

13 March 2013

Company Announcements Office
ASX Limited
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IRON ORE BULK SAMPLING TO COMMENCE FOR POTENTIAL LONG TERM BUYER AT BARNES HILL

- **Metallurgical site visit completed for potential long term buyer initiating the bulk sample testing**
- **Bulk sampling of iron ore up to 500 – 1,000 tonne to be tested at Barnes Hill**
- **Work Program planning in progress submitted to Mineral Resources of Tasmania for assessment and approval, estimated commencement of program expected by the end of April 2013**

Proto Resources and Investments Ltd ("Proto") are pleased to announce the commencement of planning for a bulk sample collection of 500 to 1,000 tonnes of lateritic hard-cap iron ore at the Barnes Hill approved mining lease 1872 PM, near Beaconsfield in Tasmania (see Figure 1).

An escorted site visit by Proto as well as metallurgists for a potential long term buyer was conducted on Thursday 7th March, as a preliminary introduction offer by Proto to supply lateritic iron ore during Proto's pre-strip mining phase at Barnes Hill.

A program of work application has commenced for submittal to Mineral Resources of Tasmania ("MRT") for eventual assessment and final approval. An estimated timeframe for the programme submittal and approval by MRT is in the order of 6 weeks.

A total of 13 trench sites have been chosen for sampling from within the boundary of an iron-enriched zone at the Barnes Hill laterite deposit. The selection criteria for the trench sample sites are based on selective iron assays ($\geq 40\%$ Fe) obtained from sampling of air core drilling programmes conducted by Proto during previous exploration (see Figure 2).

A total JORC ore resource figure for the hard-cap ferruginous laterite previously calculated by Snowden Mining Industry Consultants in 2010 (Snowden), is 1,564,881 tonnes. This total resource figure is composed of the JORC reporting categories by Snowden of 926,788 tonnes measured, 281,660 tonnes indicated and 356,433 tonnes inferred.

