

19 February 2026

Drill Permitting Update for the Scotty Lithium Project, Nevada

Key Highlights

- **Desert Minerals has paid the financial guarantee (Bond) required by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), completing the final administrative step prior to acceptance of the Notice of Intent (NOI) for drilling at the Scotty Project; drilling intended to commence in Q1.**
- **The Scotty Lithium Project is located in Nevada’s premier lithium district and features a JORC (2012) Exploration Target of 460–837 million tonnes at 1,145–1,175 ppm lithium⁽¹⁾.**
- **Bond payment positions the Company to receive BLM acceptance of the NOI. The project has now entered the standard BLM review and public-comment period (typically ~15–30 days in Nevada), after which drilling authorisation may be issued.**
- **Dahrouge Geological Consulting (DGC) will lead and support drilling related activities for the 2026 drill program, including taking on Competent Persons (CP) responsibilities for the Scotty Lithium Project and providing permitting and operational oversight.**
- **Located adjacent to Nevada Lithium’s Bonnie Claire Project, one of North America’s largest lithium resources, the Scotty Lithium Project is shallow and highly prospective for near-surface lithium mineralisation, offering the potential for early success with conventional mining methods and efficient exploration capital.**
- **Scotty offers substantial upside, with robust drill targets defined by extensive soil geochemistry, magnetotelluric surveys, and encouraging initial drilling outcomes.**
- **The Scotty Project remains open for expansion. Recent drilling has delivered thick, high-grade lithium intercepts, including⁽¹⁾:**
 - **124.97m @ 1,237 ppm Li (SC23-003)**
 - **82.3m @ 1,106 ppm Li (SC23-002)**
 - **117.35m @ 813 ppm Li (SC23-001)**
- **Desert Minerals is well-funded with \$4.1 million of cash to advance both the Scotty Lithium and Mt Monger projects⁽²⁾.**

Desert Minerals Limited (“**Desert Minerals**” or “the **Company**”) is pleased to announce it has paid the financial guarantee (Bond) required by the Bureau of Land Management (**BLM**), completing the final administrative step prior to acceptance of the Notice of Intent (**NOI**) for drilling at the Scotty Lithium Project; drilling intended to commence in Q1. The Scotty Lithium Project is located in Nevada’s premier lithium district and features a JORC (2012) Exploration Target of 460–837 million tonnes at grades of 1,145–1,175 ppm lithium⁽¹⁾. Payment of the bond positions the Company to receive BLM acceptance of

the NOI, with the project having now entered the standard BLM review and public-comment period, which typically takes approximately 15–30 days in Nevada, after which drilling authorisation may be issued. Dahrouge Geological Consulting will lead and support drilling-related activities for the 2026 drill program, including assuming Competent Person responsibilities for the Scotty Lithium Project and providing permitting and operational oversight. Located adjacent to Nevada Lithium’s Bonnie Claire Project, one of North America’s largest lithium resources, the Scotty Lithium Project is shallow and highly prospective for near-surface lithium mineralisation, offering the potential for early success using conventional mining methods and efficient exploration capital. The Scotty Project offers substantial upside, with robust drill targets defined by extensive soil geochemistry, magnetotelluric surveys, and encouraging initial drilling results, and remains open for expansion. Desert Minerals is well-funded with \$4.1 million in cash to advance both the Scotty Lithium and Mt Monger projects⁽²⁾.

