

# UBS Investment Research

## Avoca Resources Limited

### Interim profit guidance exceeds forecast

#### ■ Event: Interim guidance of \$29.4m

AVO announced an unaudited NPAT for H1 FY10 of \$29.4m which was well ahead of UBSe of \$21.6m. Given production and cash costs have been pre reported in their quarterlies we believe the largest difference may be 1) lower depreciation charges and 2) lower than expected expensed exploration, as much of their drilling has been successful in finding gold and will likely be capitalised.

#### ■ Impact: Reduced our D&A leading to 13% uplift in NPAT for FY11/12

We have remodelled our D&A assumptions to take account of our view that AVO will be successful in extending mine life. We currently forecast production to end in FY18, with cumulative production of ~1.5Moz, vs published reserves of ~700koz. We now expect AVO to report NPAT of \$56m for FY10, which we believe may have further upside risk due to the potential for further upgrades if current production rates can be maintained.

#### ■ Action: Buy maintained – growth catalysts in the pipeline

We maintain our Buy call with potential production upgrades possible from the Chalice development and ongoing exploration blue sky. We also have a view that AVO will be able to close the DIO deal resulting in additional production from the Frog Legs mine. Closing the DIO deal will require ~\$32m in cash funding which we do not see as an issue. Should the Morgan Stanley royalty become available for sale, AVO may require additional funds in CY10.

#### ■ Valuation: \$1.74 (DCF, 6% discount rate)

Our NPV has been reduced by 2% (due to the lower tax shield from D&A), but our target price remains unchanged.

Highlights (A\$m)	06/08	06/09	06/10E	06/11E	06/12E
Revenues	0	146	239	244	228
EBIT (UBS)	(7)	(15)	80	79	71
Net Income (UBS)	(1)	(16)	56	56	53
EPS (UBS, A\$)	(0.01)	(0.07)	0.20	0.21	0.19
Net DPS (UBS, A\$)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Profitability & Valuation	5-yr hist av.	06/09	06/10E	06/11E	06/12E
EBIT margin %	-	-10.0	33.4	32.5	30.9
ROIC (EBIT) %	-	(7.4)	43.2	45.9	46.0
EV/EBITDA (core) x	-	16.0	3.9	3.3	3.0
PE (UBS) x	-	NM	8.2	8.1	8.6
Net dividend yield %	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Company accounts, Thomson Reuters, UBS estimates. (UBS) valuations are stated before goodwill, exceptionals and other special items. Valuations: based on an average share price that year, (E): based on a share price of A\$1.68 on 08 Feb 2010 16:42 EST

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## Global Equity Research

Australia

Mining

12-month rating **Buy**  
**Unchanged**

12m price target **A\$2.10/US\$1.82**  
**Unchanged**

Price **A\$1.68/US\$1.45**

RIC: AVO.AX BBG: AVO AU

8 February 2010

#### Trading data (local/US\$)

52-wk range	A\$2.20-1.44/US\$2.05-0.98
Market cap.	A\$0.46bn/US\$0.40bn
Shares o/s	272m (ORD)
Free float	100%
Avg. daily volume ('000)	1,473
Avg. daily value (A\$m)	2.8

#### Balance sheet data 06/10E

Shareholders' equity	A\$0.21bn
P/BV (UBS)	2.1x
Net Cash (debt)	A\$0.03bn

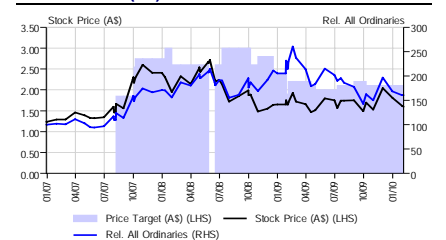
#### Forecast returns

Forecast price appreciation	+25.0%
Forecast dividend yield	0.0%
Forecast stock return	+25.0%
Market return assumption	9.1%
Forecast excess return	+15.9%

