

# Early cashflow rapid expansion...

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT 24 MARCH 2021

**Butcherbird Project** 

# \$35.5M Capital Raising to Fund Stage 2 Expansion and Battery Grade Manganese Sulphate PFS

- \$35.5M placement with strong support from a leading Swiss ESG fund.
- Proceeds of the offering will fully fund the expected capital outlay to expand production at the Butcherbird Project to over **1 million tpa** of manganese concentrate.
- The raising also underpins funding to accelerate work on completing the flowsheet and plant design to produce High Purity Battery Grade Manganese Sulphate (HPMSM) for New Energy Vehicles (NEV).
- Wet commissioning underway at site with a progressive ramp-up scheduled for the next three months to nameplate production.

Element 25 Limited (E25 or Company) (ASX:E25) is pleased to confirm receipt of commitments from investors for \$35.5 million at a price of \$2.20 per share. The price represents an 8% premium to the 30 day volume weighted average price (VWAP) for the Company's shares traded on the ASX prior to the placement. Blackwood Capital (Blackwood) has acted as lead broker to the placement. The Company will pay a fee of 5% of funds raised to Blackwood.

Proceeds will be used to fund the planned Stage 2 expansion<sup>1</sup> of manganese concentrate production from the 100% owned Butcherbird Manganese Project (**Project**). Importantly, it will also allow the Company to put a dedicated team in place to accelerate the flowsheet and plant design work to produce Lithium-Ion battery grade manganese sulphate, or HPMSM from the concentrate produced from the Project.

Manganese is emerging as an increasingly important ingredient for EV batteries, with potential supply constraints for nickel and cobalt forcing battery manufacturers to look to high manganese cathodes to produce the vast amount of cathode material required by the EV industry in coming years. The recent announcement by Volkswagen reinforces this transition to high manganese content on these cathode materials <sup>2</sup>.

### **COMPANY SNAPSHOT**

Market Summary

ASX code: E25
Shares on issue: 133M
Shares price: \$2.60

Board of Directors:

Seamus Cornelius Chairman

Justin Brown MD

John Ribbons NED

Element 25 Limited is developing the world class Butcherbird Manganese Project in Western Australia to produce high quality manganese concentrate and high purity manganese products for traditional and new energy markets.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>mbox{\tiny 1}}$  Reference: Company ASX release dated 3 December 2020

 $<sup>^2\,</sup>https://www.volkswagenag.com/en/events/2021/Volkswagen\_Power\_Day.html$ 





The Project is ideally placed to feed this potential demand, with advanced flowsheet development work undertaken in 2019 and 2020 confirming a simple, unique, ambient temperature and atmospheric pressure leach process for E25 ores which, when combined with offsets, will target the world's first Zero Carbon Manganese™ for EV cathode manufacture³

The placement shares (16,136,364 shares) will be issued without shareholder approval relying on the Company's capacity under Listing Rule 7.1 and 7.1A.

# **About the Butcherbird Manganese Project**

The Butcherbird Manganese Project is a world class manganese resource with current JORC resources in excess of 263 Mt of manganese ore<sup>4</sup>. The Company completed a Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) with respect to developing the deposit to produce manganese concentrate for export to generate early cashflow with a modest capital requirement<sup>5</sup>. The outstanding economics and low capital hurdle of less than A\$17 million for the first stage of development will allow the Company to develop the project in a relatively short timeframe. The delivery of this first stage of production is fully funded and already underway.

The PFS also highlighted the Project has the potential for significant growth beyond the initial Stage 1 production volumes (the studies examined the potential for a 2X and 3X expansion to Stage 1 within 12 months of initial commissioning) and the Company expects to expedite the expansion of the Project once Stage 1 is fully operational. In addition to the concentrate export business, the Company has completed extensive research & development and laboratory test work into the production of high purity manganese products including battery grade manganese

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Reference: Company ASX release dated 12 February 2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Reference: Company ASX release dated 17 April 2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Reference: Company ASX release dated 3 December 2020



sulphate (**HPMSM**) and High Purity Electrolytic Manganese Metal (**HPEMM**). The work has highlighted that the Butcherbird ores are highly amenable to an ambient temperature, atmospheric pressure leach process, resulting in a very efficient extraction of the manganese into solution, the key requirement for the cost effective and sustainable production of HPMSM and HPEMM.

The Project straddles the Great Northern Highway and the Goldfields Gas Pipeline, providing turnkey logistics and energy solutions. The Company plans to integrate renewable energy into the power solution over time to target a zero-carbon footprint for the Project, which is expected to also reduce energy costs. A cleaner, lower carbon flowsheet and high penetration renewable energy will place Butcherbird at the forefront of sustainable high purity manganese production.

## **Mineral Resources**

Category	Tonnes (Mt)	Mn (%)	Si (%)	Fe (%)	Al (%)
Measured	16	11.6	20.6	11.7	5.7
Indicated	41	10.0	20.9	11.0	5.8
Inferred	206	9.8	20.8	11.4	5.9
Total	263	10.0	20.8	11.4	5.9

#### Notes:

- Reported at a 7% Mn cut-off for the Measured and Indicated categories and an 8% Mn cut-off for the Inferred categories.
- All figures rounded to reflect the appropriate level of confidence (apparent differences may occur due to rounding)

## **Mining Reserve**

Based on the results of the Pre-Feasibility Study completed in May 2020, E25 has published a Maiden Ore Reserve for the Project of 50.55Mt in the Proved and Probable categories<sup>6</sup>.

Classification	Tonnes (Mt)	Grade (Mn%)	Contained Mn (Mt)	Recovered Mn (Mt)
Proved	14.4	11.5	1.65	1.35
Probable	36.2	9.8	3.56	2.92
Total	50.6	10.3	5.21	4.27

### Justin Brown

# **Managing Director**

Company information, ASX announcements, investor presentations, corporate videos and other investor material in the Company's projects can be viewed at: http://www.element25.com.au.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Reference: Element 25 Limited Reserve Statement lodged with ASX 19 May 2020.



# **Competent Persons Statement**

The company confirms that in the case of estimates of Mineral Resource or Ore Reserves, all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the market announcements dated 17 April 2019 and 19 May 2020 continue to apply and have not materially changed. The company confirms that the form and context in which the competent person's findings are presented has not been materially modified from the original market announcements.

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results and Exploration Targets is based on information compiled by Mr Justin Brown who is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. At the time that the Exploration Results and Exploration Targets were compiled, Mr Brown was an employee of Element 25 Limited. Mr Brown is a geologist and has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking 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'. Mr Brown consents to the inclusion of this information in the form and context in which it appears in this report.

This announcement is authorised for market release by Element 25 Limited's Board of Directors.