7 August 2026

QIC INVESTS $15 MILLION TO ADVANCE ROCKLANDS GROWTH INITIATIVES; PRODUCTION FULL UNTIL 2034

Investment supports Stage 2 expansion planning and alternative power studies at the Rocklands processing facility

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Highlights

- QIC Queensland Critical Minerals Fund (QCMF) invests $15 million in Austral through a non-dilutive royalty financing arrangement.
- Funding is to support a Stage 2 expansion of the Rocklands processing facility initially funding a scoping study, including required power alternatives.
- Stage 2 expansion study will assess expanding Rocklands' processing capacity from 3.0Mtpa to approximately 4.5-6.0Mtpa, with the upper end likely to be provisioned for future optionality.
- Rocklands' existing 3.0Mtpa processing capacity is expected to be fully utilised by Austral's sulphide ore production through to at least 2034, supporting the expansion planning.
- Expansion studies support Austral's long-term strategy of establishing Rocklands as a regional copper processing hub in North West Queensland.

Austral's Chairman, David Newling, commented:

"Securing the support of the QIC Queensland Critical Minerals Fund is a significant milestone for Austral and a strong endorsement of both the Rocklands processing facility and our long-term strategy.

Our immediate focus remains the successful restart of Rocklands, but this investment also allows us to look beyond restart and plan for the next phase of the operation. The studies will help us better understand how Rocklands can continue to evolve as a strategic processing asset while supporting the long-term growth of our business.

North West Queensland is one of Australia's premier copper provinces and we believe Rocklands is uniquely positioned to play an increasingly important role in its future. This investment gives us the opportunity to plan for that future while continuing to deliver value for our shareholders."

Austral's Chief Operating Officer, Shane O'Connell, commented:
"Recent mine planning has confirmed our existing 3.0 million tonne per annum processing facility is expected to be fully utilised processing Austral's own sulphide resources through to at least 2034. That provides a strong foundation for evaluating the next stage of expansion.

The Stage 2 study will assess opportunities to increase processing capacity to between 4.5 and 6.0 million tonnes per annum, while the alternative power study will examine opportunities to improve operating efficiency and support the long-term competitiveness of the operation."

QCMF Fund Manager Joshua Risson, commented:
"The Fund's initial investment was based on the opportunity to bring strategically important processing infrastructure back into production. Since then, Austral has continued to execute against its strategy, giving us confidence to increase QCMF's support as the company progresses to its next phase of growth. Rocklands has the potential to become critical regional infrastructure, providing much-needed processing capacity that can unlock stranded copper resources across the North West while supporting Austral's own long-term growth."

Austral Resources Australia Ltd (**ASX: AR1**) (**Austral** or **Company**) is pleased to announce it has secured a $15 million investment from the QIC Queensland Critical Minerals Fund (**QCMF**) to support the next phase of development planning at the Rocklands processing facility in North West Queensland.

The investment is to support Austral on a Stage 2 expansion. It will initially fund a Stage 2 expansion scoping study to assess increasing Rocklands' processing capacity from its initial 3.0Mtpa to between 4.5Mtpa and 6.0Mtpa, together with associated infrastructure studies, including alternative power solutions. The studies form part of Austral's long-term strategy to optimise the Rocklands processing facility and evaluate future expansion opportunities.

The investment has been structured as a royalty financing arrangement, providing Austral with a non-dilutive source of capital to progress these studies while preserving shareholder value. The transaction follows an extensive technical, legal, commercial and financial due diligence process undertaken by QCMF and reflects confidence in both the Rocklands asset and the Company's long-term development strategy.

Royalty terms

Under the terms of the Royalty Deed, Austral will pay from production at the Rocklands facility (only) to QCMF:

- 0.80% (80bps) Royalty on Gross Revenue for each Quarter which commences for the first 200,000 tonnes of contained copper produced through Rocklands; and
- 0.30% (30bps) Royalty on Gross Revenue for each subsequent Quarter until the next 200,000 tonnes of contained copper has been produced through Rocklands; and
- Thereafter, the royalty ceases.

