

## Province Adopts the Global Standard for ESG Reporting

### Highlights:

- **Engagement of Socialsuite a global leader in Impact Management systems based in Melbourne, specialising in measuring a company's sustainability and ethical impact**
- **Initiation of ESG reporting for Province by Socialsuite**

**Province Resources Ltd** (ASX: PRL) (**Province** or the **Company**) is pleased to announce that the Company will adopt a set of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) metrics and disclosures as released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Geneva, Switzerland<sup>1</sup>.

**CEO David Frances commented** "I am proud to be part of the introduction of ESG reporting and the ESG journey of Province. Socialsuite will accelerate our Company's ability to achieve and report provable ESG status with regular updates on the Company's progress."

### Adopting an ESG Framework





Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) and impact investing have become key terms for both investors and fund managers, leading a new path to how companies are being researched whilst also influencing fixed income investments. In 2020, 33% of the \$51.4 trillion in total U.S. assets under professional management use ESG investment criteria, with demand for ESG compliance continuing to rise sharply<sup>2</sup>.

Measurement of ESG metrics offers a tool and roadmap for investors and society to hold companies to account, to make sure that the issues we care about throughout society including, climate change, social justice, equality, diversity and environmental protection to name a few, are reflected and appropriately addressed by the company in focus.

### Province Baseline ESG Dashboard

The dashboard below, developed by Socialsuite, will be reported by the Company at regular intervals and will provide an easy way for investors to assess the development of the Company's aim and journey to become a "best in class" ESG Company.

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LEGEND		Action	<b>R</b> Reported	<b>D</b> Development	<b>E</b> Explanation	<b>A</b> Audited	<b>V</b> Verified	
							CURRENT QUARTER (BASELINE)	PREVIOUS QUARTER
		MATERIAL	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	DISCLOSURE	MATURITY A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		
<b>GOVERNANCE</b> 	GO-01-A Setting purpose	Y	Y	H1 2021	<b>D</b>	<b>R</b> <b>D</b>		
	GO-02-A Governance body composition	Y	Y	H1 2021	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b> <b>D</b> <b>D</b> <b>D</b> <b>D</b>		
	GO-03-A Material issues impacting stakeholders	Y	Y	H1 2021	<b>D</b>	<b>R</b> <b>D</b>		
	GO-04-A Anti-corruption practices	Y	Y	2021	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b> <b>D</b> <b>D</b>		
	GO-04-B Mechanisms to protect ethical behaviour	Y	Y	2021	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b> <b>D</b>		
	GO-05-A Integrating risk and opportunity into business process	Y	N		<b>E</b>			
<b>PLANET</b> 	PL-01-A GHG emissions	Y	N		<b>E</b>			
	PL-01-B TCFD implementation	Y	N		<b>E</b>			
	PL-02-A Land use and ecological sensitivity	Y	Y	2021/22	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>		
	PL-03-A Water consumption	Y	Y	2021/22	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>		
<b>PEOPLE</b> 	PE-01-A Diversity and inclusion	Y	Y	H1 2021	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>		
	PE-01-B Pay equality	Y	Y	H1 2021	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>		
	PE-01-C Wage level	Y	Y	H1 2021	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b> <b>D</b>		
	PE-01-D Child, forced or compulsory labour	Y	Y	H1 2021	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>		
	PE-02-A Health and safety	Y	Y	H1 2021	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b> <b>D</b>		
	PE-03-A Training provided	N	N		<b>E</b>			
<b>PROSPERITY</b> 	PR-01-A Rate of employment	N	N		<b>E</b>			
	PR-01-B Economic contribution	N	N		<b>E</b>			
	PR-01-C Financial investment contribution	N	N		<b>E</b>			
	PR-02-A Total R&D expenses	N	N		<b>E</b>			
	PR-03-A Total tax paid	Y	Y	H1 2021	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>		

ESG PROGRESS DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE NEXT QUARTER

### ESG Background

In its Summer Meeting for 2019, the World Economic Forum's International Business Council (IBC), flagged the existence of multiple ESG reporting frameworks and the lack of consistency and comparability of metrics as pain points preventing companies from credibly demonstrating to all stakeholders their progress on sustainability and their contributions to the sustainable development goals.

