



13 August 2021

Lithium Australia seeks further IP protection for battery recycling

HIGHLIGHT

Lithium Australia has filed two International Patent Applications with the Australia Patent Office. Submitted under the Patent Cooperation Treaty ('PCT'), they relate to Envirostream Australia's selective separation of metal values from recycled lithium-ion batteries and recovery of electrode materials.

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Introduction

Envirostream Australia Pty Ltd ('Envirostream') is a 90% owned subsidiary of Lithium Australia NL (ASX: LIT, 'the Company').

The Company is pleased to announce the filing of PCT applications relating to Envirostream's recycling process for lithium-ion batteries and ongoing Company research and development activities targeting value-adds from the downstream processing of critical battery metals.

Separation and recovery of electrode materials

The PCT application 'Process for recovering values from batteries' – reference number PCT/AU2021/050886 – describes a size-selective process for recovering electrode material from lithium-ion batteries, including as a mixed metal material (mixed metal dust, 'MMD') that comprises both cathode and anode powders.

The PCT application 'Process for recovering values from process liquors' – reference number PCT/AU2021/050887 – describes processes for the selective recovery of mixed metal sulphates (such as a mixed cobalt-nickel sulphate) from a metal sulphate process liquor following leaching of mixed metal material (MMD) recovered from lithium-ion batteries.

Comment from Lithium Australia managing director Adrian Griffin

"The Lithium Australia group is acutely aware of its environmental footprint and that of the society within which we live and operate. We can no longer afford to discard any products to landfill, let alone those that have a high embedded energy footprint, contain critical materials, or – in the case of lithium-ion batteries – both. We have developed unique processes to deal with battery waste and invite like-minded industry participants to work with us in improving the sustainability of our consumer-based society."

Authorised for release by the Board.

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ASX ANNOUNCEMENT



About Lithium Australia

Lithium Australia aims to ensure an ethical supply of energy metals to the battery industry by creating a circular battery economy that enhances both sustainability and resource security.

The reprocessing of spent lithium-ion batteries to create new ones is intrinsic to this plan, with the Company operating Australia's only fully integrated mixed-battery recycling business.

Having rationalised its portfolio of lithium projects/alliances, Lithium Australia continues its research into, and the development of, proprietary extraction processes for the conversion of *all* lithium silicates (including mine waste), and of fines generally discarded during conventional spodumene conversion, to lithium chemicals, from which it will produce advanced cathode materials for the battery industry globally.

The Company's progress has been recognised by the Australian federal government through the awarding of substantial research grants designed to progress the nation's advanced battery capabilities.

By uniting resources and innovation, Lithium Australia seeks to vertically integrate lithium extraction, processing and recycling.

Media contacts

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