



Ministerial Submission

MS25-000998

FOR ACTION - Major Project Status Approvals October 2025

TO: Minister for Industry and Innovation; Minister for Science
CC: Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy

TIMING

Routine.

Recommendation

- That you **approve** Major Project Status for:

- s22 [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project (see Attachment D).

Approved / Not approved

- That you **sign** and date the letters to approved proponents, relevant Commonwealth Ministers, State Premiers and Chief Ministers (see Attachment E).

Signed / Not signed

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <p>s22</p> <p>Signature</p> | <p>Date: 14/11/2025</p> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|

KEY POINTS

- The department recommends awarding Major Project Status (MPS) to 4 projects that have been assessed as nationally significant and aligned to the Albanese Government's priorities.
- MPS provides eligible proponents with tailored regulatory facilitation services to navigate government approvals. Awarding MPS signals the Government's in-principle support for a project but does not guarantee regulatory approval or commercial success.
 - a. As Minister for Industry and Innovation, you hold portfolio responsibility for the Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA) and are the decision-maker for awarding MPS, following MPFA's assessment against eligibility criteria and consultation across the Government and with relevant state and territory governments.
 - b. The MPFA operates as a facilitation support service without enabling legislation or ministerial guidelines. It was established to meet private sector demand for assistance navigating regulatory approvals and a single-entry point to government.
- To be eligible for MPS, a project must:
 - a. Be of strategic national significance with capital investment exceeding A\$50 million.
 - b. Face complex regulatory approvals under Australian government legislation.
 - c. Demonstrate financial capacity to complete regulatory approvals and reasonable commercial viability.
- The MPFA is separate to the Investor Front Door initiative which has been modelled on the MPS eligibility criteria for consistency. The department is working with the Department of the Treasury to support engagement and consideration of major projects by both initiatives during the pilot phase of the Investor Front Door.

s22

WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project (new MPS application)

- Luni Niobium Project is a globally significant critical mineral development located in Western Australia. The project hosts a large and significant grade of niobium (220 million tonnes at 1.0 per cent Nb₂O₅, 53 million tonnes at 2.2 per cent Nb₂O₅). Luni Niobium Project will contribute to Australia’s mining initiative focused on the development of ferroniobium, a critical input for High Strength Low Alloy steels used in automotive, shipbuilding, and construction sectors.
- The proponent is currently unable to provide defined annual output or forecast average revenues. s47
and expects the project to generate 508 construction jobs and 350 direct operational jobs at full capacity.
- s47 , the project clearly exceeds the A\$50 million threshold. The quality of the resource and WA1’s financial position provides a high degree of confidence in the project’s commercial viability.
- The MPFA recommends you approve WA1 Resources MPS (assessment at Attachment D):
 - a. **Criteria One** (National Significance) – aligned with the Australia Critical Minerals Strategy 2023-2030. The project will contribute to a competitive niobium industry that benefits Western Australia and Australian economy and positions Australia as a global significant producer of niobium.
 - b. **Criteria Two** (Complex Regulatory Approvals) – the regulatory pathway for this project will span across jurisdictions, requiring engagement across the Commonwealth, Western Australian, and Northern Territory governments. s47

c. **Criteria Three** (Commercial Viability) - s47

—but sufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate the project has sufficient financial resources and is commercially viable.

NEXT STEPS

- Subject to your decision, draft letters at Attachment E notify successful project proponents of the award of MPS, Commonwealth Ministers, State Premiers and Chief Ministers of your decision.
- If you choose not to award MPS, the MPFA can provide the project proponent with more limited support through our general services offering (which provides short-term assistance to proponents of projects over \$20 million to help them to engage with regulators to resolve individual issues).

CONSULTATION

- Critical Minerals Office and other external regulators on matters including native title, environmental approvals (detailed in Attachments A, B, C and D).

Clearance Officer
Rodney Harris
Acting General Manager
Major Projects Facilitation
s22

Clearance date: 11/11/2025

Contact Officer
s22
Manager
Major Projects Facilitation Agency
s22

ATTACHMENTS

s22

s22

s22

D: Assessment: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project

E: Letters to proponents, federal ministers and state premiers

Major Project Status Summary

Luni Niobium Project

WA1 Resources Ltd

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Location: 80 kilometres northeast of the Kiwirrkurra Community, Western Australia | |
| Industry: Critical Minerals | CAPEX: s47 |
| Project Lifespan: s47 | |
| Construction Jobs: 508 | Direct Jobs: 350 |
| Application Type: New Major Project Assessment | |

Recommendation

The Major Project Facilitation Agency (MPFA) considers the Luni Niobium Project meets the eligibility criteria and recommends the Minister consider awarding Major Project Status (MPS) for 3 years.

