

**ASX ANNOUNCEMENT**ASX Code: **MMX****16 November 2009****EPA CONFIRMS APPROVAL PROCESS FOR OAKAJEE PORT & RAIL PROJECT**

Murchison Metals Limited (Murchison) is pleased to announce that the environmental approval process had been confirmed for the terrestrial port and rail components of Oakajee Port & Rail's (OPR) mid-west infrastructure project.

OPR announced today that the Environmental Protection Authority had confirmed the approval process would be by way of a Public Environmental Review (PER).

OPR said it believed the PER process was the most appropriate approval mechanism and was consistent with the project's development timetable, supporting timely and efficient delivery of the project.

Murchison and Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd each own a 50% interest in OPR.

A copy of OPR's media release is attached.

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**About Murchison**

Murchison Metals Limited ("Murchison") is an Australian ASX listed company. Murchison is included in the S&P/ASX 200 Index.

Murchison is a 50% shareholder in Crosslands Resources Ltd ("Crosslands") which is the owner of the Jack Hills iron ore project located in the mid-west region of Western Australia. The remaining 50% of Crosslands is held by Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd ("Mitsubishi"), a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan's largest general trading company.

Murchison also has a 50% economic interest in Oakajee Port and Rail (OPR), an independent infrastructure business established to construct new port and rail infrastructure to provide logistics services to miners and other potential customers in the mid-west region of WA. The remaining 50% economic interest in OPR is held by Mitsubishi.

In addition to its investments in Crosslands, OPR and its Rocklea iron ore project (100% Murchison) located in the Pilbara, Murchison is actively exploring growth opportunities in iron ore, coal and manganese in accordance with its approved corporate strategy.

## OPR welcomes EPA decision on Oakajee approval process

Oakajee Port and Rail has welcomed advice from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on the assessment process for the environmental approval of the terrestrial port and the rail components of its integrated infrastructure project.

OPR submitted two separate referral documents to the EPA covering:

1. The Oakajee terrestrial port development, for land based infrastructure and services at the Oakajee port; and
2. The 570 kilometre Oakajee rail development.

The EPA has confirmed that each of these components will be assessed at a Public Environmental Review (PER) level.

OPR's Acting Chief Executive Officer Alwyn Vorster said the decision was an important step in the environmental approval process.

"OPR believes the PER is the most appropriate approach to environmental assessment, involving a consultative process that is in the best interests of all stakeholders," said Mr Vorster.

"The process is also consistent with OPR's development timetable and supports timely and efficient delivery of the project."

The PER will involve a four week public review period, expected in mid-2010. OPR is targeting finalisation of the approvals and other project feasibility work during 2010 to allow construction to commence by early 2011.

Mr Vorster said the Oakajee business case remains robust, reflecting its pivotal role in the unlocking of the vast mineral riches of the mid-west region for exporting through a new deepwater port at Oakajee.

"This is a nationally significant project that will also transform the regional economy of the mid-west, supported by the direct funding support of the State and Federal governments."

Mr Vorster said OPR remained on track with key milestones and would continue to work collaboratively with Government and other stakeholders to deliver the project.

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