OZ Minerals has achieved an important milestone in the establishment of its Prominent Hill copper-gold mine in South Australia, with the first rail delivery of concentrate to the Port of Darwin. The shipment was dispatched from the Wirrida rail siding, which is located approximately 115 kilometres west of Prominent Hill. The Company expects to deliver approximately 600 tonnes of concentrate per day, six days per week to the port.

From the Port of Darwin Prominent Hill copper concentrates will be shipped to smelters across Asia. The first shipment from Darwin is expected to be made in late April. Concentrates also continue to be delivered via road to local customers.

“Since first production in late February, the ramp up of the processing plant has progressed very well, the operation has now reached a production rate of around 80% and, as planned, is expected to reach its nameplate rate by the end of the year,” said OZ Minerals Managing Director and CEO Andrew Michelmore.

Prominent Hill concentrates are characterised by their high copper grades and low arsenic content. The grade of Prominent Hill concentrates has consistently been more than 50% copper with all other elements well within normal contract specifications.