

Press Release

13 October 2016

Ashburton Salt project reaches milestone with EPA referral

International salt producer K+S Salt Australia today announced the Ashburton Salt project had been referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and that the public comment period had commenced.

K+S Australia Managing Director Gerrit Gödecke said the referral was an important milestone for the project.

“This is the first step in a long design and approvals process,” Mr Gödecke said.

“Our aim from day one in planning this project is to minimise or avoid environmental impacts.

“This early focus on the environment means we have the flexibility to change the project design as environmental studies are completed and therefore avoid or reduce impacts.

“Since announcing the Ashburton Salt project in May, we have spoken to a range of stakeholders in Perth, Onslow and Exmouth.

“Throughout the process we will be engaging local people and organisations to ensure the Ashburton Salt project is developed to become one of the world’s most modern salt facilities, with strict environmental standards and long-lasting benefits to the community.”

The approval process is expected to last two to three years, and only when the necessary permits have been granted will K+S make a final decision on whether to build the solar salt production facility. This would occur in 2019 at the earliest.

The EPA will now decide on the level of assessment required. As part of this process, there is a seven-day public comment period. This period runs from 13 – 19 October 2016.

The proposed solar salt facility is located 40 kilometres south-west of Onslow.

Annual production capacity would be approximately 3.5 million tonnes (Mtpa) of solar salt, with early K+S estimates anticipating an approximate capital expenditure of AU\$ 350 million to develop the project.

During construction the project will employ approximately 200 full time workers and once in production will provide at least 75 sustainable, full-time local jobs. K+S is

committed to employing locally where possible. There will also be opportunities for a range of local businesses to provide goods and services.

Ashburton Salt represents K+S' entry into the Australasian region. The project will supply the growing Asian market.

More information about Ashburton Salt can be found at www.k-plus-s.com/ashburton

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K+S is an international resources company and the world's largest salt producer. Operating at more than 30 locations in Europe, North and South America, the company has been mining and processing mineral raw materials for more than 125 years.

K+S' potash and salt products are used worldwide in agriculture, food production, road safety and industrial processes.

Learn more about K+S at www.k-plus-s.com.

Media contact:

Renee Wilkinson
Cannings Purple
Phone: +61 8 6314 6301
Mobile: +61 402 135 283