Project Summary

Luni Niobium Project (Luni) is a strategic mining initiative focused on the production of ferroniobium—an alloy of iron and niobium, used to strengthen steel. The Project is accessible via Kiwirrkurra and local tracks. s47 with a projected workforce of approximately s47.

This site is likely to be one of the first producers of niobium in Australia and represents a new industrial capability for the country.

Ferroniobium is a critical input for high strength low alloy steels used in automotive, shipbuilding, and construction sectors. The project is positioned to serve diverse international markets including Europe, North America, South Korea, Japan, and China, which collectively account for the majority of global niobium demand.

Current Project Status

WA1 Resources has provided the below milestones:

s47

WA1 have collected detailed survey data and baseline environmental and cultural heritage information to support high-quality environmental referrals and have commenced negotiations towards Mining Agreements with the determined Native Title holders.

s47

Geographical Location

Luni is located 490km south of Halls Creek, Western Australia.

Project Risks and Sensitivities

1. Due to the remoteness of the project, 490km south of Halls Creek which presents logistical challenges for infrastructure, water sourcing and environmental management.
2. The project is currently unable to provide defined annual production output and forecast average revenues. This introduces some uncertainty around the project's economic viability, however the quality of the resource and capital at WA1's disposal offsets this risk.

Due Diligence

The MPFA conducted a due diligence review on the company, directors s47 with no sensitivities identified. An ABN and ASIC registration has also been validated for WA1 Resources.

Criteria Assessment

| Criteria 1 | The project is of strategic significance to Australia. | Strong Alignment |
|---|--|------------------|
| <p>The Project's CAPEX is expected to be ^{s47} , which is above the A\$50 million threshold requested for Major Project Status. WA1 Resources is of strategic significance to Australia due with potential to deliver long-term economic and regional benefits to Western Australia and the Northern Territory.</p> <p>This site is likely to be one of the first producers of niobium in Australia and represents a new industrial capability for the country. Niobium is listed as a critical mineral in Australia.</p> <p>The Project is expected to generate 508 jobs during construction phase and approximately 350 direct jobs during operation.</p> <p>The project aligns with several State and Commonwealth policy initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Critical Minerals Strategy 2023-2030 • WA Battery and Critical Minerals Strategy 2024-2023 • WA LNG Jobs Taskforce <p>WA1 is working in close partnership with the ^{s47} and local Indigenous communities to deliver tangible employment and training outcomes. Initiatives include:</p> | | |

s47

These efforts demonstrate a strong commitment to inclusive development, skills growth, and long-term community partnerships.

The MPFA considers sufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate the project's strategic significance to Australia.

| Criteria 2 | The project is facing complex regulatory approvals challenges with Australian Government approvals. | General Alignment |
|---|---|-------------------|
| <p>DCCEEW advised the MPFA that this bilateral agreement for EPBC referrals is not currently in effect. Consequently, the DCCEEW and WA Environment Protection Authority (EPA) processes are separate and distinct. This gap in regulatory alignment means WA1 may need to engage separately with both Commonwealth and State regulators, increasing the risk of conflicting timelines and delayed approvals.</p> <p>s22</p> <p>Although WA1 is yet to finalise its environmental surveys and confirm matters of national environment significance, s47</p> <p>s47</p> <p>The project's footprint and logistics introduce regulatory complexity across state and territory borders. s47</p> <p>This adds layers of regulatory oversight related to land use, transport, environmental impact, and precinct-specific requirements.</p> <p>The MPFA considers sufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate complex regulatory approval challenges.</p> | | |

| Criteria 3 | The project has sufficient financial resources and is commercially viable. | General Alignment |
|--|--|-------------------|
| <p>The financial metrics provided by WA1 Resources are highly sensitive and confidential. WA1 currently holds approximately A\$160 million in cash, following a successful A\$100 million capital raise in August 2025. These funds are being used to progress key pre-development and permitting workstreams including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a development airstrip • Installation of a +100-person accommodation camp and associated infrastructure • Upgrading to site access roads <p>WA1 advised the remaining estimated costs to complete the following government approvals required for the project will be funded by cash at bank:</p> <p>s47</p> <p>WA1 has attracted significant investment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regal Funds Management, which owns approximately 10% of WA1 and is a major supporter of Australian mining developments, including De Grey Mining. • s47, two of the largest North American institutional investors, collectively owning approximately 20% of WA1. <p>WA1 Resources' corporate profile features an experienced board and executive team in finance, mining processing industry covering all facets of project development.</p> <p>The MPFA considers there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate the Project has sufficient financial resources and is commercially viable. s47</p> | | |

