

Media Release



Significant milestone for Njamal Traditional Owners on Iron Bridge Project

PERTH, 21 February 2014: Fortescue Metals Group has marked a significant milestone for Aboriginal business development when it facilitated the signing of a joint venture agreement between NRW Pty Ltd (NRW) and Njamal ICRG JV Pty Ltd, in preparation for bulk earthworks at the Iron Bridge Project in the Pilbara.

The Iron Bridge Project is situated on the traditional lands of the Njamal People, who entered into a Project Area Agreement with Fortescue in 2011. The agreement provides Fortescue with native title clearances over land required by the project in exchange for the Njamal People becoming co-owners and operators of a separate magnetite mine on their land.

The joint venture with major tier one civil and mining contractor NRW enables the Njamal community to develop their business skills and provide employment opportunities to their people.

Njamal ICRG JV Director Sharon McGann commented on the benefits the agreement represents for the Njamal community: “The Joint Venture is a significant milestone as it is the first of its kind for Njamal people. This inaugural Joint Venture provides a pathway to self-sustainability and independence through employment, training and ground breaking business opportunities. Njamal people can now participate in our mining agreements with a renewed focus, and greater parity.”

This is not a first for NRW on Fortescue projects, having already delivered a \$200 million joint venture project with Pilbara Traditional Owner businesses Eastern Guruma Pty Ltd and Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation Ltd (NYFL) for bulk earthworks at Fortescue’s Solomon mine.

Leading mining industry contractor ICRG (Indigenous Construction Resources Group) is supporting Njamal to develop its capabilities and manage its working relationships with NRW and Fortescue for the Iron Bridge project.

NRW’s General Manager Mining Allan Fidock reiterated the company’s commitment to providing sustainable opportunities to the people and communities in which they operate: “NRW is delighted and very proud to be a partner in this Joint Venture with the Njamal community and ICRG. We look forward to a successful partnership and to helping the Njamal people grow a sustainable business with opportunities benefiting the whole community.”

Peter Meurs, Fortescue's Director of Development, said: "This is such a significant opportunity for Njamal to build their business capability with an experienced contractor such as NRW. The joint venture model is effective because it is a mutually beneficial arrangement that sees both the contractor and the Aboriginal owned business bringing value to the relationship."

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Background Information

The Iron Bridge Project is an unincorporated joint venture between FMG Magnetite Pty Ltd (69 per cent) and Formosa Steel IB Pty Ltd (31 per cent). Formosa is the largest private company in Taiwan. FMG Magnetite Pty Ltd is an incorporated joint venture between Fortescue Metals Group (88 per cent) and China's Baosteel (12 per cent).

FMG Iron Bridge owns the world class North Star and Glacier Valley iron ore deposits, which are located about 100kms south of Port Hedland and are situated on the traditional lands of the Njamal People.

On 20 December 2011, Fortescue entered into a project area agreement with the Njamal native title claimants (on behalf of the Njamal People). The Njamal agreement provides for the clearance of all significant outstanding native title and heritage related issues in relation to the Iron Bridge project.

Construction for stage one of the Iron Bridge project has begun on site, with works expected to be completed by the end of calendar 2014. First production of iron ore from stage one is expected in calendar 2015.

The 9.5mtpa stage two development of Iron Bridge is subject to joint venture approval. Fortescue's participation is at Fortescue's election.

PIC CAPTION: (L-R seated): *Heath Nelson, Aboriginal Business Development Manager, Fortescue; Doris Eaton, Director, Njamal ICRG JV Pty Ltd; and Alexa Morcombe, Group Manager Aboriginal Engagement, Fortescue at the joint venture agreement signing at Fortescue's Perth headquarters were joined by (standing behind L-R): Darren Pearce, NRW; Dale Henderson, Project Director Iron Bridge, Fortescue; Clinton Wolf, Director Njamal ICRG JV; Willie Rooney, Managing Director, NRW Civil and Mining; Sharon McGann, Director, Njamal ICRG JV; and Peter Meurs, Director Development, Fortescue.*