)	112	7,512

Consolidated statement of cash flows		Current quarter $A'000	Year to date (12 months) $A'000
4.5	Effect of movement in exchange rates on cash held	-	-
4.6	**Cash and cash equivalents at end of period**	**4,603**	**4,603**

5.	**Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents** at the end of the quarter (as shown in the consolidated statement of cash flows) to the related items in the accounts	**Current quarter $A'000**	**Previous quarter $A'000**
5.1	Bank balances	2,590	3,413
5.2	Call deposits	2,013	2,000
5.3	Bank overdrafts		
5.4	Other (provide details)		
5.5	**Cash and cash equivalents at end of quarter (should equal item 4.6 above)**	**4,603**	**5,413**

6.	**Payments to related parties of the entity and their associates**	**Current quarter $A'000**
6.1	Aggregate amount of payments to related parties and their associates included in item 1	91
6.2	Aggregate amount of payments to related parties and their associates included in item 2	

Note: if any amounts are shown in items 6.1 or 6.2, your quarterly activity report must include a description of, and an explanation for, such payments.

7.	**Financing facilities** *Note: the term "facility' includes all forms of financing arrangements available to the entity.* *Add notes as necessary for an understanding of the sources of finance available to the entity.*	**Total facility amount at quarter end $A'000**	**Amount drawn at quarter end $A'000**
7.1	Loan facilities		
7.2	Credit standby arrangements		
7.3	Other (please specify)		
7.4	**Total financing facilities**		
7.5	**Unused financing facilities available at quarter end**		
7.6	Include in the box below a description of each facility above, including the lender, interest rate, maturity date and whether it is secured or unsecured. If any additional financing facilities have been entered into or are proposed to be entered into after quarter end, include a note providing details of those facilities as well.		

8.	**Estimated cash available for future operating activities**	**$A'000**
8.1	Net cash from / (used in) operating activities (item 1.9)	212
8.2	(Payments for exploration & evaluation classified as investing activities) (item 2.1(d))	(1,116)
8.3	Total relevant outgoings (item 8.1 + item 8.2)	(904)
8.4	Cash and cash equivalents at quarter end (item 4.6)	4,603
8.5	Unused finance facilities available at quarter end (item 7.5)	-
8.6	Total available funding (item 8.4 + item 8.5)	4,603
8.7	**Estimated quarters of funding available (item 8.6 divided by item 8.3)**	5.09

Note: if the entity has reported positive relevant outgoings (ie a net cash inflow) in item 8.3, answer item 8.7 as "N/A". Otherwise, a figure for the estimated quarters of funding available must be included in item 8.7.

8.8 If item 8.7 is less than 2 quarters, please provide answers to the following questions:

8.8.1 Does the entity expect that it will continue to have the current level of net operating cash flows for the time being and, if not, why not?

Answer: N/A.

8.8.2 Has the entity taken any steps, or does it propose to take any steps, to raise further cash to fund its operations and, if so, what are those steps and how likely does it believe that they will be successful?

Answer: N/A

8.8.3 Does the entity expect to be able to continue its operations and to meet its business objectives and, if so, on what basis?

Answer: N/A

Note: where item 8.7 is less than 2 quarters, all of questions 8.8.1, 8.8.2 and 8.8.3 above must be answered.

Compliance statement

1 This statement has been prepared in accordance with accounting standards and policies which comply with Listing Rule 19.11A.

2 This statement gives a true and fair view of the matters disclosed.

Date: ....29 July 2026..

Authorised by: ....By the Board..
(Name of body or officer authorising release – see note 4)

Notes

1. This quarterly cash flow report and the accompanying activity report provide a basis for informing the market about the entity's activities for the past quarter, how they have been financed and the effect this has had on its cash position. An entity that wishes to disclose additional information over and above the minimum required under the Listing Rules is encouraged to do so.
2. If this quarterly cash flow report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the definitions in, and provisions of, *AASB 6: Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources* and *AASB 107: Statement of Cash Flows* apply to this report. If this quarterly cash flow report has been prepared in accordance with other accounting standards agreed by ASX pursuant to Listing Rule 19.11A, the corresponding equivalent standards apply to this report.
3. Dividends received may be classified either as cash flows from operating activities or cash flows from investing activities, depending on the accounting policy of the entity.
4. If this report has been authorised for release to the market by your board of directors, you can insert here: "By the board". If it has been authorised for release to the market by a committee of your board of directors, you can insert here: "By the [*name of board committee – eg Audit and Risk Committee*]". If it has been authorised for release to the market by a disclosure committee, you can insert here: "By the Disclosure Committee".
5. If this report has been authorised for release to the market by your board of directors and you wish to hold yourself out as complying with recommendation 4.2 of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations*, the board should have received a declaration from its CEO and CFO that, in their opinion, the financial records of the entity have been properly maintained, that this report complies with the appropriate accounting standards and gives a true and fair view of the cash flows of the entity, and that their opinion has been formed on the basis of a sound system of risk management and internal control which is operating effectively.