



## ***ASX/TSX ANNOUNCEMENT***

*Quarterly Report of Operations for the  
Period Ended 30 June 2020*



*The only ASX listed company producing high grade, high value  
lithium chemicals for global battery and technical markets*

# JUNE QUARTER 2020 KEY HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1</sup>

At the date of this report no cases of COVID-19 have been recorded at Olaroz, Borax and corporate offices or sites. The Olaroz Lithium Facility (Olaroz) recommenced production on 9 April following a closure due to COVID-19 restrictions in late March. Despite lower operating rates, partly due to our Bio-security Protocol, cash cost of sales was the lowest achieved for three years at US\$3,920/tonne. Market conditions and product pricing continued to be challenging with significantly reduced sales volume of 1,601 tonnes at a price of US\$3,913/tonne. Work continues at the Naraha Lithium Hydroxide Plant (Naraha) while site operations at the Olaroz Stage 2 Expansion continue at a reduced pace due to COVID-19 restrictions.

## OLAROZ LITHIUM FACILITY (ORE 66.5%)<sup>2</sup>

- Operational activities have been dominated by planning and implementing mitigating strategies in response to COVID-19 including the Orocobre Bio-security Protocol approved by local authorities. Our focus has been on the health and well-being of our staff, contractors and communities
- Production for the quarter of 2,511 tonnes was down 27% on the previous corresponding period (**PCP**) due to the COVID-19 related temporary plant shut down, reduced operating rates and the scaling of production to sales demand. Brine production, pond management and product deliveries continued throughout the quarter without significant interruption
- Sales volume for the quarter was impacted by COVID-19 and down 36% quarter on quarter (**QoQ**) to 1,601 tonnes, while sales revenue was down 48% QoQ to US\$6.3 million. The realised average price achieved after price adjustments was US\$3,913/tonne on a free on board basis (**FOB**)<sup>3</sup> with continuing weak demand and aggressive competitor pricing. Sales volumes were approximately 29% battery grade lithium carbonate and the remainder primary grade lithium carbonate
- Cash costs for the quarter (on cost of goods sold basis)<sup>4</sup> were US\$3,920/tonne, excluding the export tax of US\$151/tonne and COVID-19 related costs of US\$940,000 related to the temporary shutdown and other support measures. While this cost result was the best achieved for three years, work continues to further improve the operating margin
- Operations continue to enforce bio-security measures and daily monitoring of employee and contractor health with contingency planning in place should COVID-19 be detected within the workforce. Planned maintenance has been brought forward to mid-July to reduce the potential exposure given the recent growth of infections in the local area

## LITHIUM GROWTH PROJECTS

- A significant review of the Olaroz Lithium Facility Expansion (**Stage 2**) has determined that total capital expenditure will increase from US\$295 million to approximately US\$330 million (excluding working capital and VAT). Orocobre's share of the increase will be funded from the previously announced US\$135 million cash guarantee. The increased capital expenditure estimate includes the impact of design optimization and COVID-19 delays
- Construction work on Stage 2 was severely impacted during the quarter by COVID-19 restrictions. Construction ceased in late March and recommenced on 29 April. Site works continue to be limited and project construction has only progressed slightly from the end of March to approximately 40% completion. The number of employees on site has been reduced to manage the COVID-19 risks in accordance with Orocobre's Bio-security Protocol and local authority regulations resulting in further delays to Stage 2 completion while these restrictions continue
- Naraha Lithium Hydroxide Plant construction has continued throughout the period. However, equipment deliveries from overseas are expected to be delayed due to COVID-19. This is likely to impact the final project completion by approximately two months. Construction has achieved approximately 70% completion

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<sup>1</sup> All figures presented in this report are unaudited

<sup>2</sup> All figures 100% Olaroz Project basis

<sup>3</sup> Orocobre report price as "FOB" (Free On Board) which excludes insurance and freight charges included in "CIF" (Cost, Insurance, Freight) pricing.

Therefore, the Company's reported prices are net of freight (shipping), insurance and sales commission. FOB prices are reported by the Company to provide clarity on the sales revenue that is recognized by SDJ, the joint venture company in Argentina.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes royalties, export tax, corporate costs, restructuring costs and COVID-19 related costs

## BORAX ARGENTINA

- Overall sales volume for the June quarter was 12,278 tonnes, up 4% QoQ and 15% up on PCP. Operations were temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions as previously advised; however, production recommenced on 9 April operating within the Orocobre Bio-security Protocols
- Sales revenue was up 3% QoQ, however the average price received was down 10% QoQ due to seasonal sales of low grade minerals for the Brazilian fertiliser market.

