








9 January 2025

## ***EPA Recommends Arrowsmith North Development Proposal***

### ***Highlights:***

-  ***EPA Publishes and Releases Assessment Report for Arrowsmith North***
-  ***Report recommends Arrowsmith North development proposal be implemented subject to conditions***
-  ***Conditions have been accepted by VRX***
-  ***Significant step in the environmental approvals process for Arrowsmith North***
-  ***Publication triggers three week review period before consideration by the Minister for Environment***

VRX Silica Limited (**VRX** or **Company**) is pleased to announce that the Environmental Protection Authority of Western Australia (**EPA**) has published its Assessment Report (**Report**) and conditions for approval (**Conditions**) for the Arrowsmith North Silica Sand Project (**Arrowsmith North**) on the EPA website.

In the Report the EPA recommends that the Arrowsmith North development proposal may be implemented subject to the Conditions. The Conditions have been accepted by VRX following consultation with the EPA.

This is another significant step for Arrowsmith North as it completes the assessment of the project by the EPA and finalises the EPA's recommendation to the Minister for Environment. It follows the Company's announcement to ASX on 18 November 2024 that the EPA had accepted and published VRX's Response to Submissions for Arrowsmith North (**RtS**).

Publication of the Report triggers a three-week review period. Following this period and resolution of any appeals by an independent appeals convenor, the Minister for Environment will consider approval of the Arrowsmith North development proposal under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act.

### ***ASX: VRX***

#### ***Capital Structure***

*Shares on Issue:*  
744 million

*Unlisted Options:*  
91 million

#### ***Corporate Directory***

***Paul Boyatzis***  
*Non-Executive Chairman*

***Bruce Maluish***  
*Managing Director*

***Peter Pawlowitsch***  
*Non-Executive Director*

***David Welch***  
*Non-Executive Director*

***Ian Hobson***  
*Company Secretary*

#### ***Silica Sand Projects***

***Arrowsmith Silica Sand Projects***, 270km north of Perth, WA.

***Muchea Silica Sand Project***, 50km north of Perth, WA.

***Boyatup Silica Sand Project***, 100km east of Esperance, WA.

***Geothermal Energy Dandaragan Geothermal Energy Permit***, 145km north of Perth, WA

*The Company is actively assessing other silica sand and downstream processing projects in Australia.*

VRX Managing Director Bruce Maluish said: *“Publication by the EPA of its Assessment Report for VRX’s Arrowsmith North Silica Sand Project finalises the assessment process with the EPA. This is a significant milestone for the company, with the EPA recommending that the Arrowsmith North development proposal be implemented subject to conditions accepted by VRX following consultation with the EPA.*

*“It is the culmination of determined persistence by VRX and its consultants for the Arrowsmith North permitting process over a long period of time. The company is now on the cusp of opening up a new industry in the Midwest region of Western Australia, with employment and other long-term benefits flowing to the State.”*

*“Following a statutory three-week review period and resolution of any appeals, the proposal will be considered for approval by the Minister of Environment.”*

The Report and Conditions were reviewed by decision-making Government agencies involved in the assessment of the Arrowsmith North project prior to being published on the EPA website.

The Conditions are a summary of standard requirements for mining operations and commitments made by the Company in the RtS to ensure the best rehabilitation and mine closure procedures are undertaken and monitored and outcomes are reported.

The published EPA Report on assessment including Conditions is available at:

<https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/arrowsmith-north-silica-sand-project><sup>1</sup>

This announcement has been approved for release by Bruce Maluish, Managing Director.

#### **Further Information:**

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<sup>1</sup> The documents and appendices can be found under “4. EPA Report on assessment”.

## About VRX Silica Limited

**VRX Silica Limited (ASX: VRX)** is the most advanced pureplay silica sand company listed on the ASX, developing its 100% owned silica sand projects at Arrowsmith (North, Brand and Central), Muchea and Boyatup in Western Australia.

Silica sand is the most used commodity on the planet after air and water. It is the main ingredient in all types of glassmaking, including specialty solar panel and high-tech glass, and foundry casting. It is a finite resource that is running out, with the Asia-Pacific region experiencing an ever-growing supply shortfall that is driving up prices.

Arrowsmith is located 270km north of Perth. Arrowsmith North boasts a minimum 25-year mine life capable of producing more than 2Mt tonnes per year of high-grade (99.7% SiO<sub>2</sub>)\* silica sand for export to the foundry, container glass and flat glass markets in Asia, with permitting well advanced, and will lead production.

Muchea, located 50km north of Perth, is an ultra-high-grade (99.9% SiO<sub>2</sub>)\* silica sand project capable of producing sand required for ultra-clear glass for solar panels and other high-tech glass applications.

Boyatup, located 100km east of Esperance, is under development and capable of producing sand for the glass market.



\*Information relating to grades are extracted from releases to ASX on 28 August 2019 and 11 November 2022 (Arrowsmith North) and 18 October 2019 (Muchea). The company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects this information.