In collaboration with Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC, the IBC worked to identify a set of universal, material ESG metrics and recommended disclosures that could be reflected in the mainstream annual reports of companies on a consistent basis across industry sectors and countries.

The metrics were designed to be capable of verification and assurance, to enhance transparency and alignment among corporations, investors, and all stakeholders. The wider objective was to begin reporting collectively on this basis to encourage greater cooperation and alignment among existing standards as well as to catalyse progress towards a systemic solution, such as a generally accepted international accounting standard in this respect.

The result of this process is 21 core and 34 expanded metrics and disclosures, which the project commends to both IBC members and non-IBC companies for adoption. These Metrics have been adapted by Socialsuite to apply directly to ASX companies such as Province Resources.

## **About Socialsuite**

Socialsuite is a fast-growing global company based in Melbourne, Australia. It has clients across Asia Pacific, Americas and Europe. They include financial institutions, large companies, government agencies, philanthropic foundations, not-for-profits and NGOs that want to monitor and fully understand how they impact people.

As a global leader in Impact Management systems, Socialsuite's technology delivers an efficient and rigorous measurement and monitoring service that is simple to use, infinitely adjustable and tailored to the organization's requirements. Its automated data-collection, analysis and reporting tools provide accurate and timely insights for organisations that need to monitor and understand the impact of their initiatives.

Socialsuite's one-click access to interactive, tailored and dynamic reports help governments, corporate and philanthropic investors determine the best use of their capital. Its data collection and analysis tools help companies and NGOs understand if their actions are meeting objectives.

For consultants and analysts, the Socialsuite platform provides a worldwide audience for their own impact measurement metrics, opening the door to 'big data' analysis and global benchmarking.

## **The HyEnergy ZERO CARBON HYDROGEN™ Project**

The HyEnergy ZERO CARBON HYDROGEN™ Project is located in Western Australia's Gascoyne Region and covers a flat lying arid landscape with low intensity pastoral land use. With the Gascoyne's climate and wind patterns, renewable energy is an attractive and viable option<sup>3</sup>. This low competing land use and proximity to a large regional centre and associated infrastructure of Carnarvon, means the project area is ideal for installation of a commercial scale wind and/or solar farm. The hydrogen industry is in its infancy in Western Australia, but it is truly amazing how swift and significant the move into sustainable energy by both governments and corporations around the globe has been of late.

Green hydrogen produced from renewable sources, such as wind and solar energy, looks set to play a significant role in navigating society towards a decarbonised future and meeting the global aim of net zero emissions by 2050.

