



ASX/Media Announcement

23 November 2016

## **HIGHLY EXPERIENCED FMG OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE TO JOIN PILBARA MINERALS AS A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

***APPOINTMENT OF NICK CERNOTTA AND RETIREMENT OF BOB ADAMSON EARLY NEXT YEAR SET TO MARK FINAL STAGES IN PILBARA'S BOARD RENEWAL AND SUCCESSION PROCESS***

Australian lithium developer Pilbara Minerals Ltd (ASX: PLS) ("**PLS**" or "**Company**") is pleased to announce that respected mining executive and current Director of Operations with Fortescue Metals Group (FMG), Mr Nick Cernotta, has confirmed his acceptance to join the Board of Pilbara as an independent non-executive Director. Mr Cernotta is expected to formally join the Board in the New Year.

Mr Cernotta has held the role of Director of Operations at FMG since March 2014, playing a key role in overseeing the strong operational performance of FMG's Pilbara iron ore mines in a challenging commodity price environment.

Prior to joining FMG as an Executive with responsibility for delivering safe operational production, Mr Cernotta was the Chief Operating Officer for MacMahon Contracting with responsibility for all domestic underground contracting and all offshore international surface mining contracts.

This preceded a fruitful and challenging career as Director of Operations for Barrick Gold in its Australia Pacific Regional Business Unit which involved a period of rapid growth, acquisition of peer competitive public entities, new business development ventures and the delivery of record profitability.

Mr Cernotta has more than 30 years' experience in the mining industry, spanning various commodities and operations in Australia, Africa, South East and Central Asia, Saudi Arabia and Papua New Guinea. He holds a Bachelor of Mining Engineering and has held senior executive roles with extensive operational experience in both the public and private sectors of the mineral resources industry.

Mr Cernotta's appointment will complement the Board's existing skills and experience as the Company rapidly advances towards its objective of becoming a significant new low-cost global lithium producer next year.

Together with other recent key board appointments including Mr Tony Kiernan as the Company's non-executive Chairman and Mr Steve Scudamore as an independent non-executive Director, this represents one of the final stages of the Company's board renewal and succession planning process.

Pilbara's long-serving non-executive Director, Mr Robert Adamson has advised his intention to retire from the Board early next year, and it is envisaged that Mr Cernotta will fill the board vacancy created by Mr Adamson's retirement.

In welcoming Mr Cernotta's appointment to the Board, Pilbara's Managing Director and CEO, Mr Ken Brinsden, said: "Securing the services of a world-class mining executive such as Nick is a real coup for Pilbara. Nick's skills, experience and capabilities speak for themselves in what has been an extremely distinguished career across many different parts of the international resource sector."

"Of particular note, I would like to draw attention to the wonderful job that Nick has done at FMG over the past two-and-a-half years, overseeing the remarkable improvements in FMG's operational performance and spear-

### **Pilbara Minerals Limited**

ASX announcement 23 November 2016

heading some technological and operational changes which have seen FMG deliver cost-savings that are the envy of the mining industry.”

“Given his experience, contacts, skill-sets and very valuable Pilbara development and operations experience, he will be an enormously valuable contributor to the Pilbara Minerals Board over the coming years as we begin construction and mining at Pilgangoora.”

## **More 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 the second largest Spodumene (Lithium Aluminium Silicate) project 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 in electronics, automotive, aerospace, chemical manufacturing and other industries.

## **Contacts:**

### ***Investors / Shareholders***

Ken Brinsden  
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Ph. +61 (0)8 9336 6267

### ***Media***

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