

Silica Sand

**Essential to World Growth** 







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#### **Compliance Statement**

The information in this document that relates to the estimation and reporting of the Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves for the Company's silica sand projects and metallurgical testwork is extracted from releases to ASX on 28 August 2019 and 11 November 2022 (Arrowsmith North), 17 September 2019 (Arrowsmith Central), 9 May 2023 (Arrowsmith Brand), 18 October 2019 (Muchea) and 18 August 2022 (Boyatup). The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in this document and all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed.



# Silica Sand: The Second-most Consumed Material on Earth





# **VRX**SILICA The world is facing a global sand supply crisis



Sand crisis hits construction workers hard in

The world is facing a global sand crisis

When people picture sand spread across idyllic beaches and endless deserts, they understandably think of it as an infinite resource. But as we discuss in a just-published perspective in the journal Science, over-

exploitation of global supplies of sand is damaging the environment, endangering communities, causing shortages and promoting violent

I with unfettered mining to meet it, is



BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

NOT OIL

HOME 2017 SUMMIT BACKGROUND COMMENT NATIONS PROJECTS

THE WORLD IS RUNNING OUT

OF A RESOURCE, AND IT'S

ENVIRONMENT 03:40 07.01.2018 (updated 07:18 07.01.2018) Get short URL In the city of Kampot in southern Cambodia, the extraction of sand from an estuary on the Praek Tuek Chhu river is increasing and sand extraction is so common in Asia currently that the continent may deplete all of its sand in the not-too-distant future.



Sand mining: Growing pains of cross-border



## **World Class Silica Sand Projects**

Project development pipeline to ensure disciplined, staged development of world-



- ☐ Five very large scale, high grade and low impurity silica sand projects each project capable of independent operation to supply processed material to diverse markets
- Simple, low impact mining and processing
- Access to established infrastructure (logistics, power, water and gas)
  - rail lines to port run adjacent to all project tenements
  - gas pipelines run adjacent to each of the project areas
- Scale of projects provides long-term opportunity for silical sand export and potential glass manufacturing and downstream industries in Western Australia
- ☐ Grant of geothermal permit in the Mid West and JV with Steam Resources provides alternative energy solution

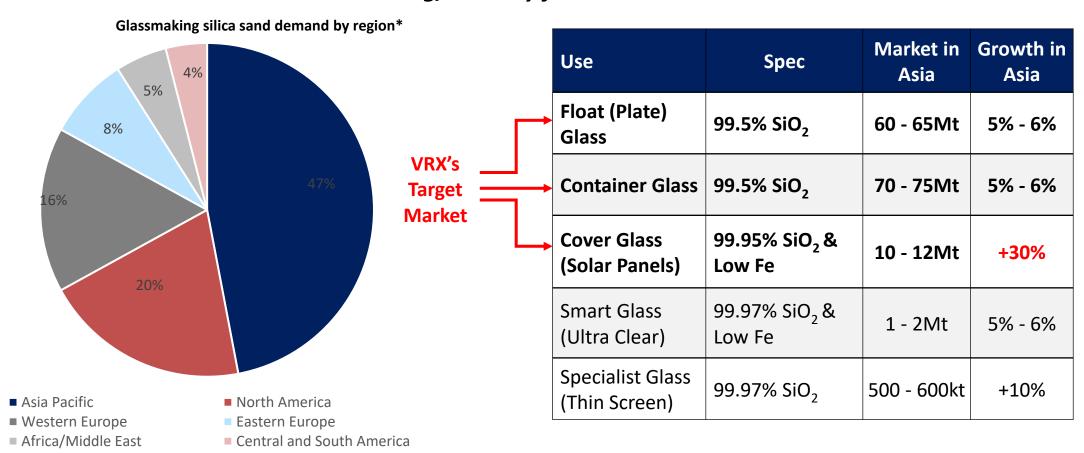


#### **Market Outlook**

Asian glass making production increasing 5-6% per year (~8 - 10Mtpa Growth)

VRX Target Market - Float, Container, Solar Panel, and;