## CORPORATE

- As at 30 June 2020, Orocobre corporate had available cash of US\$154.9 million of which US\$11.1 million and US\$36 million have been set aside as guarantees for the Naraha debt facility and the Stage 2 debt facility respectively. Including SDJ, Borax and Naraha cash and project debt, net group cash at 30 June 2020 was US\$44.6 million, down from US\$64.7 million<sup>5</sup> at 31 March 2020, due to Stage 2 funding, Stage 1 net operating outflows, financing costs, debt repayments across the Group (and the inclusion of Naraha debt facilities)
- Agreement has been reached with Toyota Tsusho Corporation (**TTC**) whereby up to US\$60 million from the US\$135 million that was previously required to be restricted as a cash guarantee for the Stage 2 Mizuho loan can be used for Olaroz Stage 1. If required, these funds will be used for Olaroz related costs, scheduled debt repayments and to provide additional funding contingency due to the uncertain impact of COVID-19 restrictions
- The remaining US\$75 million of the guarantee funds plus any of the unused US\$60 million, will remain restricted as a cash guarantee for the Stage 2 Mizuho loan. These funds will be available for Orocobre's share of the US\$35 million Stage 2 capital cost increase detailed above, any further Stage 2 cost overruns, VAT and working capital. If capital expenditure exceeds US\$330 million, Orocobre will be required to solely fund this overrun by way of shareholder loans
- Orocobre expects to recognise a non-cash, pre-tax impairment charge of approximately US\$28 million in its FY20 annual results based on current information and in accordance with the relevant accounting standards as detailed in the Corporate section of this report. The impairment assessment calculation is ongoing and will be completed as part of the preparation of Orocobre's FY20 audited financial report
- The acquisition of Advantage Lithium Corp. (**Advantage**) was completed during the quarter. Personnel and resources are currently being integrated with Sales de Jujuy. As a result of this acquisition Orocobre's resource base has increased by 4.8 million tonnes (Mt) of Measured and Indicated Resources and 1.5 Mt of Inferred Resources (expressed as lithium carbonate equivalent) at Cauchari as detailed in the Orocobre ASX Release dated 7 March 2019.

## OLAROSZ LITHIUM FACILITY

[Click here for more information on Olaroz](#)

## COVID-19

Operations at Olaroz ceased on 20 March 2020 as a result of the Argentine Government's enactment of *Decree of Necessity and Urgency* (DNU) #297/20 related to COVID-19 and reinforced pursuant to Decree #520/2020.

Production recommenced at Olaroz on 9 April 2020 following the specific declaration by the Argentine Government of Orocobre operations as "essential" activities.

Brine production, pond management and product deliveries were maintained throughout the restrictions and general production recommenced during April with a minimal workforce. Operations have continued throughout May and June with the reduced workforce and restricted volumes of brine processed through the plant.

Expansion activities also recommenced during April but with a limited workforce.

The Orocobre developed Bio-security Protocol continued to be enforced at our operations in accordance with established national and provincial regulations.

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<sup>5</sup> 31 March net cash has been reduced by US\$23.5 million with the inclusion of Naraha net debt



Orocobre established an emergency committee comprising both Sales de Jujuy and Borax Argentina to coordinate operations, enforce the application of the Bio-security Protocol and review and update it as needed. The committee analyses possible scenarios in response to changing circumstances and coordinates with local health authorities, local communities and the Provincial Governments of Jujuy and Salta.

Subsequent to the end of the quarter, new infections of COVID-19 have been recorded at nearby operations and in some local communities. This has reinforced the need to maintain strict adherence to the procedures and personnel rosters that have been established.

Daily monitoring of workforce health continues throughout 14 day rosters that apply to all personnel and include those employees who would normally reside in local communities. Isolation procedures have been developed should personnel become unwell and plans are in place if COVID-19 infections are identified at site.

Results to date demonstrate that there is no evidence of circulation of COVID-19 in any of Orocobre's operations based on more than 400 negative tests performed on staff at Sales de Jujuy and Borax Argentina.

## **SAFETY**

Safety (and health) remains the number one priority for the Company. Zero Lost Time Injuries were recorded at Olaroz during the quarter. As at 30 June the operations recorded 160 days without a Lost Time Injury (**LTI**).

The Company has continued to focus this quarter on the implementation of the SICOP contractor management system. SICOP serves as a centralised control system which provides real-time visibility of contractor certifications, compliance and performance in accordance with established standards and regulations. The safety team is also developing a Contractor Safety Management standard to pre-qualify contractors and evaluate their performance with a strong focus on procedure compliance and safety practices.

The Dupont programs continue to enhance our safety culture and remain a key priority even during the current COVID-19 situation. In parallel, the Intelix Safety Management database went through a detailed scope revision and was re-defined according to corporate objectives. It should be fully implemented by the end of Q1 FY21.

Lagging indicators and key leading indicators have been identified and defined to measure and improve safety and environmental performance.

## **OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

### **QUALITY**

Despite operating with reduced staff as a consequence of current COVID19 restrictions, plant stability and reliability has improved resulting in a decrease of unplanned maintenance events and repair turnaround time. Plant yield and lithium recovery also improved.

Kaizen activities have been implemented in coordination with a Toyota team by applying the TPS concept (Toyota Production System). Kaizen is a highly successful continuous improvement process utilised in the Japanese manufacturing industry. While it is still early in the implementation process, results have been positive with a noticeable change in the mindset of our operational personnel.

Maintenance scheduled for August has been brought forward and commenced in mid-July. This work is planned to be completed entirely by internal staff and resources to minimise costs. It is expected that operations will cease for up to three to four weeks while maintenance tasks are undertaken. Expenditure on parts and equipment is anticipated to be less than US\$1 million. Sales will be made from existing inventories during this period.

