

**ASX RELEASE**  
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## Rapid leaching and high extraction rates demonstrated at Wiluna Project

Toro Energy Limited (ASX:TOE) advises that Phase 2 of the optimisation studies on the proposed processing circuit at the Wiluna Uranium Project in Western Australia has demonstrated that leaching of beneficiated concentrate occurs relatively rapidly and delivers a high uranium extraction.

The aim of this phase of testwork was to provide an initial estimation of the leach extraction rates and uranium concentration in the leach liquor when beneficiated samples, derived from the prior testwork, were subjected to a carbonate leach circuit. The results show that all concentrates displayed rapid leaching characteristics and high uranium extractions, irrespective of mineralogy (see Figure 1).

Key findings of this phase of the beneficiation studies include:

- Extractions in excess of 90 per cent are achievable for all ore types;
- Leach kinetics for all ore types tested are rapid, with all close to completion within an eight hour timeframe; and
- Reagent consumption is predictable and consistent, meaning that the process can be modelled with confidence across varying mineralogies and water compositions.

These results demonstrate that a conventional carbonate leach circuit is able to readily extract uranium from beneficiated concentrates at the Wiluna Project, **which signifies that further potentially significant cost saving improvements, to the mineral processing circuit, can now be tested.**

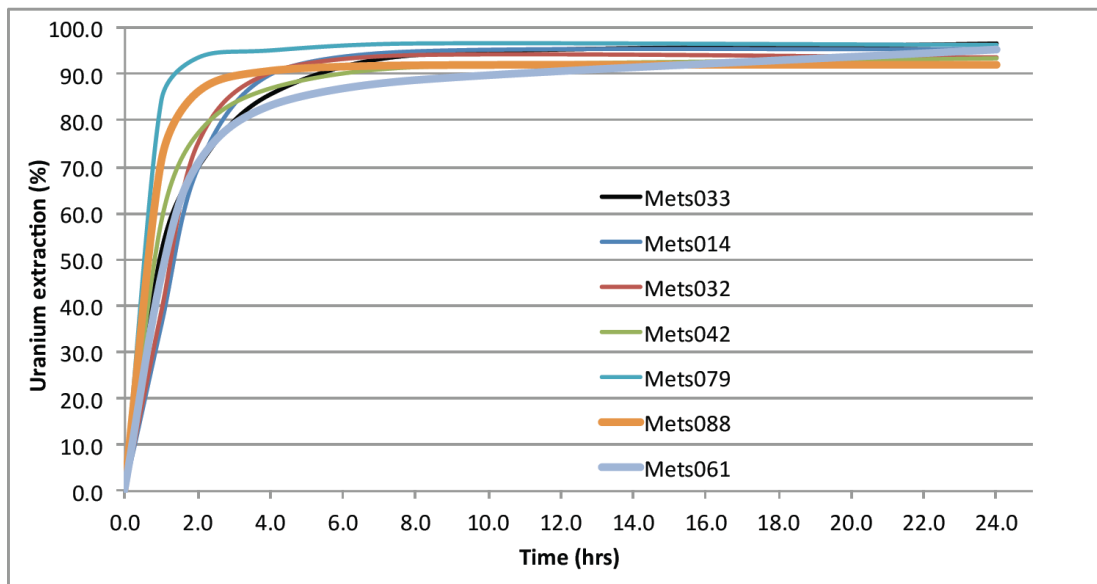


FIGURE 1: LEACH KINETICS (ALL SAMPLES)

*“These results further demonstrate that the beneficiation of the Wiluna deposits creates a new opportunity to improve the Wiluna Project by re-defining the processing circuit,” Toro’s Managing Director Dr Vanessa Guthrie said. “We are increasingly confident that this Scoping Study will highlight opportunities for substantial improvement to the project which will ensure Wiluna is ready to take advantage of a strengthening uranium market.”*

The seven samples used in the leaching testwork were produced from the previous beneficiation testwork that included de-sliming and rejection of the +150µm material. Clay-dominant lithologies from Lake Maitland and Centipede/Millipede deposits have been identified as the preferred early feed to the processing circuit as they have demonstrated significantly greater amenability to beneficiation and represent a large proportion of the contained mineralisation.

Importantly, the reagent consumptions in the leach testwork agrees closely with the predictions based on mineralogy of the deposits and the process water quality, ensuring that the modelling that will be used to predict the overall plant performance is reliable.

Testwork is now focussed on the application of a belt filter process to produce a washed filter cake that contains reduced salts, a factor that is important in the extraction and recovery of uranium from the hydrometallurgical circuit. Washing and filtering of the beneficiated concentrate prior to the leaching stage is expected to readily dewater the concentrate and reduce the chloride in the leach circuit, which will, in turn, reduce reagent consumption, which is one of the more material operating costs in the existing economic model.

**ENDS**

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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*Toro Energy’s vision is to be Australia’s next uranium producer. Toro will maximise shareholder returns through responsible mine development and asset growth.*

*Toro’s flagship asset is the 100% owned Wiluna Uranium Project, consisting of six surficial carbonate related uranium deposits. The project is located 30 kilometres southwest of Wiluna in Central Western Australia. The Centipede and Lake Way deposits have received government approval for mining, and Lake Maitland and Millipede deposits have been recommended for approval, providing the Wiluna Project with the opportunity to become Western Australia’s first uranium mine.*

*Toro also owns a highly prospective suite of exploration properties through Toro’s own discovery at the Theseus Project on the Western Australian/Northern Territory border. The company is also pursuing growth opportunities through accretive uranium project acquisitions.*

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