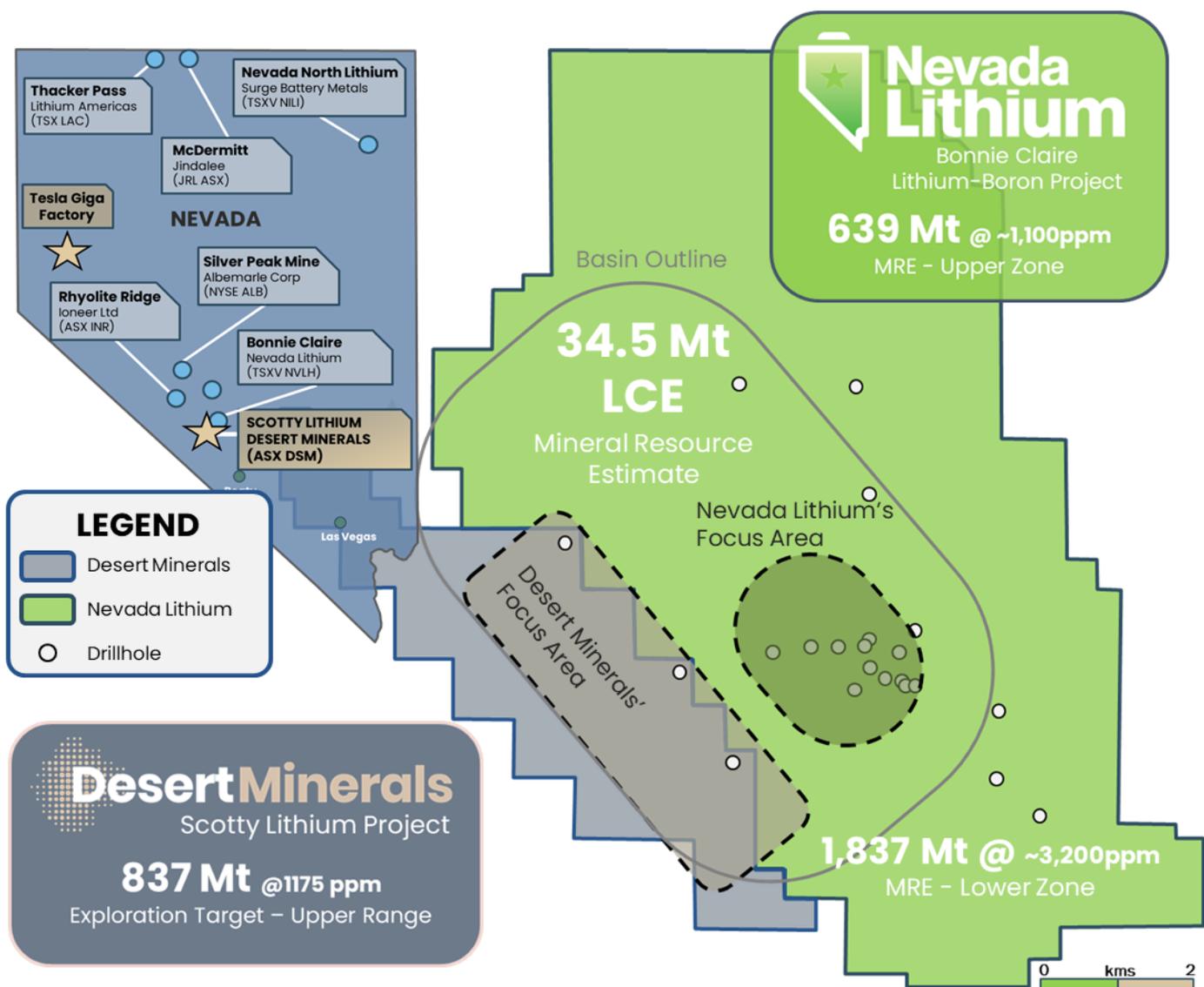


Image 1: Overview of Desert Minerals’ Scotty projects, showing Scotty’ focus area ⁽¹⁾.

Investors are cautioned that the potential quantity and grade of the Exploration Target are conceptual in nature and there has been insufficient exploration drilling conducted to estimate a Mineral Resource. At this stage, it is uncertain if further exploration will result in the estimation of a Mineral Resource.

Desert Minerals’ Executive Chairman, Mr. Peretz Shapiro, commented:

Advancing the Scotty Lithium Project through this next stage of permitting marks another important step in unlocking what we believe is one of Nevada’s most compelling lithium opportunities. With the bond now paid and Dahrouge supporting us as Competent Person, the project is gaining real momentum. Scotty sits in an exceptional district, has already delivered standout intercepts, and continues to show the scale and consistency required for meaningful development. Backed by strong funding and a clear exploration strategy, we’re looking forward to progressing drilling activities and demonstrating the full potential of this asset for our shareholders.

