



MEDIA RELEASE

MRM COMMENTS ON FEDERAL COURT DECISION

Darwin, 17 December 2008

Xstrata Zinc Australia's McArthur River Mining (MRM) expressed disappointment over today's decision by the Full Bench of the Federal Court to uphold the appeal against Justice Mansfield's June judgment.

The Court found in favour of the Appellants, who originally brought the action against the process followed by the Commonwealth Government.

MRM will carefully consider the judgment over the coming days and make no further comment in the interim.

Ends

For more information contact:

Patrick Collins	Kathy Mac Dermott
General Manager	General Manager
Corporate Affairs and Community Relations	Rowland
Xstrata Zinc Australia	
Telephone +61 (0)7 3295 7588	Telephone +61 (0)7 3229 4499
Mobile +61 (0)423 842 994	Mobile +61 (0)448 844 508
Email pcollins@xstratazinc.com.au	Email kathy.macdermott@rowland.com.au

Notes to editors about Xstrata:

ABOUT XSTRATA PLC

Xstrata is a global diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss Stock Exchanges, with its headquarters in Zug, Switzerland. Xstrata's businesses maintain a meaningful position in seven major international commodity markets: copper, coking coal, thermal coal, ferrochrome, nickel, vanadium and zinc, with a growing platinum group metals business, additional exposures to gold, cobalt, lead and silver, recycling facilities and a suite of global technology products, many of which are industry leaders. The Group's operations and projects span 18 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Germany, New Caledonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, the USA and the UK. Xstrata employs approximately 56,000 people, including contractors.



McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd
PO Box 36821, Winnellie NT 0821, Australia
Tel +61 88975 8179
Fax +61 88975 8170
www.xstrata.com

ABN 90 008 167 815

ABOUT XSTRATA ZINC

Headquartered in Madrid, Spain, Xstrata Zinc is one of the world's largest producers of zinc and one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc. Xstrata's zinc and lead operations and exploration projects are located in Australia, Canada, Germany, Peru, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Xstrata Zinc's operations in Spain comprise the San Juan de Nieva zinc smelter and the Arnao zinc semis plant in Asturias, and the Hinojedo roasting plant in Cantabria.

In Australia, operations comprise: the Mount Isa, George Fisher underground, Handlebar Hill open-cut and Black Star open-cut zinc-lead mines, zinc-lead concentrator, lead smelter and Bowen Coke Works in north Queensland; the McArthur River open-pit zinc-lead mine, processing and port operations in the Northern Territory; and 75% of the Lady Loretta zinc-lead deposit in north-west Queensland.

In Canada, operations and exploration projects include the Brunswick zinc-lead mine and lead smelter in New Brunswick; 25% of the CEZ zinc smelter near Montreal; and the Perseverance zinc deposit in Quebec.

Xstrata Zinc also operates the Nordenham zinc smelter in northern Germany; the Northfleet lead refinery in the United Kingdom; and owns 33.75% of the Antamina mine in Peru.

Around half of all zinc currently consumed is used for galvanizing steel, which is an environmentally friendly method of protecting steel against corrosion. Zinc also finds application in the manufacture of die-cast alloys, brass and the production of zinc oxides and chemicals.