

## Fluorine Added to Australia's Critical Minerals List

Fluorine added to Australia's Critical Minerals List – further government support expected with this significant recognition of the importance of fluorine

ABx Group subsidiary ALCORE well advanced to recover fluorine to produce hydrogen fluoride from aluminium smelting waste

Australia currently produces zero fluorine and is totally dependent on imports

Aluminium also included in Australia's new Strategic Materials List

ABx Group (ASX: ABX) ("ABx" or "the Company") is pleased to advise investors that fluorine – the main focus of the Company's 83%-owned subsidiary ALCORE – has been added to the Australian Government's Critical Minerals List.

Fluorine is essential for the steelmaking and aluminium smelting processes, and for the production of renewable technologies such as solar PV cells and batteries.

Despite Australia being the world's fourth largest exporter of aluminium<sup>1</sup>, the country produces zero fluorine and its smelters are entirely dependent on external sources of aluminium fluoride – primarily imports from China – to maintain smelting operations.

Alcore is progressing, using a state-of-the-art reactor, to process an aluminium smelting waste product known as excess bath to recover fluorine to produce hydrogen fluoride. Later, at commercial scale, a proportion of the hydrogen fluoride will be further processed via an existing commercial process to aluminium fluoride.

Additionally, the Australian Government has included aluminium in a new Strategic Materials List. These materials are important for the global transition to net zero and broader strategic applications, but their supply chains are not sufficiently vulnerable to meet the criteria for the Critical Minerals List.

### **ABx Group Managing Director and CEO Mark Cooksey said:**

*"I am exceptionally pleased that fluorine has been added to Australia's Critical Minerals List, demonstrating the value of the ALCORE process development. It is exciting to see fluorine placed on the same footing as other critical minerals such as lithium and rare earth elements.*

*"As a consequence, I anticipate ALCORE will be able to access further support from government, in addition to the \$7.5 million grant already received under the Federal Government's Modern Manufacturing Initiative (MMI)<sup>2</sup>."*

<sup>1</sup> Department of Industry, Science and Resources – Resources and energy quarterly: December 2023

<https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/resources-and-energy-quarterly-december-2023.pdf.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See ASX Announcement dated 29 April 2022. Note: Actual grant is \$7,582,966.

For further information on the most recent update of the Critical Minerals List, please see:

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/king/media-releases/government-backs-critical-minerals-energy-jobs-and-defence>

The full Critical Minerals List can be found at:

<https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/australias-critical-minerals-list-and-strategic-materials-list>

This announcement is approved for release by the board of directors.

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### **About ABx Group Limited**

ABx Group (ABX) is a uniquely positioned, high-tech Australian company delivering materials for a cleaner future.

The two current areas of focus are:

- Creation of an ionic adsorption clay rare earth project in northern Tasmania
- Establishment of a plant to produce hydrogen fluoride and aluminium fluoride from recycled industrial waste, via its 83%-owned subsidiary, Alcore

There is also a legacy business:

- Mining and enhancing the value of bauxite resources for cement, aluminium and fertilisers.

We only operate where welcomed and we apply best practices to restore any disturbed land to a better condition than we found it.

### **Disclaimer Regarding Forward Looking Statements**

This ASX announcement (Announcement) contains various forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to uncertainties in that they may be affected by a variety of known and unknown risks, variables and factors which could cause actual values or results, performance, or achievements to differ materially from the expectations described in such forward-looking statements.

ABx does not give any assurance that the anticipated results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied in those forward-looking statements will be achieved.