#### EPS (UBS, A\$)

	06/10E		Cons.	06/09 Actual
	From	To		
H1E	0.08	0.11	-	(0.07)
H2E	0.08	0.10	-	(0.01)
06/10E	0.16	0.20	0.15	
06/11E	0.18	0.21	0.14	

#### Performance (A\$)



Source: UBS

www.ubs.com/investmentresearch

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Table 1: Summary of earnings changes

June Y/E A\$m	2010			2011			2012			
	New	Old	Var %	New	Old	Var %	New	Old	Var %	
Revenue	241	241	0%	250	250	0%	238	238	0%	
EBITDA	117	115	2%	117	117	0%	106	106	0%	
EBIT	80	65	22%	79	70	13%	71	62	14%	
PBT	78	63	23%	80	71	13%	76	67	13%	
Net Profit	56	44	25%	56	50	13%	53	47	13%	
EPS A\$	20	16	25%	21	18	13%	19	17	13%	
DPS Acps	0.0	0.0	NM	0.0	0	NM	0	0	NM	
Ore Mined	kt	1057	1057	0%	1080	1080	0%	1080	1080	0%
Grade	g/t	5.8	5.8	0%	5.4	5.4	0%	5.3	5.3	0%
Ore processed	kt	1215	1215	0%	1200	1200	0%	1080	1080	0%
Grade	g/t	5.2	5.2	0%	5.0	5.0	0%	5.3	5.3	0%
Gold produced	koz	197	197	0%	188	188	0%	179	179	0%
Cash costs (including royalties)	A\$/oz	-581	-580	0%	-626	-626	0%	-629	-629	0%
NPV										
Base - 10 year life		1.74	1.78	-2%						

Source: UBS estimates.

# Avoca Resources Ltd (AVO.AX)

Analyst/s: Jo Battershill; Glyn Lawcock  
Email: jo.battershill@ubs.com  
08-Feb-10

## MARKET INFORMATION

Rating:	Buy
Price (as of 08-Feb-10):	1.68
Price Target (12 months):	2.10
Issued Capital:	272.3
Market Capitalisation:	435.7
Avg. daily turnover (US\$m)	2.5
Year end:	June
Website:	http://www.avocaresources.com.au
Major Shareholders:	Pala 22.5%, CBA 5.01%

## COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Avoca Resources Limited (AVO) controls 2,700sqkm between the world-class Norseman and St Ives Goldfields in Western Australia. AVO is producing gold from the Trident deposit at the 100%-owned Higginsville project 150km south of Kalgoorlie. Production for CY10 is estimated at +190koz at cash costs of ~A\$475/oz excluding royalties. AVO believes a mine life of at least 10 years is achievable at Higginsville given the highly prospective area and positive exploration results. Future production is expected to be sourced from other deposits in the region including the Chalice and Two Boys projects.

## INVESTMENT SUMMARY

(A\$m)	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E
Net profit [reported] (\$m)	(16.3)	55.6	56.3	53.1
Net profit [adjusted] (\$m)	(16.3)	55.6	56.3	53.1
EPS [reported] (\$)	(0.1)	0.2	0.2	0.2
EPS [adjusted, diluted] (\$)	(0.1)	0.2	0.2	0.2
EPS Growth (%)	(1132.3)	NM	1.4	(5.8)
PER [adjusted] (x)	<0.0	8.2	8.1	8.6
Dividend (\$)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Payout ratio (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dividend Yield (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%
FCF Yield (%)	(0.9)	14.4	18.3	17.1
Franking (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shares [period-average, diluted] (m)	233.5	272.3	272.3	272.3

## VALUATION

Valuation per share [NAV @ 6%] (\$)	1.74
Share Price Target [12 months] (\$)	2.10
Price/NAV [6% disc rate] (x)	0.97

Operating Assets [DH09]	A\$m	€
Higginsville	428	157
Exploration	35	13
Dioro Exploration stake	35	13

## Gross Assets

Net Cash	(4)	-1
Corporate costs	(20)	-8
<b>Net Asset Value @ 10% discount rate</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>174</b>