ATTACHMENT E – LETTERS FOR SIGNATURE

s22

s22

s22

WA1 Resources Ltd – letters to:

- s22, WA1 Resources Ltd
- The Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia
- Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for the Environment and Water
- The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Attorney-General

SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE

MS25-000998

s22

WA1 Resources Ltd
Level 2, 437 Roberts Road
SUBIACO WA 6008

s22

Dear s22

Thank you for your application seeking Major Project Status (MPS) for the Luni Niobium project.

I am pleased to advise I have awarded Major Project Status for 3 years from the date of this letter. The decision to award the status was based on the WA1 Resources potential contribution to Australia's critical minerals industry.

I have written to the Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia, and several of my ministerial colleagues advising them of my decision and to encourage their assistance with your project.

The awarding of MPS does not imply Australian Government endorsement of your project or guarantee its commercial success. Your project still needs to meet the requirements of the relevant Australian, Western Australia's regulatory, grant or funding approval processes.

Furthermore, the continuation of MPS is subject to a requirement that the project proponent, its directors, and officers continue to be fit and proper persons in compliance with the responsibilities of the project.

The Major Projects Facilitation Agency will be in contact with you regarding next steps.

I wish you well in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely

s22

TIM AYRES
14/11/2025

SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE

MS25-000998

The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Premier of Western Australia
Level 13, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Premier

I am writing to inform you of my decision to approve Major Project Status (MPS) for the Luni Niobium project, proposed by WA1 Resources Ltd. My decision recognises the importance of the Project to Australia's critical minerals strategy.

The Luni project is a significant critical mineral development located in Western Australia. With an estimated ^{s47} , the project is expected to provide 350 direct jobs and 500 construction jobs. The project represents an opportunity for Australia to contribute to a competitive global niobium supply chain, benefiting the Western Australian and national economy.

MPS is valid for 3 years from the date of this letter. During this period, my department's Major Projects Facilitation Agency will facilitate and assist WA1 Resources Ltd to navigate Australian and state government approval processes.

Please note, the awarding of MPS does not imply Australian Government approval or guarantee the Project's commercial success. The project must still satisfy all relevant regulatory, grant, or funding approval requirements.

I have written to several of my ministerial colleagues regarding this decision and to encourage their assistance with this Project.

Yours sincerely

s22

TIM AYRES
14/11/2025

SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE

MS25-000998

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for the Environment and Water
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senator.Watt@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

I am writing to inform you of my decision to approve Major Project Status (MPS) for the Luni Niobium project, proposed by WA1 Resources Ltd. My decision recognises the importance of the Project to Australia's critical minerals strategy.

The Luni project is a significant critical mineral development located in Western Australia. With an estimated ^{s47}, the project is expected to provide 350 direct jobs and 500 construction jobs. The project represents an opportunity for Australia to contribute to a competitive global niobium supply chain, benefiting the Western Australian and national economy.

MPS is valid for 3 years from the date of this letter. During this period, my department's Major Projects Facilitation Agency will facilitate and assist WA1 Resources Ltd to navigate Australian and state government approval processes.

Please note, the awarding of MPS does not imply Australian Government approval or guarantee the Project's commercial success. The project must still satisfy all relevant regulatory, grant, or funding approval requirements.

Accordingly, WA1 Resources Ltd has identified the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as relevant for this Project. The MPFA will engage with your department on the regulatory pathway of this MPS Project.

Yours sincerely

s22

TIM AYRES
14/11/2025

SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE

MS25-000998

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Attorney-General

I am writing to inform you of my decision to approve Major Project Status (MPS) for the Luni Niobium project, proposed by WA1 Resources Ltd. My decision recognises the importance of the Project to Australia's critical minerals strategy.

The Luni project is a significant critical mineral development located in Western Australia. With an estimated ^{s47}, the project is expected to provide 350 direct jobs and 500 construction jobs. The project represents an opportunity for Australia to contribute to a competitive global niobium supply chain, benefiting the Western Australian and national economy.

MPS is valid for 3 years from the date of this letter. During this period, my department's Major Projects Facilitation Agency will facilitate and assist WA1 Resources Ltd to navigate Australian and state government approval processes.

