

19 February 2026

## Ngungaju plant restart and growth studies update

PLS Group Limited (ASX: PLS) (PLS or the Company) is pleased to provide an update on spodumene production capacity and expansion projects in light of sustained improvement in market fundamentals and significant demand from customers.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ~200 thousand tonnes (kt) per annum (pa)<sup>1</sup> Ngungaju plant restart approved, with production to resume in July 2026.
- Review of growth studies timelines and sequencing.
  - P2000 Pilgangoora expansion feasibility study outcomes expected in December Quarter 2026
  - Colina Project feasibility study outcomes expected in December Quarter 2027 - extended to incorporate additional drilling and optimisation work
- FY26 unit operating cost (FOB)<sup>2</sup> and capital expenditure guidance is unchanged. Unit operating costs (FOB) expected toward the upper end of the \$560/t to \$600/t range in H2 FY26 due to Ngungaju plant restart preparation activities.

### Through-the-cycle strategy – next phase

PLS' positioning through the lithium market downcycle has been disciplined, deliberate and strategic, ensuring the Company preserved operating capability, delivered against guidance and retained balance sheet strength and operational flexibility through a period of heightened volatility.

As market fundamentals improve, that discipline now enables PLS to capitalise on its competitive advantage and deliver production growth from a position of strength.

The Company's low-cost operating base, established operating capability and financial resilience are direct outcomes of disciplined decisions made in recent years which positions PLS well to reassess its upstream growth portfolio following sustained appreciation in spodumene pricing and improving market conditions.

The same disciplined investment framework that protected value through the downcycle continues to guide the Company's growth decisions. The Company will continue to sequence growth selectively and only progress initiatives that are in alignment with its capital allocation framework which aims to deliver long-term shareholder value whilst preserving balance sheet strength.

### NGUNGAJU PLANT TO RESTART

As mentioned in the December Quarter update, PLS has completed readiness and evaluation activities to prepare for the restart of the ~200ktpa Ngungaju processing plant, including a crusher upgrade, with associated capital expenditure incorporated into FY26 guidance.

In light of improved market conditions and ongoing customer demand, the Board has approved the restart of the Ngungaju plant with production to resume in early July 2026. The Ngungaju plant restart will be supported by the retention of key personnel during the care and maintenance period, together with the completed crusher upgrade. The plant is expected to return to historical production levels following ramp-up.

PLS will incur some operating costs in the second half of FY26 to prepare for the restart; however, FY26 unit operating costs (FOB) are anticipated to remain within FY26 guidance<sup>3</sup>, though likely towards the top end of the \$560/t to \$600/t range. As previously disclosed, any capital expenditure incurred from the restart is within FY26 capital expenditure guidance.

Aligned with prior practice, PLS will disclose future key production and financial metrics for the Pilgangoora asset at the Pilgangoora Operation level. Upon completion of PLS' internal budget and planning process, FY27

guidance for the Pilgangoora Operation (production, unit operating costs (FOB) and capital expenditure) will be provided in the June Quarter 2026 update.

## **UPDATE TO EXPANSION STUDY TIMELINES AND SEQUENCING**

### **P2000 Project - advancing expansion feasibility study**

The P2000 Project represents a potential expansion of the Pilgangoora Operation's concentrate production capacity to approximately 2.0 million (M) tpa<sup>4</sup>, underpinned by existing Ore Reserves<sup>5</sup>.

The June 2024 pre-feasibility study (PFS) demonstrated a highly accretive expansion option, with an incremental NPV of A\$2.6B and IRR of 55% based on the pricing, cost and other assumptions set out in that announcement.

The PFS confirmed that increased mining and processing rates could be supported within the current Ore Reserve base, positioning P2000 as a material brownfield scale option within the existing Pilgangoora footprint.

