



## **Media Release**

**Embargoed Wednesday 29 September 2010**

### **Dargues Reef Environmental Assessment Set for Public Display**

An independent Environmental Assessment of the Dargues Reef Gold Project near Braidwood east of Canberra will be available for public review from Wednesday September 29 via the New South Wales Department of Planning.

The Environmental Assessment is an important step for the project and follows three years of exploration by Cortona Resources, which formally purchased the project in July 2007.

The Environmental Assessment was prepared by R.W. Corkery & Co., an independent firm that has conducted in excess of 300 environmental impact assessments. It covers areas such as noise, ecology, water, heritage, traffic, air quality and tailings storage.

Local residents are able to view the Environmental Assessment at local state Government and council offices, and via the Department's website, and respond in writing to the Director-General.

Cortona will respond to the community feedback before submitting the Environmental Assessment to the Minister for approval.

Cortona Managing Director Peter van der Borgh said the company had been liaising closely with the community throughout the exploration process and now welcomes its formal feedback on the Environmental Assessment.

"This world class underground mine will be the most significant project ever undertaken in the region," Mr van der Borgh said.

"It will result in substantial economic benefits for the Braidwood area injecting up to \$7 million into the local and regional economy, and an estimated \$31 million into the Australian economy each year."

The facility is expected to also create 60-80 permanent jobs with a preference given to local residents. The number is expected to be higher during the construction phase.

Environmental studies investigate potential impacts of the proposed mining project to flora and fauna, noise, water, visual amenity, archaeology and traffic.

The Dargues Reef Environment Assessment showed the project will have a minimal footprint and low impact on those living closest to the facility.

The mining operations will be conducted underground, while a processing plant will be located above ground next to the mine entrance. Final processing will be undertaken elsewhere.

Local residents can obtain further information from the following locations:

- Hard copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for inspection at:
  - Braidwood Library
  - Council offices in Braidwood and Bungendore
  - Department of Planning and Nature Conservation offices in Sydney
- Limited hard copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for short term loan in Majors Creek. Contact the Cortona Community Consultation Team on 0415 682 917 to arrange a time to collect the document.
- Copies of all project documentation may be downloaded from the websites of Cortona (<http://www.cortonaresources.com.au/>) and the Department of Planning (<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/>)
- Hard copy summaries of the Environmental Assessment and CDs containing all documentation are available free of charge from the Majors Creek Hotel or by contacting the Cortona Community Consultation Team on 0415 682 917.

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### **About Cortona**

Cortona Resources is an Australian gold company that listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) in March 2006. The company maintains project in New South Wales, including the Dargues Reef project, located 13km from Braidwood and approximately 60km east of Canberra.

Cortona recognises the history and lifestyle of the communities in which it operates and has developed a policy of proactive community engagement, employing local people where possible, and providing financial and in-kind support to local community projects and events.

### **For further information**

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