For calculation of the Royalty, the Gross Revenue is generally the amount of revenue paid by a buyer for each tonne of copper produced from the Company's Rocklands facility whether internally or externally sourced.

Austral is required to establish production at a commercial scale (defined as a run rate equivalent of 20,000 tonnes of contained copper production) and provide a first royalty payment to QCMF before 31 December 2028, otherwise a higher rate of 0.25% will be added to the 0.80% rate which applies for each Quarter up to and including the Quarter in which the 200,000 tonnes of contained copper produced threshold noted above has been achieved.

In support of the royalty, QCMF will be granted security over the relevant project tenements, together with customary guarantees from Austral, aligning QCMF's returns with project performance while remaining consistent with market practice for royalty-based funding structures.

Expansion planning

Recent optimisation work incorporating the Company's latest position on prevailing Copper prices and costs assumptions has confirmed that the existing 3.0 million tonne per annum processing plant is expected to be fully committed to processing Austral's own sulphide ore until at least 2034. This sulphide feed is sourced from both Austral's Western Operations and Eastern Operations, utilising the Company's existing JORC Mineral Resource Estimates which have recently been re-optimised to align with the strengthening copper price environment.

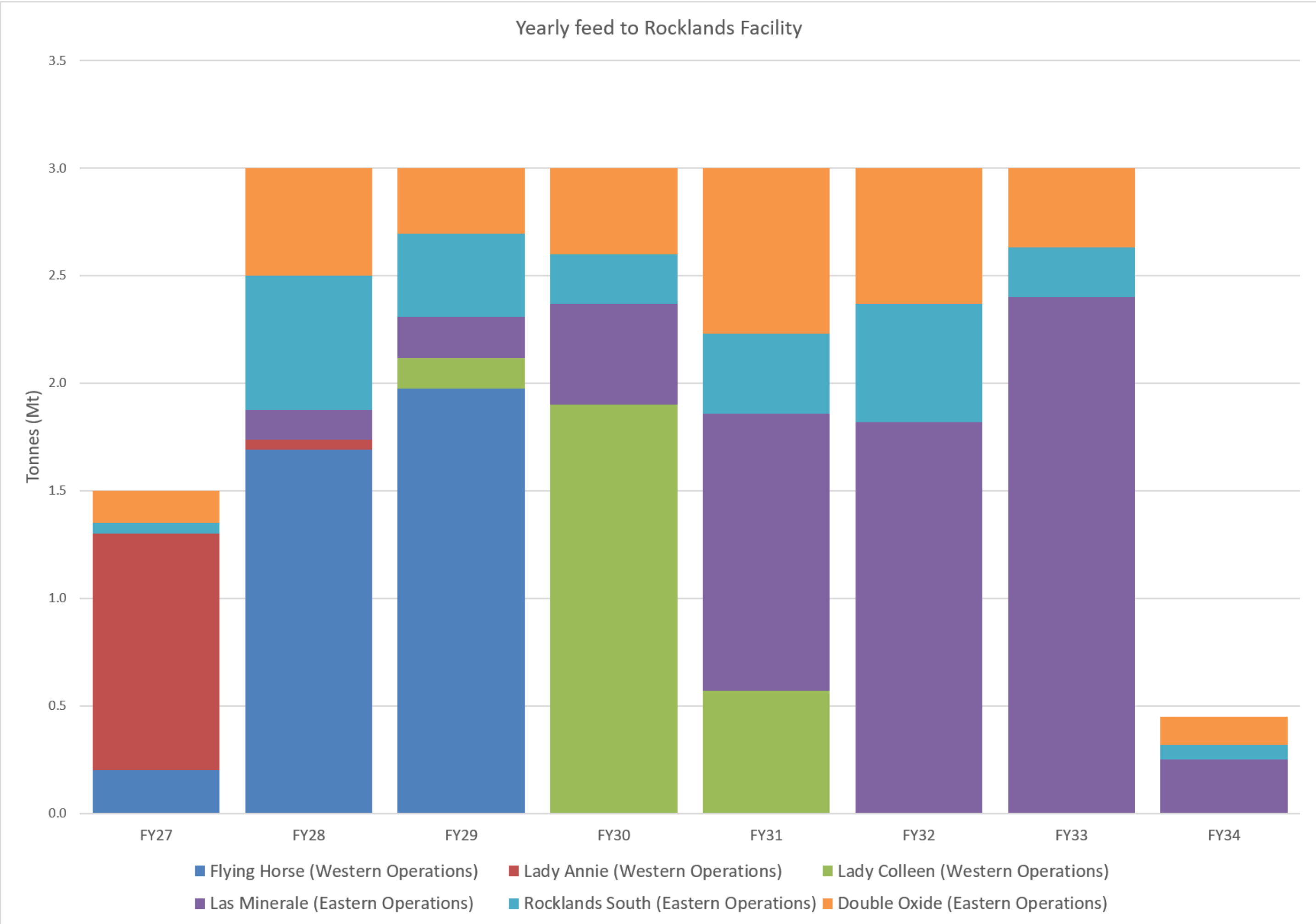

Figure 1 – Rocklands annual feed schedule based on 3mpta

With existing processing capacity expected to be fully utilised by Austral's internal production profile, the Stage 2 expansion study will assess options to increase throughput, improve operating efficiency and strengthen the long-term role of the Rocklands processing facility within the North West Queensland copper province. The study will also consider how additional capacity could support Austral's future production profile and broader regional opportunities, including third party toll treating opportunities.

Restart update

Restart activities remain on schedule, with engineering and procurement continuing to advance ahead of first production which remains on track for Q3 2027.

This announcement has been approved for release by the Company's board of directors.

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Austral Resources Australia Ltd
Emma Godfrey
Lead - Corporate Affairs and Stakeholder Relations
M: +61 419 523 719
E: emma@australres.com

Investor Relations
Jane Morgan
Jane Morgan Management
M: +61 405 555 618