Since release of the PFS, PLS has progressed detailed engineering, mine planning, regulatory preparation, water supply assessment, metallurgical refinement and infrastructure definition as part of the feasibility study. Study outcomes are targeted for release in the December Quarter 2026, providing increased timing precision relative to prior guidance.

The proposed expansion involves construction of a new concentrator adjacent to the existing Pilgan and Ngungaju processing facilities. The feasibility study is incorporating operating experience gained over eight years at Pilgangoora, including processing optimisation, ore characterisation and lithium ore sorting integration developed through prior expansion projects. The flowsheet design draws on established whole-of-ore flotation capability and is being configured to complement existing circuits.

The new facility is being designed to enhance operational flexibility and enable coordinated optimisation of aggregate performance across Pilgan, Ngungaju and the proposed P2000 plant over life of mine. This integrated approach supports scale efficiency and recovery optimisation across the broader Pilgangoora Operation.

P2000 production volumes remain unallocated, providing strategic flexibility in future offtake alignment, partnership structuring and potential funding pathways.

Consistent with PLS' capital allocation framework, any final investment decision will remain subject to successful feasibility study outcomes, capital allocation thresholds, funding capacity and confidence in sustained lithium market conditions, reflecting the scale and capital intensity of the project.

### **Colina Project – advancing resource growth and feasibility study to optimise long-term value**

The Colina Project is a 100% owned hard rock spodumene development asset in Minas Gerais, Brazil, acquired by PLS in February 2025 through a disciplined, counter-cyclical, all-scrip transaction structured to preserve balance sheet strength. Colina provides longer-term growth optionality and geographic diversification, with the ability to target European and North American battery supply chains, in addition to Asia.

As a function of increasing geological, metallurgical and engineering knowledge in the Project, PLS has elected to advance Colina to a deeper level of technical definition through a formal feasibility study.

Current work comprises an integrated program of drilling associated with the Mineral Resource, metallurgical testwork, flowsheet refinement and infrastructure studies. These workstreams are being progressed in parallel to support evaluation of development scale, mine life, plant configuration and capital efficiency within the updated feasibility study.

In progressing the feasibility study, PLS is applying processing and metallurgical expertise developed at Pilgangoora - including flotation capability, ore characterisation, recovery optimisation and ore sorting integration - to inform flowsheet selection and plant configuration, support design de-risking and to optimise long-term operating performance. This work includes consideration of staged development sequencing as part of the overall project configuration, with the objective of enhancing capital efficiency, managing execution risk and preserving flexibility through the cycle.

PLS is also assessing potential early-stage, pre-FID enabling infrastructure initiatives (including access roads, water supply and power) separate from the core feasibility study work, to preserve development optionality, subject to Board approval and capital allocation thresholds.

Feasibility study outcomes are targeted for release in the December Quarter 2027. This timing reflects the decision to incorporate ongoing drilling results and integrated optimisation work into a more robust and appropriately sequenced development pathway. Any Final Investment Decision will remain subject to successful feasibility study outcomes, capital allocation thresholds, funding capacity, execution risk mitigation and confidence in sustained lithium market conditions.

### CEO QUOTE

PLS Managing Director and CEO, Dale Henderson, said:

*"The restart of the Ngungaju plant demonstrates the disciplined through-the-cycle strategy we have executed - preserving operational capability and balance sheet strength during the downturn so we could respond decisively as conditions improved.*

*Supported by customer contracting and strengthening market fundamentals, restart capital remains within our FY26 guidance, enabling us to bring approximately 200ktpa of additional production capacity back online with limited execution risk and enhanced volume leverage.*

*Beyond Ngungaju, our growth options are sequenced and returns-driven. P2000 represents a material brownfield expansion opportunity progressing through feasibility, while at Colina we are investing in resource growth and expanding the feasibility study to optimise long-term scale and economics. Both projects remain 100% owned and controlled by PLS, with production volumes currently unallocated, providing strategic flexibility as we progress toward investment decisions.*

*PLS enters this phase from a position of strength, and our capital allocation framework remains unchanged – any growth will be advanced selectively, preserving financial flexibility and ensuring a clear pathway to attractive long-term returns for shareholders."*

Release authorised by Dale Henderson, PLS Managing Director and CEO.