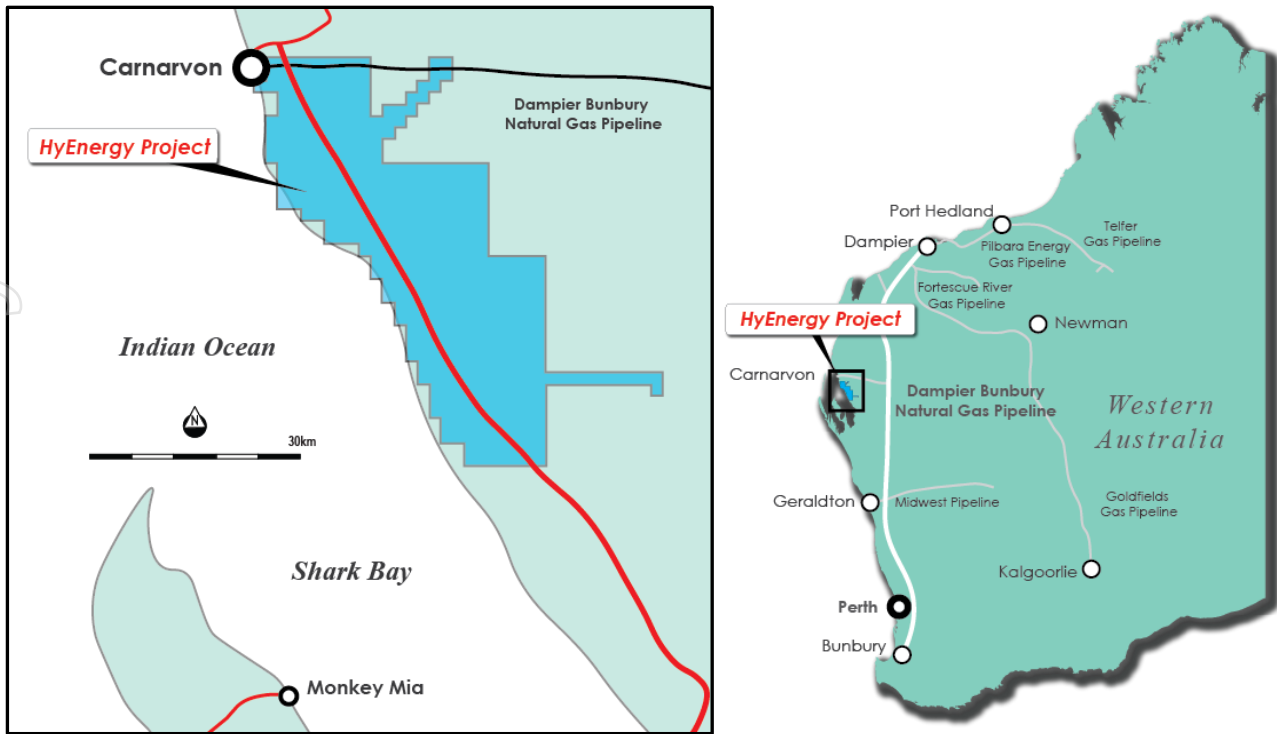


Figure 1. Location Map of the Gascoyne and HyEnergy Projects in the Gascoyne Region of Western Australia.

Some of the key fundamentals of the green hydrogen market are listed below;

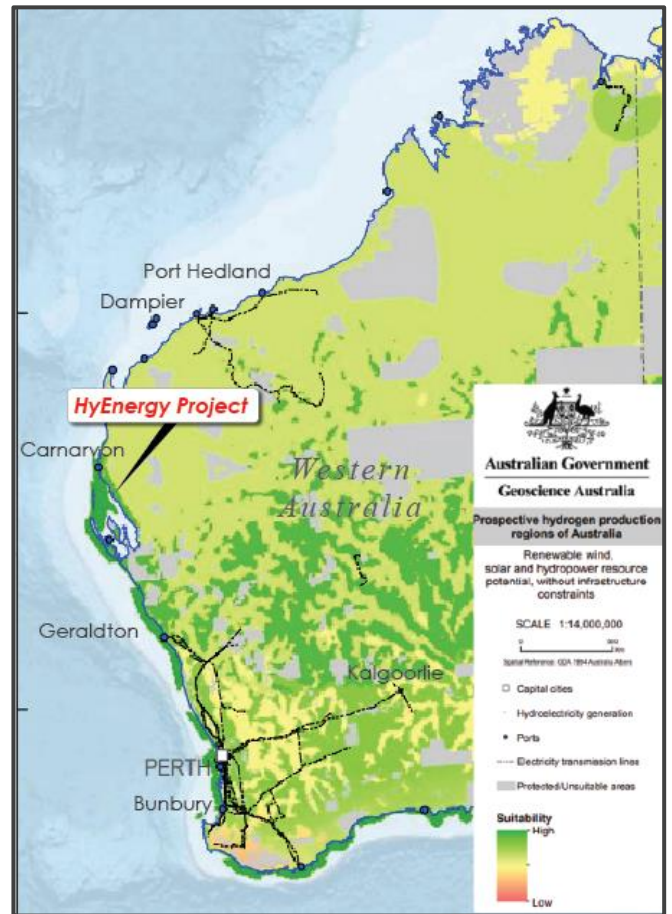
- Western Australia's Hydrogen Strategy to support renewable hydrogen industry with a goal of 10% mix of renewable hydrogen in the DBNGP by 2030.
- Funding from Government on both a State and Federal level include;
  - Western Australian Renewable Hydrogen Strategy \$10m.
  - Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) \$70m.
  - Australian Government Advancing Hydrogen Fund \$300m.
- And globally
  - \$347b in ESG funds invested in 2020<sup>4</sup>.
  - \$490b govt and corporations selling ESG bonds<sup>4</sup>.
  - Moody's expects 2021 sustainable debt issuance to reach \$650b and no signs of the ESG funds slowing<sup>4</sup>.
  - > 100 countries pledged to Net Zero by 2050<sup>5</sup>.
  - Estimated that \$3 trillion or more in capital investment for decades will be needed<sup>5</sup>.

