

Press Release

13 February 2017

Ashburton Salt Project environmental process confirmed

K+S Salt Australia today announced the Ashburton Salt Project would be managed by the federal Department of the Environment and Energy (DoTEE) as a controlled action, via an accredited assessment.

This follows the Western Australian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) decision to assess the project by Environmental Review in late 2016.

K+S Salt Managing Director Gerrit Gödecke said he was pleased the EPA and DoTEE had now confirmed the process for environmental approvals.

“The accredited assessment means the EPA will manage the assessment process, in consultation with the DoTEE.

“We look forward to engaging with the EPA and other key stakeholders through this process to minimise or avoid environmental impacts.”

Mr. Gödecke said K+S Salt Australia was currently preparing a scoping document to detail the different environmental studies to be undertaken.

This would be made public by the EPA as part of the approvals process.

“We will return to Exmouth and Onslow when the scoping material has been prepared, to explain it in detail and answer any questions.”

The approval process is expected to last several 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.

Ashburton Salt Project

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.

Ends

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

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

The EPA's process and decision on the level of assessment can be found at <http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/ashburton-salt-project> and <http://bit.ly/2k9ySI5>

The DoTEE decision on the assessment can be found at <http://bit.ly/2kyttTa>

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