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Envirostream Australia's micronutrient field trial: programme summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- The field trial of micronutrients derived from Envirostream Australia's recycled battery material is now complete.
- The trial demonstrated successful uptake of these micronutrients in a field setting.
- Uptake of manganese from the micronutrients being trialled was in line with, or superior to, that for comparable, commercially available treatments.

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Introduction

Lithium Australia NL (ASX: LIT, 'the Company') and its 90%-owned subsidiary Envirostream Australia Pty Ltd ('Envirostream') are pleased to provide this summary of the field testing of fertiliser blends containing manganese micronutrients derived from spent alkaline batteries recycled by Envirostream.

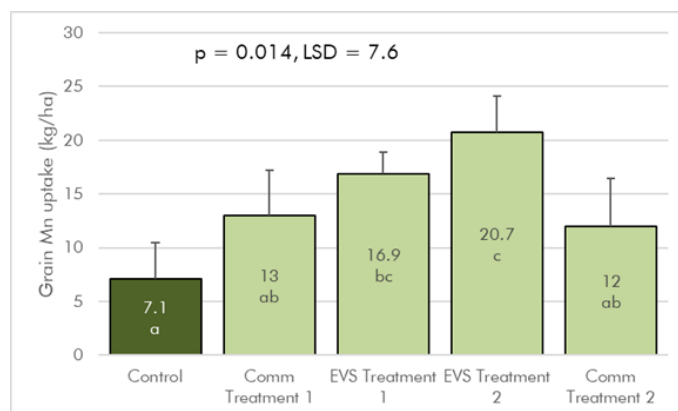
The field trial commenced in June 2020 ([see ASX Announcement 10 June 2020](#)), with harvesting completed in December of that year ([see ASX Announcement 17 December 2020](#)). Progression through the second half of 2020 is shown in the photographs below.



Field trial progress – seeding (left), plant tissue sampling (middle) and harvest (right).

Micronutrient uptake – manganese grain analysis

Analysis of the harvested grain showed a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) trend for manganese uptake over both the control (no fertiliser) and commercially available treatments used for the trial. This trend is shown in the graph below, with Envirostream's ('EVS' in the chart) Treatment 2 recording the best manganese uptake to grain.



Field trial treatment – manganese uptake based on grain analysis.

This excellent result demonstrates that wheat cultivation can benefit from the manganese present in fertiliser blends containing the manganese recovered from spent alkaline batteries by Envirostream.

The next step

Results from field trials will be made available to fertiliser companies. Meanwhile, Envirostream will continue to work on advancing the use of recycled battery materials in blended fertiliser products.

Comment from Lithium Australia managing director Adrian Griffin

“Field testing has demonstrated the efficacy of micronutrients derived from spent, single-use alkaline batteries. Rather than being consigned to landfill, where they are potentially an environmental hazard, these batteries can be recycled to produce materials that benefit the environment by improving crop yields. As another facet of Envirostream’s commitment to developing leading battery recycling technologies, it sets that company apart from its peers.”

Authorised for release by the Managing Director.

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About Lithium Australia NL

Lithium Australia aims to ensure an ethical and sustainable supply of energy metals to the battery industry (enhancing energy security in the process) by creating a circular battery economy. The recycling of old lithium-ion batteries to new 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 those chemicals, Lithium Australia plans to produce advanced components for the battery industry globally, and for stationary energy storage systems within Australia. By uniting resources and innovation, the Company seeks to vertically integrate lithium extraction, processing and recycling.

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