



28 July 2023

## VRX Silica Granted Geothermal Exploration Permit at Dandaragan, WA

### Highlights:

-  **Potential renewable energy to power VRX Silica's Mid-West silica sand projects**
-  **Potential for green hydrogen production for glass manufacturing**

VRX Silica Limited (**VRX Silica** or **Company**) (ASX: VRX) is pleased to announce it has been granted Geothermal Exploration Permit (**GEP**) GEP 44 consisting of 8 blocks at Dandaragan, 145km north of Perth, Western Australia.

Geothermal technology has the potential to produce long term dispatchable renewable energy for the Mid-West region, including VRX Silica's Arrowsmith Silica Sand Projects, as well as green hydrogen for the manufacture of glass.

The Dandaragan GEP area includes the Walyering gas field currently under development by EP447 Joint Venture between Strike Energy 55% and Talon Energy 45%.

The grant presents an opportunity to work with these companies to use extensive historical and current data to explore for potential geothermal power options.

### VRX Silica Managing Director Bruce Maluish said:

*"This initiative was undertaken by VRX Silica to support our silica sand projects and long-term ambitions for the production of glass in Western Australia.*

*"Geothermal energy is a reliable, long-term renewable energy source with the ability to power our silica sand projects and provide base-load renewable generation to backstop variable renewable sources, such as wind and solar.*

The grant follows the acreage release nomination VRX Silica lodged in December 2021 and subsequent GEP application in April 2022 with the Department of Mines Industry Regulation (**DMIRS**).

VRX Silica has another two GEP Applications in the Mid-West currently under consideration.

The Company is actively engaging with potential partners with the relevant industry experience and capability for the development of this project.

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### ASX: VRX

#### Capital Structure

Shares on Issue:  
560.4 million

Unlisted Options:  
48.5 million

#### Corporate Directory

##### Paul Boyatzis

Non-Executive Chairman

##### Bruce Maluish

Managing Director

##### Peter Pawlowitsch

Non-Executive Director

##### David Welch

Non-Executive Director

##### Ian Hobson

Company Secretary

#### Silica Sand Projects

**Arrowsmith Silica Sand Projects**, 270km north of Perth, WA.

**Muchea Silica Sand Project**, 50km north of Perth, WA.

**Boyatup Silica Sand Project**, 100km east of Esperance, WA.

#### Geothermal Energy

**Dandaragan Geothermal Energy Permit**, 145km north of Perth, WA

*The Company is actively assessing other silica sand projects in Australia.*

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## Detailed Information

In December 2021, VRX Silica lodged an Acreage Release nomination with DMIRS for specified areas in the Mid-West to be included in a geothermal acreage release. In January 2022 DMIRS released 21 areas in Western Australia for applications for GEPs with a closing date for applications of 21 April 2022.

GEPs are administered by DMIRS under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967 with areas released as a Discrete Area Release. Successful applications are determined through a competitive bidding system. VRX Silica has made application for three GEPs and has been notified the other two permits are progressing through a section 69A PGERA consultation phase. There is no timeline for this process.

GEP 44 has been denoted as the Dandaragan Geothermal Project. Figure 1 shows the location and **Error! Reference source not found.** provides details of the GEP.

