



ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

10 May 2021

## DRC Government approves draft Ministerial Decree and draft Cooperation Agreement with AVZ Minerals

### Highlights

- DRC Government approves draft inter-ministerial Decree approving a draft Cooperation Agreement with AVZ
- Creation of a Special Economic Zone for Manono (MSEZ) is a part of the Cooperation Agreement
- Conclusion of the final Cooperation Agreement is expected to deliver significant economic benefits for the Manono Lithium and Tin Project

AVZ Minerals Limited (ASX: “AVZ”, “the Company”) is pleased to announce the newly established Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was sworn in on 27 April 2021, has approved the draft inter-ministerial Decree relating to the draft Cooperation Agreement with AVZ.

The approval of both documents by the DRC Government’s Council of Ministers will ultimately deliver significant fiscal benefits for the Manono Lithium and Tin Project (“Manono Project”) once finalised.

The approval of these two draft agreements within the first month of the newly elected DRC government being in office is a very positive step towards the Manono Special Economic Zone (MSEZ) approval, which is expected to deliver significant economic benefits to the Manono Project in the form of tax concessions and import duty relief.

The fiscal incentives and benefits that will be derived by the Manono Project operating within the Special Economic Zone will further reinforce the financial outcomes compared with the published 21 April 2020 Manono Project’s Definitive Feasibility Study.

The FEED study is currently being finalised, along with the re-run of the resource estimation on the back of all ‘wedge’ drilling data being made available for input into the newly structured DFS model. A first review of the DFS document has been completed and on all final data being received, this document will be finalised and released to market.

In parallel, our DRC team is working hard with government officials to finalise negotiations on the Mpiana Mwanga HEPP and the Manono SEZ terms and conditions now that an incentivised, newly formed government is available.

The formal Decree relating to the Cooperation Agreement with AVZ and the formal Cooperation Agreement are expected to be signed by the DRC Government as soon as practicable and hopefully in May 2021.

**AVZ’s Managing Director, Mr Nigel Ferguson**, said: “The approval of both the draft Decree relating to the Cooperation Agreement and the draft Cooperation Agreement is yet another milestone for the Manono Project.”

### AVZ Minerals Limited

Level 2, 8 Colin Street  
West Perth, WA 6005  
Australia

T: + 61 8 6117 9397

F: + 61 8 6118 2106

E: [admin@avzminerals.com.au](mailto:admin@avzminerals.com.au)

W: [www.avzminerals.com.au](http://www.avzminerals.com.au)

ABN 81 125 176 703

### Directors

Non-Executive Chairman: John Clarke

Managing Director: Nigel Ferguson

Technical Director: Graeme Johnston

Non-Executive Director: Rhett Brans

Non-Executive Director: Peter Huljich

### Market Cap

\$465M

ASX Code: AVZ

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“The final Co-operation Agreement will deliver significant long-term economic benefits for the project, as well as further underpinning our substantial investment in the DRC.”

“It will also deliver long-term benefits for the people of the Manono region, including access to improved health and education services, stable employment opportunities and upgraded infrastructure including electricity supply.

“In addition, the Cooperation Agreement reinforces the DRC Government’s pledge to financiers that the DRC is open for business to the international investment community.”

This release was authorised by Nigel Ferguson, Managing Director of AVZ Minerals Limited.

For further information, visit [www.avzminerals.com.au](http://www.avzminerals.com.au) or contact:

**Mr. Ben de Jager or Mr. Ben Cohen**  
Joint Company Secretary  
AVZ Minerals Limited  
Phone: +61 8 6117 9397  
Email: [admin@avzminerals.com.au](mailto:admin@avzminerals.com.au)

**Media Enquiries:**  
Mr Peter Harris  
Peter Harris & Associates  
Phone: +61 (0) 412 124 833

