



JACK HILLS
IRON ORE MINE
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA'S
MID-WEST
REGION



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 27 July 2009

#42335

CROSSLANDS RESOURCES: A PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT AND SCIENCE TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Crosslands Resources Ltd (Crosslands), in conjunction with Sinosteel Midwest Corporation (Sinosteel), is undertaking an adaptive management program to monitor the long term effects of vibration from drilling activities in the vicinity of shield-back trapdoor spider burrows.

This co-operative research will assist all companies operating in Western Australia's mid-west iron province on how to undertake exploration and mining activities while minimising the impact from vibration on the spiders.

The Schedule 1 spider species (*Idiosoma nigrum*) is protected under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and by a Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) exploration drilling exclusion buffer declared within 200m of burrows. This species' range is very broad and can be found throughout the north-eastern agricultural and mid-west regions. There had previously been limited known numbers of individuals and locations until miners began finding them in areas that they were targeting for exploration.

"Now we're finding them in many locations, in fact, the more we look, the more we find. We have located thousands of burrows in the Jack Hills ranges outside of our proposed Stage 2 project area", Crosslands CEO Stuart Hall said.

Crosslands and Sinosteel jointly engaged Phoenix Environmental scientists to conduct vibration simulation research, in consultation with the DEC, which has resulted in the Department implementing a reduction in the buffer zone to 25m for new exploration drilling because vibration from drilling had no short term impact on the spiders.

"Crosslands is delighted to be able to demonstrate industry commitment to the preservation of environmental diversity in the areas in which we operate," Crosslands CEO Stuart Hall said.

"The unique monitoring and research project aimed at protecting the shield-back trapdoor spider is a direct result of Crosslands collaboration with scientists, government and fellow Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance member Sinosteel.

"We are particularly pleased that our studies have led to a positive outcome for both mine development in the region and for increased understanding of the natural environment in which the mid-west iron ore industry operates.

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Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd

A 50/50 joint venture between Murchison Metals Ltd and Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd.
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“Further, Crosslands is keen to support the continuation of this monitoring project which will contribute to research on the long-term effects of drilling and other mining-related activities on the shield-back trapdoor spider.”

Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance CEO Rob Jefferies said the project demonstrated the varied means in which co-operative industry endeavour was supporting the development of the mid-west region as Australia’s next sustainable iron-ore province, after the Pilbara.

“Alliance members have formally agreed to co-operate on all levels, but it is always pleasing to be able to highlight the positive consequence of pro-active interpretation of such accords.”

“The mid-west of Western Australia is our nation’s second fastest growing iron ore production region and, as such, we are pleased to demonstrate environmental sustainability can progress hand-in-hand with economic development.”

About Crosslands

Crosslands is undertaking feasibility studies towards an expansion of its wholly-owned Jack Hills premium-grade iron ore operation, located 380km north-east of Geraldton in Western Australia’s mid-west region.

Crosslands Resources Ltd (“Crosslands”) is the owner of the Jack Hills iron ore project located in the mid-west region of Western Australia. Crosslands is jointly owned by ASX listed Murchison Metals Ltd (“Murchison”) and Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd (“Mitsubishi”), a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan’s largest general trading company.

In addition, Crosslands, Murchison and Mitsubishi have established a new independent infrastructure business, Oakajee Port and Rail (OP+R).

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