E: jm@janemorganmanagement.com.au

To learn more, please visit: www.australres.com

About Austral Resources

Austral Resources Australia Ltd is an ASX listed copper cathode producer operating in the Mt Isa region, Queensland, Australia. Its Mt Kelly copper oxide heap leach and solvent extraction electrowinning (SX-EW) plant has a nameplate capacity of 30,000tpa of copper cathode. The recent acquisition of the Rocklands Facility enables the dual processing capabilities for copper sulphides and copper oxides, as well as an increased exposure to gold. Austral has recently embarked on an aggressive growth and consolidation strategy across the World Class Mount Isa Region, which includes the Lady Loretta and Rocklands Deposit.

Austral now owns a significant copper inventory including total in-situ Mineral Resources (JORC 2012) of 64 Mt @ 0.73% Cu (468 kt contained Cu), comprising 52.8 Mt @ 0.74% Cu at the Lady Annie Project (8.8 Mt Measured @ 0.75% Cu, 33.0Mt Indicated @ 0.76% Cu and 11.0 Mt Inferred @ 0.69% Cu), and 11.2 Mt @ 0.69% Cu at the Rocklands Project (9.1 Mt Indicated @ 0.72% Cu and 2.1 Mt Inferred @ 0.55% Cu).

Austral also owns two processing facilities, as well as 2,101km^2 of highly prospective exploration tenure in the heart of the Mt Isa district, a world class copper and base metals province. The Company intends to implement an intensive exploration and development program designed to further plan the life of mine, increase its Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve base and continually review options to commercialise its copper resources.

Ore Reserves and Mineral Resource Estimate Statements

Detailed information that relates to Ore Reserves and Mineral Resource Estimates is provided in Austral Resources Prospectus, Section 7, Independent Technical Assessment Report. This document is available on Austral's website: www.australres.com and on the ASX released as "Prospectus" on 1 November 2021, "Maiden Mineral Resource at Enterprise" on 9 August 2022, "Significant Increase of McLeod Hill Copper Mineral Resource" on 20 May 2024, "Acquisition of Rocklands to Transform Austral" on 3 July 2025 and "Austral Resources Prospectus" on 4 September 2025. The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the exploration results and estimates of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves as cross-referenced in this release and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates and forecast financial information derived from the production target continue to apply and have not materially changed. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original announcements.