

Western Desert Resources, a diversified resources business with a portfolio of quality mineral exploration assets in the Northern Territory.

Western Desert Resources' business is built on the exploration of its substantial portfolio of iron ore, gold, base metals and uranium projects in the world-class mining provinces of Australia and will continue to grow through the generation and acquisition of new opportunities and resources.

FAST FACTS

ASX Code	WDR
Issued Shares	219m
Market Cap	A\$160M

DIRECTORS

Rick Allert	Chairman
Norm Gardner	MD
Mick Ashton	Director
Graham Bubner	Director
David Cloke	Director
Phillip Lockyer	Director
Scott Perrin	Director

COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS

Iron Ore

- Roper Bar & Mountain Creek projects (NT)
- Hematitic iron ore
- Total Inferred and Indicated Mineral Resource estimates of 321Mt @ 40% Fe including DSO of 20.2Mt @ 58.6% Fe
- Low Impurities
- Mine development underway
- Proximity to coast and markets

Gold / Copper

- East Rover Project near Tennant Creek (NT)

CONTACT DETAILS

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ROPER BAR IRON ORE PROJECT EXCLUDED FROM PROPOSED NORTHERN TERRITORY NATIONAL PARK

Key Points:

- Henderson Government excludes Western Desert Resources Roper Bar Iron Ore province from the proposed Limmen National Park
- Decision provides certainty for Western Desert Resources and the Northern Territory mining industry
- Western Desert Resources confident Limmen National Park environmental interests and economic benefits of proposed Roper Bar Iron Ore project can co-exist

Western Desert Resources (**ASX:WDR**) has welcomed today's decision by the Henderson Government to exclude the Roper Bar Iron Ore project from the Limmen National Park declaration proposal.

Under the announcement, the exploration and extraction of bulk iron ore will be excluded from the proposed Limmen National Park and exploration areas held by Western Desert Resources will be exempt under any declaration.

Western Desert Resources is progressing plans to develop a significant iron ore operation with an estimated output of up to 1.5Mtpa in the first year and increasing to 3Mtpa by the third year of production from its Roper Bar Iron Ore project.

Western Desert Resources Managing Director Norm Gardner said the announcement provided certainty for the Company and all mineral exploration in the Roper Region.

"We are encouraged by the strong signal that the Henderson Government is sending with this decision. It shows the Government is serious about balancing economic and environmental considerations inherent in such a decision," Mr. Gardner said.

"It demonstrates the Government's commitment to strong environmental policy while recognising current and future commercial opportunities for the Territory."

“The Roper Bar Iron Ore project will underpin the growth of the Northern Territory’s mining industry and we will work within Government guidelines to ensure beneficial project outcomes for the community.”

“With this project we are committed to achieving the best environmental, social and economic outcomes.”

Western Desert Resources has undertaken comprehensive environmental and social impact assessments as part of the Government’s approvals processes.

As part of the impact assessment process, Western Desert Resources has undertaken extensive consultation with the local community, Indigenous groups, Traditional Owners and Elders, and local, state and federal government departments.

The final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is expected to be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport in mid-2012 and will focus on environmental protection and rehabilitation.

It is anticipated that construction of the proposed Roper Bar Iron Ore project will create between 125-150 employment and training opportunities.

For further details on today’s announcement, see the attached media statements from the office of the Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Karl Hampton, and the Minister for Resources, Kon Vatskalis.

For further information:

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Background

The Roper Bar Iron Ore Province covers about 1,900 km² within eight granted exploration licences in the Northern Territory and includes an estimated 100 km² of outcrop of the target Sherwin Formation which hosts extensive hematite iron ore horizons. The Province is divided into two project areas – Roper Bar and Mountain Creek.

JORC compliant Mineral Resource estimates from WDR's Roper Bar Project (30% Fe cut-off)

DEPOSIT AREA	Classification	Mt	Fe %	SiO ₂ %	Al ₂ O ₃ %	P %	LOI %	Published
Area D	Inferred	90.7	37.2	31.5	3.2	0.01	9.6	Oct-09
Area D (north)	Inferred	116.5	40.3	26.3	2.2	0.01	11.0	Feb-11
Area E (south)	Inferred	72.1	39.0	30.6	2.9	0.01	8.6	Nov-10
Area E (East)**	Indicated	12.1	46.1	22.4	1.7	0.01	8.0	Dec-10
Area F *	Inferred	5.5	46.6	22.7	2.7	0.01	6.1	Feb-12
Area F *	Indicated	24.6	49.3	22.0	3.2	0.01	2.6	Feb-12
TOTAL		321.5	40.1	28.2	2.7	0.01	9.2	

* Includes DSO of 15.5Mt @ 59.5% Fe, 9.6% SiO₂, 2.2% Al₂O₃, 0.01% P and 2.1% LOI

** Includes DSO of 4.7Mt @ 55.6% Fe, 14.1% SiO₂, 1.1% Al₂O₃, 0.01% P and 4.2% LOI

DSO includes ore greater than 58% Fe and also includes material that is easily upgradable by proven gravity separation techniques to a product of minimum 58% Fe.

