

## ASX RELEASE

### Expiry of unlisted employee options Sydney, Thursday 22 December 2011.

The following Appendix 3B recognises that 1,000,000 unlisted employee options to acquire fully paid shares at an exercise price \$0.0407 expired on 14 December 2011.

#### For Further Information

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#### About Benitec

Benitec Biopharma Limited is developing novel treatments for chronic and life-threatening conditions based on targeted gene-silencing activity using a transformational technology: DNA-directed RNA interference (ddRNAi) - sometimes called expressed RNAi. The technology's potential to address unmet medical needs and to cure disease results from its demonstrated ability to permanently silence genes which cause the condition. Importantly, this technology's target gene and related gene pathways will rarely have presented as a therapeutic avenue for research for the traditional small molecule agents, currently accounting for the majority of today's pharmaceutical products.

Benitec now either owns or exclusively licenses from CSIRO more than 40 granted or allowed patents in the field of RNA interference for human therapeutic applications. Patents have been granted in key territories such as the USA, the UK, Japan, Europe, Canada and Australia. In addition, Benitec has almost 50 patent applications pending for which it is the owner or exclusive licensee from CSIRO, and has further intellectual property under development as a result of its pipeline program.

Founded in 1997 and trading publicly since 2001, Benitec is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) under the symbol "BLT". Benitec aims to deliver a range of novel ddRNAi-based therapeutics to the clinic in partnership with the pharmaceutical industry. Besides a focused R&D strategy in infectious diseases, cancer and chronic cancer-associated pain, Benitec is pursuing programs with licensees that have advanced to pre-clinical and/or clinical trials.

# Appendix 3B

## New issue announcement, application for quotation of additional securities and agreement

*Information or documents not available now must be given to ASX as soon as available. Information and documents given to ASX become ASX's property and may be made public.*

Introduced 1/7/96. Origin: Appendix 5. Amended 1/7/98, 1/9/99, 1/7/2000, 30/9/2001, 11/3/2002, 1/1/2003.

Name of entity

**BENITEC BIOPHARMA LIMITED**

ABN

**64 068 943 662**

We (the entity) give ASX the following information.

### Part 1 - All issues

*You must complete the relevant sections (attach sheets if there is not enough space).*

1 +Class of +securities issued or to be issued

2 Number of +securities issued or to be issued (if known) or maximum number which may be issued

3 Principal terms of the +securities (eg, if options, exercise price and expiry date; if partly paid +securities, the amount outstanding and due dates for payment; if +convertible securities, the conversion price and dates for conversion)

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+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

4 Do the <sup>+</sup>securities rank equally in all respects from the date of allotment with an existing <sup>+</sup>class of quoted <sup>+</sup>securities?

If the additional securities do not rank equally, please state:

- the date from which they do
- the extent to which they participate for the next dividend, (in the case of a trust, distribution) or interest payment
- the extent to which they do not rank equally, other than in relation to the next dividend, distribution or interest payment

5 Issue price or consideration

6 Purpose of the issue  
(If issued as consideration for the acquisition of assets, clearly identify those assets)

7 Dates of entering <sup>+</sup>securities into uncertificated holdings or despatch of certificates

|    |   |             |   |
|----|---|-------------|---|
| 8  | Number and <sup>+</sup> class of all <sup>+</sup> securities quoted on ASX (including the securities in clause 2 if applicable)     | Number      | <sup>+</sup> Class  |
|    |   | 947,073,771 | Ordinary Shares   |
|    |   | 46,673,907  | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.10 on or before 8 April 2014        |
|    |   | 201,309,366 | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.04 on or before 31 December 2013    |
| 9  | Number and <sup>+</sup> class of all <sup>+</sup> securities not quoted on ASX (including the securities in clause 2 if applicable) | Number      | <sup>+</sup> Class  |
|    |   | 17,560      | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.03 on or before 30 September 2013   |
|    |   | 6,126,962   | Warrants to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.90 on or before 4 August 2014      |
|    |   | 1,953,125   | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.17 on or before 23 October 2015     |
|    |   | 4,666,666   | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.0889 on or before 31 December 2012  |
|    |   | 300,000     | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.0781 on or before 21 February 2013  |
|    |   | 22,244,444  | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.10 on or before 31 December 2012    |
|    |   | 12,000,000  | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.10 on or before 10 April 2015       |
|    |   | 6,500,000   | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.0204 on or before 19 August 2014    |
|    |   | 3,000,000   | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.0228 on or before 19 August 2014    |
|    |   | 5,000,000   | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.0289 on or before 9 June 2013       |
|    |   | 70,000,000  | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.0500 on or before 26 September 2016 |
|    |   | 30,000,000  | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.0500 on or before 26 September 2016 |
|    |   | 15,000,000  | Options to acquire fully paid shares at \$0.0500 on or before 17 November 2016  |
| 10 | Dividend policy (in the case of a trust, distribution policy) on the increased capital (interests)                                  | N/A         |   |

