

Wednesday 21 May 2008

Land Court upholds Cape Alumina application to continue next phase in environment surveys

The Land Court of Queensland has upheld Cape Alumina's application that it can commence its 2008 environment surveys on its duly granted exploration permits that partially overlap the Bertiehaugh cattle station in Cape York.

Cape Alumina CEO Dr Paul Messenger said the Company welcomed the decision: "We are pleased our application has been successful and decided on its merits and the important work of our professional consulting environmental scientists can continue."

"We could not understand why Silverback Properties (the owners of the cattle station) would wish to prevent environmental scientists from going about their work or delay the most comprehensive environment survey ever undertaken in the area," Dr Messenger said.

"We can now move into the next phase of our environment work with our wet season survey to ensure we have seasonal environment data for our Pisolite Hills Project on the Weipa Bauxite Plateau," he said.

Cape Alumina and Silverback Properties are listed to appear again in the Land Court on 29 May.

"Contrary to some media reports, the hearing will be not a forum to determine whether mining can or should proceed on the Bertiehaugh cattle station.

"Next week's hearing is to clarify the rights of exploration permit holders and those of pastoral lease holders and in particular how an explorer gives due notice of its intention to enter a lease to undertake its exploration and survey work. This is a very normal process and procedure in Queensland and we look forward to having the Land Court provide its guidance on the matter."

Points of Media Clarification

In some media reports today, Dr Messenger is quoted as saying the Company's Environment Impact Statement would be the most comprehensive "ever undertaken in the State." Dr Messenger in fact said in interviews the study would be the most comprehensive ever undertaken "to date."

Some reports have also inferred the Land Court hearing was brought by Silverback Properties. In fact Cape Alumina brought forth the action as the applicant in the proceedings.

Some reports have also inferred Silverback Properties was successful with a request that its own observers and the Traditional Owners accompanying Cape Alumina's environment consultants on their survey work.

Such requests were in fact identified and offered by Cape Alumina in its application to the Court and to Silverback. The involvement and participation of Traditional Owners is in compliance with Cape Alumina's own standard operating procedures.

For further enquiries please contact

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