



## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

12 October 2017

### PUF Ventures Australia and Utilitas Group to Build Sustainable Medicinal Cannabis Grow Facility

PUF Ventures Australia (PVA) is pleased to announce that it has formed an alliance with Utilitas Group, a private company which designs, builds and operates proprietary bioHubs which turn manure, sewage, crop and food processing waste into renewable energy and bioproducts.

PVA has plans to construct a one million-square-foot greenhouse operation, with large scale manufacturing, processing and office facilities for the cultivation, production and manufacture of medical cannabis and associated products near the town of Casino, in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, Australia.

Utilitas Group is developing a bioHub, near the same location which will transform organic waste and waste water from the Richmond Valley region into energy, clean water and other valuable bio-products.

Through the alliance, PVA will have long term access to stable environmentally friendly energy, nutrients and reclaimed water generated by the Utilitas bioHub.

“There are significant economic and environmental benefits to be gained through the alliance with Utilitas,” said Mr. Horsfall, President and CEO of PUF Ventures Australia. “The Utilitas bioHub in Casino, New South Wales, has been designed to create dispatchable renewable electricity, green natural gas, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), valuable nutrients and reclaimed water as part of a closed-loop resource recovery process. These are all critical inputs for a large greenhouse operation. “

“Together with Utilitas, we can create the world’s first closed-loop, resource recovery, medicinal cannabis facility, utilising the huge local biomass from the agricultural and food processing industries to pioneer world-leading clean technologies.”

“I give high praise to the Richmond Valley Council for its proactive efforts in securing such a high value anchor tenant like PUF Ventures Australia to co-locate with the Casino bioHub,” said Fiona Waterhouse, CEO, Utilitas Group.

“Securing PUF Ventures to have local, affordable clean energy and nutrients to grow healthy plants and affordable long-term price is a win for the region, community, and environment. It’s also going to create new, local employment, and reduce environmental impacts from waste and emissions.”

The Casino bioHub project is already in early stage planning and Utilitas Group is working with ASX listed DomaCom to raise the \$4.3 million needed to develop the project. The bioHub will transform organic



waste and waste water from the Richmond Valley region into energy, clean water and other valuable bio-products.

The long-term success of any licensed cannabis producer is the ability to leverage economies of scale in its grow operations and be a low-cost producer with a premium product. Those companies with state-of-the-art operations with long term access to affordable energy and nutrients, which are critical cost drivers, will be successful.

### **About Utilitas**

*Utilitas is on a mission to unleash the power of bioHubs to fuel industry, support networks and energise communities by delivering 100MW of dispatchable, reliable, local electricity and other bioproducts from 100 bioHubs in 100 regional communities by 2025.*

*Utilitas originates, designs, builds and operates the bioHubs, contracting with large organic waste producers and energy consumers to treat their waste and supply back energy (electricity, gas, fuel) and other valuable bioproducts at locked in long term prices.*

### **About PUF Ventures**

*PUF Ventures Australia PTY LTD and PUF Ventures Inc. (CSE: PUF) (Frankfurt: PU3) (OTCPK: PUFXF), have formed a strategic partnership with the Richmond Valley Council, New South Wales, Australia, to construct a 1 million-square-foot greenhouse operation, with large scale manufacturing, processing and office facilities for the cultivation, production and manufacture of medical cannabis and associated products in Australia. PUF Ventures Inc. owns a majority interest in AAA Heidelberg Inc., a private Ontario company that is an advanced applicant for an ACMPR license from Health Canada. Through an exclusive joint venture agreement with Canopy Growth Corp, the Company will join CraftGrow, a collection of high-quality cannabis grown by a select and diverse set of producers, made available through the Tweed Main Street website.*

For more information please contact:

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