29 October 2008

First Copper Rolls Into Darwin

The first production of copper produced at the newly commissioned Compass Resources mine near Batchelor was trucked into Darwin today.

The Minister for Resources, Kon Vatskalis, was on hand at East Arm Port as the first 69 tonnes of copper produced at the mine was unloaded this morning.

“Mining and exploration are key drivers behind the Northern Territory’s economic growth,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Compass Resources Browns Oxide Project currently employs around 100 people – 30% of whom are Indigenous – and will see copper, cobalt and nickel produced from the open pit mine.

“Commissioning began in September, with the first copper cathode plated on stainless steel plates at the mine’s processing plant.

“Compass Resources has a contract with Sempra Metals Concentrates Corporation (a large USA metal trader) to buy and distribute the copper cathodes.”

The Browns Oxide Project will process 1.3 million tonnes of ore a year to produce 10,000 tonnes of copper cathode, 1000 tonnes of cobalt and 700 tonnes of nickel.

“Most of the circuit is now up and running and the first copper cathode sheets have been harvested from the electrowinning circuit. Each cathode weighs about 40 kilos and is a square metre in area,” said General Manager Operations, Bob Young.

“The copper is packaged in 2.3 to 2.5 tonne bundles and trucked to Darwin, where it will be placed in shipping containers at Swires Shipping to await export.”

The next phase will be to commission and start recovery of the nickel and cobalt that will be exported as a concentrate for processing at an overseas refinery.

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