### **PRODUCTION**

Production for the June quarter was 2,511 tonnes down from 3,455 tonnes on the PCP due to COVID-19 related operational restrictions and the scaling of production in response to reduced sales demand. Lower throughput rates have enabled our teams to perform various operational improvements that have delivered lower operating costs partly offsetting the impact of reduced production on unit costs. These learnings will be incorporated into future operating practices.

## SALES AND COMMERCIAL

Product sales were 1,601 tonnes of lithium carbonate with an average price of US\$3,913/tonne on an FOB basis and total sales revenue of US\$6.3 million. The average price received during the quarter was down 19% QoQ due to significant market softness related to COVID-19 and continued aggressive competitor pricing. As previously noted, the pandemic has delivered accelerated investment by some jurisdictions into electric transportation which should have medium to long-term benefits but it remains unclear when this will be reflected in lithium chemical prices.

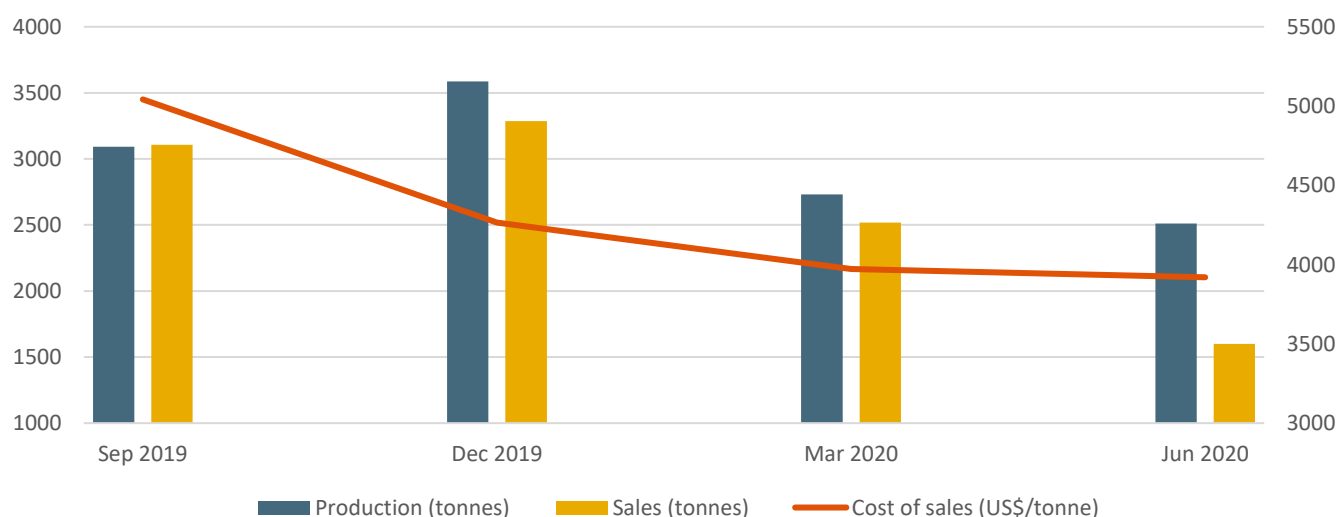
## COSTS/MARGINS

Cash costs for the quarter (on cost of goods sold basis and excluding COVID-19 costs) were a three year low of US\$3,920/tonne and down 13% on PCP. This excludes US\$940,000 of COVID-19 related costs and US\$151/tonne of export duties for the quarter. Gross cash margins for the quarter were breakeven (excluding COVID-19 costs and export tax), down approximately US\$800/t QoQ and US\$3,700/t on PCP. COVID-19 costs include those related to the temporary shutdown of operations, donations of equipment and other community and provincial support.

Metric	June quarter 2020	March quarter 2020	Change QoQ (%)	PCP (Jun qtr 2019)	Change PCP (%)
<b>Production (tonnes)</b>	2,511	2,732	-8%	3,455	-27%
<b>Sales (tonnes)</b>	1,601	2,518	-36%	3,387	-53%
<b>Average price received (US\$/tonne)<sup>3</sup></b>	3,913	4,810	-19%	8,220	-52%
<b>Cost of sales (US\$/tonne)<sup>4</sup></b>	3,920	3,972	-1.3%	4,493	-13%
<b>Revenue (US\$M)</b>	6.3	12.1	-48%	28	-77%
<b>Gross cash margin (US\$/tonne)</b>	-7	838	-101%	3,727	-100%
<b>Gross cash margin (%)</b>	0%	17%	-101%	45%	-100%
<b>Export tax (US\$/tonne)</b>	151	181	-17%	572	-74%

Total cost of sales has remained at recent lows despite reduced sales and production volumes demonstrating the significant focus and reduction of fixed costs within the operating business. The improvement in fixed costs is largely due to a reduction in contractors and consultants use, lower contracted energy price and site related services resulting from improved commercial agreements and the elimination of all non-essential spend.

