

## **MEDIA RELEASE – THE AUSTRALIA-AFRICA MINING INDUSTRY GROUP**

Tuesday 20 August 2013

### **AGWEST and AAMIG Working Together**

The Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group and the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) have signed a letter of co-operation which outlines the intent for both organisations to work together to benefit the Australian mining industry in Africa.

*“This relationship will directly benefit Australian mining and exploration companies seeking to achieve positive and functional community engagement and development through agriculture. AAMIG members will now have direct access to DAFWA’s international consultancy arm, and can leverage specialist knowledge and technical services in finding solutions for issues such as biosecurity, quarantine and supply chain systems, crop diversification and productive capacity.” – AAMIG CEO, Trish O’Reilly.*

Junior mining companies cannot be expected to solve all the social and economic issues in the vicinity of their operations. Better results are likely to be achieved by building strategic alliances such as this one – developing more of a team Australia approach to investing in Africa.

AGWEST Food Security has a long history of working with developing nations over 40 years, in 30 countries, including countries in Africa.

DAFWA Director General Rob Delane said AGWEST Food Security offered a diverse range of services, drawing on the expertise of specialist agribusiness, academia and DAFWA staff.

“Highly qualified personnel with extensive experience in biosecurity and food safety systems, sustainable agriculture development, natural resource management and community development are available,” he said.

“AGWEST Food Security works in partnership with private enterprise, government agencies, international funding agencies and non-government organisations in Africa, as well as the Middle East and Asia.”

In recent years the consultancy has worked on African projects in Libya, Morocco, South Africa, Tunisia and Botswana.

Mr Delane said there were synergies between the agriculture and mining sector, which could be enhanced for mutual benefit.

“Food security and safety has long been a challenge for developing nations, affecting health, education and the economy,” he said.

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“AGWEST Food Security can provide the mining sector with access to specialists – onsite if necessary – to work with clients to provide solutions to issues, such as improving biosecurity, quarantine and supply chain systems, building community resilience to drought and natural disasters and enhancing crop diversification and productive capacity.”

## ENDS



*Rob Delan, Director General (AGWEST) and Trish O'Reilly, CEO (AAMIG) signing agreement.*

## About AAMIG

Incorporated in 2011, the Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group (AAMIG) is the peak industry body representing the collective interests of Australian mining and service companies active in Africa.

Today there are more than 220 ASX-listed mining related companies with a presence in Africa - our purpose is to support member companies to deliver successful economic and community outcomes in the vicinity of their operations.

Focusing on social investment, security, corporate governance and political risk, we provide guidance on leading practice in corporate social responsibility and issues specific to doing business in Africa. Through exploration, construction, operation and mine-site closure, we are committed to ensuring companies gain and maintain a “social licence to operate.”

Importantly, we support member companies in aligning the expectations of host communities, governments and society to create shared value and stimulate capacity building. We facilitate the exchange of ideas and make available critical information for the industry.

This Media Release has been issued through Cannings Purple Strategic Communications.

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