



MEDIA RELEASE

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LAND ACCESS AGREEMENT UNLOCKS GEMCO'S RESOURCE POTENTIAL

South32 is pleased to announce it has signed a land access agreement with the Groote Eylandt Traditional Owners and the Anindilyakwa Land Council at a special signing ceremony today.

The agreement allows South32 GEMCO to mine in the Eastern Leases and to commence exploration in the Southern Areas of the Island.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, South32 President and Chief Operating Officer Australia, Ricus Grimbeek, said the company valued its relationship with the Groote Eylandt community and acknowledged the positive way in which agreement negotiations were conducted.

"I would like to thank the Traditional Owners and the Anindilyakwa Land Council who have put their trust in us to continue exploring and mining their land," Mr Grimbeek said.

"We have enjoyed working together for more than 50 years and look forward to being a valued member of the community for many more to come."

Mr Grimbeek said the agreement will deliver on South32's business strategy.

"A key part of our strategy is to unlock the potential of our existing operations by converting high value resource into reserve, as well as identifying new areas with exploration potential," Mr Grimbeek said.

"Gaining access to the Eastern Leases allows us to mine new areas within our current operating area. Access to the large Southern Areas will substantially increase our exploration footprint at GEMCO, which is one of the largest and lowest cost manganese producers in the world."

The agreement secures the future of a longstanding partnership and ensures South32 GEMCO's continued contribution to the economic and community wellbeing of Groote Eylandt.

Ends

Photos available on request.

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