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MEDIA RELEASE

BATHURST WELCOMES A POSITIVE DECISION ON ESCARPMENT

Bathurst Resources welcomes the Environment Court's interim decision on the Escarpment Mine Project near Westport.

The Court says consents are likely to be granted provided details of certain conditions are worked out by the parties or offered by Bathurst and the Court has given the parties three weeks to agree to a timetable to complete the case.

"This is excellent news," says Bathurst Managing Director, Hamish Bohannan. "The decision summarises weeks of detailed technical evidence and produces a well balanced view.

"The Court says that, it considers consent to the EMP can be achieved. The main conditions the Court seeks more work on relate to ensuring that as much as possible of present vegetation is reestablished and mechanisms to ensure permanent protection of 745 hectares of land on the Plateau outside the EMP.

Mr Bohannan says the decision recognises the high value of the coal which is used in specialised metallurgical applications such as steel making and the production of ferro alloys, as well as a raft of other specialised applications.

"The decision also recognises Bathurst's commitment to mitigation and conservation measures, including a 745 hectares dedicated area for protection which is part of the company's long term plan for responsible development on the Plateau together with a 4500 hectare area of weed and pest control as a buffer around the protected area.

"Bathurst is now reviewing the detail of the decision and will respond to the Court's request to finalise the details of conditions so development can start as soon as possible" says Mr Bohannan.

Ends.

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