Metal Casting/Foundry for Automobile Parts



<sup>\*</sup>Source: Freedonia estimate



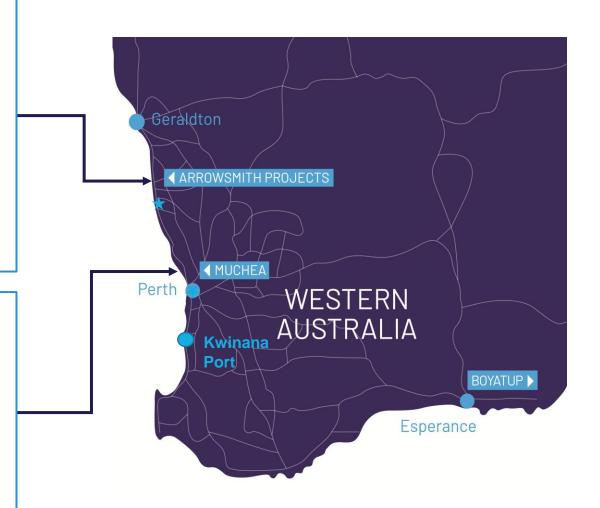
### **WA Leading Silica Sand Projects**

#### **Arrowsmith North** (100%)

- High-grade with exceptional financial metrics
- Close proximity to port and rail infrastructure
- Glass making and foundry products
- Potential +100 year mine life:
  - JORC Proved and Probable Reserve of
  - 221Mt @ 99.5% SiO<sub>2</sub>
- Updated BFS completed March 2024
- Environmental and mining approvals expected Q1 2025
- · Final offtakes and financing to follow

#### Muchea (100%)

- Very **high-grade** product with outstanding financial metrics
- Well located to key port and rail infrastructure
- Specialist solar panel glass products
- Potential +100 year mine life:
  - JORC Indicated and Inferred Resource
  - 208Mt @ 99.6% SiO<sub>2</sub>
- BFS completed Oct 2019



# Arrowsmith North Silica Sand Project





#### **Arrowsmith North**

#### Near-term development opportunity for a world-class silica sand project

- Production expected to commence 8-12 months following final environmental approvals
- □ 221Mt Ore Reserve @99.5% SiO<sub>2</sub> (100-year production) (See Reserve Table)
- Grade controlled Proved Ore Reserve 9.2Mt for first 6 years of production
- ☐ Tailored 2Mtpa processing plant with patented process circuit, revised capital estimate and DFS completed
- Access to established infrastructure
  - ☐ Unused rail line (from Eneabba to Geraldton) runs adjacent to project tenements
  - ☐ Water from Yarragadee North deep aquifer
  - Access by adjacent Brand Highway
  - Hybrid gas and solar power supply



### **Updated BFS (March 2024)**

#### **Arrowsmith North Updated BFS Results**

- Demonstrates robust financial metrics for a World-class silica sand project
- □ 221Mt Ore Reserve @99.5% SiO<sub>2</sub> (100-year production)
- $\square$  Ungeared NPV<sub>10</sub> of \$167m based on 25 years mining of a +100 year Resource
- ☐ Proved and Probable Ore Reserve of 221Mt @ 99.5% SiO<sub>2</sub>
- ☐ Four products for international foundry and glassmaking industries



#### **Environmental and Mining Approvals**

Confirmation by Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of accredited State assessment under the EPBC Act State Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) require a PER assessment Environmental Review Document (ERD) lodged in April 2022 and amended June 2022 and again February 2023 and published June 2023 □ ERD Public Environmental Review period ended July 2023 and EPA provided Summary of **Submissions September 2023** □ VRX lodged initial Response to Submissions (RtS) October 2023 for assessment by EPA published November 2024 following year-long consultation process with EPA Mining Proposal and Works Approval assessed and approval subject to EPA ☐ Final environmental and other approvals expected Q1 2025