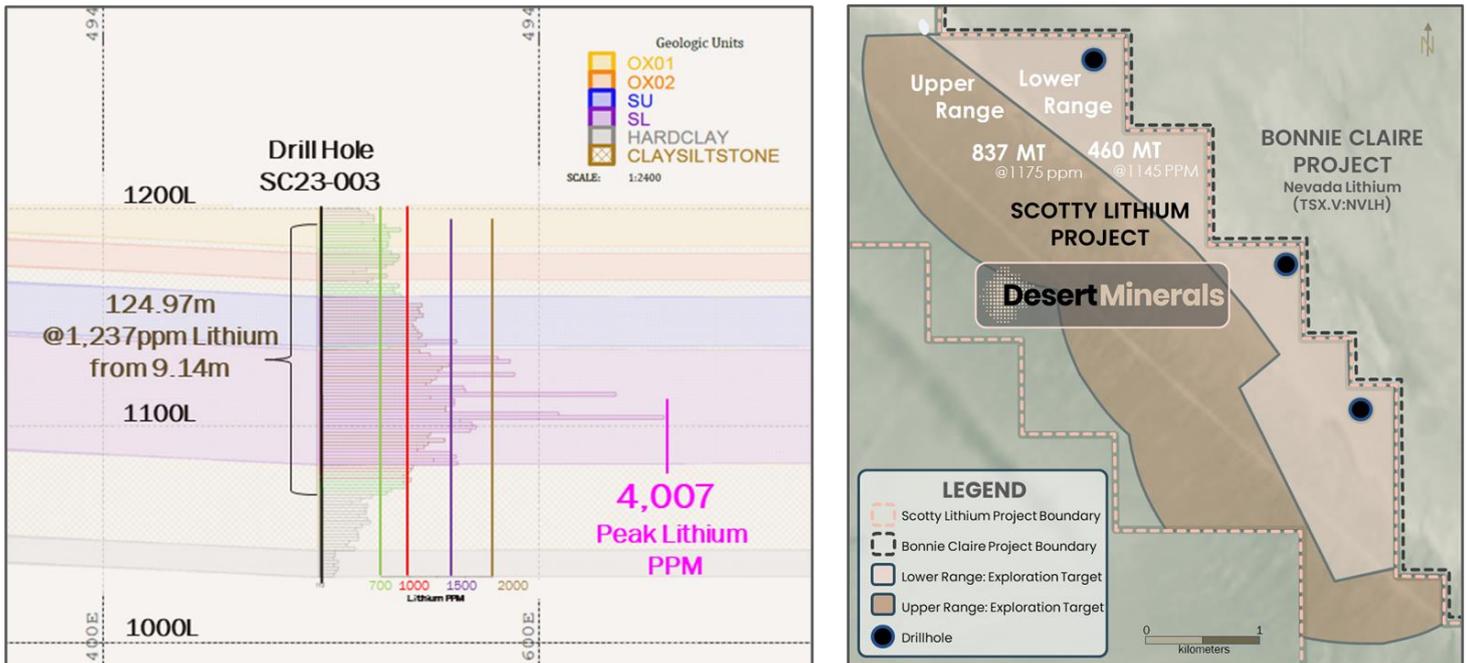


Image 2: Desert Minerals’ Scotty Lithium Project Exploration Target location and cross section of drillhole SC23-003⁽¹⁾.