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### About PLS

PLS is a leading global producer of lithium materials, with a diversified portfolio of assets and strategic partnerships in the rapidly growing battery materials sector. The Group owns 100% of the world's largest, independent hard-rock lithium operation, the Pilgangoora Operation in Australia, and the Colina Lithium Project in Brazil. PLS is also integrated into the lithium value chain through its joint venture with POSCO in South Korea, which manufactures battery-grade lithium hydroxide. With significant scale, high-quality assets, and a strong commitment to advancing the global energy transition, PLS has established enduring partnerships with leading international companies in the sector such as POSCO, Ganfeng, Chengxin, Yahua, Canmax and General Lithium.

Guidance as to production, unit costs and capital expenditure is based on assumptions, budgets and estimates existing at the time of assessment which may change over time impacting the accuracy of those estimates. These estimates are developed in the context of an uncertain operating environment, including in respect of inflationary macroeconomic conditions, and uncertainties surrounding the risks associated with mining and further optimisation of the Pilgangoora Operation which may impact production and have a flow on effect on sales. Actual results may therefore vary significantly depending on these risks and the timing required to

address them. All information is provided as an indicative guide to assist sophisticated investors with modelling of the Group. It should not be relied upon as a predictor of future performance.

Information in this announcement regarding production targets and the nameplate capacity of the Pilgangoora Operation in respect of the P1000 operating model and the P2000 expansion project are underpinned by the Group's existing Ore Reserves that have been prepared by a Competent Person (Mr Ross Jaine) in accordance with the JORC Code (2012 Edition) and were released by the Group to ASX on 24 August 2023 in its release entitled "55Mt increase in Ore Reserves to 214Mt" (August 2023 Release) and the 2025 Annual Report, dated 25 August 2025, which sets out the adjustment for depletion. The relevant proportions of proved Ore Reserves and probable Ore Reserves underpinning the production targets are 6% proved Ore Reserves and 94% probable Ore Reserves.

The Group confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in these announcements and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the Ore Reserve estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed. The Group confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcements.

The Group confirms that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the forecast financial information derived from the production target in the Group's release to the ASX on 21 June 2024 entitled "Study delivers 2MTPA expansion option" continue to apply and have not materially changed.

This announcement may contain some references to forecasts, estimates, assumptions and other forward-looking statements. Although the Group believes that its expectations, estimates and forecast outcomes are based on reasonable assumptions, it can give no assurance that they will be achieved. They may be affected by a variety of variables and changes in underlying assumptions that are subject to risk factors associated with the nature of the business, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed herein.

All references to dollars (\$) and cents in this announcement are to Australian dollars, unless otherwise stated.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the current mine plan and SC5.2% grade. Ultimate production achieved in any year will depend on the ore feed grade, concentrate grade, recovery along with other factors and is variable over the mine plan.

<sup>2</sup> Unit operating cost (FOB Port Hedland excluding freight and royalties) includes mining, processing, transport, port charges, and site based general and administration costs and is net of any tantalite by-product credits. It is calculated on an incurred basis (including accruals) and includes inventory movements and credits for capitalised deferred mine waste development costs, and it excludes depreciation of fixed assets and right of use leases, and amortisation of deferred stripping.

<sup>3</sup> For more information see the ASX announcement titled "June Quarterly Activities Report" dated 30 July 2025

<sup>4</sup> For more information see the ASX announcement titled "Study delivers 2MTPA expansion option" dated 21 June 2024.

<sup>5</sup> For more information see the ASX announcement titled "55Mt increase in Ore Reserves to 214Mt" dated 24 August 2023 and the 2025 Annual Report dated 25 August 2025.