Please note, the awarding of MPS does not imply Australian Government approval or guarantee the Project's commercial success. The project must still satisfy all relevant regulatory, grant, or funding approval requirements.

Accordingly, WA1 Resources Ltd has identified the *Native Title Act 1993* as relevant to this project. The MPFA will engage with your department on the regulatory pathway of this MPS Project.

Yours sincerely

s22

TIM AYRES
14/11/2025



SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE
SENATOR FOR NSW

SENATOR GLENN STERLE
LABOR SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA
DUTY SENATOR FOR DURACK

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 4 December 2025

DURACK PROJECT AWARDED MAJOR PROJECT STATUS

In a shot in the arm for the Durack economy, Major Project Status has been awarded to WA1 Resources Ltd for the Luni Niobium project in the West Arunta.

The nationally significant project is backed by the Australian Government under the key priority area of significant mineral development.

Major Project Status provides extra support from government to navigate the regulatory environment, helping secure and diversify local supply chains and boosting regional job opportunities and investment prospects.

Luni Niobium Project:

This project located in Western Australia is focused on developing niobium, a globally significant critical mineral. Niobium is primarily used to strengthen steel for automotive, construction and energy infrastructure, and is increasingly important in advanced technologies.

Currently in the process of finalising key project metrics, Luni Niobium will exceed the Major Project Status eligibility threshold of \$50 million in capital expenditure and is anticipated to create hundreds of jobs.

For more information on government-supported major projects, visit:
www.industry.gov.au/mpfa.

**Quotes attributable to Minister for Industry and Innovation and Minister for Science
Tim Ayres:**

“Major Project Status recognises the national significance of the project to Australia’s economy, regional employment and skills.

“By backing these projects we’re helping our regions to attract industries and investments for a Future Made in Australia, creating good blue-collar and engineering jobs.”

Quotes attributable to Senator Glenn Sterle:

“This is great news for Durack.”

“The awarding of Major Project Status to the Luni Niobium Project, is a boost to the local economy and paves the way for future job opportunities in our region.”

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Minister Ayres s22

Senator Sterle s22

s22

From: MediaTeam
Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2025 3:43 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22 ; MediaTeam; s22
Subject: RE: Shell MR for Major Project Status projects [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: CLEARED SHELL MR 095 - Major Project Status Nov25.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi s22

The shell release for the latest Major Project Status announcement is attached.

Noting, we've included a paragraph on each business/project so we could get the wording cleared by policy. I would recommend only leaving in the relevant project for each electorate when you provide to MPs.

Let me know if any questions,
s22

A/g Assistant Manager
(Qld based/AEST)

Chief Operating Officer | Communications Branch | Media and Speechwriting Section
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
s22

OFFICIAL

From: s22 >
Sent: Thursday, 20 November 2025 8:35 PM
To: MediaTeam <MediaTeam@industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 >
Subject: Shell MR for Major Project Status projects [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Are you to prepare a shell MR to assist with the local promotion of the recently approved projects, which have received Major Project Status?

Thanks
s22

| **Caucus Advisor**
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science

Senator for NSW
s22

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

OFFICIAL

s22

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 2:50 PM
To: PMO Media
Cc: s22
Subject: FYI - Caucus Shell Release - Major Project Status awarded [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: CLEARED SHELL MR 095 - Major Project Status Nov25.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Just sending this shell MR through as an FYI. It will be sent to relevant caucus members to assist them to promote Major Project Status (MPS) being awarded to project/s in their electorate.

The list of projects is below:

s22

- **Luni Niobium Project** located in Western Australia is focused on developing niobium, a globally significant critical mineral. Niobium is primarily used to strengthen steel for automotive, construction and energy infrastructure, and is increasingly important in advanced technologies.
Currently in the process of finalising key project metrics, Luni Niobium will exceed the Major Project Status eligibility threshold of \$50 million in capital expenditure and is anticipated to create hundreds of jobs.

s22

Let me know if there are any issues.

Kind regards,

s22

| **Caucus Advisor**
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW

s22

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

OFFICIAL

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 3:26 PM
To: s22
Subject: FW: FYI - Caucus Shell Release - Major Project Status awarded [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

FYI

OFFICIAL

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 3 December 2025 11:30 AM
To: s22
Subject: RE: FYI - Caucus Shell Release - Major Project Status awarded [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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OFFICIAL

Thanks so much s22

OFFICIAL

From: s22 >
Sent: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 2:50 PM
To: PMO Media <media@pm.gov.au>
Cc: s22 >
Subject: FYI - Caucus Shell Release - Major Project Status awarded [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Just sending this shell MR through as an FYI. It will be sent to relevant caucus members to assist them to promote Major Project Status (MPS) being awarded to project/s in their electorate.

