

**ASX Announcement**  
**25 May 2018**

## **MID WEST ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE CONCEPT STUDY**

AustSino Resources Group Limited (ASX: ANS or Company) is pleased to announce that it has engaged Churchill Consulting to manage the production of a concept study in relation to potential economic infrastructure solutions for the Mid West Region of Western Australia. The Mid West is a highly prospective, but currently underdeveloped, region which has the potential to become a major new iron ore province.

From the perspective of those seeking to develop their mineral tenements in the Mid West, the development of the region has been hindered by the lack of a deepwater port and other economic infrastructure. As noted in the Company's previous announcements,<sup>1</sup> the Company's own iron ore deposits are located several hundred kilometres from the coast, are significant in size and will require significant capital to develop. There are also currently no transportation infrastructure solutions available to enable those deposits to be easily transported and exported.

The Board and Management team of the Company are hopeful that the recent requote of its shares on the ASX platform<sup>2</sup> will renew the focus on the Mid West as a highly prospective region, and create a catalyst for renewed discussions about economic infrastructure solutions for the Mid West.

From the perspective of the potential customers (principally from China), the Mid West region is a potentially huge resource province, within which Chinese companies have already invested substantially, and within which Chinese companies could continue to play a leading role.

### **Further information about the concept study**

The Company has engaged Churchill Consulting (a specialist independent consulting firm, based in Perth) to manage the preparation of a Concept Study in relation to potential economic infrastructure solutions for the Mid West.

Churchill Consulting will contribute strategic and technical input as well as managing the overall study process. Churchill Consulting has a proven track record built over 20 years in advising clients in the energy and resources, industrial, infrastructure and government sectors, on areas which include strategy and planning and program and project management.

The Concept Study will be managed by Mr Rodney Nelson from Churchill Consulting. Mr Nelson is a very experienced engineer, management consultant and project manager. Among various roles, Mr Nelson was previously Global Mining Lead-Projects at KPMG, Chief Project Manager of Smorgon Steel and led DuPont's consulting practice for Australia and the Pacific Islands. Rodney has over 30 years' experience advising large and small listed mining companies, infrastructure companies and steel companies on capital projects, project delivery, organisational design and operational readiness (spanning geographies including Australia, Europe, Asia, and North and South America).

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, the Company's Replacement Prospectus of 25 January 2018

<sup>2</sup> The Company's shares were quoted on 5 April 2018

Mr Nelson's considerable previous experience advising on mining and economic infrastructure solutions and supply chains for the Mid West, including at Oakajee (and for other resources regions of Western Australia) will be very valuable in undertaking the Concept Study.

The Company has also retained the services of the following specialists to contribute to the preparation of the Concept Study:

- Contour Capital, AustSino's financial advisor since April 2017, will provide financial, strategic and commercial input to the study. The Managing Director of Contour Capital, Mr Duncan Calder has, over the last two decades, advised the Mid West Port Authority on major capital expansion programmes as well as providing financial advice to several Australian and Chinese companies with investments in the Mid West. In addition, Mr Calder held senior leadership roles with the Australia China Business Council (ACBC) for a decade including as ACBC National President and as President of ACBC in Western Australia; and
- other industry professionals with significant previous approvals, government relations, engineering and operations experience, gained in senior roles with the Mid West Port Authority, the former Department of State Development, the Dampier Port Authority and with listed and unlisted Mid West iron ore companies and port and rail infrastructure developers.

A significant body of work has previously been undertaken in relation to potential economic infrastructure solutions for the Mid West over many years for or on behalf of a large number of stakeholders (including government agencies, infrastructure proponents and by existing and prospective mining companies). The Company believes the time is right to re-evaluate previous options and scenarios and to explore fresh ideas which may assist in finally developing a viable economic infrastructure solution for the region. The Company is confident that the results of its own Concept Study will be an effective catalyst for further studies and discussions by interested parties.

It is intended that the Concept Study will collate, review, update, analyse and make recommendations about economic infrastructure solutions based on a high level review of relevant studies and technical information from publicly available sources and government agencies, engineering and economic advisory firms, explorers and miners (including the Company's own engineering studies and intellectual property, which it acquired from the Chinese-backed Yilgarn Infrastructure Pty Ltd consortium in 2011 and which the Company has subsequently updated).

The Company hopes to complete the Concept Study, and to share the results with relevant stakeholders, early in the new financial year. In the meantime, the Company will continue to develop its existing portfolio of tenements in and around Robertson Range and Peak Hill and to explore the potential to acquire and or earn in to additional tenements in the Mid West that are prospective for iron ore.

### **Further information about the Company**

AustSino Resources Group Ltd is a Perth-based exploration company listed on the ASX platform, focused on the Mid West region of Western Australia, which has the potential to become a major new iron ore province.

The Company has a strong portfolio of prospective iron ore tenements in the Mid West and intellectual property in relation to potential economic infrastructure solutions.

### **Further inquiries:**

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