## ENTERPRISE VALUE

(A\$m)	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E
Enterprise Value	443	441	373	299
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.0	3.8	3.2	2.8
EV/Operating Free Cash Flow (x)	256.0	6.6	4.5	4.0

## EPS SENSITIVITIES

Commodity	Base Change	2010E	2011E	2012E
		EPS Change		
Gold price	10%	16.0%	36.0%	45.0%
Currency	5c	-9.0%	-19.0%	-25.0%

## CASH FLOW

(A\$m)	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E
Operating income [EBIT, UBS]	(15)	80	79	71
Depreciation & Amortisation	42	37	38	36
Net change in working capital	29	0	0	0
Other (operating)	0	0	0	0
<b>Pre-tax op cash flow</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>106</b>
Interest (paid) / received	(5)	(2)	1	5
Tax paid	7	(22)	(24)	(23)
Other	(7)	0	0	0
<b>Operating cash flow</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>89</b>
Capital expenditure	(55)	(27)	(10)	(11)
<b>Free cash flow</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>78</b>
Net (acquisitions) / disposals	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid (Common)	0	0	0	0
Shares issued/repurchased	29	0	0	0

## OPERATIONAL ASSUMPTIONS

Commodity Prices	1H10E	2H10E	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E
Gold price (US\$/oz)	1,031	1,135	864	1,083	1,193	1,175
A\$:US\$	0.87	0.92	0.73	0.90	0.92	0.92
<b>Production (koz)</b>						
Higginsville	102	95	130	197	188	179
<b>Cash costs including state royalty</b>						
Higginsville (A\$/oz)	470	475	642	472	505	510
Higginsville (US\$/oz)	409	437	469	423	464	469
<b>Cash costs including private royalty</b>						
Higginsville (A\$/oz)	575	588	701	581	626	629
Higginsville (US\$/oz)	501	541	512	521	576	579

## DIVISIONAL BREAKDOWN [EBIT]

(A\$m)	1H10E	2H10E	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E
Higginsville	44	43	23	86	88	80

## PROFIT & LOSS

(A\$m)	1H10E	2H10E	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E
Sales Revenue	121	118	146	239	244	228
<b>Operating Cash Profit</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>115</b>
Depn & Amortisation	(18)	(19)	(42)	(37)	(38)	(36)
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>80</b>
Exploration	(0)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(5)
SGA	(3)	(2)	(23)	(5)	(6)	(4)
<b>EBIT</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>71</b>
Net interest	(1)	(1)	(9)	(2)	1	5
<b>Profit before tax</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>76</b>
Tax expense	(11)	(11)	7	(22)	(24)	(23)
Equity Associated NPAT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minority Interests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends [preferred]	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Profit [reported]</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>53</b>
Abnormal Gain/(Loss) after Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Profit [adjusted]</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>53</b>
EBITDA margin (%)			19.0	48.9	47.9	46.6
Net Interest Cover [EBIT] (x)			1.7	(43.3)	61.2	13.5
Tax Rate (%)			NM	28.7	30.0	30.0
EBIT/Total Assets (%)			(5.1)	23.1	19.6	15.4
NPAT/Equity (%)			(10.3)	26.1	20.9	16.5

## BALANCE SHEET [Selected Items]

(A\$m)	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E
Net Working capital	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)
Fixed Assets	177	167	139	114
Net Other	36	43	50	57
<b>Capital Employed</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>144</b>
Net Cash / (Debt)	(29)	30	107	178
<b>Total Equity [incl. minorities]</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>322</b>
Minorities	0	0	0	0
Net Debt / Equity (%)	18.4	(14.0)	(39.7)	(55.3)
Book Value per Share(\$)	0.65	0.78	0.99	1.18

Source: UBS estimates.