The list of projects is below:

s22

s22

s22

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Currently in the process of finalising key project metrics, Luni Niobium will exceed the Major Project Status eligibility threshold of \$50 million in capital expenditure and is anticipated to create hundreds of jobs.

s22

Let me know if there are any issues.

Kind regards,

s22

| **Caucus Advisor**
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW

s22

—
The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

OFFICIAL

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s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 3:48 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Can you please just confirm they have seen it and are happy for it to go?

From: s22 >
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 3:25 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hey! I sent to PMO as a FYI and they didn't come back with any issues.

Thanks
s22

OFFICIAL

From: s22 >
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 3:23 PM
To: s22 >
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hey s22 – has it been approved by PMO as it has Tim on it.

Thanks

OFFICIAL

From: s22 >
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 3:17 PM
To: s22 >
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Just wanted to follow up on this – is the attached ok to distribute?

Thanks
s22

OFFICIAL

From: s22 >
Sent: Friday, 5 December 2025 9:25 AM
To: s22
Subject: FW: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team,

Are you able to review the attached and let me know if its ok for s22 office to send out? It follows the Shell MR which you had both ticked off so shouldn't be any issues.

s22 – are you happy with being the media contact from our office or do we not need to have one listed?

Thanks
s22

From: s22 >
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2025 4:47 PM
To: s22 >
Cc: s22 >
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s22

Thanks for getting back to me.

Can you please review the release and let us know if there are any changes required before we circulate?

Kind regards

s22
Office of Glenn Sterle
Senator for Western Australia

G02/150-152 Riseley Street
BOORAGOON WA 6154

s22

All electoral communications authorised by Glenn Sterle Australian Labor Party Perth

OFFICIAL

From: s22 >
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2025 1:36 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22 >
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s22

Thank you for getting in contact.

Apologies I should have made this more clear - the reason the jobs figures are not listed on the release is because the company hasn't released the figures to the market so we can't publicly state them at this stage.

In regard to a media contact from our office – please include s22

Hope this helps – let me know if you need further information.

Kind regards,
s22

OFFICIAL

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2025 3:55 PM
To: s22 >
Cc: s22 >
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon s22

I have been asked by s22 in Senator Sterle's office to clarify a couple of points before we finalise a shell media release for the Luni Niobium Project

Can you please clarify if the numbers in the shell release reflect the number of jobs for all projects? In the original email of 19 November, the numbers for Luni Niobium were 350 direct jobs and 500 construction. Would this be correct, if so let me know and I will replace with the correct figures?

The second highlighted area is the media contact in Senator Ayres office was missing. Should this in fact be yourself or someone else in your office.

If you can answer these two questions for me, I will complete the release and send through for you approval so that we can then distribute.

Kind regard

s22

Office of Glenn Sterle
Senator for Western Australia

GO2/150-152 Riseley Street
BOORAGOON WA 6154

s22

All electoral communications authorised by Glenn Sterle Australian Labor Party Perth

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 3:55 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Sorry just got all your email – yes this can go – thank you.

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 3:17 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Just wanted to follow up on this – is the attached ok to distribute?

Thanks
s22

OFFICIAL

From: s22
Sent: Friday, 5 December 2025 9:25 AM
To: s22
Subject: FW: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team,

Are you able to review the attached and let me know if its ok for Sterle’s office to send out? It follows the Shell MR which you had both ticked off so shouldn’t be any issues.

s22 – are you happy with being the media contact from our office or do we not need to have one listed?

Thanks
s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2025 4:47 PM
To: s22 >
Cc: s22 >
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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Kind regards

s22

Office of Glenn Sterle
Senator for Western Australia

GO2/150-152 Riseley Street
BOORAGOON WA 6154

s22

All electoral communications authorised by Glenn Sterle Australian Labor Party Perth

OFFICIAL

From: s22

Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2025 1:36 PM

To: s22

>

Cc: s22

>

Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s22

Thank you for getting in contact.

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Hope this helps – let me know if you need further information.