Fixed cost reduction keeps total costs low (US\$/tonne)



## STAGE 2 EXPANSION AT OLAROZ

### PROGRESS TO DATE

A significant review of the Stage 2 expansion project was completed post the end of the quarter. Capital expenditure for Stage 2 is now estimated to be approximately US\$330 million (excluding working capital and VAT). Key areas of cost escalation included COVID-19 related delays, more robust technology related to the carbonation process, management of impurities in the soda ash system and improved flexibility in the liming process. As at 30 June, approximately US\$139 million has been spent on the first phase of activities achieving a construction completion rate of 40%.

Agreement has been reached with TTC whereby up to US\$60 million of the US\$135 million that was previously required to be restricted as a cash guarantee for the Stage 2 Mizuho loan can be used for Stage 1. If required, these funds are for Olaroz related costs, scheduled debt repayments and to provide additional contingency funding due to the uncertain impact of COVID-19 restrictions.

The remaining US\$75 million, plus any of the unused US\$60 million, will remain restricted as a cash guarantee for the Stage 2 Mizuho loan until practical completion for Stage 2 is achieved. These funds will be available to fund Orocobre's share of the US\$35 million Stage 2 capital cost increase detailed above, any further Stage 2 cost overruns, VAT and working capital. If capital expenditure for Stage 2 exceeds US\$330 million, Orocobre will be required to solely fund such overruns under this new agreement by way of shareholder loans.

Expansion operations ceased on 20 March due to COVID-19 restrictions and only recommenced on 29 April with a reduced workforce. Amongst other matters Olaroz camp capacity is severely limited due to social distancing and Bio-security Protocol measures resulting in further delays to Stage 2 completion while these restrictions continue.

Work during the June quarter has focussed on the key areas of brine gathering networks, gathering ponds and main evaporation ponds.



*Gathering network construction activity*



# NARAHA LITHIUM HYDROXIDE PLANT

## PROGRESS TO DATE

The Naraha Plant, the first of its kind to be built in Japan, is designed to convert industrial grade lithium carbonate feedstock into purified battery grade lithium hydroxide. Feedstock for the 10,000 tonne per annum (tpa) Naraha Plant will be sourced from the Olaroz Lithium Facility's Stage 2 Expansion that will produce industrial grade ( $>99.0\% \text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$ ) lithium carbonate.

Since construction commenced at the Naraha Plant there have been no LTIs recorded.

As at 30 June, approximately US\$40 million has been spent on engineering, civil works, electrical, instrumentation, fabrication and procurement at the Naraha Plant. Site operations have continued throughout the period, however equipment deliveries from overseas are expected to be delayed due to COVID-19 which is currently projected to delay final project completion by approximately two months.



*Aerial view of the Naraha Lithium Hydroxide Plant construction site*

## SHARED VALUE PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY

COVID-19 and associated restrictions to movement within the Province of Jujuy has resulted in many of the Company's standard Shared Value initiatives being suspended as the Shared Value team focused on the design and delivery of new, specific initiatives in response to COVID-19.

The key priorities for the Shared Value team during the June quarter included:

- 1) Community Empowerment – working with suppliers to understand and manage the impacts of COVID-19 on local supply contracts, indirect employment, and socio-economic resilience of both the Company's suppliers and the local communities. With both Operation and Expansion activity restricted for a period, SDJ focused on identifying and implementing whatever action could be taken to reduce the impact on more vulnerable suppliers.

- 2) Community Investment – channelling investment and initiatives to address the specific needs of communities in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions. This includes direct aid programs to offer immediate support to the most vulnerable members of the community, and strategic capacity building programs to establish small-scale agricultural product units (household greenhouses) and promote food security within the communities in the short-medium term.
- 3) Community Engagement – ensuring that channels of communication remain open despite the physical complications presented by COVID-19 and the limited connectivity in the region. While travel and meetings restrictions have impeded any form of face-to-face engagement with local communities, structured channels of communication leveraging digital technology have been readily and effectively adopted by the communities. This has enabled the Shared Value team to maintain open communication with the communities and provide important updates (e.g. changes to Biosecurity Protocols) and training programs (e.g. construction and management of production units) throughout the lockdown period.
- 4) Giving and Volunteering – coordinating and assuring the effective use of Company resources in response to COVID-19 both through donations to local communities and governments, and volunteering opportunities for employees in specific response initiatives. Medical equipment and supplies (including testing kits) were donated to the Ministries of Health in Salta and Jujuy and the local hospital in Susques, while smaller health and hygiene items were delivered directly to communities upon request and as part of the direct aid programs. Employees from the Supply Chain and Procurement function generously donated their time to support local suppliers and contractors connect with local government support services and relief packages.

## MARKET

The continued spread of COVID-19 during the June quarter further challenged the sluggish supply chain. Raw material production proved more resilient to the pandemic's impact compared to mid- and down-stream cathode, battery and electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing facilities which mostly ceased production for between two to four weeks. In some cases, the down-stream facilities retooled for production of medical-related equipment and masks.

The pace at which downstream operations re-commenced and ramped up battery and EV production varied throughout the industry depending on inventory levels and customer order backlogs. Despite the economic slowdown, the most highly sought-after EV models continued to gain customer orders but were often not able to fulfil demand due to logistical constraints limiting availability of parts.