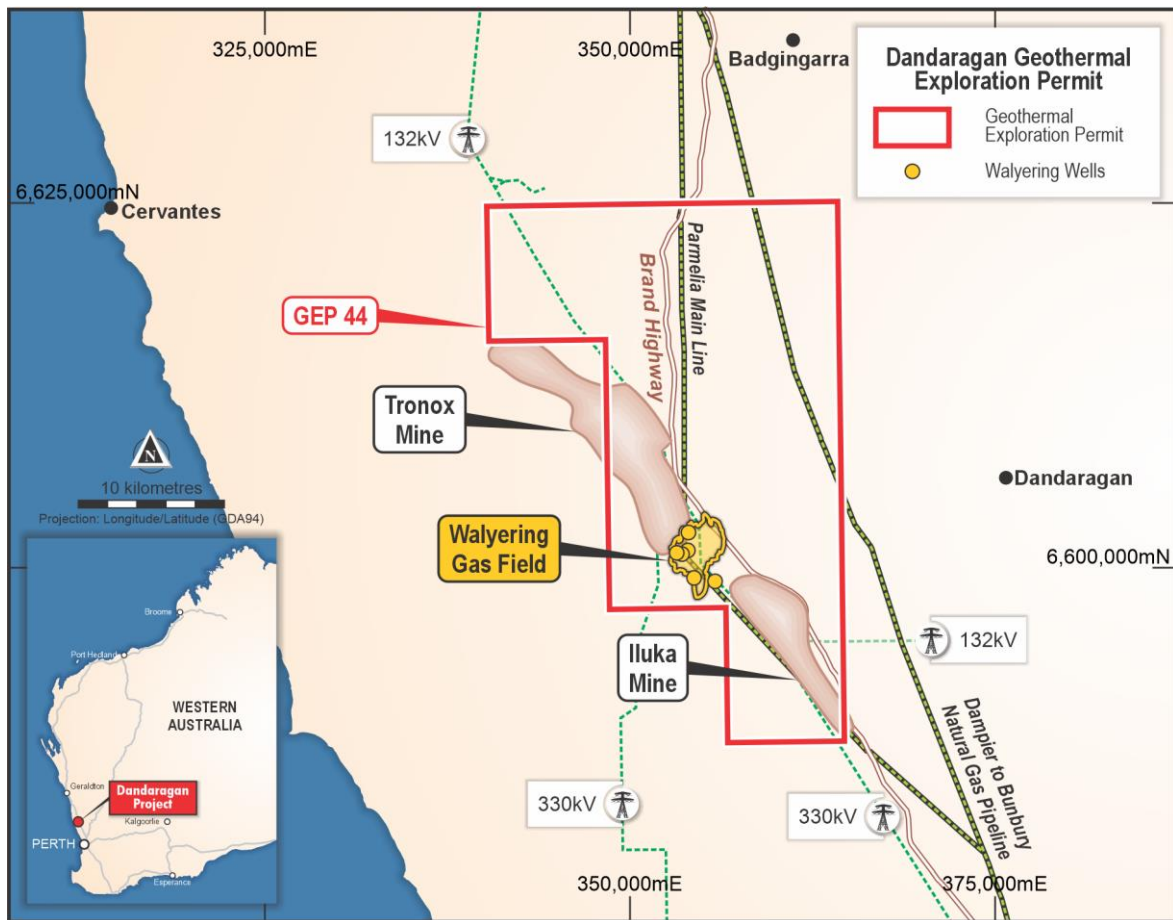


Figure 1: Dandaragan Geothermal Exploration Permit Location

GEP	Holders	Grant Date	Term	5' Blocks
GEP 44	VRX Silica Ltd	27 July 2023	Six (6) years	8

Table 1: VRX Silica Geothermal Exploration Permit

This announcement has been authorised for release to ASX by the Managing Director, Bruce Maluish.

## About VRX Silica Limited

**VRX Silica Limited (ASX: VRX)** is the most advanced pureplay silica sand company listed on the ASX, developing its 100% owned silica sand projects at Arrowsmith (North, Brand and Central), Muchea and Boyatup in Western Australia.

Silica sand is the most used commodity on the planet after air and water. It is the main ingredient in all types of glassmaking, including specialty solar panel and high-tech glass, and foundry casting. It is a finite resource that is running out, with the Asia-Pacific region experiencing an ever-growing supply shortfall that is driving up prices.

Arrowsmith is located 270km north of Perth. Arrowsmith North boasts a minimum 25-year mine life capable of producing more than 2Mt tonnes per year of high-grade (99.7% SiO<sub>2</sub>)\* silica sand for export to the foundry, container glass and flat glass markets in Asia, with permitting well advanced, and will lead production.

Muchea, located 50km north of Perth, is an ultra-high-grade (99.9% SiO<sub>2</sub>)\* silica sand project capable of producing sand required for ultra-clear glass for solar panels and other high-tech glass applications.

Boyatup, located 100km east of Esperance, is under development and capable of producing sand for the glass market.



\*Information relating to grades are extracted from releases to ASX on 28 August 2019 and 11 November 2022 (Arrowsmith North) and 18 October 2019 (Muchea). The company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects this information.