### Responsible Mining – the VRX Way

#### A made-for-purpose mining method designed around continuous rehabilitation

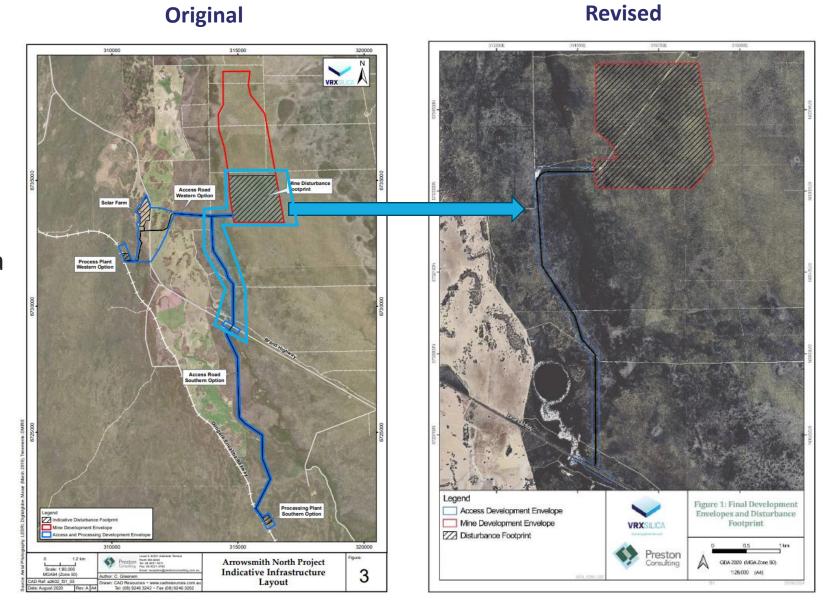
- ☐ VRX has developed a unique and progressive mining method for its silica sand projects
- ☐ The Vegetation Direct Transfer (VDT) method provides a rapid and comprehensive regeneration of mined areas based on continuous rehabilitation as mining progresses
- ☐ Removes a 400mm-deep sod with topsoil containing the vast majority of native flora and invertebrate fauna remaining intact
- □ Root structures in the loose sand are relatively shallow at 200-300mm in depth
- Approval granted for VDT trials at Muchea to test the practicalities of method in various vegetation types
- Modified loader bucket required for VDT fabricated and ready for use





## **Environmental Approvals: Changes to Proposal**

- Approved amendments since referral
- ☐ Mine development envelopes reduced from >1,000ha to 353ha
- ☐ Clearing reduced from 412.2ha to 299.1ha
- Relocation of infrastructure to within the mine area
- □ Redesign of access route and haulage method (rail to road)
- ☐ Reduction in onsite power generation



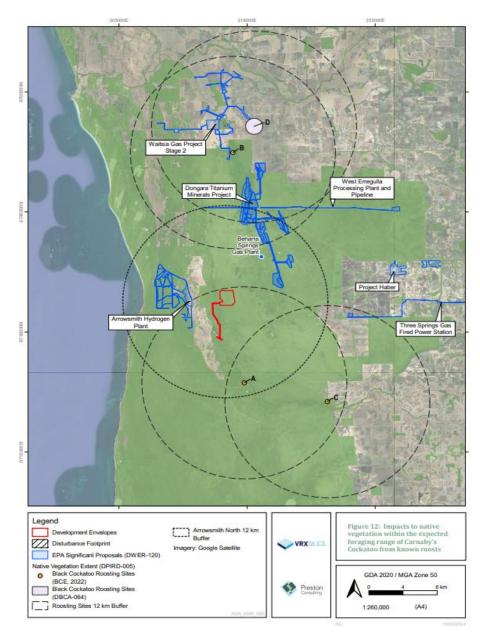


## **Environmental Approvals: Terrestrial Fauna**

#### **Carnaby's Cockatoo (Endangered)**

- ☐ Clearing 299.1 ha of foraging habitat.

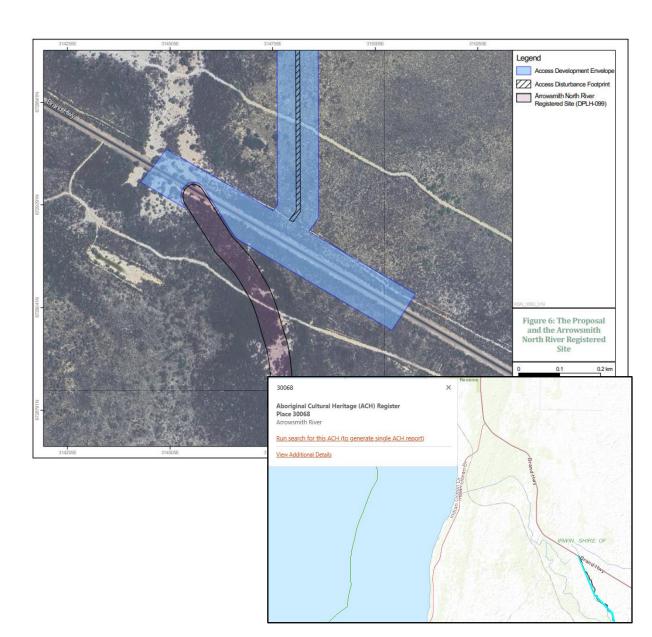
  Avoided roosts or breeding sites
- ☐ Extent of clearing reduced significantly from original Proposal
- ☐ Impact is 0.5% of foraging habitat within 12 km, Cumulative <3%
- □ Access track designed to minimise vehicle strike risk (speed limited and shortest, safest route)





