



ASX/Media Announcement

10 May 2017

## **PILBARA RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL FOR THE PILGANGOORA LITHIUM-TANTALUM PROJECT**

*Approval of Mining Proposal paves the way for start of major site works, completion of funding and development of the world's next major source of lithium raw material*

Australian lithium developer Pilbara Minerals Limited (ASX: PLS) (“**Company**” or “**Pilbara**”) is pleased to advise that it has received its environmental approval for its 100%-owned **Pilgangoora Lithium-Tantalum Project** in Western Australia, marking the last of the major approval milestones for the project and clearing the way for construction to proceed.

The approval of the Company’s Mining Proposal by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (“**DMP**”), in combination with previously approved Native Vegetation Clearing Permit and Project Management Plan, authorises Pilbara to commence major site works.

Pilbara’s Managing Director and CEO, Ken Brinsden, said the completion of the extensive environmental approvals process by the DMP was a significant milestone for the Company, securing the necessary approvals to enable full-scale construction activities to begin.

“Pilbara has achieved an enormous amount in a very short period of time and, with these final environmental approvals now in place, the Company is firmly on track to becoming the next major lithium raw materials supplier globally,” he said.

“With the achievement of each of these important milestones, we have continued to de-risk the Pilgangoora Project.

“Now, with project financing just around the corner, our shareholders can look forward to steady news-flow as we complete major construction milestones on site and move into the full-scale development phase – putting us on track to begin commissioning the project from the first quarter of next year.”

Pilbara wishes to thank its key contributing consultants to the environmental approvals process - being Significant Environmental, Groundwater Resource Management and Lindbeck and Associates.

### **Additional Information:**

#### **ABOUT PILBARA MINERALS**

Pilbara Minerals (“Pilbara” – ASX: PLS) is a mining and exploration company listed on the ASX, specialising in the exploration and development of the specialty metals Lithium and Tantalum. Pilbara owns 100% of the world class Pilgangoora Lithium-Tantalum project which is among the largest Spodumene (Lithium Aluminium Silicate) projects in the world. Pilgangoora is also one of the largest pegmatite hosted Tantalite resources in the world and Pilbara proposes to produce Tantalite as a by-product of its Spodumene production.

#### **ABOUT LITHIUM**

Lithium is a soft silvery white metal which is highly reactive and does not occur in nature in its elemental form. It has the highest electrochemical potential of all metals, a key property in its role in Lithium-ion batteries. In nature, it occurs as compounds within hard rock deposits and salt brines. Lithium and its chemical compounds have a wide range of industrial applications resulting in numerous chemical and technical uses. A key growth area is its use in lithium batteries as a power source for a wide range of applications including consumer electronics, power station-domestic-industrial storage, electric vehicles, power tools and almost every application where electricity is currently supplied by fossil fuels.

#### **ABOUT TANTALUM**

The Tantalum market is boutique in size with around 1,300 tonnes required each year. Its primary use is in capacitors for consumer electronics, particularly where long battery life and high performance is required such as smart phones, tablets and laptops.



**FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS AND IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This announcement may contain some references to forecasts, estimates, assumptions and other forward-looking statements. Although the Company believes that its expectations, estimates and forecast outcomes are based on reasonable assumptions, it can give no assurance that they will be achieved. They are indicative and may be affected by a variety of variables and changes in underlying assumptions that are subject to risk factors associated with the nature of the business, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed herein. All references to dollars (\$) and cents in this announcement are to Australian currency, unless otherwise stated.

Investors should make and rely upon their own enquiries before deciding to acquire or deal in the Company's securities.

**Contacts:**

***Investors / Shareholders***

Ken Brinsden  
Chief Executive Officer, Managing Director  
Ph. +61 (0)8 6266 6266

***Media***

Nicholas Read  
Read Corporate  
Ph. +61 (0)8 9388 1474