



8 August 2025

DMPE Approves Mining Proposal for Arrowsmith North Silica Sand Project

Highlights:

-  **Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration approves Mining Proposal and Mine Closure Plan for VRX's 100%-owned Arrowsmith North Silica Sand Project**
-  **Significant milestone ahead of anticipated consent by Minister for the Environment for environmental approval**
-  **Arrowsmith North is a globally significant, high-quality and long-life silica sand project for foundry and glass markets in Asia**

VRX Silica Limited (**VRX** or **Company**) is pleased to announce it has received approval from the Western Australian Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (**DMPE**) of the Mining Proposal for its 100%-owned Arrowsmith North Silica Sand Project (**Arrowsmith North**).

Approval of the Mining Proposal is a significant milestone for VRX as it allows for the commencement of mining operations at Arrowsmith North, subject to standard mining and closure conditions including environmental approval under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

It follows confirmation in late June that the Minister for the Environment has determined the Environmental Protection Authority of Western Australia's (**EPA**) assessment of Arrowsmith North was adequate, and further assessment is not required, clearing the pathway for environmental approval.

Arrowsmith North, 270km north of Perth, contains a globally significant deposit of high-quality silica sand underpinning a long life mining project that will enable long term production for the foundry, container glass and flat-glass markets in Asia.

ASX: VRX

Capital Structure

Shares on Issue:

747 million

Options on issue:

92 million

Corporate Directory

Paul Boyatzis

Non-Executive Chairman

Bruce Maluish

Managing Director

Peter Pawlowitsch

Non-Executive Director

David Welch

Non-Executive Director

Ian Hobson

Company Secretary

Silica Sand Projects

Arrowsmith Silica Sand

Projects, 270km north of Perth, WA.

Muchea Silica Sand

Project, 50km north of Perth, WA.

Boyatup Silica Sand

Project, 100km east of Esperance, WA.

Geothermal Energy

Dandaragan Geothermal

Energy Permit, 145km north of Perth, WA

The Company is actively assessing other silica sand and downstream processing projects in Australia.

Bruce Maluish, VRX Managing Director, said, *“In what is another significant milestone for VRX and development of the project, we are delighted to receive approval from the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration of our Mining Proposal for the Arrowsmith North Silica Sand Project.”*

“We await formal notification from the Minister for the Environment regarding our proposal for environmental approval for Arrowsmith North.”

Arrowsmith North has the potential to support a new, long-term industry in Western Australia’s Mid West region and deliver benefits including long-term direct and indirect employment and royalties. VRX has considerable support from a range of stakeholders, including local Indigenous groups, local shires, the Mid West Development Commission, the Mid West Chamber of Commerce & Industry and State and Federal Governments.

Details of the Mining Proposal and Mine Closure Plan will be available at:

<https://minedex.dmirs.wa.gov.au/Web/environment-registrations/details/121158>

This announcement has been approved for release by the Managing Director.

Further information:

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Visit <https://investorhub.vrxsilica.com.au/auth/signup> for VRX Silica’s interactive InvestorHub

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About VRX's target silica sand markets

Foundry

Silica sand is an essential part of both the ferrous and non-ferrous foundry industries. Metal parts ranging from engine blocks to sink faucets are cast in a sand-and-clay mould to produce their external shape, often using a resin coat to create the desired internal shape. Silica's high fusion point (1,760°C) and low rate of thermal expansion produce stable cores and moulds compatible with all pouring temperatures. Its chemical purity also helps prevent interaction with catalysts or affecting the curing rate of chemical binders, for that reason, customers are looking for high quality silica sand that meets their specifications for size and shape.

Another critical specification is the hardness of silica grains to deliver the required crush resistance to high pressure from molten metals.

Arrowsmith North is capable of producing multiple high quality sand products for the foundry industry as confirmed by potential offtake partners in Asia following extensive testwork.

Glassmaking

Silica sand is the primary component of all types of standard and specialty glass. It provides the essential SiO₂ component of glass formulation and its chemical purity is the primary determinant of colour, clarity and strength in glass. Silica sand is used to produce flat glass for building and automotive use, container glass for foods and beverages, and tableware. In its pulverised form, ground silica is required in the production of fibreglass insulation and for reinforcing glass fibres. Specialty glass applications include test tubes and other scientific tools, incandescent and fluorescent lamps, television and computer LCD/LED monitors. Glassmaking physical specifications focus on particle size, as it significantly impacts melting efficiency. Uniform grain size is preferred to reduce energy use and ensure complete melting. In fibreglass production, over 99.5% of raw material grains are smaller than 0.045 mm (45µm), and tighter limits are being considered. Coarse particles are hardest to melt and can cause defects. Grain shape also matters—if too many grains are coarser than specified, incomplete melting and poor product quality can result.

Refractory heavy minerals (RHM)—such as iron, zircon, corundum, chrome spinels, rutile, and staurolite—should generally be avoided in glassmaking because they do not melt at standard glass-making temperatures. This leads to solid inclusions or defects ("stones") in the final glass. Limits on RHM are typically based on their size and amount, with particles larger than 0.25 mm (10 mesh) being the most problematic. These may be restricted by weight percentage or particle count.

About VRX Silica Limited

VRX Silica Limited (ASX: VRX) is the most advanced pure-play silica sand company listed on the ASX, developing its 100% owned silica sand projects at Arrowsmith (North, Brand and Central), Muchea and Boyatup in Western Australia.

Silica sand is the most used commodity on the planet after air and water. It is the main ingredient in all types of glassmaking, including specialty solar panel and high-tech glass and foundry casting. It is a finite resource that is running out, with the Asia-Pacific region experiencing an ever-growing supply shortfall that is driving up prices.

Arrowsmith is located 270km north of Perth. Arrowsmith North boasts a minimum 25-year mine life capable of producing more than 2Mt tonnes per year of high-grade (99.7% SiO₂)* silica sand for export to the foundry, container glass and flat glass markets in Asia, with permitting well advanced, and will lead production.

Muchea, located 50km north of Perth, is an ultra-high-grade (99.9% SiO₂)* silica sand project capable of producing sand required for ultra-clear glass for solar panels and other high-tech glass applications.

Boyatup, located 100km east of Esperance, is under development and capable of producing sand for the glass market.



*Information relating to grades are extracted from releases to ASX on 28 August 2019, 11 November 2022 and 6 March 2024 (Arrowsmith North) and 18 October 2019 (Muchea). The company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects this information.