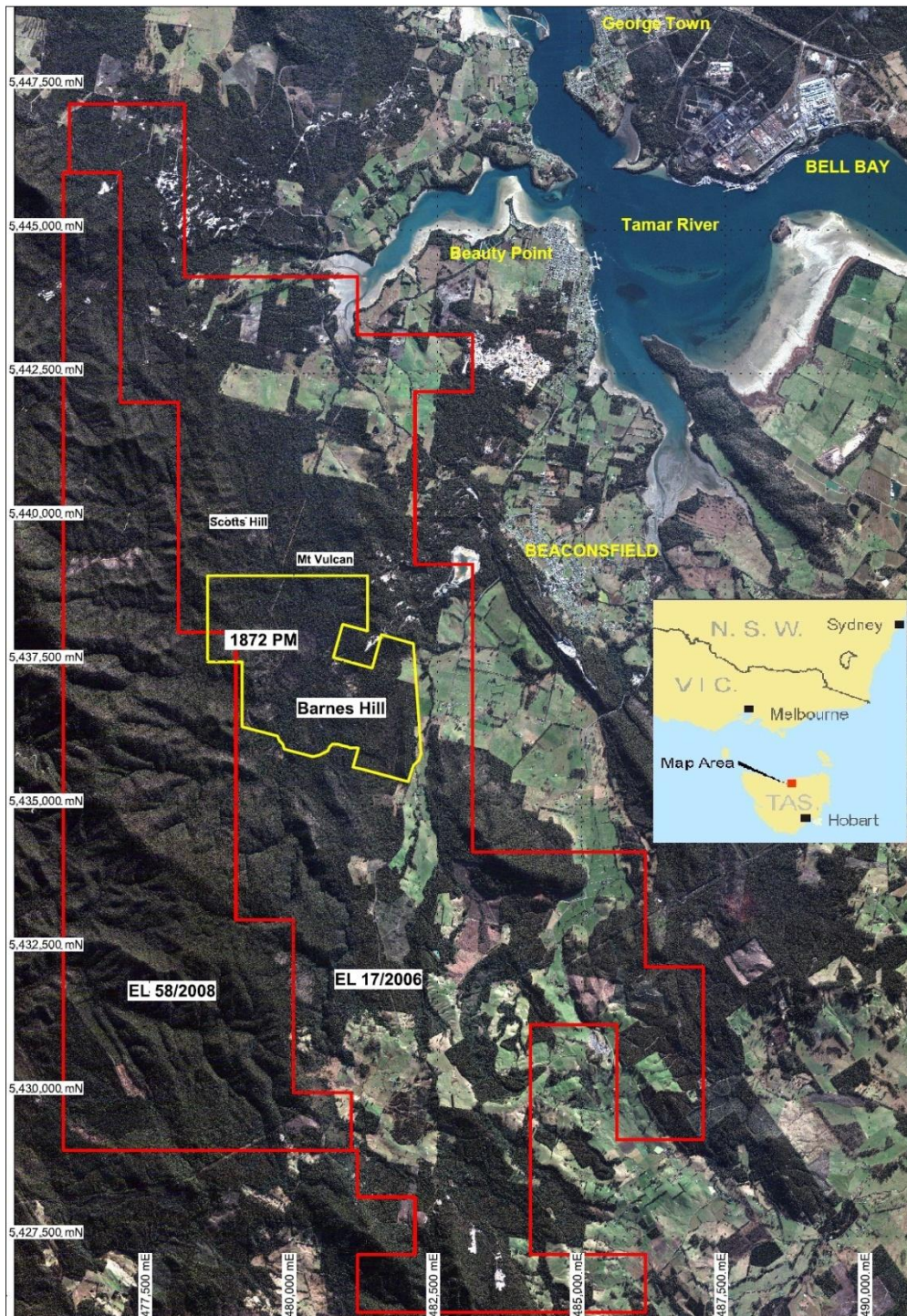


Figure 1. Location Map of Proto's Barnes Hill mining lease 1872PM and other project tenements

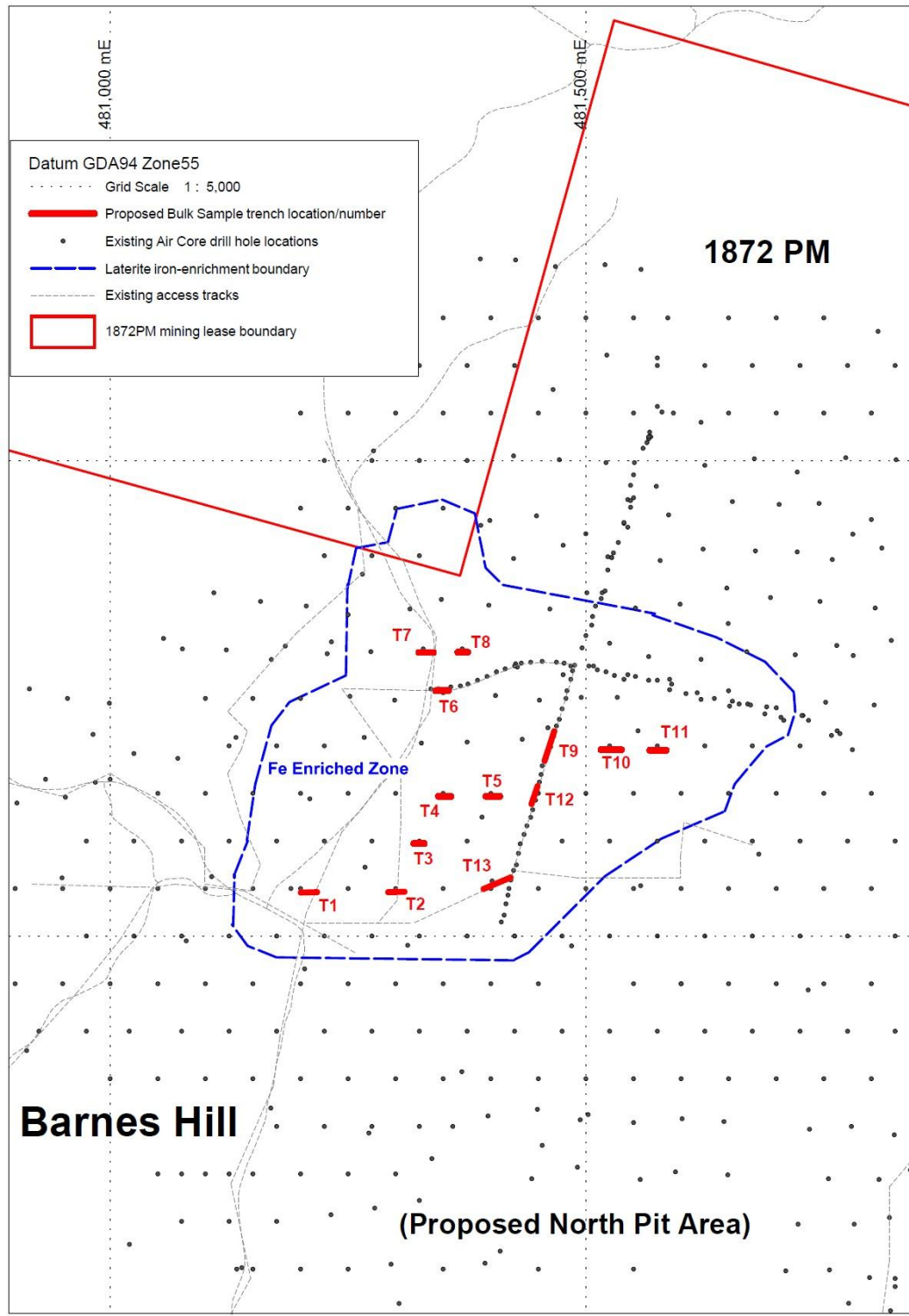


Figure 2. Location of bulk sample location sites (T1 to T13) and reference Air Core drill holes.

Competent Persons Statement

The information in this release that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Carl Swensson, who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy. Mr Swensson is a director of Swensson Integrated Resource Management Services and has sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves". Mr Swensson consents to the inclusion in the release of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

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