



ASX and Media Release

Exploration and mining at Hawks Nest - Defence update

Western Plains Resources Ltd (ASX: **WPG**) met with senior representatives of the Commonwealth Departments of Defence and Resources, Energy and Tourism in Canberra on 9 October at Defence's invitation.

The meeting was convened in order for Defence to give WPG further insight into its reasons for its purported vetoing of WPG's magnetite joint venture with WISCO at Hawks Nest as set out in WPG's ASX announcement of 23 September and for WPG to provide further information about the possible scale and scope of mining if it proceeds.

Defence explained its concerns in relation to safety, operational and national security issues associated with exploration and mining at Hawks Nest and in the wider Woomera Prohibited Area more generally. WPG reiterated its belief that Defence's legitimate safety and operational concerns could be mitigated by simple protocols that WPG would agree to, and that Defence's national security concerns could be accommodated by the measures already embedded in the transaction documents between WISCO and WPG and by those that have been subsequently suggested by WPG to Defence, and others which the joint venture may be able to implement.

Defence further indicated that the Commonwealth's decision in relation to the WISCO joint venture and further exploration and mining at Hawks Nest would be taken on a whole-of-government basis and not just by Defence acting unilaterally as appears to have been the case to date.

The parties agreed to hold further meetings, in order to map out the way forward. WPG does not know how long this process will take before a conclusion is reached.

Separately, WPG met with a visiting high level WISCO delegation early last week. WISCO's representatives stressed their strong commitment to continue to cooperate constructively and patiently with WPG so that this important joint venture can proceed.

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WISCO further stressed its willingness to consider reasonable changes to the joint venture's structure and documentation in order to accommodate the Commonwealth's concerns.

Further Information

For further information please contact WPG's Executive Chairman Bob Duffin, on (02) 9247 3232 or 0412 234 684, or Heath Roberts, Executive Director and General Counsel on (02) 9247 7359 or 0419 473 925.