

ASX Announcement | ASX: TNC

14 October 2024

TNC advances mining and processing activities at Cloncurry Copper Project

HIGHLIGHTS

- Operations at TNC's Cloncurry Copper Project (**CCP**) in Queensland continue to ramp up in line with the current CCP mine plan.
- TNC is on track to become Australia's next copper producer and critical metals supplier in Q1 2025 following the commencement of sulphide processing in the new year.
- Circa 223k Bank Cubic Metres (**BCM**) of overburden has been mined since mining activities commenced at the Wallace North deposit in July with approximately 22,000t of oxide ore mined and placed on the RoM.
- Oxide ore has been transported to the Great Australia Mine (**GAM**) since September with approximately 8,300t crushed and stacked on the leach pad to date.
- Irrigation of the leach pad is underway and will improve copper production from TNC's Solvent Extraction (**SX**) plant.
- Based on the Mining Restart Study (MRS) announced in February 2024⁶, the CCP is estimated to generate free cash flow of ~\$200 million at current copper spot prices over its initial 4.6-year mine life.
- TNC has binding offtake and toll milling agreements with Glencore International AG (**Glencore**) for 100% of copper concentrate from CCP and toll milling of up to 1Mt of ore per year. TNC currently expects toll milling to commence in Q1 2025.
- TNC is continuing a recruitment campaign to grow its workforce to support its objectives at CCP with the addition of another 28 people for the GAM and Wallace North operations by mid-November.

True North Copper Limited (ASX:TNC) (True North, TNC or the Company) is pleased to announce it is progressing mining and processing activities on schedule with the current mine plan at its Cloncurry Copper Project (CCP) in Queensland¹.

In July, TNC announced the commencement of mining activities at Wallace North, one of four open-pit deposits making up CCP. Since July, the Company has mined 223k BCM of overburden, including 22,000t of oxide ore which has been placed on the Wallace North RoM to date.

Transportation of oxide ore from the Wallace North pit to the Great Australia Mine (GAM) crushing facility commenced in September. To date, approximately 8,300t has been crushed and stacked on the leach pad and 2,400t remains available to TNC in the current crushing campaign.

Irrigation of the ore has commenced and will contribute to improved copper production from the Solvent Extraction (SX) plant. This is the first new ore mined by TNC which has been added to the heap leach since the Company commissioned the SX plant in 2023.

TNC has binding offtake and toll milling agreements with global commodity trader Glencore International AG for 100% of copper concentrate produced at CCP and toll milling of up to 1Mt of ore per year³. Under the toll milling agreement, sulphide ore will be transported to a third-party concentrator for toll treatment in Q1 2025.

The Wallace North deposit at CCP has an Ore Reserve totalling 0.7Mt (Probable) grading 1.01% Cu and 0.46g/t Au for 6.8kt Cu and 10.0koz Au².

COMMENT

True North Copper’s Managing Director, Bevan Jones said:

“TNC continues to make positive progress towards its goal of becoming an Australian copper producer and critical minerals supplier at the CCP. Since our previous update in September, operations including our mining activities at Wallace North to the initial crushing and stacking activities at our Cloncurry Operations Hub (COH) have transitioned seamlessly. Our team at CCP should be commended for this progress, but the hard work is set to continue in the coming weeks as the crushing and stacking activities accelerate further.

TNC’s upcoming milestones at CCP include increased PLS (pregnant leach solution) grade and volume reporting through to the SX plant in conjunction with the commencement of 24/7 mining operations at the Wallace North mine in Q4 2025.

We look forward to providing further updates on progress at CCP as we move closer to production in the coming months.

Concurrently, we have been buoyed by the response to our recruitment campaign in Queensland to build our team at CCP. We will see 28 new employees joining the TNC team by mid-November, a great result for the Company which will help ensure operations continue to advance on schedule at CCP. Our recruitment drive is continuing as we aim to establish a workforce of 100 people at CCP by December.”



Figure 1. Recovery of crushed stockpiles for transport to the leach pad.



Figure 2. Leach pad 5 under irrigation on 8 October 2024.

Cloncurry Copper Project Update

Since TNC announced the commencement of haulage activities on 16 September 2024, approximately 8,300t of ore has been crushed and stacked on the new leach cell 5 extension. Approximately 2,400t remains available for the current GAM crushing campaign.

Initial irrigation commenced on 8 October 2024, with 32 rows of drippers now installed and spot soaking of the heap underway.

Stage 1 mining from the 180 bench is advancing at Wallace North. Since mining activities commenced at Wallace North⁴ (refer ASX Announcement dated 1 July 2024), the Company has mined circa 223k BCM of overburden. In total, approximately 22,000t of oxide ore has been mined and placed on the Wallace North RoM to date. Approximately 10,600t of ore remains available on the Wallace North RoM and will be hauled to GAM for crushing and stacking in the coming weeks.

Sulphide ore will be transported to a nearby concentrator for toll treatment under TNC's toll-milling agreement with Glencore. Transitional and sulphide ores are anticipated to be mined and stockpiled in the current quarter.

The COH is 2km from the town of Cloncurry in northern Queensland and will service all four of TNC's deposits with essential infrastructure, technical systems and support. An active oxide heap leach and solvent extraction (SX) processing plant, mine buildings, site administration facilities, workshops, open pit mine facilities, onsite explosive magazines, site storage, water management systems and existing site power supply are located at the COH.

REFERENCES

1. True North Copper (ASX: TNC) News Release, 27 March 2024, TNC Operational Update - Cloncurry Copper Project's Mining Restart.
2. True North Copper (ASX: TNC) News Release, 6 February 2024, True North Copper reports Wallace North Maiden Ore Reserve.
3. True North Copper (ASX: TNC) News Release, 23 January 2024, TNC secures Glencore partnership for Cloncurry Copper Project.
4. True North Copper (ASX: TNC) News Release, 1 July 2024, True North Copper commences mining at Wallace North, Qld.
5. True North Copper (ASX: TNC) News Release, 16 September 2024, TNC delivers first oxide ore at Wallace North, Cloncurry.
6. True North Copper (ASX: TNC) News Release, 15 February 2024, True North Copper Mining Restart Study Confirms Positive Cloncurry Copper Project Economics.

AUTHORISATION

This announcement has been approved for issue by Bevan Jones, Managing Director and the True North Copper Limited Board.

JORC AND PREVIOUS DISCLOSURE

The information in this release that relates to Mineral Reserves Estimates for the Wallace North Resource is based on information previously disclosed in the Company's 6 February 2024, ASX Release "True North Copper reports Wallace North Maiden Ore Reserve".

These ASX announcements are available on the Company's website (www.truenorthcopper.com.au) and the ASX website (www.asx.com.au) under the Company's ticker code "TNC". The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information as at the date of this release that materially affects the information included in this release and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates and results continue to apply and have not materially changed.

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