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

## Part 2 - Bonus issue or pro rata issue

- |    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| 11 | Is security holder approval required?   | N/A |
| 12 | Is the issue renounceable or non-renounceable?  | N/A |
| 13 | Ratio in which the +securities will be offered  | N/A |
| 14 | +Class of +securities to which the offer relates  | N/A |
| 15 | +Record date to determine entitlements  | N/A |
| 16 | Will holdings on different registers (or subregisters) be aggregated for calculating entitlements?  | N/A |
| 17 | Policy for deciding entitlements in relation to fractions   | N/A |
| 18 | Names of countries in which the entity has +security holders who will not be sent new issue documents<br><br><small>Note: Security holders must be told how their entitlements are to be dealt with.<br/>Cross reference: rule 7.7.</small> | N/A |
| 19 | Closing date for receipt of acceptances or renunciations  | N/A |

|    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| 20 | Names of any underwriters   | N/A |
| 21 | Amount of any underwriting fee or commission  | N/A |
| 22 | Names of any brokers to the issue   | N/A |
| 23 | Fee or commission payable to the broker to the issue  | N/A |
| 24 | Amount of any handling fee payable to brokers who lodge acceptances or renunciations on behalf of +security holders   | N/A |
| 25 | If the issue is contingent on +security holders' approval, the date of the meeting  | N/A |
| 26 | Date entitlement and acceptance form and prospectus or Product Disclosure Statement will be sent to persons entitled  | N/A |
| 27 | If the entity has issued options, and the terms entitle option holders to participate on exercise, the date on which notices will be sent to option holders | N/A |
| 28 | Date rights trading will begin (if applicable)  | N/A |
| 29 | Date rights trading will end (if applicable)  | N/A |
| 30 | How do +security holders sell their entitlements <i>in full</i> through a broker?   | N/A |
| 31 | How do +security holders sell <i>part</i> of their entitlements through a broker and accept for the balance?  | N/A |

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+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

32 How do <sup>+</sup>security holders dispose of their entitlements (except by sale through a broker)? N/A

33 <sup>+</sup>Despatch date N/A

### Part 3 - Quotation of securities

*You need only complete this section if you are applying for quotation of securities*

34 Type of securities  
(tick one)

(a)  Securities described in Part 1

(b)  All other securities

Example: restricted securities at the end of the escrowed period, partly paid securities that become fully paid, employee incentive share securities when restriction ends, securities issued on expiry or conversion of convertible securities

### Entities that have ticked box 34(a)

#### Additional securities forming a new class of securities

*Tick to indicate you are providing the information or documents*

35  If the <sup>+</sup>securities are <sup>+</sup>equity securities, the names of the 20 largest holders of the additional <sup>+</sup>securities, and the number and percentage of additional <sup>+</sup>securities held by those holders

36  If the <sup>+</sup>securities are <sup>+</sup>equity securities, a distribution schedule of the additional <sup>+</sup>securities setting out the number of holders in the categories  
1 - 1,000  
1,001 - 5,000  
5,001 - 10,000  
10,001 - 100,000  
100,001 and over

37  A copy of any trust deed for the additional <sup>+</sup>securities

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<sup>+</sup> See chapter 19 for defined terms.

**Entities that have ticked box 34(b)**

38 Number of securities for which +quotation is sought

39 Class of +securities for which quotation is sought

40 Do the +securities rank equally in all respects from the date of allotment with an existing +class of quoted +securities?

If the additional securities do not rank equally, please state:

- the date from which they do
- the extent to which they participate for the next dividend, (in the case of a trust, distribution) or interest payment
- the extent to which they do not rank equally, other than in relation to the next dividend, distribution or interest payment

41 Reason for request for quotation now

Example: In the case of restricted securities, end of restriction period

(if issued upon conversion of another security, clearly identify that other security)

|   | Number | +Class |
|---|--------|--------|
| 42 Number and +class of all +securities quoted on ASX (including the securities in clause 38) |        |        |

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+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.



## Quotation agreement

1 +Quotation of our additional +securities is in ASX's absolute discretion. ASX may quote the +securities on any conditions it decides.

2 We warrant the following to ASX.

- The issue of the +securities to be quoted complies with the law and is not for an illegal purpose.
- There is no reason why those +securities should not be granted +quotation.
- An offer of the +securities for sale within 12 months after their issue will not require disclosure under section 707(3) or section 1012C(6) of the Corporations Act.

Note: An entity may need to obtain appropriate warranties from subscribers for the securities in order to be able to give this warranty

- Section 724 or section 1016E of the Corporations Act does not apply to any applications received by us in relation to any +securities to be quoted and that no-one has any right to return any +securities to be quoted under sections 737, 738 or 1016F of the Corporations Act at the time that we request that the +securities be quoted.
- We warrant that if confirmation is required under section 1017F of the Corporations Act in relation to the +securities to be quoted, it has been provided at the time that we request that the +securities be quoted.
- If we are a trust, we warrant that no person has the right to return the +securities to be quoted under section 1019B of the Corporations Act at the time that we request that the +securities be quoted.

3 We will indemnify ASX to the fullest extent permitted by law in respect of any claim, action or expense arising from or connected with any breach of the warranties in this agreement.

4 We give ASX the information and documents required by this form. If any information or document not available now, will give it to ASX before +quotation of the +securities begins. We acknowledge that ASX is relying on the information and documents. We warrant that they are (will be) true and complete.

Sign here



Date: 22 December 2011

(~~Director~~/Company Secretary)

Print name:

GREG WEST

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+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.