## **Environmental Approvals: Social Surroundings**

- ☐ Entire site has been surveyed for Aboriginal Heritage — no sites found within current Development Envelope
- One registered Aboriginal Heritage site near the Proposal – Development Envelope amended to avoid boundary
- Arrowsmith Lake avoided not a registered Aboriginal Heritage site
- VRX to consult with YSRC regarding monitors during clearing and undertaking rehabilitation at the Project site and offset site
- Develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in consultation with YSRC





## **Environmental Approvals: Offset Sites**

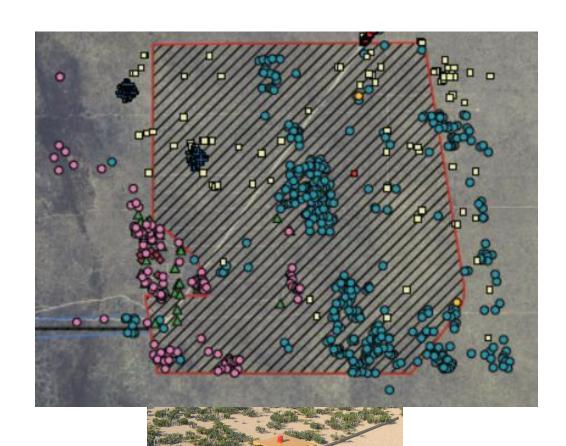
- ☐ Offsets proposed to counterbalance the medium-term loss of 299.1 ha of Carnaby's Cockatoo (CC) foraging habitat
- ☐ Two vegetated lots proposed
- ☐ Contain 958.2 ha of Excellent quality CC foraging habitat
- Area to be revegetated within previously cleared portion
- Provides connectivity to conservation estate and native vegetation





# **Environmental Approvals: Avoidance and Minimisation of Impacts**

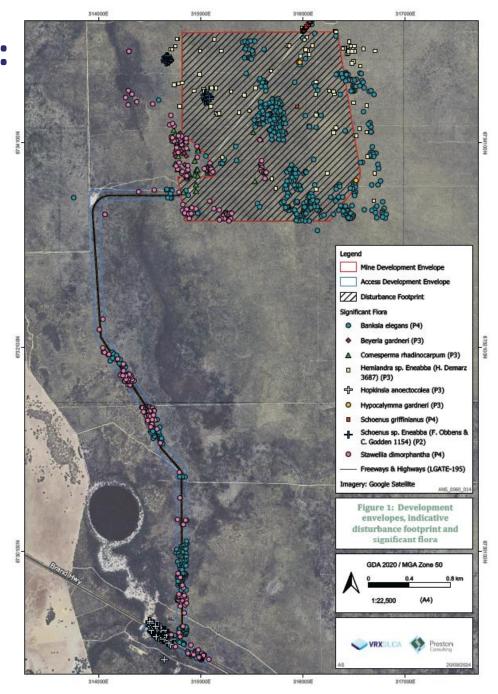
- ☐ Reduce Development Envelopes from to avoid Priority Flora and Aboriginal Heritage site
- □ Reduced impact to Carnaby's Cockatoo foraging habitat
- □ "Gold Standard" VDT rehabilitation method proposed – slow, progressive clearing and direct replacement of topsoil sods
- ☐ Area fully surveyed (10 m spacing) for Sandplain Duck-orchid no records found
- ☐ Weed and dieback hygiene controls
- ☐ All mining above water table
- ☐ No chemical processing





# VRXSILICA Environmental Approvals: Priority Flora

- □ 7 species recorded within Development Envelope, of which 5 will have >5% local records disturbed
- ☐ Development Envelope revised to keep impacts to local records <21%
- ☐ Proposal impacts to regional records all <6.1%
- ☐ Cumulative losses of all species <8% other than *Comesperma rhadinocarpum* (P3) 17.6%
- Only 10 Comesperma rhadinocarpum individuals to be disturbed
- 16 other recorded populations no counts available therefore percentage loss is conservative (assumed 1 individual per record)







