

# East Coast Minerals NL (ASX: ECM)

ASX Announcement

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## East Coast Minerals Examining Whale Migration



ABN 82 000 738 885

East Coast Minerals NL (ASX:ECM) advises that it has been examining all aspects of whale migration since September last year and will continue to develop this work before undertaking any exploration activities off the NSW coast, the company said today in responding to media reports that seabed exploration may affect whale migration.

Mr Rick Somerton, the Chief Executive Officer of Energie Future, a subsidiary of ECM, pointed out that the Federal Government already has extensive regulations in place to protect the marine environment and therefore ECM will need to meet the highest standards before even one element of its exploration project is undertaken.

“Very few people are aware that the NSW government has been drilling offshore as part of the construction of its desalination plant. As a result, a report into the impact of drilling on whales was commissioned by Sydney Water in 2008. This report indicates that the presence of large ships in the shipping lanes and smaller craft are likely to disturb the whales more than offshore drilling, which is unlikely to have a long term effect.” Mr Somerton said.

Mr Richard Sealy, ECM’s Managing Director said “ECM is concerned for the environment and takes the issue of whale migration seriously. We intend to build on the Sydney Water study to see that best practice is employed to ensure that whales and their migration are not disturbed.

“ECM aims to achieve best practice within strict environmental guidelines to minimize the impact of production of a clean fuel alternative.”

### About East Coast Minerals

East Coast Minerals NL (ASX:ECM) is an Australian based exploration company, which listed on the ASX on 9th April 1970. The company has interests in the Pilbara region of WA, where it is exploring for precious and base metals, as well as Underground Coal Gasification projects in Australia and the USA.

Also please visit [www.eastcoastminerals.com](http://www.eastcoastminerals.com)

### **About Energie Future**

Energie Future, a subsidiary of ECM, has assembled the essential elements to establish a coal-to-liquids business, based on underground coal gasification with projects in Australia and the USA. Energie Future has applied for coal mining exploration licences stretching offshore from Wollongong to Port Stephens, NSW, over an area of almost 6,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

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