



ABN 30 068 263 098

PO Box 1280
21 Close Way,
Kalgoorlie WA 6430
PO Box 1280, Kalgoorlie WA 6430

phone: (08) 9091 9253
fax: (08) 9091 9256
email: ibuchhorn@heronresources.com.au
web: www.heronresources.com.au

8 September 2003

The Company Announcement Officer
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
Post Office Box H224 - Australia Square
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir / Madam

**PIONEER NICKEL LIMITED (ASX Code PIO)
BOARD APPOINTMENT OF DR ALLAN TRENCH**

Heron Resources Limited ("Heron"), on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiary Pioneer Nickel Limited ("Pioneer"), wishes to advise that Dr Allan Trench (BSc (Hons), PhD, MSc (Min Econ), MBA (Oxon.)) has been appointed as an independent non-executive director of Pioneer.

Dr Trench is a mineral economist, geophysicist and business management consultant. Dr Trench has worked in the Australian minerals sector since 1991, gaining relevant experience in nickel, gold, vanadium and mineral sands. Amongst his industry roles, Dr Trench led nickel sulphide exploration teams for WMC Resources in the Widgiemooltha-Pioneer and Leinster-Mt Keith regions of WA during the mid-1990s, specialising particularly in the use of ElectroMagnetic methods integrated with geology and geochemistry.

Dr Trench subsequently worked as a consultant for management group McKinsey and Company, undertaking corporate strategy and operations work for a number of the World's major mineral companies. He also maintains academic links with appointments as Adjunct Associate Professor in Mineral Economics at the Western Australian School of Mines, and to the Geology & Geophysics Department at the University of Western Australia.

Dr Trench's appointment is a most positive outcome for Pioneer, bringing as it does technical expertise within Pioneer's key nickel sulphide exploration province, using specialist ElectroMagnetic methods. More importantly, Dr Trench has a distinguished industry record in the fields of mineral economics and corporate evaluation, such that his potential contribution to Pioneer's future growth is considerable.

Yours sincerely

Ian Buchhorn
Managing Director