

# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

## NOLANS MINERAL LEASES GRANTED BY NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

22 July 2020



- **Secures the Nolans Bore mineral resource for initial 25 years**
- **Development tenure locked in for mining and all supporting project infrastructure**
- **Tenure security facilitates advanced discussions with debt arrangers and finance partners**

**Arafura Resources Limited (ASX:ARU)** (“**Arafura**” or the “**Company**”) is pleased to announce that the Mineral Leases (**ML**) for the Company’s 100 per cent-owned Nolans Neodymium-Praseodymium (NdPr) Project in the Northern Territory have been granted by the Northern Territory Government.

The MLs, which will host the Nolans mine, process plant, waste storage facilities and accommodation village, were granted to Arafura’s wholly owned subsidiary Arafura Rare Earths Pty Ltd (ARE) for an initial term of 25 years by the Northern Territory Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, Paul Kirby.

“This significant milestone brings us one step closer to a final investment decision at a time when critical minerals, such as rare earths, are in growing demand around the world,” said Arafura’s Managing Director, Gavin Lockyer.

The grant follows the signing of the project’s Native Title Agreement (NTA) last month by Anmatyerr native title holders who, in so doing, gave their consent to the grant of all the project’s MLs (*refer to ASX announcement 26 June 2020*) allowing for multiple renewals beyond the initial grant term. The grant process confers to ARE the exclusive right to mine and to occupy the MLs to construct and operate the Nolans Project.

“The Native Title Agreement and granting of the MLs will provide investors with a major confidence boost that the project is ready to proceed subject to finance,” Mr Lockyer said.

The Company is currently in the advanced stages of preparing a Mining Management Plan (MMP) for authorisation by the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources (DPIR). This will allow site-based activities to progress.

The project’s cornerstone development tenure is shown on the attached map. It comprises ML 26659 (Nolans Bore mineral resource, open pit mine, waste rock dumps), ML 30702 (accommodation village), ML 30703 (tailings, gypsum and water leach residue storage facilities) and ML 30704 (process plant area, which includes the beneficiation, phosphate extraction, rare earth extraction, rare earth processing and rare earth separation facilities, and supporting infrastructure). Applications for ancillary MLs by ARE encompassing individual bore fields (MLs 32411-32415) and an ephemeral drainage diversion channel (ML 32416) immediately west of the Nolans mine site ML are being processed by DPIR.

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NdPr

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"We are grateful to have secured long-term development tenure for Nolans after many years of hard work by the Arafura team and support of our shareholders and stakeholders," Mr Lockyer added.

"Securing our development tenure is a critical milestone and is the catalyst to further advance our engagement with governments as well as potential offtake, debt and project funding partners."

Arafura welcomes the release of the First Report by the recently established Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission (TERC). The TERC recommends that the Northern Territory Government focus on growing key sectors of the Northern Territory economy, including resources, energy and manufacturing. The report addresses joint Northern Territory-Australian Government strategies to accelerate the progress of investment-ready critical minerals projects like Nolans that could start within the next 12-18 months, and on downstream minerals processing and manufacturing opportunities.

The Company has prepared and lodged a submission to the TERC and looks forward to working with it and the Northern Territory Government to help meet the immediate focus on delivering jobs and investment to Central Australia.

**-ENDS-**

**For further information contact:**

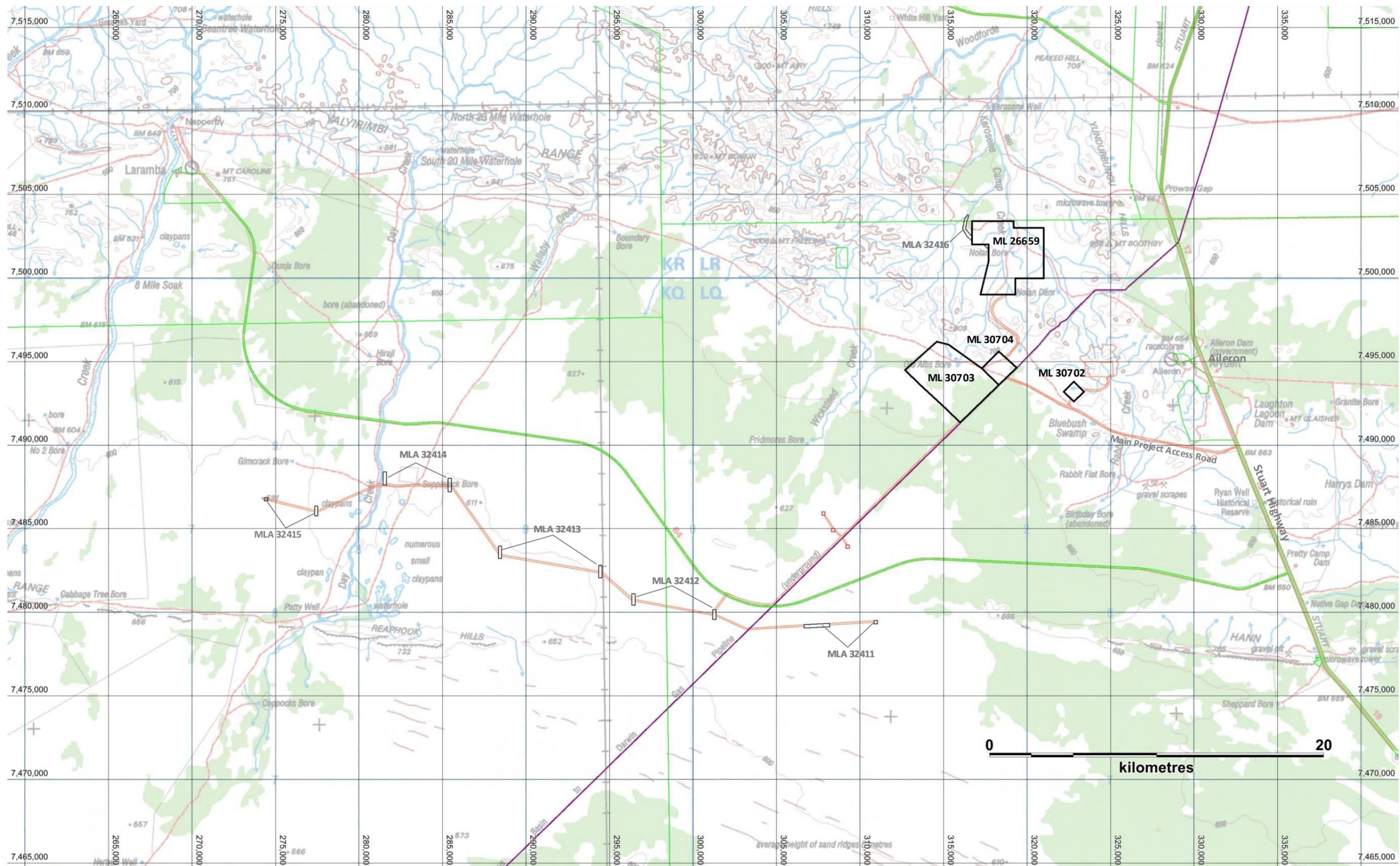
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**LEGEND**

- Granted Mineral Lease
- Mineral Lease Application awaiting grant
- Napperby / Laramba access road from Stuart Highway
- Natural Gas Pipeline
- Pastoral Lease Boundary
- Planned Access Authority

	<b>ARAFURA RESOURCES LIMITED</b>
Date: July 2020	<b>Nolans Project - Granted Mineral Leases &amp; Mineral Lease Applications pending.</b>
Drawn: KH, BF	
Figure 1	