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Company Announcements Office
ASX Securities Limited
20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

DRILLING COMMENCEMENT - ROPER BAR NT IRON ORE PROJECT

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Drilling of outcropping ironstone commenced at Roper Bar Iron Ore Project .**
- **Objective of Initial Resource estimate before December 2009.**

The 2009 drilling program has commenced for the development of the Roper Bar Iron Ore Project between Western Desert Resources (ASX code “WDR”) and the ITOCHU subsidiary, IMEA Exploration and Development of Australia Pty Ltd (IEDA). **Drilling will be devoted to previously mapped high grade outcropping targets with the objective of evolving an initial resource estimate** within coming months.

These high grade drill targets are in Area D, Area E, and Area F (refer map Attachment 2) and were identified from a recently completed geological mapping program conducted during March 2009 extending the **known area of outcropping iron mineralisation to 55km²**, some of which yielded **surface samples assaying over 60% Fe** (refer ASX report released 18 May 2009).

The reverse circulation drilling program of up to 16,000 metres has been fast tracked with IEDA electing to proceed with the next phase of the farmin, months before a formal decision was due.

Commenting, the Managing Director of Western Desert, Mr Norm Gardner, said “we are delighted that ITOCHU continues to demonstrate its confidence in the Roper Bar project and we look forward to a successful drilling program in this exciting emerging iron ore project.”

Phase 1 Drilling program completed in 2008 recorded assay results of up to 60% Fe and an average thickness of 5.7m under light cover. Also recent beneficiation test work successfully upgraded lower grade material to in excess of 60% Fe using a low cost gravity separation technique supporting the business model of the Roper Bar Iron Ore Project

The Roper Bar Iron Ore project consists of six granted exploration licences (EL24307, EL24655, EL24944, EL25672, EL26759 and EL26992). The tenements are located in the Gulf country of the Northern Territory about 40km from the coast. Exploration is being undertaken on hematitic iron formations, both outcropping and under shallow cover.

For further information please contact

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The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by John Fabray who is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Fabray is a full time employee of Western Desert Resources Ltd and has sufficient experience relevant to the styles of mineralisation under consideration and to the subject matter of the report to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 edition of the Australasian Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (JORC code). Mr Fabray consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which they occur. Information in this report describing historical production figures and assays has been derived from open file company reports in the public domain.

About Western Desert Resources Limited

Western Desert Resources (WDR) is an ASX listed Australian exploration company with a diversified portfolio of projects in Australia. WDR holds advanced projects in iron ore, gold, molybdenum, and tungsten.

Core projects are: the Roper Bar Iron Ore Project in the Northern Territory located close to the Roper River; and the Rover gold/copper project near Tennant Creek, also in the Northern Territory.

WDR holds a strategic (14.6%) stake in Thor Mining Plc, which is listed on the United Kingdom AIM market. Thor Mining owns the Molyhil Molybdenum / Tungsten project, located north east of Alice Springs. An off-take agreement is in place with CITIC, China’s leading energy and base metal producer.

Attachment.1 Roper Bar Project Location Plan



