

**ASX**

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES EXCHANGE

MARKET RELEASE

21 October 2010

Western Areas NL**TRADING HALT**

The securities of Western Areas NL (the "Company") will be placed in pre-open at the request of the Company, pending the release of an announcement by the Company. Unless ASX decides otherwise, the securities will remain in pre-open until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on Monday, 25 October 2010 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: WSA

Jill Hewitt

Senior Adviser Issuers (Perth)

WESTERN AREAS NL



20th October, 2010

ASX & TSX: WSA

ASX Limited
Level 8
Exchange Plaza
2 The Esplanade
PERTH WA 60000

Attention: James Rowe

Dear James

TRADING HALT IN RELATION TO EXCHANGE OF CONVERTIBLE BONDS

Western Areas NL (ASX and TSX: WSA or "the Company") has requested that the ASX apply a trading halt to its shares, effective immediately, pending an announcement to be made by the Company regarding a partial exchange offer in relation to the Company's existing A\$225 million convertible bonds due July 2012 ("Convertible Bonds Exchange").

The Joint Dealer Managers for the Convertible Bonds Exchange transaction are UBS AG, Australia Branch and Macquarie Capital Advisers Limited.

The trading halt is requested until the earlier of the commencement of trading on Monday 25 October 2010 and an announcement being made by the Company regarding the Convertible Bonds Exchange.

The Company is not aware of any reason as to why the ASX should not grant the trading halt.

Regards

Joseph Belladonna

For further details, please contact:

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