

# Mardie Salt An Emerging Australian Project

**Roskill International Salt Conference – London UK** 

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## **About BCI Minerals**

- ASX-listed resources company based in Perth, Australia (ASX: BCI)
- Market capitalisation of ~A\$70M
- A\$19M cash, zero debt and royalty earnings from the Iron Valley mine (~A\$18M EBITDA in FY17)
- BCI aims to become a mining company with multiple earnings streams from iron ore and industrial minerals projects
- Salt and potash have been identified as commodities with an attractive long term demand outlook



## **Australian Salt Projects**



- Ideal climatic conditions for solar evaporation salt production
- Currently ~16Mtpa production capacity – 95% solar salt
- Key production region is the Pilbara/Mid-West coastline
  - Five major operations with a capacity of ~14Mtpa
  - Key players are Dampier Salt (Rio Tinto, Marubeni & Sojitz) and Shark Bay Salt (Mitsui)
- Numerous <1Mtpa producers including Cheetham Salt, Tellus and WA Salt
- BCI's Mardie Salt Project located in the centre of this region



## **Australian Production and Exports**



- Production has trended down in recent years from ~14Mtpa to ~10Mtpa due to:
  - Lower quality salt from other countries aggressively priced into Asia
  - Above average weather impacted on Pilbara operations



#### 2017 Australian Export Destinations – 10Mtpa

16 14 12 10 8 6 4 2 0 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

**Production and Exports (Mtpa)** 



- ~95% of Pilbara production is exported primarily to Asian chemical industry
- China demand is forecast to increase stronger than other countries – likely to become a major market for Australia
- Potential parallels to iron ore market dynamics in 2000-2010 period

Source: Roskill Global Industry, Markets & Outlook 2017, 16th edition, BCI analysis.

## **Australian Export Prices**

### Positive price outlook for Asian salt market



#### Challenging market during last 7-years

- Prices have been on a downward trend
- Volatile shipping freight rates had a material impact on delivered prices

However .....

- Maturing Chinese market resulting in competitive prices with rest of Asia
- Limited new supply potential developed during the last few years
- Strong demand forecast in Asia points to more positive price environment



## **Global Salt Demand Outlook**



### **Roskill<sup>1</sup> forecast strong Asian salt demand growth**



## **Asian Salt Demand & Supply Outlook**



### Supply gap likely to develop over next decade



~26 *Mt/a* supply gap possible by 2026 – equal to **7** Mardie sized projects



## Mardie - Salt & Potash Project



## **Mardie Project Overview**



- Project 100% owned by BCI
- ~300km<sup>2</sup> tenements located on Pilbara coast in ideal proximity to Asian growth markets
- Site conditions highly favourable for solar salt production
  - Long dry season with <300 mm rainfall p.a.
  - High net evaporation rates of >2,900mm p.a.
  - Large low-permeability mudflats for location of evaporation ponds
  - Access to sea water via 30km of coastline with natural inflow channels
- Positive Scoping Study completed in Jul-17<sup>1</sup>
- Pre-Feasibility Study to be completed in Jun-18



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## **Design and Site Layout**

- Eight concentrator ponds continuous flow methodology
- 12 primary NaCl salt crystallisers
- Up to 24 secondary K+NaCl salt crystallisers
- Pond design avoids most of sensitive coastal vegetation and allows natural two-way water flow
- ~3.5Mtpa high purity salt production via 700t/hr salt purification plant being designed by Salt Partners
- ~50ktpa sulphate of potash (SOP) production via SOP circuit being designed by K-UTEC



## Simplified Process Flow – 3.5Mtpa NaCl





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## **Export Logistics**

- 50km sealed road linking Mardie site with BCI's proposed Cape Preston East Port
- Heavy haul road trains (~220t) used for efficient and low cost transport
- Port designed to service BCI's Buckland Iron Ore (15Mtpa) and Mardie Salt (3.5Mtpa) projects
- Dedicated salt infrastructure including 200kt storage shed, covered conveyors and shiploader
- Modern self-unloading & self-propelled transhipment vessels transport to ships (up to Capesize) 14km offshore
- All environmental and heritage approvals secured
- Alternate design case for a small independent port at the Mardie site (avoids road transport opex)
- SOP export planned via existing container port (e.g. Dampier)





## **Mardie Minerals – Marketing Approach**



#### PRODUCT

- NaCl: >99.5% (dry), Ca <0.06%, Mg <0.03%
- SOP: >50% K<sub>2</sub>0, <1% Cl

### PLACEMENT

- NaCI: 70% Chloralkali; 15% Food; 15% Soda ash [Asia focussed]
- SOP: Agricultural [Australia, Asia]

### PRICE

- NaCI: LT price >US\$35/t CIF Asia
- SOP: LT price >US\$450/t FOB WA

### PROMOTION

- Testwork with potential offtake partners
- Offtake partners as potential joint venture partners
- Strategic investors (construction; current suppliers etc) as potential partners

## **Attractive Scoping Study<sup>1</sup> Economics**





### Upside value potential from including SOP production

## **Project Timeline**





## Mardie PFS: BCI's Supporting Teams

### Engineering







SOP production circuit design

K F Wellisch & Associates

Evaporation consultant

AMBERLEY MANAGEMENT

Civil design and engineering

Cardno

Port design and general engineering



Geotechnical assessment

Dalesford

Cost estimation review

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### **Environment**



Flora and fauna studies (Marine), ocean studies

Fauna studies (Turtles)

PENDOLEY ENVIRONMENTAL MARINE CONSERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Flora and fauna studies (Terrestrial)



Flora and fauna studies (Algal Mat)

RPS

Hydrology studies (surface water, storm surge and inundation)

**Economics** 

Roskill

Salt market and pricing intelligence



### **Ownership Structures**





### Mardie Salt – Attractive Development Project

- Project in stable investment country close to Asian growth markets
- Ideal project location and site conditions for a solar evaporation project
- Potential<sup>1</sup> for >US\$250M NPV and >US\$70M p.a. EBITDA from Salt
- ✓ Upside value potential from production of Sulphate of Potash by-product
- BCI seeking funding and development partners to progress development



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