Despite the extension of China's EV subsidy program, further provincial level support programs and an easing of the most severe COVID-19 restrictions, consumer demand was largely subdued. Foreign EV manufacturers performed best in China as additional features and perceived international brand prestige enticed first time EV purchases and converted traditional buyers of domestic brands.

Weak global demand and build of product inventory saw aggressive sales pricing by some spodumene and lithium chemical producers seeking to maintain cash flow, minimise unit costs and/or grow market share at the expense of price. Growth in supply from some South American brine producers to the Chinese market increasingly displaced independent hard rock producers and marginal Chinese converters. As a result, higher cost Chinese conversion plants began to idle facilities and/or further moderate production.

Meanwhile, independent hard rock producers adopted mixed and contrasting strategies – some continued to follow a lower production, campaign-based approach while others aimed to maximise output to maintain unit cost benefits. Overall utilisation rates of Australian hard rock producers were significantly lower than recent quarters which aligned with independent Chinese conversion plants at or below 50%.

During the quarter widespread delays to lithium expansion projects were announced reflecting market conditions, limitations on project workforce availability and lower plant and equipment availability. The prolonged, subdued market conditions have overshadowed the potential medium- to long-term improvements these project delays will have on industry pricing and structure. This will be further reinforced by the extended development times of new brine production and hard rock conversion capacity.

EV manufacturers were buoyed by positive signals from the European Union (EU) as member states re-affirmed 'green' industries would be used as the platform for economic recovery post-COVID-19. The EU announced a 'Green Recovery Plan' providing 20 billion Euro's to projects that would provide some form of environmental benefit such as lowered carbon emissions. Notably, two of the largest automotive markets Germany and France also increased EV subsidies by ~50% and ~17% respectively, bringing some EV sale prices in line with internal combustion engine (ICE) equivalents.



Following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, Germany and France's EV sales respectively grew 100% and 50% year-on-year in May demonstrating the immediate impact new subsidies had on consumer EV appetite. During the quarter there were further announcements of battery and EV manufacturing partnerships, and even retooling of production facilities from ICE production to EV's.

On a global basis the lithium market has suffered a setback due to COVID-19, however the medium to long term outlook remains positive and continues to be further reinforced with increasing government regulation and funding.

## BORAX ARGENTINA S.A.

### SAFETY

Three Lost Time Injuries were recorded at Borax during the quarter. One at Tincalayu (slip and fall) and two at Sijes (object falling from height and tripping on a rough surface). Campo Quijano has now achieved 456 days without an LTI.

One environmental incident occurred at Sijes with approximately 400 litres of hydrocarbons spilled during a trans-shipping operation. Remediation has since been completed.

### PRODUCTION, SALES AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The June quarter saw sales of 12,278 tonnes which was up 15% QoQ and approximately 4% up from the previous corresponding period after adjusting for low value mineral sales in June quarter 2019. Total sales revenue was up 3% QoQ, while the average price received was down 10% QoQ due to seasonal sales of low grade minerals into the Brazilian fertiliser market.

Operations temporarily ceased in late March due to Argentine government COVID-19 quarantine restrictions, and following the declaration of the business as an "essential activity" production recommenced in April with some ongoing restrictions due to bio-security measures. Operations have since performed at normal productivity levels, with good efficiency resulting in lower unit costs this quarter. No cases of COVID-19 have been recorded at any Borax site.

### COMBINED PRODUCT SALES VOLUME BY QUARTER

Previous Year Quarters		Recent Quarters	
September 2018	9,407	September 2019	12,480
December 2018	10,741	December 2019	8,614
March 2019	13,041 <sup>6</sup>	March 2020	10,690
June 2019	11,758	June 2020	12,278

Business development activities were focussed on maximising sales to specific markets with higher prices and margins. This process benefited from the profile of Borax as a reliable supplier with a strong portfolio of products. Many customers of Borax operate in essential industries such as health and agriculture and are less affected by current COVID-19 related restrictions.

<sup>6</sup> Includes 2,312 tonnes of low value mineral product

# ADVANTAGE LITHIUM CORP.

During the quarter an annual general meeting and special meeting of Advantage Lithium Corp. (TSX Venture: AAL) (OTCQX: AVLIF) shareholders approved a statutory plan of arrangement under the Business Corporations Act (British Columbia) (the Arrangement) which allowed Orocobre to acquire 100% of the issued and outstanding shares of Advantage that it did not own.

Under the terms of the Arrangement, Advantage shareholders received 0.142 Orocobre shares per Advantage share. Orocobre issued approximately 15.1 million shares and increased the total issued capital of Orocobre by 5.8%.

The valuation of Advantage based on the exchange ratio of 0.142 shares per the transaction will trigger a non-cash impairment charge of approximately US\$6.2M to be recognised by Orocobre on its investment in Advantage for the shares that it already owned. The impairment calculation will be completed as part of the preparation of Orocobre's 2020 annual financial report.

This transaction will allow Orocobre to continue to develop the Olaroz/Cauchari basin in a cost-effective manner that will optimise extraction of the resource to the benefit of shareholders, local communities, the Provincial and National governments of Argentina and other stakeholders.