Some of the key highlights of the HyEnergy Project are listed below;

- Infrastructure, existing Dampier Bunbury gas pipeline within close proximity to potentially instal spur line and provide Hydrogen Feedstock in DBNGP for domestic or export use.
- Infrastructure, room for offshore Ship Loading Facility in the future for export market.

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- Wind, ranked 4th in Western Australia for mean wind speeds recorded per annum<sup>6</sup>.
- Wind, located along coastal region with the greatest wind potential.
- Solar, identified flat arid area with minimal competing land uses for large solar array network.
- Solar, Carnarvon has a very rich solar resource averaging 211 sunny days per year, with an average solar exposure of 22 MJ/m<sup>2</sup> /day (or 6.24 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> /day)<sup>7</sup>.
- Water, potential site to extract sea water for electrolyser plant.
- Supportive Government, The Regional Centres Development Plan (RCDP) is about attracting business, investment and people to support the growth of WA's Regional Centres and SuperTowns. This means a stronger economy and a better quality of life for the people in regional WA – and for the benefit of all Western Australians.



## Company Background

As set out in the Company's ASX release dated 17 February 2021, the Company has entered into a conditional agreement to acquire all of the shares in Ozexco Pty Ltd. A shareholder's meeting will be held shortly to seek shareholder approval to issue the consideration securities. The Company is an ASX listed natural resources company currently focused on competition of the acquisition and progression of the HyEnergy ZERO CARBON HYDROGEN™ Project in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia. The Company also has some legacy mineral exploration projects with potential for copper, gold, nickel, cobalt, vanadium and other mineral opportunities that have a long mine life and play a critical role in the economic development of world economies. The Company's projects are located in Australia and Sweden.

**-ENDS-**

This announcement has been approved by the Board.

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The information referred to in this announcement relates to the following sources:

<sup>1</sup> World Economic Forum, White Paper: Measuring Stakeholder Capitalism: Towards Common Metrics and Consistent Reporting of Sustainable Value Creation [22 September 2020]

<sup>2</sup> Socialsuite Early Adopters Report January 2021

<sup>3</sup> Gascoyne Regional Development Plan 2010-2020 (February 2010)

<sup>4</sup> Quinson, Tim. "The Boom in ESG Shows No Signs of Slowing." Bloomberg Green, 10 February 2021

[www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-10/the-490-billion-boom-in-esg-shows-no-signs-of-slowing-green-insight](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-10/the-490-billion-boom-in-esg-shows-no-signs-of-slowing-green-insight)

<sup>5</sup> Kelly, Jason. "Brookfield Pursues \$7.5 Billion Fund Devoted to 'Net-Zero' Shift" Bloomberg Green, 10 February 2021

[www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-10/brookfield-pursues-7-5-billion-fund-devoted-to-net-zero-shift](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-10/brookfield-pursues-7-5-billion-fund-devoted-to-net-zero-shift)

<sup>6</sup> Bonzle Digital Atlas of Australia

<sup>7</sup> Carnarvon A Case Study of Increasing Levels of PV Penetration in an Isolated Electricity Supply System (April 2012)

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