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## Media Release

### RESPONSE TO DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM NCC ON DECLARATION OF ROBE, HAMERSLEY AND GOLDSWORTHY RAILWAYS

**Perth: June 20, 2008:** Fortescue Metals Group Ltd ("Fortescue"; ASX: 'FMG') welcomes today's draft recommendation by the National Competition Council ("NCC") to declare open to third party access the rail services of Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton for the Robe, Hamersley and Goldsworthy railway lines.

Fortescue recognises the ultimate decision rests with Treasurer Wayne Swan to act on the recommendations.

Fortescue Executive Director Graeme Rowley said: "It has now become abundantly clear that the railroads of the Pilbara have not just been used to develop an iron ore business for a favoured few but as a prohibition on the further development of the Pilbara by anyone else."

"The decision by the NCC recognises the opportunity available now for all mining companies operating in the Pilbara to capture the enormous export demand from China and other Asian markets for all minerals including iron ore," he said.

"Australia stands to lose enormous opportunity if mining companies in the Pilbara are denied the opportunity to access existing and available infrastructure to export their product.

"The enormous capital requirements to build rail lines and ports, which has a resultant impact on national expenditure causing increased inflationary pressure, is beyond the financial means of most mining companies.

"We see no reason why third parties should not be allowed to commercially negotiate with rail operators to access those rail lines if that access has no impact on the efficient operation of the operator."

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