

# Commissioning Commences at Ngungaju Plant

## SUPPORTING PILBARA MINERALS' RAPID PRODUCTION GROWTH TRAJECTORY

### KEY POINTS

- Commissioning of the coarse production circuit at the Ngungaju Plant is now underway, as Pilbara Minerals commences a staged ramp-up of this facility from care and maintenance.
- Commissioning at Ngungaju follows a successful construction and maintenance acceleration program to bring-forward additional production and realise additional sales opportunities.
- This is the first step of a staged recommissioning for the Ngungaju operation, with the fines spodumene processing circuit expected to commence production within the March Quarter 2022.
- Annual production capacity of approximately 180,000 to 200,000 dmt is expected from the Ngungaju plant following completion of ramp up from mid-2022 onward, complementing existing production capacity from the adjacent Pilgan Plant (~330,000tpa increasing to 360-380,000tpa following completion of improvement works).
- Additional production from Ngungaju will allow further sales into the emerging spot market for spodumene concentrate including on the recently launched BMX digital sales platform.
- FY2022 production guidance across the entire Pilgangoora Project affirmed at 460,000-510,000 dmt.

Australian lithium producer, Pilbara Minerals Limited (**ASX: PLS**) ("**Pilbara Minerals**" or "**the Company**"), is pleased to announce the commencement of commissioning activities at the Ngungaju Plant, part of its 100%-owned Pilgangoora Project in WA's Pilbara region.

Just three and half months after announcing a Final Investment Decision for the restart (see ASX announcement of 25 June 2021), first ore has now been fed into the plant in support of near-term concentrate production.

Pilbara Minerals' Managing Director and CEO, Ken Brinsden, said the commencement of commissioning marked the start of a staged ramp-up of the Ngungaju facility, representing another significant and exciting milestone in the rapid growth of the Pilgangoora Project.

"This is a great result, which marks the culmination of the incredible hard work which our entire team has put in to transform the amazing resource at Pilgangoora into a globally significant lithium raw materials production centre," he said.

"This first step of the Ngungaju restart has been delivered in less than four months since the Board approved a staged restart of Ngungaju, ahead of the guidance we gave to the market.

"This is a tremendous result, particularly considering the challenging environment in the WA resource sector for people, equipment and services. Pilbara's great people and all of our important partners have done an amazing job delivering a rapid re-start.

“The Board is very pleased with their achievements to date which stand-out for the strong technical work supporting the project, the quality of the build and the speed with which the entire project has been delivered. Together with the improvement works being made to the Pilgan Plant (which are expected to soon increase production capacity from ~330ktpa to 360-380ktpa), Pilbara Minerals is firmly on track to achieve its goal of increasing annual spodumene concentrate production to 560-580,000tpa<sup>1</sup> by the middle of next year.”

“With market conditions remaining extremely buoyant and the spodumene concentrate market continuing to show signs of being extremely short of supply, the Ngungaju Plant is expected to be capable of delivering uncommitted tonnes into the emerging spot market including through our BMX platform.

“We think that will be a very positive development for the market overall, increasing traded volumes, transparency and ultimately supporting the growth of the lithium raw materials supply chain globally.”



**ORE FEED TO THE NGUNGAJU CRUSHER IN SUPPORT OF PLANT COMMISSIONING**

*Release authorised by Ken Brinsden, Pilbara Minerals Limited's Managing Director.*

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<sup>1</sup> Assumes the Pilgan Plant production capacity increases to a maximum of 380ktpa (dmt) following implementation of the plant improvement projects works currently underway. Please refer to March Quarterly Report released to ASX dated 21 April 2021

## FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 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.

Information in this announcement regarding expansions in production capacity of the Pilgan Plant and the Ngungaju Plant are underpinned by the Company's existing Ore Reserves that have been prepared by a Competent Person in accordance with the JORC Code (2012 Edition) and were released by the Company to ASX on 6 October 2021 (Material Increase in Ore Reserve).

## ABOUT PILBARA MINERALS

Pilbara Minerals is the leading ASX-listed pure-play lithium company, owning 100% of the world's largest, independent hard-rock lithium operation. Located in Western Australia's resource-rich Pilbara region, the Pilgangoora Project and Operation produces a spodumene and tantalite concentrate. The significant scale and quality of the operation has attracted a consortium of high quality, global partners including Ganfeng Lithium, General Lithium, Great Wall Motor Company, POSCO, CATL and Yibin Tianyi.

While it continues to deliver a low-cost, quality spodumene to market, Pilbara Minerals is pursuing a growth and diversification strategy to become a sustainable, low-cost lithium producer and fully integrated lithium raw materials and chemicals supplier in the years to come.

Through execution of this strategy, Pilbara Minerals is positioned to become a major player in the rapidly growing lithium supply chain, underpinned by increasing demand for clean energy technologies such as electric vehicles and energy storage as the world pursues a sustainable energy future.