Kind regards,

s22

OFFICIAL

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To: s22 >
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Kind regard

s22
Office of Glenn Sterle
Senator for Western Australia

G02/150-152 Riseley Street
BOORAGOON WA 6154
s22

All electoral communications authorised by Glenn Sterle Australian Labor Party Perth

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2025 5:27 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sorry, finally getting back to this one. Job figures can normally be provided for projects but in this case they haven't released the figures to the market so we can't publicly state them.

OFFICIAL

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 20 November 2025 1:51 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Yeah mate of course.

OFFICIAL

From: s22 >
Sent: Thursday, 20 November 2025 1:32 PM
To: s22 >
Subject: Fw: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi both,

s22 - Are you happy for me request a shell MR to assist Duty Senators/MPs promote these MPS projects?

s22 - Not sure if local job projections are a part of the process for getting MPS?

Thanks
s22

OFFICIAL

From: s22

Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 12:36 pm

To: s22 >

Subject: Re: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s22

Thanks so much for the email.

We'd be happy to send a release to the Kimberley Echo which is the local paper up that part of the world.

Are there any projections on how many local people will be employed as part of this project?

Thanks

s22

Senior Adviser
Office of Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair – Senate Rural Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee
Labor Senator for Western Australia

Unit G2 & G3
150-152 Riseley Street
Booragoon WA 6154
s22

Suite S1.40
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Canberra: (02) 6277 3615
Canberra Fax: (02) 6277 5765

All electoral communications authorised by Glenn Sterle Australian Labor Party Perth

From: s22

Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 14:34

To: s22

Cc: s22

Subject: Major Project Status approved: WA1 Resources Ltd – Luni Niobium Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s22 ,

I hope that you are well.

Just wanting to let you know that Min Ayres has recently approved Major Project Status (MPS) for the Luni Niobium project in the West Arunta, proposed by WA1 Resources Ltd.

The Luni project is a significant critical mineral development located in Western Australia. With an estimated s47 , the project is expected to provide 350 direct jobs and 500 construction jobs. The project represents an opportunity for Australia to contribute to a competitive global niobium supply chain, benefiting the Western Australian and national economy.

MPS is valid for 3 years and during this period, the department's Major Projects Facilitation Agency will facilitate and assist WA1 Resources Ltd to navigate Australian and state government approval processes.

Please note, the awarding of MPS does not imply approval or guarantee the Project's commercial success. The project must still satisfy all relevant regulatory, grant, or funding approval requirements.

Please let me know if your boss would like to do any local media on this and we can assist. We currently don't have any media planned, but I will update you accordingly if we do anything.

Give me a buzz if you want to discuss further.

Kind regards,
s22

s22 | **Caucus Advisor**
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW
s22

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

OFFICIAL

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 13 November 2025 8:39 AM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: Min sub - MPFA approvals [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: MS25-000998 MPFA - Major Project Status Approvals October 2025.pdf
Categories: REVIEW

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks s22

s22 – do a bit more due diligence, but might be worth chunking out into a few drops – a drop for s22 on the WA project in the lead up to heading over there next week, s22

s22 – Let’s discuss a proposed Gippsland trip for the first half of next year

s22 / **Communications Director**
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW
s22

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s22 >
Sent: Thursday, 13 November 2025 8:36 AM
To: s22 >
Subject: FW: Min sub - MPFA approvals [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



WA1 Resources Ltd | ABN 51 646 878 631
Lvl 2, 437 Roberts Road
Subiaco, Western Australia 6008
T: +61 8 6478 7866
E: info@wa1resources.com.au | www.wa1.com.au

20 November 2025

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Science
PO Box 6100
Senate, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

AWARD OF MAJOR PROJECT STATUS FOR THE LUNI NIOBIUM PROJECT

Dear Minister,

Thank you for granting Major Project Status to our Luni Niobium Project.

We greatly appreciate the Commonwealth's support and the acknowledgement of the project's strategic importance and potential.

The scale and grade of Luni make it the most important niobium discovery globally in the past 70 years and deserving of its recognition as a project of national significance.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet and provide a briefing at your convenience, and look forward to continuing our constructive engagement with your Department and the Major Project Facilitation Agency as momentum continues to build towards progressing the development of the Project.

Sincerely,

s22

Managing Director



Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

MC25-012762

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation | Minister for Science
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senator.Ayres@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the renewal and approval of Major Project Status for multiple projects in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and off the coast of Victoria. Minister Watt has asked me to thank you for your correspondence and to reply on his behalf.

