

Marlow Communications

INTELLIGENCE

... A NEWS AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

with



June 2008

While our job is to tell stories for other people, from time to time we have some stories of our own to tell and these will appear on an ad hoc basis in INTELLIGENCE.

- The ABS exploration stats for the March quarter were released this morning, the first for this year.
- In seasonally adjusted terms, mineral exploration in SA rose to a new record of \$95.6 million for the quarter; while the trend figure also rose to a new record of \$95.4 million. Both these figures are in line with national trends.
- In original terms, mineral exploration fell nationally by \$81.9 million in the quarter (13.1%). In South Australia the fall was \$14.2 million (15.2%) off a record high and the first decline since September 2006. A quarterly decline in exploration for both copper and uranium was the major contributing factor.
- Petroleum exploration in SA fell to \$31.8 million for the quarter.
- Our specialization in community engagement for the resources sector continues to pay dividends and I will be making a presentation on the subject at a SACOME-sponsored event on July 29. 'In it for the long haul: Sustaining HSE&C in Resources and Construction' was first held last year and features speakers including Paul Dowd, Andrew Anthony (Santos), Jonathan Nitschke (Nitschke Drilling), Brook Hill (Worley Parsons), Dr Jonathon Gilligan (BHPB) and Andrew Demetriou (AFL). My colleague Steve Whitham is the host.
- My presentation is entitled '**Please dig a mine in my garden and destroy my property value: the real issues of community engagement**'.

- It will focus on the practical aspects of community engagement and its tangible benefits for explorers and companies bringing exploration into production. It will be based on experience of our own client based, grounded in the reference work produced by organizations such as the Department of Industry, Trade and Resources; the International Institute for Environment and Development, the International Council on Mining and Metals, the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources, and the Minerals Council of Australia.
- For details and registration go to www.nbassociates.com.au
- If you are considering community engagement or unsure of its scope or importance, consider this statement from *Enduring Value: the Australian Minerals Industry Framework for Sustainable Development*:
 - ‘Unless a company earns that licence and maintains it on the basis of good performance on the ground, and community trust, there will undoubtedly be negative implications. Communities may seek to block project developments; employees may choose to work for a company that is a better corporate citizen; and projects may be subject to ongoing legal challenge, even after regulatory permits have been obtained, potentially halting project development’ (*Minerals Council of Australia, 2004*).
- Another important diary date is the SACOME/AusIMM Uranium Open Day to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 9am – 3pm on Friday 20 June. If you are in the uranium business; or you have children in senior secondary school who would be interested in this interactive and educational event please contact Anne Walker at SACOME – awalker@sacome.org.au
- Since the last edition of InTelligence I’ve also been working with my associates at Hughes Public Relations on issues related to the proposed bulk ore export facility at Port Bonython.
- Marlow Communications has also been very active on the Eyre Peninsula, with intensive community programs for three clients in that region.
- This has included a broad range of research, strategic development and community engagement implementation related to mineral export options from southern EP.
- In that context, I’m very pleased to announce that we have engaged a part-time associate, based in Port Lincoln, to assist with research and reporting on client related matters. It’s an additional service which is already working very well and gained strong support from our client base.
- We are also increasingly active in developing political strategy and arranging briefings and briefing materials in this context.

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