

## Maiden Drilling Commences at Viridis Smoky Project

ASX Release: 27 February 2023

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### Highlights

- ▶ 1,800m aircore hammer drill program has commenced Viridis 100% owned Smoky Project in NSW.
- ▶ Multiple targets identified at the Smoky Project adjacent to historical halloysite quarry.
- ▶ The Smoky project contains known sequences of halloysite and meta-kaolin, with limited historical exploration demonstrating kaolinite clayrock, halloysite and metakaolin in trenching and diamond drilling to a depth of 43m.

Viridis Mining and Minerals Limited (**ASX: VMM**) ("**Viridis**" or the "**Company**") is pleased to report that it has secured a drill rig which is now on site and ready to commence drilling at the Company's 100% owned Smoky Project in New South Wales.

The planned drilling program will consist of up to 30 holes for a maximum total of 1800m over key areas within the tenement, commencing adjacent to and over the historical halloysite deposit. (See *ASX announcement 3 November 2022*). This drill campaign is designed to test depth, strike and mineralogy of reported and potential kaolin occurrences within the project.

The Company will also undertake pXRF analytical testing onsite during the program, which will provide Viridis with rapid confirmation of kaolin content and subjective quality in drilled material. Selected samples will be dispatched to suitable laboratories and results provided when available.

It is anticipated the halloysite units will occur both below and above the natural mullite zone (calcined flint clay) surrounding the ash zone resulting from the previous burning of the coal seam. The halloysite and higher temperature mullite zones are a result of thermal metamorphic zoning due to the long extinguish coal fire in this area. These units are part of the Koogah Formation which is underlain by Werrie basalts and overlain by Bickham Formation coarse sediments. The units are dipping to the northwest which results in the halloysite reaching the surface. This method of halloysite formation is very unusual.

The drilling will confirm the stratigraphy and thickness of the mineralisation and enable the collections of samples to confirm the halloysite, mullite and possible meta-kaolin contents of the dipping units. Previous historical results further along the same Koogah Formation had recovered significant intersections of kaolinite clayrock and halloysite.

Rehabilitation of the all the planned drillholes will be completed immediately to ensure minimum environmental disturbance.

Commenting on the exploration program, VMM's Executive Chairman Mr Agha Shahzad Pervez said: *"We look forward to completion of the maiden drilling program at Smoky, which contains a known historical halloysite quarry previously mined for granular absorbent and nucleating agent applications. Halloysite has a unique tubular nanostructure which makes it ideally suited for a range of specialist and emerging high-end applications, including advanced nanotechnology, hydrogen storage, carbon capture and biotechnology"*.

## The Smoky Project

The Smoky Project comprises a single exploration license (EL8944), which covers 6km<sup>2</sup> in the upper Hunter Valley region of New South Wales. The exploration license contains a historic halloysite quarry, and covers potentially more than 3km strike length of a known and unique kaolin-halloysite bearing sequence.

Limited modern exploration has previously occurred at the Smoky Project. In 1970, Commercial Minerals Pty Ltd. identified halloysite in four trenches. During 1983-1984, historic records have shown two (2) drill holes were completed within the EL8944 area. One of these drill holes was logged to contain kaolinite clayrock from surface to 23m (end of hole), while the other was logged to contain halloysite from 11m to 14.5m, with metakaolin identified from 21m to 26.5m and kaolinite identified from 27m to 43m (end of hole) (*See prospectus dated 20, January 2022, page 34, Independent Geologist Report, page 59*).

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board.

## Contacts

For more information, please visit our website [www.viridismining.com.au](http://www.viridismining.com.au) or contact:

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## About Viridis Mining and Minerals

Viridis Mining and Minerals Limited is a resource exploration and development company with assets in Canada and Australia. The Company's Projects comprise of:

- the South Kitikmeot Project, which the Company considers to be prospective for gold;
- the Boddington West Project, which the Company considers to be prospective for gold;
- the Bindoon Project, which the Company considers to be prospective for nickel, copper and platinum group elements; and
- the Poochera and Smoky Projects, which the Company considers to be prospective for kaolin-halloysite.

## Competent Persons Statements

The information in this document that relates to the Smoky and Poochera projects has been prepared with information compiled by Steven Cooper, FAusIMM. Mr Steven Cooper is the principle of Orogenic Exploration Pty Ltd appointed by the Company. Mr Steven Cooper has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Steven Cooper consents to the inclusion in the announcement of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

## Forward Looking Statements

This announcement contains 'forward-looking information' that is based on the Company's expectations, estimates and projections as of the date on which the statements were made. This forward-looking information includes, among other things, statements with respect to the Company's business strategy, plans, development, objectives, performance, outlook, growth, cash flow, projections, targets and expectations, mineral reserves and resources, results of exploration and related expenses. Generally, this forward-looking information can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as 'outlook', 'anticipate', 'project', 'target', 'potential', 'likely', 'believe', 'estimate', 'expect', 'intend', 'may', 'would', 'could', 'should', 'scheduled', 'will', 'plan',



'forecast', 'evolve' and similar expressions. Persons reading this announcement are cautioned that such statements are only predictions, and that the Company's actual future results or performance may be materially different. Forward-looking information is subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the Company's actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward looking information.



*Figure 1. Area of planned drilling near old tracks, photograph looking to the southwest*



*Figure 2. Aircore drill rig at EL8944*