



ASX / Media Release

30 September 2011

Scheme Booklet lodged with ASIC

The Directors of Australian resources company Meridian Minerals Limited ("**Meridian**" or "**Company**") (**ASX: MII**) are pleased to announce that the Company has today lodged the complete Scheme Booklet with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission ("**ASIC**").

On 21 September 2011, Meridian announced that it had entered into a Scheme Implementation Agreement with Northwest Nonferrous International Investment Company Ltd ("**NWII**") and NWII's wholly-owned subsidiary, Northwest Nonferrous Australia Mining Pty Ltd ("**Northwest**"). The SIA details how Northwest will acquire all of the outstanding fully-paid ordinary shares of Meridian not currently owned by Northwest by way of a scheme of arrangement ("**Scheme**").

The Meridian Board of Directors (excluding Dr Guoyi Dong, Northwest's nominee on Meridian's Board and Mr Sushil Bhattar, BZ Minerals (Australia) Pty Ltd's nominee on Meridian's Board ("**Eligible Directors**") unanimously recommend that Meridian shareholders vote in favour of the Scheme, in the absence of any Superior Proposal and subject to an independent expert's opinion that the Scheme is in the best interest of Meridian's shareholders.

Meridian is pleased to provide the following update regarding the indicative implementation timetable included in its announcement to the ASX on 21 September 2011:

- The Scheme Booklet containing all the information relating to the Scheme and the reasons for the Eligible Directors' unanimous recommendation, and the Independent Expert's Report provided by Grant Thornton Corporate Finance Pty Limited, has been lodged today with ASIC for regulatory review;
- It is expected the Scheme Booklet will be dispatched to shareholders after the ASIC regulatory review process is complete and after the first court hearing, which is expected to occur by the end of October;
- Further information about the implementation of the Scheme will be provided upon release of the Scheme Booklet, including the date of the Meridian shareholder meeting to consider the Scheme (expected to be held in November); and
- The Scheme is still expected to be implemented in early – mid December subject to Meridian shareholder approval and Court approval for the Scheme being obtained, and subject to any necessary Chinese government or regulatory approvals required in connection with the Scheme being obtained.

For further information please visit www.meridianminerals.com.au or contact:

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