

## Resounding win for Axiom in Solomon Islands High Court nickel case

---

### HIGHLIGHTS

- High Court upholds Axiom's Isabel nickel deposit land and exploration rights
  - High Court dismisses Sumitomo's claims, finding "the proceedings have been shown to be an abuse of the court's process"
  - Discharge of Sumitomo's injunction preventing Axiom's exploration or mining activities
  - Continuing permanent injunction restraining Sumitomo from interfering with Axiom's business activities in Solomon Islands
  - Axiom's claim for costs and damages to be pursued.
- 

Judgment has been handed down in favour of Axiom KB Limited ("Axiom") in the Solomon Islands High Court case 258/11 between SMM Solomon Limited ("Sumitomo") and others v Axiom, Solomon Islands Government and others.

Axiom Mining welcomed Commissioner John Brown's judgment, which included the following:

- validation of Axiom's registered lease and Prospecting Licence over the Isabel nickel deposit
- rejection of all of Sumitomo's claims
- discharge of the injunction preventing Axiom's exploration activities on the Isabel nickel deposit
- Sumitomo's undertaking as to damages continues in respect of any damages claimed by Axiom
- order for a continuing permanent injunction restraining Sumitomo from interfering in Axiom's mining, prospecting or other business interests in Solomon Islands
- arguments on costs to be determined.

Axiom CEO Mr Ryan Mount said, "This judgment vindicates Axiom's assertions that we have always acted correctly and with integrity.

"With our Prospecting Licence and registered lease recognised, we can now re-commence our exploration of the tenement with our partners, the Kolosori and Bungusule landowners," he said.

"Work on this tenement—one of the largest nickel laterite deposits in the Pacific—will start on Monday.

"We are targeting the start of a Direct Shipping Ore operation within 12 to 18 months."



Axiom had commenced exploration activities on Santa Isabel Island in 2011 when the Prospecting Licence was awarded, however activities were halted by an injunction brought on by a civil claim by Sumitomo.

Chair of the Kolosori Trustees Mr Elliot Cortez said, “We are very pleased that we have been able to successfully defend our land rights.

“We look forward to working closely with Axiom to develop the nickel deposit as well as hopefully constructing a mine.”

Minister for Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification Moses Garu also welcomed the judgement as it demonstrated that the Solomon Islands Government had acted lawfully in awarding the Prospecting Licence to Axiom.

“We are glad to have Axiom back on the land and look forward to the results of their exploration in developing the world-class Isabel nickel deposit,” he said.

“We hope to receive a mining lease application for this project from Axiom in the not too distant future.”

This announcement lifts the trading halt requested by Axiom Mining Ltd on Wednesday 24 September 2014.

**ENDS**

**About Axiom Mining Limited**

*Axiom Mining Limited focuses on tapping into the resource potential within the mineral-rich Pacific Rim. Through dedication to forging strong bonds and relationships with the local communities and governments where we operate, Axiom Mining has built a diversified portfolio of exploration tenements in the Asia Pacific region. This includes a majority interest in the Isabel nickel deposits in the Solomon Islands. The Company also owns all or majority holdings in highly prospective gold silver and copper tenements in North Queensland, Australia. The Company is listed on the ASX.*

*For more information on Axiom Mining and details on our activities, please refer to our company website at [www.axiom-mining.com](http://www.axiom-mining.com).*

**Disclaimer**

*Statements in this document that are forward-looking and involve numerous risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from expected results are based on the Company's current beliefs and assumptions regarding a large number of factors affecting its business. There can be no assurance that (i) the Company has correctly measured or identified all of the factors affecting its business or their extent or likely impact; (ii) the publicly available information with respect to these factors on which the Company's analysis is based is complete or accurate; (iii) the Company's analysis is correct; or (iv) the Company's strategy, which is based in part on this analysis, will be successful.*

