

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: **Stockman Base Metals Project**

Proponent: **Jabiru Metals Limited**

Description of Project:

Jabiru Metals Limited ('Jabiru') proposes to develop the Stockman Base Metals Project at a site approximately 19km south-east of the township of Benambra, East Gippsland. The proposal includes recommissioning the existing Wilga underground mine and development of a new underground mine at the adjacent Currawong deposit, to produce copper-zinc-silver-gold concentrates for export. The proposal is estimated require up to 1.5 gigalitres (GL) of water per annum. It will require a range of on and offsite ancillary infrastructure to support the mine operation, including a processing plant, access roads, water pipelines, electricity supply infrastructure, upgrades to the proposed major transport route (along the Great Alpine Road to Bairnsdale), and worker accommodation.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the Stockman Base Metals Project as described in the referral accepted on 26 May 2010.

Reasons for Decision:

- The proposal has the potential for a range of significant environmental effects on key environmental assets, including native vegetation, threatened species and water environments.
- The potential extent and magnitude of some effects are unclear, due to the uncertainty associated with both key aspects of the project scope and the limited knowledge of the existing environment in some areas.
- Further investigation of a number of project options is needed, including in relation to tailings treatment and storage and water supply, particularly to assess how adverse effects can be avoided or minimised, including through appropriate environmental risk management.
- An EES process would enable an integrated assessment of a range of potentially significant and uncertain adverse effects, including consideration of some complex and inter-related terrestrial, aquatic and geotechnical aspects of the proposal.

Date of Decision: 16 August 2010