

MEDIA RELEASE

7 December 2006

Postponement of geophysical surveys to be conducted off Oakajee

Murchison Metals Project Director, Dick Jupp, advised today that the two week program of seismic refractive geophysical survey to be conducted off Oakajee this week had been postponed. This decision was made following discussions with the Rock Lobster Association and the Geraldton Port Authority.

He understood the Geraldton Harbour Master had withdrawn the Notice to Mariners, issued on Thursday 30th November, advising that the hydrographic survey operations were not to be impeded.

Mr Jupp said that the company and its representatives had just been advised of the importance of the pre Christmas period to the inshore fisheries, and the implications on the migration of the white lobsters from shallow water into deeper water over the next few weeks.

The work had originally been planned earlier in the year before the start of the crayfishing season but was delayed by the unavailability of equipment.

Following the media release made earlier this week, the Rock Lobster Association had contacted the company and it was agreed the survey, which had not commenced, would be postponed until early in the New Year.

Murchison Metals and its contractor Fugro Survey would work together with the Geraldton Port Authority and the Rock Lobster Association to determine a suitable time, and if possible, reduce the duration of the survey.

Mr Jupp said he regretted any inconvenience caused by the unfortunate timing and praised the Rock Lobster Association, the Geraldton Port Authority and Fugro Surveys for the amicable resolution of the matter.

The work is vital to better understand the construction requirements of the Oakajee port and to minimise the construction period.