



Fortescue Metals Group Ltd
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11 October 2005

The Companies Officer
Australian Stock Exchange Ltd.
Exchange Plaza
2 The Esplanade
Perth WA 6000

Dear Sir

Please find enclosed the joint announcement from Fortescue Metals Group Ltd and the Pilbara Native Title Service.

Yours sincerely
Fortescue Metals Group Ltd

Rod Campbell
Company Secretary



11 October 2005

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pilbara Native Title Service, on behalf of the Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation ("PNTS"), and Fortescue Metals Group Ltd ("Fortescue") are pleased to announce that formal agreement on 'whole of claim' land access has been reached between Fortescue and each of the three native title claimant groups who have lodged native title claims over the areas covered by Fortescue's 'Pilbara Iron Ore and Infrastructure' mine, rail and port project ("the Project"). The agreements allow, from a native title perspective, the immediate commencement of the Project.

The three native title claimant groups are the Niyiyaparli People (whose claim covers most of Fortescue's initial proposed mining areas), the Palyku People (whose claim covers the balance of the proposed mining area and a significant section of the proposed Fortescue Rail corridor) and the Kariyarra People (whose claim covers the remainder of the rail corridor and the port area at Port Hedland). Each have executed with Fortescue, Land Access Agreements which together cover all the mines, port and rail of the Project area.

These Agreements also create immediate and life-of-project benefits for all the claimant groups in the Project area. They also provide for the grant and renewal of all tenure required for Fortescue's project, protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage and environment, and employment opportunities for Pilbara Aboriginal people as an outcome of a Vocational training program to be established by Fortescue.

Fortescue and the PNTS thank the elders and the people of the claimant groups for their consideration and support in the signing of these important agreements.

Yours sincerely
Fortescue Metals Group Ltd

**Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja
Aboriginal Corporation trading as
Pilbara Native Title Service ("PNTS")**

Rod Campbell
Company Secretary

Simon Hawkins
Executive Director