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ASX Limited  
Company Announcement Office  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**MORATORIUM ON SEA BED MINING ANNOUNCED BY NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT**

Northern Manganese Limited ("NTM" or the "Company") advises that the Northern Territory Minister for Resources, Kon Vatskalis, has placed a moratorium on sea bed mining in coastal waters of the Northern Territory.

The Minister's announcement states that the moratorium will be in place until 2015, whilst a comprehensive assessment on the potential impacts of such activities is undertaken by the Environment Protection Authority. This means that exploration applications and applications for the mining of bulk materials in coastal waters will not be granted for a period of three years. Of interest is the fact that the moratorium does not include petroleum exploration and production and port development.

It is unclear to NTM and to date the Company has not received formal advice as to whether the moratorium will extend to non-invasive exploration programs such as the acoustic survey planned by NTM and for which the appropriate Commonwealth Government approvals have been granted and received.

Clarification will be sought as to whether or not the moratorium applies to granted exploration Titles.

NTM believes that the moratorium is contrary to previous announcement made by the Minister for Resources at international forums that, quote, "The Northern Territory is open for business"- end quote.

NTM will seek to gauge a better understanding of the Government's assessment process. At this stage the Government has stated that it will fund a comprehensive assessment of the facts surrounding issues relating to offshore mining including the actual and potential impacts of exploration or mining activity associated with bulk commodity sea bed mining.

NTM have engaged legal counsel to review and advise on the moratorium and what this actually means to the Company in respect of its granted Exploration Licences and what legal means are open to the Company in light of this decision.

The market will be updated as information is received.



**Doug Daws**  
Chairman

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