



ASX ANNOUNCEMENT | 5 June 2019

## OPERATIONS UPDATE ALTURA CLOSES IN ON NAMEPLATE AFTER RECORD MONTH OF PRODUCTION

- *Altura delivers record monthly production of 15,737 wmt in May, representing 86% of planned nameplate capacity*
- *Current quarter has delivered strong sales with 24,881 dmt of product shipped, with a further minimum 13,000 dmt scheduled for delivery in June*
- *Plant performance continues to improve and is now largely stabilised – allowing focus to move to increasing overall recoveries*
- *Continued satisfactory safety performance with zero lost time injuries through commissioning and ramp up.*

Altura Mining Limited (ASX: AJM) ("Altura" or the "Company") is pleased to provide an update on the Stage 1 operations from its flagship Altura Lithium Project located at Pilgangoora in Western Australia.

Commenting on the record month of production and continued improvement of the operations of Stage 1, Altura Managing Director, James Brown, said:

*"We continue to be buoyed by the improved performance in operations at the Altura Lithium Project as we close in on nameplate production. Since commercial production began in March, we have focused on mine and process plant performance and product quality, two keys areas in delivering nameplate capacity."*

*"In a relatively short amount of time, the operations team has made a number of significant improvements to key aspects of the process plant, which has delivered a record month of production in May, and strong lithium sales for the current quarter."*

*"The outstanding performance of the mine comes at an opportune time for Altura as we recently returned from a successful marketing trip to China where we engaged with existing and potential new offtake partners. Demand for quality spodumene remains strong, and we continue to field genuine interest for supply and Stage 2 offtake."*

Altura Mining Limited ABN 39 093 391 774

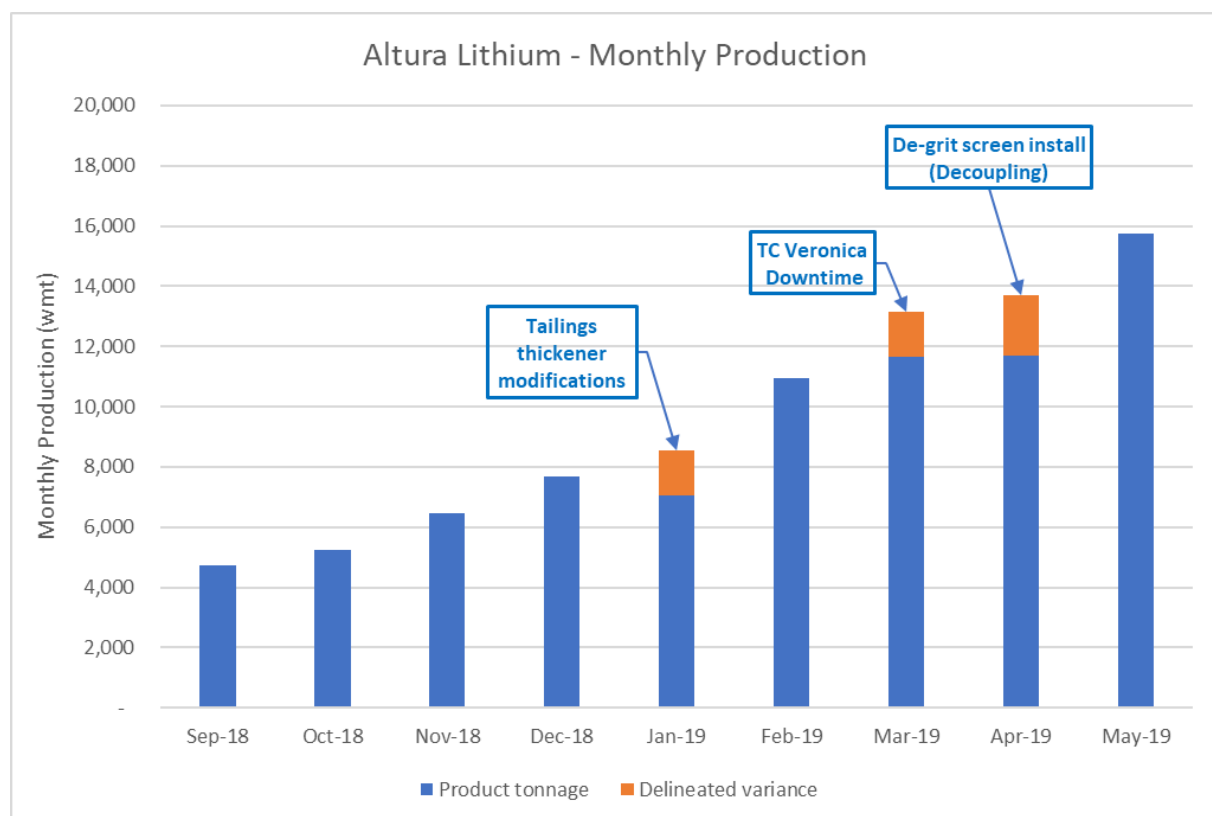
## Production

Recent production numbers have demonstrated a significant improvement in the performance of the processing plant, which has seen the project achieve multiple daily record production levels at or above the nameplate capacity of 220,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of 6% grade lithium oxide (Li<sub>2</sub>O) or, as generally referred to, SC6.0 specification material (see ASX announcement on 26 September 2016).

The operations team have delivered significant increases in process plant availability over extended operational periods. An innovative maintenance plan is delivering longer uptime between shutdowns and “modular” outages, allowing continuity of production of lithium concentrate.

The Company remains confident it is on a clear pathway to achieving nameplate production. Daily production of up to 742 tonnes of spodumene concentrate in a 24-hour period has been reached, compared to a target of 640 tonnes per day. Overall lithium metal recovery for May remained steady at 62% (and in line with previous months and forecast), however the focus remains on bringing the recovery levels closer towards the 80% target.

Figure 1 below shows the monthly production ramp up since first production in July 2018 with delineated variances and their quantified impact on production. The graph shows the very clear trend towards nameplate production and the excellent progress made over recent months.



## Sales and Marketing

Current quarter sales have been strong with 24,881 dmt delivered to date, with a further 13,000 dmt confirmed to ship in mid-June 2019 and an additional cargo planned for late June/early July.

To date the project has exported 63,706 dmt via 9 shipments, with product quality remaining steady at an average of 6% Li<sub>2</sub>O grade coupled with low mica, low iron and optimal moisture content, in line with previously reported shipped cargo results.

The Company also recently completed a marketing visit to China to engage with existing offtake partners and potential new offtake partners. Demand for quality spodumene product remains strong with a particular focus on long operational life assets such as the Altura Lithium project.

## HSE

Despite some challenging conditions encountered during commissioning and ramp up activities, the focus and commitment of the operational teams to safety has been outstanding with zero lost time injuries incurred over the last 12 months.

There have been zero reportable environmental incidents over the same 12-month period.

## **Listing Rule 5.19 Confirmation**

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the ASX announcement on 26 September 2016. Further, all material assumptions underpinning the production target continue to apply and have not materially changed.

## **About Altura Mining Limited (ASX: AJM)**

*Altura is a key player in the global lithium market and is leveraging increasing demand for raw materials for manufacturing lithium ion batteries for electric vehicles and static storage uses. Altura owns and operates the world-class Altura Lithium Project at Pilgangoora in WA's Pilbara, which has a production capacity of 220,000tpa of quality spodumene concentrate. The Company has completed a Definitive Feasibility Study on a potential Stage 2 expansion, with a Final Investment Decision due following a review of the Stage 1 operations and ramp-up to nameplate production.*

For further information:

James Brown, Managing Director (+ 61 427 988 898)

Paul Mantell, Executive Director on (+61 418 727 460)

### **Media**

Michael Weir (+61 402 347 032) / Cameron Gilenko (+61 466 984 953)

Citadel-MAGNUS