



Orion Minerals

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Key Water Use Licence Granted for Prieska Copper-Zinc Project

Another key permitting milestone for advanced base metal development project

- ▶ **Licence granted in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998.**
- ▶ **Valid for 20 years.**
- ▶ **Approves de-watering of 8.5 million cubic metres of water from the historical workings at Prieska.**
- ▶ **Also approves the designs and use of the Tailings Storage Facility and other water storage dams.**

Orion Minerals Limited (**ASX/JSE: ORN**) (**Orion** or **Company**) is pleased to announce that its operating subsidiary, Prieska Copper Zinc Mine (Pty) Ltd, has been granted a 20-year Water Use Licence by the National Department of Water and Sanitation, marking the achievement of another key permitting milestone for its development-ready **Prieska Copper-Zinc Project** in South Africa's Northern Cape Province.

The Licence has been granted in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 for a period of 20 years and includes permission for mine de-watering to proceed, as well as wet tailings and wastewater storage and management and the use of water for mixing with mine waste for void back-filling.

The Licence conditions make provision for further improvements to how water pumped out of the mine is disposed of, allowing the prospect of artificial recharge into groundwater aquifers to be considered, as well as maximising the re-use of the discharged water by farmers in the surrounding area, as was described in the updated Bankable Feasibility Study (refer ASX release 26 May 2020).

Orion's Managing Director and CEO, Errol Smart, commented:

"The grant of the Water Use Licence for the Prieska Copper-Zinc Project is a major milestone for the Company and removes the largest remaining regulatory hurdle before the construction of the mine can commence. Many of the banks and potential strategic partners that we have been dealing with have flagged the outstanding licence as a major concern that could potentially hold up an investment decision.

"We are pleased that this key outstanding approval has now been received, clearing the way for construction and development of our planned new state-of-the-art base metal operation to commence at Prieska."

For and on behalf of the Board.

Errol Smart
Managing Director and CEO

ENQUIRIES

Investors

Errol Smart – Managing Director & CEO

Denis Waddell – Chairman

T: +61 (0) 3 8080 7170

E: info@orionminerals.com.au

Media

Nicholas Read

Read Corporate, Australia

T: +61 (0) 419 929 046

E: nicholas@readcorporate.com.au

JSE Sponsor

Monique Martinez

Merchantec Capital

T: +27 (0) 11 325 6363

E: monique@merchantec.co.za

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