



ASX and Media Release

Interim Hawke Report paves the way for Hawks Nest iron ore projects

In May 2010 the Commonwealth Government commenced a Review of the Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) in South Australia. The Review is led by Dr Allan Hawke AC. The Review released an interim report on 5 November (the interim Hawke Report). The final Hawke Report is due to be handed to government by the end of this year.

Amongst other things, the interim Hawke Report recommends the adoption of a smaller Core Area of Operations in the WPA than is currently the case, in which mining operations would not be allowed. This is referred to as the Red Zone. In other areas of the WPA access to land for mining and exploration purposes would be allowed, except for certain agreed times when Defence's activities would have priority on safety or national security grounds. Time sharing arrangements outside the Red Zone have been proposed.

The Red Zone is confined to the south eastern corner of the WPA where most of Defence's infrastructure lies. WPG's Hawks Nest iron ore projects do not lie in the south eastern corner of the WPA.

The interim Hawke Report also recommends that mining outside the Red Zone be governed more by an agreed access and inspection regime than by the nature of foreign investment in mining projects or foreign buyers of mineral products.

WPG welcomes the interim Hawke Report. It sends positive signals about the Company's ability to develop its iron ore projects at Hawks Nest. The time sharing concept developed is a good proposal. WPG endorses the comments about the need for greater transparency of access conditions, and the overarching view that the military and mining sectors can coexist outside the Red Zone.

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Further Information

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