

**Hancock Prospecting and Roy Hill regrettably withdraw Netball support,  
but will offer short term funding to give Netball the opportunity to arrange an alternative sponsor**

Hancock and Roy Hill's recently proposed partnerships with Netball Australia and Netball WA were based on the unwavering enthusiasm that Hancock and its Executive Chairman for over 30 years have demonstrated for the athletes who proudly represent our nation.

Hancock and Roy Hill were not made aware prior to the proposed partnerships, of the complexity of existing issues between Netball Australia and the Players Association. This includes the Players Association's endeavours to gain a very substantial increase in wages during a time the sport is reeling financially, and unable to provide such an increase. Hancock's proposed sponsorship would have enabled a generous increase in wages for the players which would not have otherwise been possible given Netball's financial situation.

Hancock, and similarly Roy Hill, embarked on these proposed partnerships in good faith and on the basis of representations and its resulting understanding that Netball Australia and the sport's key stakeholder groups including the Australian Diamonds, were united in their support of one of West Australia's preeminent mining companies becoming their principal sponsor. Particularly given Hancock is the most successful private company in Australia, indeed in Australia's history, and the Australian Diamonds strive to be a highly successful Australian netball team.

Contrary to recent media, Hancock has not insisted that its name be worn by the Australian Diamonds in the current Constellation Cup series when overseas, and was advised that the netballers had no concerns in wearing the name on the team dress for the series. