

Rougher Circuit Upgrade Complete and Full Plant Capacity Online at the Century Zinc Mine

New Century Resources Limited (Company or New Century) (ASX:NCZ) is pleased to announce the initiation of slurry commissioning of the upgraded rougher circuit, allowing the full capacity of the entire processing plant to be incorporated into operations for the first time.

The Company now plans to progressively transition from 9Mtpa to 12Mtpa (33% throughput increase) over the remainder of FY20.

The rougher circuit upgrade was delivered under budget and four weeks ahead of schedule, with the achievement representing the third and final milestone of refurbishment activities required for the scheduled ramp up to 12Mtpa throughput (see Figure 5).

The upgraded rougher circuit is anticipated to provide a further increase to overall zinc metal production, with the additional volumetric capacity allowing for both higher throughput rates and improved recoveries (via longer slurry residence time through the rougher/scavenger circuit).

The rougher expansion also allows for continued lowering of overall unit costs of production via increasing metal production against a 70% fixed cost base on site.



Figure 1: Southern rougher train online at the Century Zinc Mine, allowing the full capacity of the entire plant to come online for the first time since operations restarted



Figure 2: Southern rougher train (red dotted area) now online

In addition to the rougher circuit upgrade, the Company is also bringing a fourth and final mining cannon online as part of the expansion to 12Mtpa throughput. The hydraulic mining operations at Century have achieved significant improvements since New Century personnel took over mining operations from the previous contractors (in October 2019), with each cannon now achieving up to a 33% higher mining rate than previous operational output (up from a maximum 3.0Mtpa to up to 4.0Mtpa each cannon).



Figure 3: Hydraulic mining operations at the Century Zinc Mine



Figure 4: Overview of hydraulic mining operations at the Century Mine tailings dam

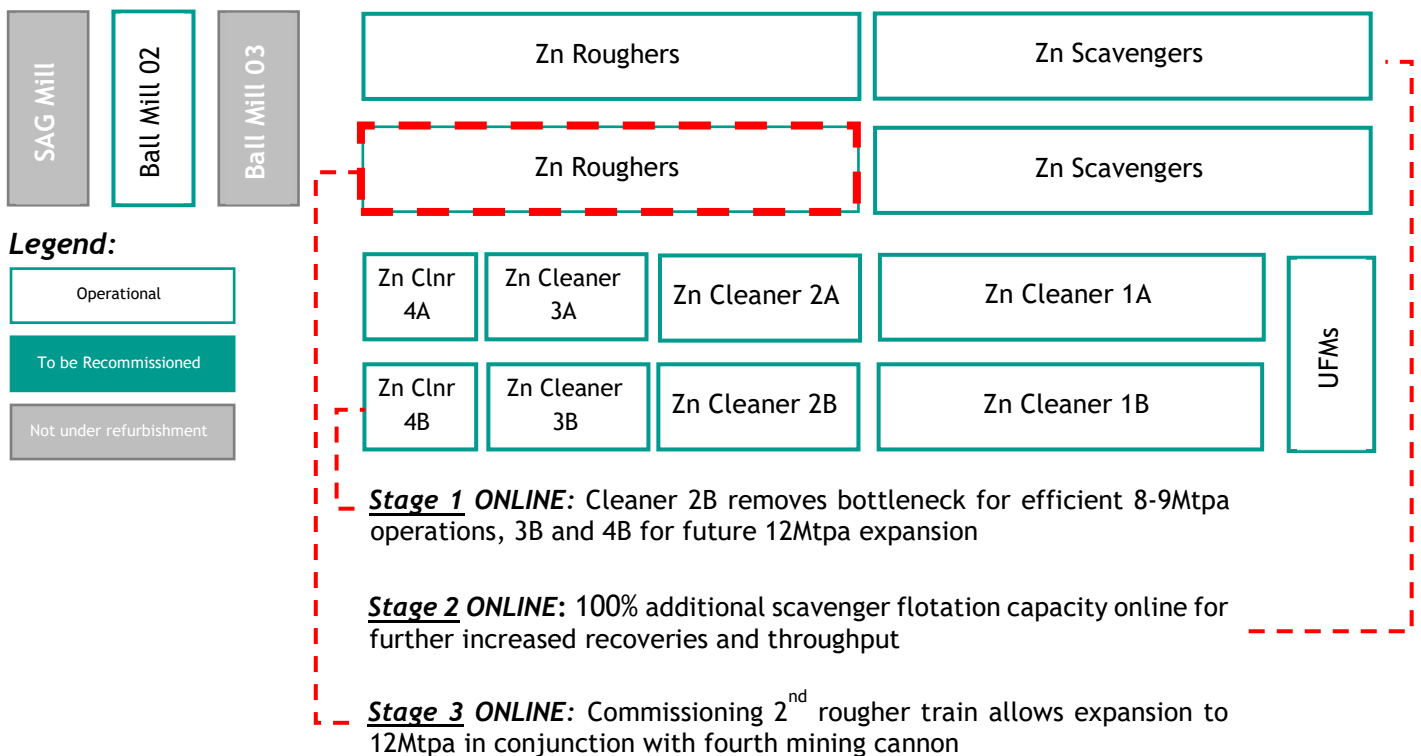


Figure 5: Simplified plant plan view & scheduled expansion to 12Mtpa



This announcement is approved for release by the Board of New Century Resources.

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