



## MEDIA RELEASE

**Wednesday, 27 August 2008**

### **GIOA sets sustainability guidelines for mining in the Mid West**

In a first for the iron ore industry in the Mid West, the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance (GIOA) has unveiled a set of guidelines that will provide a benchmark for sustainable development.

GIOA Chairman Clive Brown said the Principles signify GIOA members' commitment to developing a sustainable iron ore industry for the Mid West.

"The members have worked in collaboration to shape the guiding principles, which are based on best-practice international approaches to sustainable mine management," Mr Brown said.

"They have been designed to ensure that as the industry develops further, members will continue to work to support local communities, create jobs and manage the environment in a responsible manner."

Shire of Morawa CEO Gavin Treasure said he was pleased to see the GIOA taking the initiative to introduce a set of industry guidelines.

"As a key community in the evolving southern iron ore mining sector, Morawa continues to work very hard with mining companies to ensure that the important social elements of project sustainability are delivered for the benefit of current and future generations," Mr Treasure said.

"The adoption of these Principles offers a platform in which Mid West communities impacted by new mine development and expansion are able to negotiate and establish real outcomes to ensure that mining is an integral part of local communities now and well into the future."

The release of the GIOA Sustainability Principles is the first step in a process that will see the development of industry Key Performance Indicators that will allow tangible measurements to be made on sustainability outcomes.

"We have members currently involved in a pilot program which will provide the data that we need to set quantitative targets for the coming years," Mr Brown explained.

"By setting these Sustainability Principles now, we are providing a framework for all GIOA members to base their mine management on, and we will continue work with members to ensure a sustainable iron ore industry in the Mid West region."

**Note:**

The GIOA Sustainability Principles are outlined in full below.

Mr Brown is presenting at the Mid West Resources Forum in Geraldton today at 11.15am.

**ENDS**

**Media contacts:**

Clive Brown  
GIOA Chairman  
Mob: 0427 240 005

Rob Jefferies  
GIOA Deputy Chairman  
Tel: 08 9964 7923  
Mob: 0407 447 923

Warrick Hazeldine  
Purple Communications  
Tel: 08 9485 1254  
Mob: 0417 944 616

**Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance  
Guiding Principles for Sustainable Mining**

The member companies that make up the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance recognise the importance of developing and operating in a sustainable manner in their endeavour to establish a world class iron ore industry in the Mid West/Murchison Region of Western Australia. Accordingly they undertake to maintain the following Sustainability Principles:

1. Contribute to best practice in sustainable mine management through collaboration, partnerships, and knowledge-sharing between the member companies of the Alliance and appropriate partnering organisations.
2. Demonstrate industry leadership in the implementation of ethical business practices and sound systems of corporate governance.
3. Integrate sustainable development considerations within the corporate decision-making process, recognising the environmental qualities of Mid West/Murchison region and seeking to provide a lasting economic and social legacy to the region.
4. Demonstrate respect for the cultures, customs and values of employees, community members and others who are affected by our activities.
5. Implement risk management strategies based on valid data and sound science.
6. Seek continual improvement of our health and safety performance.
7. Seek continual improvement of our environmental performance, while meeting industry best practice standards.
8. Contribute to the understanding and conservation of biodiversity and integrated approaches to land use planning within the locality of our projects.
9. Facilitate and encourage responsible product design, use, re-use, recycling, and disposal of our products, particularly in regard to water and energy efficiency and responsible management of carbon emissions.
10. Contribute to regional growth through the social, economic and institutional development of the communities in which we operate, including commitment to local employment and purchase of local goods and services.
11. Implement effective and transparent engagement, and open communication with local communities and all our stakeholders.

**About the Alliance:**

The Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance (Alliance) has a membership of eight iron ore mining companies which are at various stages of exploration and development of mines in the Mid West. These companies are:

- Mount Gibson Iron Limited (ASX: MGX)
- Midwest Corporation Limited (ASX: MIS)
- Crosslands Resources Ltd (ASX: MMX)
- Gindalbie Metals Ltd (ASX: GBG)

- Golden West Resources Limited (ASX: GWR)
- Royal Resources Limited (ASX: ROY)
- Asia Iron Limited
- Atlas Iron Limited (ASX: AGO)

Further details of the companies and their projects is available on the Alliance's website at [www.gioa.com.au](http://www.gioa.com.au).