



# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Iron Road Ltd (Iron Road, ASX: IRD)



## IRON ROAD AND NORTHERN WATER SUPPLY CAPE HARDY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Iron Road Ltd (Iron Road or Company, ASX:IRD) advises of substantive developments in its formal engagement process with Infrastructure SA (ISA) and the Northern Water Supply (NWS) project team.

Based on marine and terrestrial investigations, a diverse set of evaluation criteria and preliminary design work, Iron Road has been informed the Cape Hardy site is well credentialled to be the preferred location for the *Northern Water Supply project*, and remains under active consideration along with an alternative site at Mullaquana. A formal decision on the NWS project and preferred site has not yet been made but is expected in the coming months.

State budget papers for 2023-24 released on 15 June 2023 highlight the South Australian Government has allocated funding to partner with industry to undertake further studies, including environmental studies, final engineering and costings to facilitate a final investment decision (FID) for the NWS project.



Iron Road and Northern Water Supply (NWS) Cape Hardy Spatial Reference – Preliminary site plan for proposed desalination plant

An early-stage Development Application (DA) for a 260ML/day desalination plant will likely be made once the NWS is approved to proceed. The proposed development's business case would deliver environmentally and socially sustainable water infrastructure that is critical to:

- meet increasing demand for water by regional communities and the agricultural sector while reducing dependence from the River Murray;
- enable and sustain South Australia's copper production growth strategy in the Gawler Craton region without continued reliance on the Great Artesian Basin and other unsustainable smaller aquifers; and
- underpin emerging green energy industries on the Eyre Peninsula, including the proposed Cape Hardy industrial port precinct and green hydrogen / ammonia hub, as well as for planned hydrogen related activities at Port Bonython and Whyalla.

Pending a positive Cape Hardy decision and following the NWS DA lodgement, Iron Road expects to be able to progressively communicate broad commercial aspects and potential synergies relevant to the Company's Central Eyre Iron Project including credible slurry pipeline logistics optionality along its 136km infrastructure corridor.

## Cape Hardy – Key Desalination Site Characteristics

In designating Cape Hardy as a potential desalination plant location on the Eyre Peninsula, the NWS project team have recognised the comprehensive site investigations, extensive stakeholder engagement and relevant pre-development work already undertaken and financed by Iron Road.

Key attributes of Cape Hardy as a favoured desalination construction and operating site include:

- Environmentally sound and socially acceptable greenfield site for seawater desalination;
- Intake of cooler, high quality deep nearshore water;
- Relatively low impact outfall of hypersaline brine, with good dispersion in a high energy zone of the Spencer Gulf;
- Nearshore access to deep-water, requiring no dredging or breakwater for complementary development of marine-side import and export infrastructure;
- A complementary Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) supporting both State and Federal approvals (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation - EPBC) for a bulk commodity export port;
- Iron Road's 10-year relationship and multi-commodity Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Barngarla that is registered with Australia's National Native Title Tribunal;
- Extensive intellectual property encompassing substantial studies into wave, wind, current and tidal movements, seabed sand drift, bathymetric and benthic studies, marine and terrestrial geophysical studies and a plethora of associated data and designs;
- Planned port modular offloading facility with accompanying design expected to cater for delivery of large-scale modules / fixed plant for the desalination facility; and
- Readily accessible road and proximate power infrastructure connection options.

**Authorised for release by the board of Iron Road Ltd**

**For further information, please contact:**

Larry Ingle, Chief Executive Officer  
Iron Road Ltd  
Tel: +61 8 8214 4400

Jarek Kopias, Company Secretary  
Iron Road Ltd

**ASX: IRD**

**[admin@ironroadlimited.com.au](mailto:admin@ironroadlimited.com.au)**

**<https://ironroadlimited.com.au>**