As a result of the acquisition Orocobre has increased its resource base by 4.8 million tonnes (Mt) of Measured and Indicated Resources and 1.5 Mt of Inferred Resources (expressed as lithium carbonate equivalent) at Cauchari as detailed in the [Orocobre ASX Release dated 7 March 2019](#). Defined JORC Measured and Indicated Resources at Olaroz/Cauchari now total 11.2 Mt of lithium carbonate equivalent and 1.5Mt of Inferred Resources.

The development of the Cauchari resource will be considered within future plans for the Olaroz Lithium Facility.

## CORPORATE AND ADMINISTRATION

### FINANCE

#### CASH BALANCE

As at 30 June 2020, Orocobre corporate had available cash of US\$154.9 million of which US\$11.1 million and US\$36 million have been set aside as pre-completion guarantees for the Naraha debt facility and Olaroz Expansion debt facility respectively.

The US\$8.1 million cash reduction from the previous quarter was the result of a US\$7.6 million shareholders loan made to the SDJ Joint Venture to fund Olaroz Stage 1 operating and financing costs due to the low sales volumes impacted by COVID-19, US\$1 million of corporate costs, US\$0.3 million of transaction costs related to the Advantage Lithium acquisition, and US\$0.6 million of other project payments. This expenditure was partially offset by US\$0.5 million interest income and collection of the final payment from the sale of Salinas Grandes of US\$0.9M.

Including SDJ and Borax cash and project debt, net group cash at 30 June 2020 was US\$44.6 million, down from US\$64.7 million<sup>7</sup> at 31 March 2020 as calculated below and after including Naraha facilities:

	US\$ Millions
ORE Corporate Cash	107.5
ORE Restricted Cash LIOH	11.1
ORE Restricted Cash Expansion	36.0
AAL	0.3
<b>Total ORE Corporate Cash</b>	<b>154.9</b>
Net Cash from other Entities	0.6
TLC Naraha cash @ 75%	18.2
SDJ Cash @66.5%	10.7
SDJ Restricted Cash @ 66.5%	11.4
TLC Project Loan @ 75%	(42.5)
SDJ Working capital facilities @ 66.5%	(18.5)
Mizuho Stage 1 66.5%	(58.3)
Mizuho Stage 2 66.5%	(31.9)
<b>Total Proportional Net Group Cash</b>	<b>44.6</b>

<sup>7</sup> 31 March net cash has been reduced by US\$23.5 million with the inclusion of Naraha net debt

Orocobre expects to recognise a non-cash, pre-tax impairment charge of approximately US\$28 million in its 30 June 2020 annual results. The expected impairment charge relates to the impairment of Advantage Lithium at the time of acquisition by US\$6.2 million, US\$5.2 million of finished goods inventory and US\$11.7 million brine inventory write downs to the net realisable value due to the prevailing soft market conditions, and other asset write-downs of US\$5 million. The impairment assessment calculation is unaudited and ongoing and will be completed as part of the preparation of Orocobre's FY20 audited financial report. Any additional adjustments to such calculations will be included in the 30 June 2020 annual results.