#### Muchea

#### Large scale, world class high-grade and low impurity silica sand project

- Production to follow Arrowsmith North subject to EPA approval
- Utilise VDT and duplicate plant
- Access to established infrastructure
  - Underutilised railway connects to Kwinana (100km)
  - ☐ Grid power
  - Water from Yaragadee deep aquifer
  - ☐ Adjacent to Brand Highway
- ☐ Granted Mining Lease and Miscellaneous Licences for access
- □ Significant metallurgical testwork +99.9% SiO<sub>2</sub> <100ppm Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> after processing (high-grade, low impurity)



#### Muchea

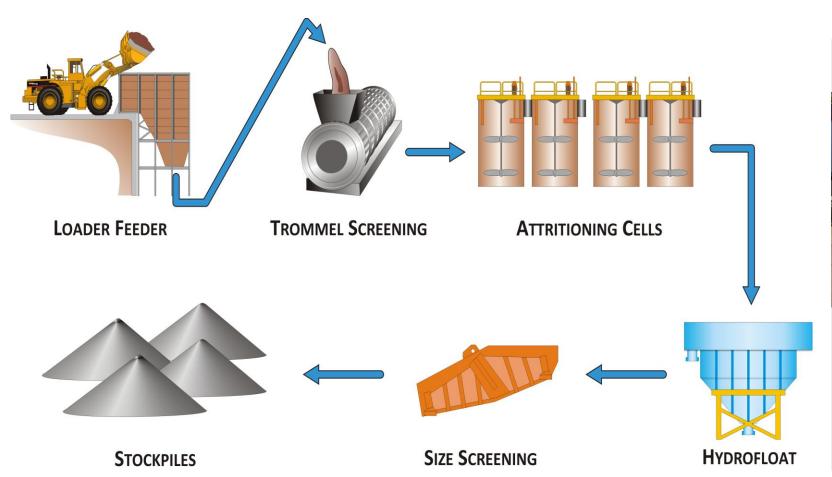
#### **Downstream processing capabilities**

- ☐ Critical Minerals Prospectus VRX Muchea project is included in the 2024 Critical Minerals Prospectus published by Austrade (now online)
- ☐ Raw material for premium ultra-clear cover glass production for solar panels
- Potential for production of solar panels in Western Australia
- Potential for production of silica flour for LCDs and other applications
- □ IAF Grant VRX has received a grant from the Western Australian Innovation Attraction Fund to investigate the production of silica flour:
  - ☐ 1 tonne sample successfully tested by specialist laboratory in Germany
  - ☐ Samples despatched to potential buyers
  - ☐ Significant interest in products capable of production



### **Processing Flowsheet**

#### Simplified wet processing, multiple products, no dust, 2mtpa processing plant at each site



#### **Processing Plant Design**



- Arrowsmith North, Arrowsmith
   Central and Muchea to each have
   Mtpa processing capacity
- No toxic reagents required



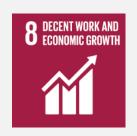


# Sustainability, Environment, Social and Governance (ESG)

VRX is delivering on its ESG responsibilities aligned to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

# SUSTAINABLE GALS DEVELOPMENT















#### **CLEAN ENERGY**

Utilising reliable, renewable modern energy

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Enhancing economic and productive employment

#### INDUSTRY INNOVATION

Building resilient infrastructure and fostering innovation

#### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Respecting heritage values

#### RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION

Employing sustainable mining methods

#### **CLIMATE ACTION**

Reducing emissions from production

#### REHABILITATION PLAN

Employing direct vegetation transfer as a unique rehabilitation method



## **Corporate Summary**



Capital Structure	
Share Price	A\$0.054*
Ordinary Shares on Issue	628 million
Options on Issue	92 million
Market Capitalisation	A\$34 million*
Cash	A\$1.8 million**
Debt	Nil
Enterprise Value	A\$32.2 million

