Pilgangoora Lithium-Tantalum Project
Project Management Consultancy

Client Pilbara Minerals

Project Location Shire of East Pilbara, WA

Scope
The Pilgangoora Lithium-Tantalum Project (PLTP) is a greenfields mine development, located approximately 90 km southeast of Port Hedland in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia. The first stage targeted production of 2 Mtpa of Lithium and Tantalum based products. Engenium was engaged by Pilbara Minerals (PLS) to provide project delivery expertise to the corporate owner’s team to assist them deliver the project from DFS through to commissioning.

Business Objective
Initially engaged as a Project Management Consultant operating within an integrated owners’ team, Engenium focused on establishing the Project Management Office (PMO), the project organisation and systems (based on Engenium’s Catalyst platform) and transforming the Definitive Feasibility Scope into executable works. Where required additional optioneering and value engineering was undertaken to reduce capital intensity. Engenium was then also requested to undertake scoping and multi-disciplinary design engineering services for construct only packages including the site bulk earthworks, NPI, borefield development, access and internal roads and relocation of the permanent accommodation camp and facilities.

Challenges to Overcome
Being a schedule driven project, a small site team was initially established, lead by the Engenium Construction Manager, focusing on "construction readiness" and commencing early works for the main construction effort. This included suitable site access, sourcing suitable borrow material and construction water, concrete batch plants, accommodation camp, temporary and permanent communications, owners’ office facilities and engagement with local stakeholders. The team simultaneously established mobilisation procedures, online inductions and site induction training modules ahead of contractors being mobilised to site.

Smarts
To accelerate the schedule and reduce capital intensity, various contracting and delivery strategies were challenged. To increase local participation, local indigenous and pastoral owners were also engaged directly in the construction and services contracts.

Project Outcome
With the project fully funded, contracts awarded and construction underway, the focus shifted to operational readiness, with the client team expanding rapidly to introduce operational staff into the construction team. Engenium remained flexible through this period, providing key personnel and support as required and successfully transitioning our site personnel to the owners team.