## ARGENTINA ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

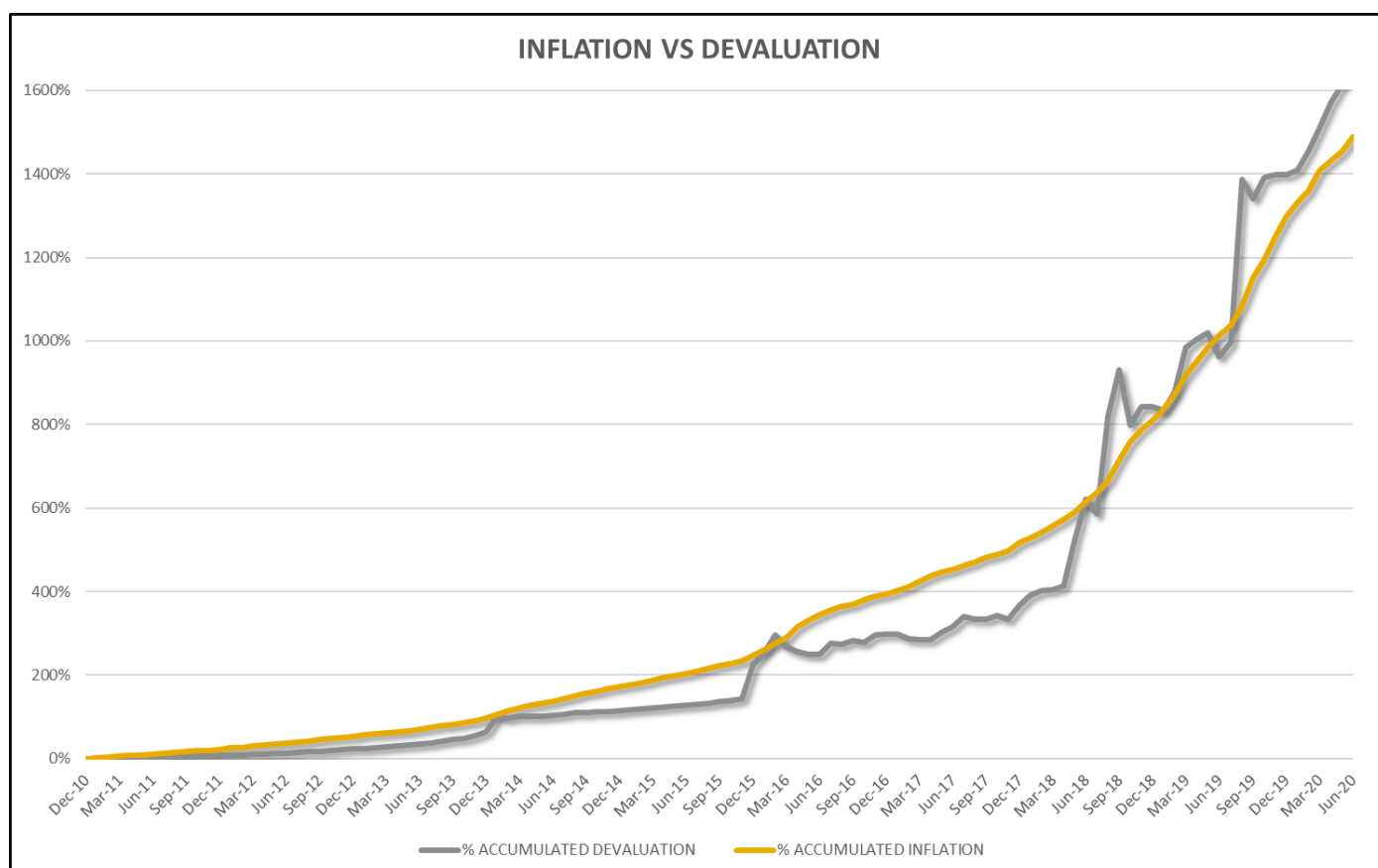
**Debt:** Negotiation with bondholders continues. Argentina's government presented a 4<sup>th</sup> offer and negotiations regained momentum with a counteroffer from bondholders. In addition, the Government unveiled a Debt Swap for Argentine Law bonds. The current deadline for debt renegotiation is 4 August 2020.

**Currency controls:** The official foreign exchange rate depreciated by 9% in the March Quarter from AR\$64.47 at 31 March 2020, to AR\$70.46 at 30 June 2020, while the average spread for the blue-chip swap was around 65%. The blue-chip swap depreciated 35% during the quarter. Foreign exchange controls have been tightened with new restrictions for importers, individuals, mutual funds and companies. The accumulated 12-month period from 1 July to 30 June 2020 resulted in a 66% devaluation of the AR\$ against the US\$.

**Inflation:** June's inflation was 2.2% and accumulated 5.2% in the quarter. Price and public service tariff controls will remain in place until the end of the year. The accumulated 12-month period from 1 July to 30 June 2020 resulted in inflation of 43%, although devaluation and inflation are expected to generally cancel each other over time.

**Fiscal:** Fiscal measures were implemented to aid Provinces and to support private sector employment and production. The Central Bank assistance to the Treasury totals AR\$1.3 trillion during 2020, 5% of GDP, to cover budget deficits.

**Labour:** The Government has prohibited the termination of labour contracts until 30 September 2020 and extended the payment of double compensation for dismissals without just cause until December 2020.





**Authorised by:**

**Rick Anthon**  
**Joint Company Secretary**

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Andrew Barber**  
Chief Investor Relations Officer  
Orocobre Limited  
P: +61 7 3720 9088  
M: +61 418 783 701  
E: [abarber@orocobre.com](mailto:abarber@orocobre.com)  
W: [www.orocobre.com](http://www.orocobre.com)



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## **ABOUT OROCOBRE LIMITED**

Orocobre Limited is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and Toronto Stock Exchange (ASX:ORE) (TSX:ORL) and is a substantial Argentinian-based industrial chemicals and minerals company operating a portfolio of lithium, potash and boron projects and facilities in the Puna region of northern Argentina. The Company has built, in partnership with Toyota Tsusho Corporation and the investment division of the Jujuy Provincial Government (JEMSE), the first large-scale, greenfield brine-based lithium project in approximately 20 years at the Salar de Olaroz with planned production of 42,500 tpa of low-cost lithium carbonate.

The Olaroz Lithium Facility has a low environmental footprint because of the following aspects of the process:

- The process is designed to have a high processing recovery of lithium. With its low unit costs, the process results in low lithium cut-off concentration, which maximises resource recovery.
- The process has a zero liquid discharge design. Waste products are stored in permanent impoundments (the lined evaporation ponds). At the end of the project life the ponds will be capped and returned to a similar profile following soil placement and planting of original vegetation types.
- Brine is extracted from wells with minimum impact on process water resources outside the Salar. Because the lithium is in sedimentary aquifers with relatively low permeability, drawdowns are limited to the Salar itself. This is different from halite hosted deposits such as Salar de Atacama, Salar de Hombre Muerto and Salar de Rincon where the halite bodies have very high near surface permeability and the drawdown cones can impact on water resources around the Salar affecting the local environment.
- Energy used to concentrate the lithium in the brine is solar energy. The carbon footprint is lower than other processes.
- The technology developed has a very low maximum process water consumption of <20 l/s for current production which is low by industry standards. This process water is produced by reverse osmosis from non-potable brackish water.
- Sales de Jujuy S.A. is also committed to the ten principles of the sustainable development framework as developed by The International Council on Mining and Metals. The Company has an active and well-funded “Shared Value” Program aimed at the long-term development of the local people.

