

1 July 2003

Manager Company Announcements
Company Announcements Office
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
Level 10, 20 Bond Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



**Electronic
No of pages: 1**

Dear Sir,

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mt Earl Exploration Permits Granted

The Company is pleased to announce the granting of two high impact Exploration Permits (EPM's) by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines. The EPM's cover a number of highly prospective areas surrounding the tenement containing the Mt Watson deposit, with the key prospect identified to date within the new EPM's, known as Mt Earl.

Based on the knowledge gained from the success in the delineation and growth of the Mt Watson resource, Mt Earl has been identified as the highest priority target in the Mt Watson region with historical data for the prospect now being correlated. A drilling program is being finalised and preparations to proceed with the program are underway.

The new high impact EPM's, being numbers 13577 and 13600, were granted under the provisions of the Queensland Government's Alternative State Procedures. As a part of the process resulting in the grant of these EPM's, another agreement with the Kalkadoon People was successfully negotiated. These grants are another milestone achievement for the Company in regard to native title issues. As has been experienced in the past with the Kalkadoon People, their progressive and conciliatory approach to the negotiations resulted in a rapid and mutually beneficial outcome being achieved.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. Chapman", written in a cursive style.

**Andrew Chapman
Chief Executive Officer**