Competent Person's Statements

The information in this report that relates to Mineral Resources is based on information compiled by Sharron Sylvester who is a full-time employee of AMC Consultants Pty Ltd and a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and has sufficient experience relevant to the styles of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 edition of the Australasian Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (JORC code). Sharron Sylvester consents to the inclusion of this information in the form and context in which they occur.

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results is based on information compiled by Graham Bubner who is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Bubner is a full-time employee of Western Desert Resources Ltd and has sufficient experience relevant to the styles of mineralisation under consideration and to the subject matter of the report to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 edition of the Australasian Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (JORC code). Mr Bubner consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which they occur.



Karl Hampton

MINISTER FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE

16 March 2012

Limmen National Park and Limmen Bight Marine Park

Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Karl Hampton, today announced the formation of a major new National Park and Marine Park.

“Limmen National Park and Limmen Bight Marine Park will be the most significant additions to our parks estate in over a decade, from the Greenest, most environmentally conscious Government in the Territory’s history,” Mr Hampton said.

“Government has taken the time to get the right balance between new economic opportunity for the region and conservation.

“Consideration has been given to the environmental, social and economic issues, and this means making hard decisions to deliver sustainable development for the region,” he said.

“Limmen National Park has significant environmental values and these will be protected by proceeding to declare a new National Park covering 80 per cent of the area originally proposed, or equivalent to an area almost seven times that of Litchfield National Park.

“It has been long acknowledged that the proposal included highly prospective areas that have the potential to create wealth for the region through mining, and those areas will not initially be included in Limmen National Park.

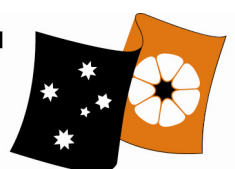
“As exploration proceeds, however; and the prospective areas are more accurately defined, those areas not needed for mining will eventually be folded back into Limmen National Park.

The original park proposal has been updated to take into account the considerable biodiversity values outside and to the east of the originally proposed park.

“I am very pleased that as part of today’s major announcement we introduced Maria Island into the National Park, and with that; a new recreational fishing friendly Marine Park, Limmen Bight, located in the Gulf region approximately 600km south east of Darwin.

“This will help protect turtle, dugong and dolphin habitats and significant sea grass beds.

“Limmen National Park and Limmen Bight Marine Park will add over one million hectares to our parks estate, and the new fishing friendly marine park alone will boost marine conservation in the Territory by 30 per cent.



Voluntary conservation efforts by landholders outside of the Park will be financially supported by a community benefits package, flowing from any approved mining operation in the area.

“The Government has already begun investment in Limmen National Park by way of additional camping infrastructure at Tomato Island which is to be managed by indigenous people from the region

“National Parks that connect oceans to the land are of special significance and world class – that is what the updated Limmen National Park delivers.

“Limmen National Park is set to provide new job opportunities for the region whether through new mining enterprises, additional conservation efforts or new tourism opportunities,” Mr Hampton said.

Member for Arnhem, Malarndirri McCarthy, also welcomed today’s announcement, and commended the decision to value the significance of Maria Island.

“I am very pleased with today’s announcement to declare Limmen National Park,” she said.

“I commend all groups for reaching a consensus, and that the voices of the Traditional Owners were heard and acted upon, not to build a pipeline to Maria Island.”

Today’s Limmen National Park announcement also received high praise from the Local Member for Barkly, Gerry McCarthy.

“These Parks will provides certainty and opportunity for the environment, culture and economy to the people of the Gulf region.

As per statutory requirements, new Parks are subject to a 60 day community consultation period before they can be declared. Public consultation closes Friday, 18 May 2012.

Media Contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794



Kon Vatskalis
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

16 March 2012

Resources Minister Welcomes Limmen National Park Announcement

Minister for Resources, Kon Vatskalis, today welcomed the Henderson Government decision to excise parts of the proposed Limmen National Park to provide certainty for the development of mining resources.

The decision will reduce uncertainty around the Northern Territory Government's support for economic development and preservation of high value conservation areas in the Roper Region.

As part of the proposed park, exploration areas held by Western Desert Resources, Sherwin Iron and other companies will be excluded to allow for exploration and extraction of bulk iron ore from the area and other resources.

"The NT Government has struck the right balance in regards to providing long-term protection of our natural environment, while supporting the resource industry's need to progress with new developments," Mr Vatskalis said.

"The proposed iron ore developments in the Limmen area are significant, with an estimated resource of 200 million tonnes of iron ore at a value of \$20 billion.

"It would provide significant economic stimulation for the region and Indigenous communities who would benefit from the creation of jobs and training opportunities.

"As part of the proposed mining development a specific community benefit package would also be negotiated to increase Indigenous conservation initiatives in the region.

"Government has a vision for the region which includes economic development as well as increasing tourist and recreational visitor numbers.

"Some of these plans are already in progress such as the \$1.5 million upgrade to the Tomato island camping facility and boat ramp.

"I also welcome the proposal of a recreational fishing friendly marine park to be established in the area around Maria Island, creating further protection for our marine environment.

"The proposed marine park area contains significant seagrass beds that are home to the largest population of dugongs in the NT as well as containing nesting sites for the threatened Flatback turtle.

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746

