



1 September 2020

## Envirostream Australia's micronutrient field trial: plant sampling completed

### KEY POINTS

- **Envirostream investigating new markets for recycled battery products.**
- **Products recovered from spent alkaline batteries by Envirostream used as a micronutrient source in fertiliser.**
- **Field trials on wheat continue.**
- **Initial plant sampling to support micronutrient analysis has been completed.**
- **Visually, Envirostream's treatments are performing well.**

### Introduction

Lithium Australia NL (ASX: LIT, 'the Company') is committed to the creation of a circular battery economy. As part of that commitment, the Company's 90%-owned subsidiary Envirostream Australia Pty Ltd ('Envirostream') is conducting a field trial in which zinc and manganese derived from its recycling of alkaline batteries were added (in differing ratios) as micronutrients to conventional mono-ammonium phosphate (MAP) fertiliser ([see ASX announcement dated 10 June 2020](#)).

While fertilisers incorporating rapid-release micronutrients derived from alkaline batteries are available commercially in the northern hemisphere, the Envirostream micronutrients are slow-release variants tailored specifically for broad-acre farming in Western Australia ('WA'). It is hoped that they will suit the sandy soils (low in zinc and manganese) that characterise WA's wheatbelt, providing growers with significant benefits. In the trial, being held near Kojonup (about 260 kilometres from Perth, the capital of WA), the fertiliser blends containing Envirostream micronutrients were applied during wheat seeding.

### Initial crop sampling

Plant sampling – to track micronutrient performance between treatments and between plots at the trial site – was completed at the end of August. The image below shows the condition of one of the germinated plots: the wheat on the right-hand side received fertiliser containing Envirostream's micronutrient treatment, while the crop on the left-hand side was fertilised using a similar but commercially available product.

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## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT



### Variable germination

A problematic start to the growing season, with low rainfall initially on a difficult soil type, meant that germination was variable on some plots. This will be evaluated as a part of a statistical analysis of the trial early next year. The trial remains on track for completion in December 2020, with results to follow in the first quarter of 2021.

### Comment from Lithium Australia MD Adrian Griffin

"Using material from recycled batteries to enhance fertilisers can certainly divert toxic materials from landfill. Moreover, it has the potential to provide the fertiliser industry with more sustainable inputs to improve crop yields. The slow-release nature of the micronutrients produced by Envirostream could prove a real advantage in terms of local crop conditions. We look forward to the outcome of the trials later this year."

Authorised for release by the Board.

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### About Lithium Australia NL

Lithium Australia aims to ensure an ethical and sustainable supply of critical materials to the battery industry by creating a circular battery economy. In particular, the recycling of spent lithium-ion batteries to create new battery cathode materials is intrinsic to this plan. While rationalising its portfolio of lithium projects/alliances, the Company continues with R&D on its proprietary extraction processes for the conversion of all lithium silicates (including mine waste), and of unused fines from spodumene processing, to lithium chemicals. From these, Lithium Australia plans to produce advanced components for the battery industry globally, including for stationary energy storage systems marketed in Australia. By uniting resources and innovation, the Company seeks to vertically integrate lithium extraction, processing and recycling while enhancing energy security.

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