Shareholders	
Board and Management	12%
Top 20 Total	33%

<sup>\*</sup> Closing share price on ASX on 28 November 2024

<sup>\*\*</sup> Cash at 31 September 2024



## **Our Team**

Board

Person	Role	Experience
Paul Boyatzis	Chairman	Governance: over 30 years' experience in investment, equity markets and managing public companies
Bruce Maluish	Managing Director	Technical and finance: over 40 years' experience in mining industry including previous roles as ASX MD and General Manager
Peter Pawlowitsch	Non- Executive Director	Senior executive: finance and corporate roles
David Welch	Non- Executive Director	Senior executive: responsible for strategy, business transformation and performance, commercial negotiations

#### **Executive**

Person	Role	Experience				
Ryan Baxter	General Manager	Production: 15 years' experience in mining and construction with 10 years exporting silica sand				
David Reid	Exploration Manager	Technical: responsible for exploration and mineral processing				
Steven Papadopoulos	Commercial Manager	Legal and commercial: over 25 years' experience as corporate lawyer and commercial advisor in resources and other industries				
Yoonil Kim	Marketing Manager	Marketing: 19 years' experience selling silica sand in the Asian market				



## Right Time, Right Place

Opportunity for WA to capture its economic advantages of abundant silica sand and domestic gas reserves to build world-class glass manufacturing and downstream processing industries

- Very long life, high-grade silica sand supply with combined 1.4 billion tonne Resource, 96% to 99.6% SiO<sub>2</sub> grade
- Arrowsmith North environmental and other approvals expected Q1 2025
- WA domestic gas reserves and burgeoning hydrogen projects in mid-west, with exposure to geothermal energy solutions
- Long term supply of essential raw materials and potential **green** energy for **glass** manufacturing (LNG gas/wind/solar/hydrogen)
- High-tech ultra-clear glass and HPQ production capability from Muchea
- Manufacturing of solar panels in WA for a huge and growing market in Australasia



# Thank you

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#### **VRX**SILICA Silica Sand Resources and Reserves

#### Mineral Resources - as at 30/06/2024

Project	Classification	Mt	SiO <sub>2</sub> %	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> %	TiO <sub>2</sub> %	LOI %
Muchea	Indicated	29	99.6	0.1	0.03	0.1	0.2
	Inferred	179	99.6	0.1	0.02	0.1	0.2
	Total	208	99.6	0.1	0.02	0.1	0.2
Arrowsmith North	Measured	10	95.9	1.9	0.7	0.3	0.7
	Indicated	237	97.7	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.5
	Inferred	266	98.4	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4
	Total	513	98.0	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.4
Arrowsmith Brand	Inferred	523	97.3	1.4	0.4	0.2	0.6
	Total	523	97.3	1.4	0.4	0.2	0.6
Arrowsmith Central	Indicated	28.2	96.6	1.7	0.4	0.2	0.7
	Inferred	48.3	96.9	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.7
	Total	76.5	96.8	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.7
Boyatup	Inferred	60	97.8	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.9
	Total	60	97.8	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.9

Total Mineral Resource 1,381 Million Tonnes

#### Ore Reserves - as at 30/06/2024

Project	Classification	Product	Mt	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	TiO <sub>2</sub>	LOI %
Muchea	Probable	F80	10.2	99.9	0.02	0.008	0.03	0.1
		F80C	4.25	33.3				
		F150	4.25	99.8	0.07	0.015	0.035	0.1
Mu	chea Ore Res	erve	18.7	Million Tonnes				
		AFS20	0.8	99.5	0.25	0.07	0.05	0.1
	Proved	AFS35	3.9	99.5	0.5	0.06	0.05	0.1
		AFS55	2.7	99.2	0.5	0.1	0.05	0.1
		Local	1.8					
Arrowsmith	Proved Or	e Reserve	9.2	Million Tonnes				
North	Probable	AFS20	24.2	99.5	0.25	0.07	0.05	0.1
		AFS35	102.5	99.5	0.5	0.06	0.05	0.1
		AFS55	51.1	99.2	0.5	0.1	0.05	0.1
		Local	34.1					
	Probable O	re Reserve	212	Million	Tonnes	5		
Arrowsmith North Ore Reserve		221	Million	Tonnes	3			
Arrowsmith Central	Probable	CF400	4.2					
		C20	8.4	99.6	0.25	0.04	0.03	0.1
		C40	4.2					
		High TiO <sub>2</sub>	2.2			<1%	2%	
Arrowsm	Arrowsmith Central Ore Reserve			Million	Tonnes	5		

Total Ore Reserve 259 Million Tonnes