Next Steps for Scotty Lithium Project:

Desert Minerals is undertaking final drill targeting and program planning at the Scotty Lithium Project while awaiting final approval and issuance of drilling permits. Drill permitting is well advanced, and the Company is focused on finalising drill collar locations and program design targeting high-priority lithium zones defined by existing soil geochemistry, magnetotelluric datasets, and encouraging initial drilling results. These activities are intended to enable drilling to commence promptly upon receipt of all necessary approvals, with drilling intended to commence in Q1. The proposed drill program is designed to include step-out and infill drilling to test the continuity, scale, and basin-wide extent of lithium mineralisation, as part of a staged and disciplined exploration approach aimed at advancing Scotty toward a maiden Mineral Resource estimate and unlocking further value across the broader project area.

With strong funding, an experienced technical team, and a portfolio spanning proven gold and critical-minerals jurisdictions, Desert Minerals is well positioned to execute its exploration strategy. The Company remains committed to systematic, value-driven exploration and looks forward to updating shareholders as final permitting approvals are received and drilling activities commence at Scotty and across its wider project pipeline.

About Desert Minerals

Desert Minerals Limited (ASX: DSM) is a well-structured resource exploration company focused on projects in Tier 1 mining jurisdictions across Australia and North America. Through systematic, technology-driven exploration, the Company is committed to advancing its gold and lithium assets—including the Mt Monger Gold Project in Western Australia and the Scotty Lithium Project in Nevada, USA—with the aim of growing and delineating JORC-compliant resources and delivering value for shareholders.

Streamlined Competent Persons Statement

This report contains information extracted from previous ASX releases which are referenced in the report. The Company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcements. The Company confirms that the form and content in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcement. The original market announcements are listed in the section "List of References" in this announcement.

Authorised for release by the Board of Desert Minerals Limited

List of References:

- 1 DSM Announcement 17 October 2025 – Prospectus
- 2 DSM Announcement 30 January 2026 – Quarterly Activities Report.

Compliance Statements

The Exploration Target for the Scotty Lithium Project was first reported in the Company's prospectus dated 21 August 2025 and released to ASX on 17 October 2025 (**Prospectus**). The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information relating to the estimate included in the Prospectus and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimate in the Prospectus continue to apply and have not materially changed. Refer to the Prospectus for full details of the individual grades for all metals included in the metal equivalents calculations, assumed commodity prices, assumed metallurgical recoveries, the Company's opinion on the reasonable potential of the elements in the metal equivalents calculation being recovered and sold and the calculation formula used.

The drill intercepts reported above were first disclosed in the Company's Prospectus dated 21 August 2025 and released to ASX on 17 October 2025. Reported intercepts represent downhole lengths, true widths are not yet known. Full details of sampling techniques, drilling methodology, QAQC protocols, and data verification are provided in JORC Table 1 of the Prospectus. The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the previously reported Exploration Results.

Competent Person's Statement

The Exploration Target for the Scotty Lithium Project was first reported in the Company's Prospectus dated 21 August 2025 and released to ASX on 17 October 2025. The information in this announcement that relates to the Exploration Target for the Scotty Lithium Project is based on, and fairly reflects, information compiled by Mr Jacob Anderson a Competent Person who is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (**AusIMM**) and the American Institute of Professional Geologists. Mr Jacob Anderson is an employee of Dahrouge Geological Consulting USA Ltd and has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration, and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Joint Ore Reserves Committee Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (**JORC Code**). Mr Jacob Anderson consents to the inclusion of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears in this Announcement.

Disclaimer and Forward-Looking Statements

This Announcement contains forward-looking statements which are identified by words such as 'believes', 'estimates', 'expects', 'targets', 'intends', 'may', 'will', 'would', 'could', or 'should' and other similar words that involve risks and uncertainties. These statements are based on an assessment of present economic and operating conditions, and on a number of assumptions regarding future events and actions that, as at the date of this Announcement, are expected to take place. Such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other important factors, many of which are beyond the control of the Company, the Directors and management of the Company. These and other factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements. The Company has no intention to update or revise forward-looking statements, or to publish prospective financial information in the future, regardless of whether new information, future events or any other factors affect the information contained in this Announcement, except where required by law. The Company cannot and does not give assurances that the results, performance or achievements expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements contained in this Prospectus will actually occur and investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.