

Thursday, 3 February 2011

NEW EXPLORATION CONDITIONS FOR MARATHON

Marathon Resources shares were placed in a trading halt this morning.

Sam Appleyard, Company Secretary of Marathon, said – “The halt is to allow time for Marathon Resources to confirm the acceptability of the terms of the renewal of EL4355 offered by the South Australian Government and, if acceptable, implement a capital raising.”

For several years Marathon has been exploring for uranium in the heart of the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary in the northern Flinders Ranges. Their licence was suspended in 2008 for dumping around 60 tonnes of waste in the Sanctuary in breach of their licence conditions. Minister Jack Snelling stated in December 2010 that Marathon’s exploration licence would be renewed for only one year and this renewal “would be subject to consultation on its stricter licence conditions.”

Marg Sprigg, owner/manager of the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary said that she was shocked by Marathon’s announcement, which indicated that the Government had communicated its proposed new licence conditions without consultation with Arkaroola.

She said - “We expected that Arkaroola and Marathon would both have the opportunity to contribute to developing new exploration conditions protecting the environment of the Sanctuary. This has not happened. We are not aware of the conditions presented for Marathon’s approval.”

“The government’s *Seeking a Balance* report 15 months ago proposed a compromise between mining and environmental protection. The report was widely discredited in the community, making meaningful consultation with landholder and explorer stakeholders more critical.”

“But, at a time when the public pressure on the State Government to protect the environment has never been greater, as caretakers of this wilderness gem, we appear to have been ignored.”

“The Arkaroola environment is both fragile and vulnerable.”

Following Minister Snelling’s December announcement, Ms Sprigg said she wrote to both the Minister for Mineral Development, the Hon. Paul Holloway, and PIRSA, expressing the need for Arkaroola to participate in the present negotiations. No responses had been received.”.

“It is extremely disappointing that protection of the environment in such an internationally significant place as Arkaroola seems of little real importance to the Rann government” she said.

Attached: Hon Jack Snelling News Release 18 December 2010

Further information: Marg Sprigg 8648 4848