The department is committed to supporting the transition to renewable energy while also protecting nature and upholding national environment laws. As you are aware, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is Australia's national environment law. It provides a legal framework for the protection of 'matters of national environmental significance' (MNES). Renewable energy and critical mineral developments, like all other industries, must comply with this.

In relation to the status of the projects you have referenced, the Star of the South Offshore Wind Project is currently under assessment under the EPBC Act. The department's assessment teams have held pre-referral meetings with the proponents of Project Sol, the Luni Niobium project and the Blue Mackerel Offshore Wind Project, and are yet to receive formal referrals under the EPBC Act.

The department is exploring more strategic and efficient EPBC Act assessment pathways to streamline and accelerate priority projects while maintaining strong environmental safeguards. We look forward to engaging with and supporting proponents to navigate EPBC Act regulatory processes and requirements.

Yours sincerely

s22

Rachel Short
Branch Head
Environment Regulation Division

2 December 2025

DCCEEW.gov.au

John Gorton Building - King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 Australia
GPO Box 3090 Canberra ACT 2601 ABN: 63 573 932 849

**SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE**

MS25-000998

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Attorney-General

I am writing to inform you of my decision to approve Major Project Status (MPS) for the Luni Niobium project, proposed by WA1 Resources Ltd. My decision recognises the importance of the Project to Australia's critical minerals strategy.

The Luni project is a significant critical mineral development located in Western Australia. With an estimated capital expenditure of \$500 million, the project is expected to provide 350 direct jobs and 500 construction jobs. The project represents an opportunity for Australia to contribute to a competitive global niobium supply chain, benefiting the Western Australian and national economy.

MPS is valid for 3 years from the date of this letter. During this period, my department's Major Projects Facilitation Agency will facilitate and assist WA1 Resources Ltd to navigate Australian and state government approval processes.

Please note, the awarding of MPS does not imply Australian Government approval or guarantee the Project's commercial success. The project must still satisfy all relevant regulatory, grant, or funding approval requirements.

Accordingly, WA1 Resources Ltd has identified the *Native Title Act 1993* as relevant to this project. The MPFA will engage with your department on the regulatory pathway of this MPS Project.

Yours sincerely

s22

TIM AYRES
14/11/2025

**SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE**

MS25-000998

Mr Paul Savich
WA1 Resources Ltd
Level 2, 437 Roberts Road
SUBIACO WA 6008

s22

Dear Mr Savich

Thank you for your application seeking Major Project Status (MPS) for the Luni Niobium project.

I am pleased to advise I have awarded Major Project Status for 3 years from the date of this letter. The decision to award the status was based on the WA1 Resources potential contribution to Australia's critical minerals industry.

I have written to the Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia, and several of my ministerial colleagues advising them of my decision and to encourage their assistance with your project.

The awarding of MPS does not imply Australian Government endorsement of your project or guarantee its commercial success. Your project still needs to meet the requirements of the relevant Australian, Western Australia's regulatory, grant or funding approval processes.

Furthermore, the continuation of MPS is subject to a requirement that the project proponent, its directors, and officers continue to be fit and proper persons in compliance with the responsibilities of the project.

The Major Projects Facilitation Agency will be in contact with you regarding next steps.

I wish you well in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely

s22

TIM AYRES
14/11/2025

**SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE**

MS25-000998

The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Premier of Western Australia
Level 13, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Premier

I am writing to inform you of my decision to approve Major Project Status (MPS) for the Luni Niobium project, proposed by WA1 Resources Ltd. My decision recognises the importance of the Project to Australia's critical minerals strategy.

The Luni project is a significant critical mineral development located in Western Australia. With an estimated capital expenditure of \$500 million, the project is expected to provide 350 direct jobs and 500 construction jobs. The project represents an opportunity for Australia to contribute to a competitive global niobium supply chain, benefiting the Western Australian and national economy.

MPS is valid for 3 years from the date of this letter. During this period, my department's Major Projects Facilitation Agency will facilitate and assist WA1 Resources Ltd to navigate Australian and state government approval processes.

Please note, the awarding of MPS does not imply Australian Government approval or guarantee the Project's commercial success. The project must still satisfy all relevant regulatory, grant, or funding approval requirements.

I have written to several of my ministerial colleagues regarding this decision and to encourage their assistance with this Project.

Yours sincerely

s22

TIM AYRES
14/11/2025

**SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE**

MS25-000998

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for the Environment and Water
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senator.Watt@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

I am writing to inform you of my decision to approve Major Project Status (MPS) for the Luni Niobium project, proposed by WA1 Resources Ltd. My decision recognises the importance of the Project to Australia's critical minerals strategy.

