

Altura Lithium Operation Newsletter

Altura Pilgangoora Spodumene confirmed at Battery Grade.

Altura Pilgangoora Spodumene achieved 99.97% purity Lithium Carbonate in a recent conversion process of a 25kg sample of Altura Local Spodumene Ore; the results exceeded the FMC battery grade specification. The test was completed by ANSTO Minerals (a division of the Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Operations). <https://alturamining.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/1760444.pdf>



Photo 1. Altura Local Spodumene Ore

SMP

Altura's processing plant structural mechanical and platework package is progressing well with the remaining fabrication works offsite to be completed in the next couple weeks. January was a slower month with inevitable disruptions due to Pilbara weather at this time of year. The first significant rainfalls of the Project so far resulted in some downtime. The positive though, was that we were able to test out our site drainage works which NRW had completed just prior to the rain. The earthworks, drainage channels, culverts and sediment retention areas all performed extremely well.



Photo 2 Construction in Progress from the western side of the Plant

Civmec activity in January was focused on the following areas: Conveyor Installation, the Ball Mill and Structure, Apron Feeder and Structure under the crushed ore bin, Primary and Secondary DMS Modules and commencement of the Flotation compound.

To accelerate works and to recover some of the time lost in January; Altura and Civmec are working together to commence night shift works early February.



Photo 3 HPGR

Non - Process Infrastructure

Metallurgy Laboratory:

The Metallurgy laboratory building has been fabricated and is ready to be delivered to site for installation. Civil and foundation work is planned for the coming weeks.

Service Trenching:

The Trenching contract was awarded in mid Dec 2017 and work has progressed to approximately 30% completion to date. The package of work is planned for completion early March and will be carried out by Terra Firma Construction.

Reverse Osmosis Plant:

Concrete foundation work is complete and the next phase of work will be the installation of a 300kL raw water storage tank, followed by the installation of containerised modules of the water treatment plant. The Plant is planned for commissioning early April 2018.

Electrical

Civmec was appointed as electrical contractor for Altura's Project. Cable tray and cable installation has begun within the crushing and screening area of the plant, which marks the commencement of the electrical scope of work.



Photo 4 First Cable Tray installed on site

Cyclone Joyce

Cyclone Joyce passed almost directly over Altura's Pilgangoora Project, by which time it had been downgraded to a Tropical Low. Joyce brought high rainfall across the site, flooding the access to the Project. Yarrie Station (north East of Marble Bar) reported 140mm of rainfall during ex-Tropical Cyclone Joyce.



Photo 5 Tuner River after the rain

The roads to site were impassable due to flooding and Altura activated its Flooding Procedure to assist the Emergency Management Team in decision making.



Photo 6. Turner River and the Wodgina Access Road

Wodgina Access Road Upgrade

NPJV returned to site after the Christmas break with a workforce of 11 employees. The scope of works for NPJV has included the completion of sections of the Wodgina Access Road which are off the current alignment, to minimise disruption to traffic as project plant continues to be mobilised to site.

The Chinnamon Creek floodway crossing realignment work has also commenced with NRW completing this package. The Wodgina Access Road will have two Turkeys Nests constructed as part of the road upgrade and to support on-going road maintenance works.

The Wodgina Access Road upgrade will deliver a fit for purpose road suitable for the transportation of concentrate to Port and the delivery of plant and consumables to site.

A large number of additional personnel are currently being recruited for the Commissioning, Operations and Maintenance of the Processing Plant following the Company decision to in source these functions.



Photo 7. Wodgina Road Works



Photo 8 Chinnamon Creek crossing works - NRW

New Altura People on the Project

Abdul Tejan Sesay (TJ): Finance Officer

Nigel Dilkes: Technical Services Manager

William Knepscheld: Maintenance Planning