**16 November 2022** 

# LITHIUM DRILLING IMMINENT AT THE POCITOS SALAR PROJECTS, ARGENTINA

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Regulatory approvals granted to drill up to an initial 5 holes
- Drill contractor secured
- Drilling on track to commence in December
- Highly prospective Pocitos 7 to be drilled first
- Long term Lithium demand fundamentals remain very strong underpinning C29 Metals Pocitos exploration strategy

C29 Metals Limited ("C29" or the "Company") is pleased to provide an update on the upcoming salar drilling program, at the Pocitos 7 project located within Argentina's Salta Province; part of the world renowned South American lithium triangle (Figure 1). The Company has received all regulatory notices and has secured a drilling contractor to complete the maiden reconnaissance exploration wells over the Salar.

The Company has permitted up to 5 holes of which an initial 3 to 4 diamond holes are anticipated to be drilled during this initial program (Figure 2). The initial holes have been designed to test the hydrogeological conditions of the significant low-resistivity zone at depth which were identified using TEM-VES (Transient Electromagnetic Vertical Electrical Sounding) profiles. These areas are interpreted as being a large aquifer hosting the target lithium-charged brines. It is envisaged that these holes will help establish a JORC compliant mineral resource estimate by middle 2023.

Geochemical samples of the brines will be taken from all aquifers to confirm the lithium prospectivity and provide adequate sample for processing via the  $Ekosolve^{TM}$  DLE technology process.

**C29's Executive Director Mark Major commented,** "We are very fortunate to have secured a drilling contractor with extensive experience in the salars for our maiden drilling program. This intense program will allow us to validate the lithium brine potential of the Pocitos 7 project. It will also allow us to rapidly advance the project towards economic studies once we can confirm the viability of the DLE process, all major milestones for the Company as we progress this opportunity. Our aim is to consider as much of the technical work during the option period which will help support the robust business case already predicted.

It's a very exciting time for the C29 Metals shareholders as the Company is still very undervalued given the project's value proposition, lithium demand and the potential to fast track the development using a viable DLE process. This should allow the Company to potentially enter the supply market within 2-3 years. We are looking forward to commencing drilling as soon as possible and will keep the market updated with the progress."



### **BACKGROUND**

In October 2022 (refer to ASX Announcement 25 October) the Company secured an option to acquire two highly prospective lithium bearing projects within the Pocitos salar located in the mining friendly Salta Province, Argentina, close to established infrastructure including national road, power, and rail with direct link to major port facility.

The Company is advancing its due diligence processes and has secured the regulatory permitting with all the appropriate groups to commence drilling. The Company has also secured a suitable diamond drill rig and associated equipment to commence drilling in December.

The Pocitos projects have the potential to become a long-life, low-cost producer of battery grade lithium carbonate using an emerging direct extraction technology such as Ekosolve™. These direct extraction methods are considered superior to older solar evaporation methods as it eliminates the need for solar evaporation ponds, resulting on a much smaller operational footprint, positive water balance returning waters to the salar and potentially a considerably reduced capital requirement.



Figure 1: Project Location within the South American Lithium Triangle



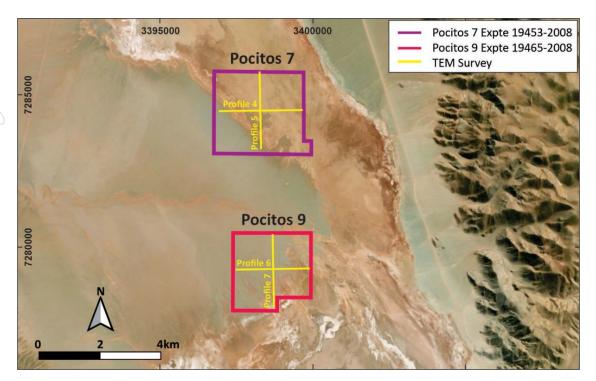


Figure 2: Pocitos project concession boundaries showing the location of the TEM-VMS profiles

C29 Metals will keep the shareholders updated as the program advances.

Authorised for release by the Board.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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## **Forward Looking Statements**

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#### Disclaimer

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