The Luni project is a significant critical mineral development located in Western Australia. With an estimated capital expenditure of \$500 million, the project is expected to provide 350 direct jobs and 500 construction jobs. The project represents an opportunity for Australia to contribute to a competitive global niobium supply chain, benefiting the Western Australian and national economy.

MPS is valid for 3 years from the date of this letter. During this period, my department's Major Projects Facilitation Agency will facilitate and assist WA1 Resources Ltd to navigate Australian and state government approval processes.

Please note, the awarding of MPS does not imply Australian Government approval or guarantee the Project's commercial success. The project must still satisfy all relevant regulatory, grant, or funding approval requirements.

Accordingly, WA1 Resources Ltd has identified the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as relevant for this Project. The MPFA will engage with your department on the regulatory pathway of this MPS Project.

Yours sincerely

s22

TIM AYRES
14/11/2025

s22

From: Paul Savich s22
Sent: Thursday, 20 November 2025 9:15 PM
To: Minister Ayres
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: Letter from Minister Ayres regarding Major Project Status [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: WA1 to Min for Industry - Award of MPS.pdf

OFFICIAL

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear s22

Please find attached a brief letter thanking Minister Ayres for the recognition of our project.

So you are aware, we will release an ASX announcement tomorrow notifying our shareholders of this acknowledgement.

We have also been in contact with MPFA and look forward to meeting with your office in due course.

Best regards, Paul



WA1 Resources Ltd | ABN 51 646 878 631

Office & Postal Address: Lvl 2 437 Roberts Road, Subiaco, Western Australia 6008

s22

OFFICIAL

From: Minister Ayres
Sent: Friday, 14 November 2025 3:47 PM
To: s22
Cc: Minister Ayres
Subject: Letter from Minister Ayres regarding Major Project Status [SEC=OFFICIAL]

You don't often get email from minister.ayres@industry.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Good evening,

Please see attached a letter from Senator Ayres, Minister for Industry and Innovation, and Minister for Science regarding Major Project Status.

Have a wonderful weekend,

s22

Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation | Minister for Science
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Email: Minister.Ayres@industry.gov.au

OFFICIAL

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2025 5:51 PM
To: s22

Subject: Major Project Status Approvals
Attachments: Attachment D - Assessment - WA1 Resources Ltd - Luni Niobium Project.docx;
s22
s22

Hi all,

DISR are recommending that Tim grants major project status to the following projects:

s22

Luni Niobium Project (WA1 Resources Ltd) – new application

Critical mineral development of niobium in WA. CapEx \$500 million, 508 jobs in construction, 350 ongoing

Further detail on each project is attached.

Please let me know any issues/sensitivities on these by EOD 11th November.

Happy to chat through.

Thanks,

s22

s22 | **Policy Adviser**
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW
M: 0448 075 878
E: matilda.stevenson@industry.gov.au

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 3 November 2025 2:49 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Major Project Status Approvals [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Great, thank you!

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 3 November 2025 2:05 PM
To: s22 >
Subject: RE: Major Project Status Approvals [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s22

Confirming no concerns from Home Affairs on this one.

Kind regards,
s22

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s22 >
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2025 5:51 PM
To: s22

Subject: Major Project Status Approvals [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi all,

DISR are recommending that Tim grants major project status to the following projects:

s22

Luni Niobium Project (WA1 Resources Ltd) – new application

Critical mineral development of niobium in WA. CapEx ^{s47} , 508 jobs in construction, 350 ongoing

Further detail on each project is attached.

Please let me know any issues/sensitivities on these by EOD 11th November.

Happy to chat through.

Thanks,

s22

s22 | **Policy Adviser**
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW
s22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 3 November 2025 8:11 AM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Major Project Status Approvals [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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Thanks s22

No concerns here; will defer to your advice and views from other offices on project specifics. As an aside, s22 looks very large!

s22

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2025 5:51 PM
To: s22

Subject: Major Project Status Approvals [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi all,

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s22

s22

Luni Niobium Project (WA1 Resources Ltd) – new application

Critical mineral development of niobium in WA. CapEx \$500 million, 508 jobs in construction, 350 ongoing

Further detail on each project is attached.

Please let me know any issues/sensitivities on these by EOD 11th November.

Happy to chat through.

Thanks,

s22

s22
Policy Adviser
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW
M: 0448 075 878
E: matilda.stevenson@industry.gov.au

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