

Media Release  
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## ConsMin breathes new life into Woodie Woodie

China's Ningxia Tianyuan Manganese Industry Co., Ltd (TMI), the new owners of the Woodie Woodie Manganese Mine in Western Australia, have announced plans to initially invest approximately \$30 million for a full re-start of the Pilbara operations by October.

TMI, which took control of ConsMin in May, has been buoyed by a sustained increase in global manganese pricing and is working towards a first shipment from Woodie Woodie in November.

The re-start of Woodie Woodie, which was placed on care and maintenance in February 2016 in the face of historically low manganese prices, will result in the creation of more than 300 jobs.

The founder and Chairman of TMI Mr Tianjiang Jia and ConsMin CEO Oleg Sheyko are meeting today with the Hon. Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum of Western Australia, to announce the reopening and advise that ConsMin also plans to make significant investments in exploration to underpin a long-term future for Woodie Woodie.

Mr Jia said: *"This is a very exciting time for TMI. We were attracted to ConsMin because of the quality of its assets and we were always confident that there would be future opportunities for Woodie Woodie at some stage. ConsMin is an important part of TMI's international strategy to integrate our mining and production operations to further enhance our position as the world's biggest electrolytic manganese metal (EMM) producer."*

Mr Sheyko said: *"We see this as a very important event for the WA mining industry. It was a very tough decision to close Woodie Woodie but at the time it was simply unviable. We are now confident in the manganese market outlook and with an exploration investment can see Woodie Woodie continuing into the future. This is a great outcome for ConsMin, the Pilbara region and WA."*

An initial 115 jobs have already been secured as part of the re-start plan, which has included processing of low-grade stockpiles. Full scale mining operations are expected to be reached in October and ConsMin is targeting annualised production of 1.3-1.5 million tonnes.

Woodie Woodie, 400km south east of Port Hedland, has been a source of manganese for approximately 70 years and is recognised internationally as a source of high-grade, low-impurity manganese. Manganese is used in the steel industry for manganese alloys which improve strength and ductility.

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## **ABOUT CONSMIN**

ConsMin is one of the four biggest manganese ore producers in the world with mining operations in Australia and Ghana and headquartered in Jersey.

Its mining operations in Ghana have a history stretching back to 1916.

In November 2016 agreement was reached for ConsMin to be bought by TMI. The transaction was concluded in May 2017.

ConsMin formed a key part of TMI's growth plans and strategy to become an integrated manganese miner and producer of electrolytic manganese metal (EMM).

ConsMin's manganese resources in Ghana are perfectly suited to TMI's EMM production.

ConsMin, supported by TMI, holds long term ambitions to continue to invest in the growth of the Company's operations, infrastructure and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Ghana and Australia.

## **ABOUT TMI**

TMI is the world's largest electrolytic manganese metal (EMM) producer. EMM is a pure form of manganese, produced through an electrolytic refining process, and is principally used in the production of stainless steel. Approximately 10% of global manganese production goes into the production of EMM.

TMI was established in 2003 by Mr Tianjiang Jia and is headquartered in the city of Zhongwei, in the north-central region of Ningxia, China.

Since 2003 TMI has grown its annual EMM production capacity from 1.5k tonnes to its current 800k tonnes and has ambitious plans to further increase production to 1.2 million tonnes per annum with the completion of its new EMM capacity expansion project.

TMI has been pursuing a plan to fully integrate itself through the purchase of ConsMin as well as investment in other important feedstocks such as sulphuric acid and selenium dioxide plants.