In accordance with its Community Policy, Orocobre continues to empower its communities through capacity building initiatives, and to encourage and facilitate direct and indirect community involvement in its activities. Priority in employment and procurement is given to the local communities of Olaroz Chico, Huáncar, Puesto Sey, Pastos Chicos, Susques, Catua, Jama, El Toro, Coranzulí and San Juan de Quillaques, all of which it is expected to receive education, training, development and support through Orocobre’s Shared Value Program.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION, COMPETENT PERSONS' AND QUALIFIED PERSONS STATEMENTS

The Company is not in possession of any new information or data relating to historical estimates that materially impacts on the reliability of the estimates or the Company's ability to verify the historical estimates as mineral resources, in accordance with the JORC Code. The supporting information provided in the initial market announcement on 21/08/12 continues to apply and has not materially changed. Additional information relating to the Company's Olaroz Lithium Facility is available on the Company's website in "Technical Report – Salar de Olaroz Lithium-Potash Project, Argentina" dated May 13 2011, which was prepared by John Houston, Consulting Hydrogeologist, together with Mr. Michael Gunn, Consulting Processing Engineer, in accordance with NI 43-101.

The information in this report that relates to exploration reporting at the Cauchari project has been prepared by Mr. Murray Brooker. Mr. Brooker is a geologist and hydrogeologist and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr. Brooker is an employee of Hydrominex Geoscience Pty Ltd and is independent of Orocobre. Mr. Brooker has sufficient relevant experience to qualify as a competent person as defined in the 2012 edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. He is also a "Qualified Person" as defined in NI 43-101. Mr. Brooker consents to the inclusion in this announcement of this information in the form and context in which it appears.

## CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Forward-looking information may include, but is not limited to, the successful ramp-up of the Olaroz Project, and the timing thereof; the design production rate for lithium carbonate at the Olaroz Project; the expected brine concentration at the Olaroz Project; the Olaroz Project's future financial and operating performance, including production, rates of return, operating costs, capital costs and cash flows; the comparison of such expected costs to expected global operating costs; the ongoing working relationship between Orocobre and the Provinces of Jujuy and Salta in Argentina; the on-going working relationship between Orocobre and the Olaroz Project's financiers, being Mizuho Bank and JOGMEC and the satisfaction of lending covenants; the future financial and operating performance of the Company, its affiliates and related bodies corporate, including Borax Argentina S.A. (Borax Argentina); the estimation and realisation of mineral resources at the Company's projects; the viability, recoverability and processing of such resources; timing of future exploration of the Company's projects; timing and receipt of approvals, consents and permits under applicable legislation; trends in Argentina relating to the role of government in the economy (and particularly its role and participation in mining projects); adequacy of financial resources, forecasts relating to the lithium, boron and potash markets; potential operating synergies between the Cauchari Project and the Olaroz Project; the potential processing of brines from the Cauchari Project and the incremental capital cost of such processing, expansion, growth and optimisation of Borax Argentina's operations; the integration of Borax Argentina's operations with those of Orocobre and any synergies relating thereto and other matters related to the development of the Company's projects and the timing of the foregoing matters.

Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and beliefs and, by their nature, are subject to a number of known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results, performances and achievements to differ materially from any expected future results, performances or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements, including but not limited to, the risk of pandemic, further changes in government regulations, policies or legislation; that further funding may be required, but unavailable, for the ongoing development of the Company's projects; fluctuations or decreases in commodity prices; uncertainty in the estimation, economic viability, recoverability and processing of mineral resources; risks associated with development of the Olaroz Project; unexpected capital or operating cost increases; uncertainty of meeting anticipated program milestones at the Olaroz Project or the Company's other projects; exceptional or prolonged adverse weather conditions; risks associated with investment in publicly listed companies, such as the Company; risks associated with general economic conditions; the risk that the historical estimates for Borax Argentina's properties that were prepared by Rio Tinto, Borax Argentina and/or their respective consultants (including the size and grade of the resources) are incorrect in any material respect; the inability to efficiently integrate the operations of Borax Argentina with those of Orocobre; as well as those factors disclosed in the Company's Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2019 and Sustainability Report 2019 available on the ASX website and at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

The Company believes that the assumptions and expectations reflected in such forward-looking information are reasonable. Assumptions have been made regarding, among other things: the timely receipt of required approvals and completion of agreements on reasonable terms and conditions; the ability of the Company to obtain financing as and when required and on reasonable terms and conditions; the prices of lithium, potash and borates; market demand for products and the ability of the Company to operate in a safe, efficient and effective manner. Readers are cautioned that the foregoing list is not exhaustive of all factors and assumptions which may have been used. There can be no assurance that forward-looking information will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such information. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking information, except in accordance with applicable securities laws.