

# Magellan Metals Pty Ltd

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## **MEDIA BRIEFING**

### **MAGELLAN WELCOMES FINAL APPROVAL FOR SEALED SHIPMENTS VIA PORT OF FREMANTLE**

**Perth - February 02, 2009** - Magellan Metals (“Magellan”) welcomes today’s decision by the Minister for Environment, Hon. Donna Faragher MLC, to give final approval for sealed shipments of the company’s lead carbonate concentrate through the Port of Fremantle.

Magellan’s sealed shipment proposal has been extensively reviewed and endorsed by all relevant regulatory authorities. The development, planning, documentation and approval of the sealed shipments has been a rigorous 22 month process involving the company, the State Government, multiple Government agencies and the community.

Conditional approval for the sealed shipments was given by the previous Minister for Environment in January 2008, following an EPA assessment in late 2007 that recommended the proposal proceed under stringent conditions. The Minister also imposed additional conditions to those recommended by the EPA, covering environmental health, safety, auditing, emergency response planning and a significant financial bond. These are detailed on the attached Fact Sheet.

During 2008, as required by the conditional approval, Magellan developed comprehensive monitoring and management plans, and conducted extensive stakeholder consultation on all aspects of these plans, to the satisfaction of relevant regulatory agencies prior to today’s final Ministerial approval.

Magellan is committed to full ongoing compliance with all of the sealed shipment conditions, and to open and timely public reporting of monitoring results and compliance activities via [www.magellanmetals.com.au](http://www.magellanmetals.com.au).

Dr John Yeates, Magellan General Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility, said the State Government’s decision concluded a long running and intensively scrutinised approval process; provided positive direction for the company; and recognised the hard work of the company and its consultants and contractors, and of regulatory agencies in setting a new global safety standard for transporting lead carbonate concentrate.

“The State Government has recognised that Magellan has met all the conditions required to gain final approval, and we now have the opportunity to clearly demonstrate to the community that we can conduct our sealed shipments safely and effectively.”

Magellan’s sealed shipment process involves packing lead carbonate concentrate with the consistency of damp sand into United Nations and State Government approved two tonne, double-lined bulk bags at the Magellan mine near Wiluna. The exterior of the bags will be vacuumed and the bags will be then locked inside steel containers and loaded on trucks. The containers and trucks will then be washed and the locked containers delivered to the rail freight network at Leonora for transport direct to the Port of Fremantle. The entire sealed shipment process will be inspected and independently audited both at the Magellan mine and at the Port of Fremantle.

The sealed shipment process is completely different to that used previously in Esperance, which involved transporting bulk concentrate to a storage shed at the Port and then loading the concentrate onto a bulk carrier via a conveyor system. During this previously approved process dust was unfortunately allowed to escape into the surrounding environment during the vessel loading procedure.

Dr Yeates said among the conditions that had to be completed prior to final Ministerial approval and before shipments could commence were baseline monitoring for lead along the transport route from the mine to Fremantle and within Fremantle, and developing Health, Hygiene and Environmental Management and Monitoring Programs and a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan to cover the entire transport route.

“We have communicated these plans to local government authorities and communities along the rail route and they have incorporated them into their comprehensive emergency response procedures, which already cover the wide range of materials and other substances regularly transported in containers to and from Fremantle.”

Magellan is not planning to commence sealed shipments through Fremantle immediately as the company’s current focus is the removal of its stockpile at Esperance over the next three months, in accordance with the plan approved by the Government’s regulatory agencies. The Esperance process also uses bagging and containerising and is expected to start next week, and be completed in April.

Following the removal of the Esperance stockpile the company expects to initiate exports via Fremantle commencing with small trial shipments from a further stockpile at the Magellan mine. During this time the company will embark on the extensive Magellan mine operations restart planning process and review timing for the recommencement of production at its Wiluna mine-site.

Dr Yeates said the company will inform the community well prior to commencing its sealed shipments, and all results from the intensive monitoring of the process will be publicly available through its website as soon as they are received by Magellan.

The attached Fact Sheet contains more information about the background to the sealed shipment process.

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