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## ■ Avoca Resources Limited

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UBS 12-Month Rating	Rating Category	Coverage <sup>1</sup>	IB Services <sup>2</sup>
Buy	Buy	48%	40%
Neutral	Hold/Neutral	40%	35%
Sell	Sell	13%	26%
UBS Short-Term Rating	Rating Category	Coverage <sup>3</sup>	IB Services <sup>4</sup>
Buy	Buy	less than 1%	17%
Sell	Sell	less than 1%	67%

1:Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the 12-month rating category.

2:Percentage of companies within the 12-month rating category for which investment banking (IB) services were provided within the past 12 months.

3:Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the Short-Term rating category.

4:Percentage of companies within the Short-Term rating category for which investment banking (IB) services were provided within the past 12 months.

Source: UBS. Rating allocations are as of 31 December 2009.

### UBS Investment Research: Global Equity Rating Definitions

UBS 12-Month Rating	Definition
Buy	FSR is > 6% above the MRA.
Neutral	FSR is between -6% and 6% of the MRA.
Sell	FSR is > 6% below the MRA.
UBS Short-Term Rating	Definition
Buy	Buy: Stock price expected to rise within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.
Sell	Sell: Stock price expected to fall within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.

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**Forecast Stock Return (FSR)** is defined as expected percentage price appreciation plus gross dividend yield over the next 12 months.

**Market Return Assumption (MRA)** is defined as the one-year local market interest rate plus 5% (a proxy for, and not a forecast of, the equity risk premium).

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**UBS Securities Australia Ltd:** Jo Battershill; Glyn Lawcock; Daniel Morgan.

**Company Disclosures**

Company Name	Reuters	12-mo rating	Short-term rating	Price	Price date
Avoca Resources Limited <sup>4, 5, 13</sup>	AVO.AX	Buy	N/A	A\$1.60	05 Feb 2010

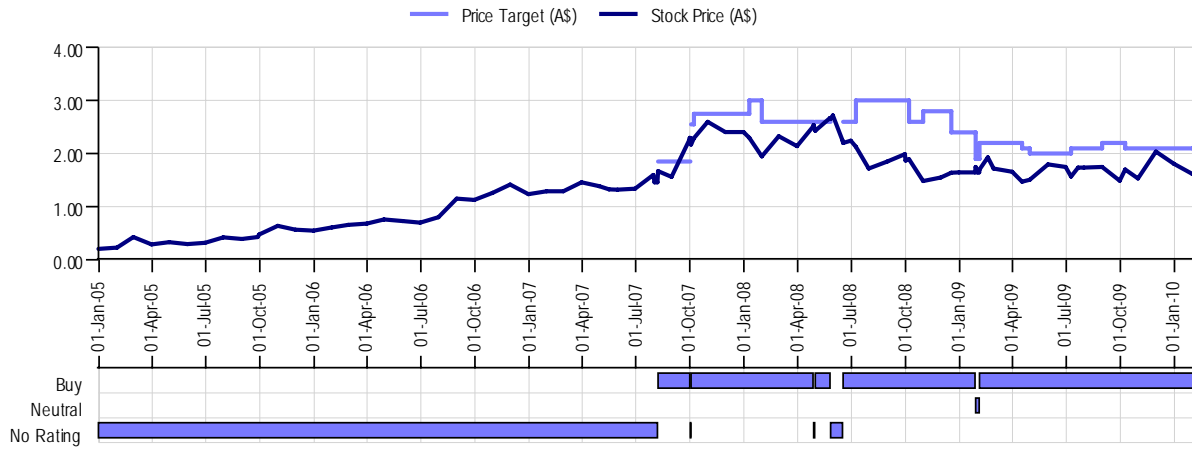
Source: UBS. All prices as of local market close.

Ratings in this table are the most current published ratings prior to this report. They may be more recent than the stock pricing date

4. Within the past 12 months, UBS AG, its affiliates or subsidiaries has received compensation for investment banking services from this company/entity.
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Unless otherwise indicated, please refer to the Valuation and Risk sections within the body of this report.

Avoca Resources Limited (A\$)



Source: UBS; as of 05 Feb 2010

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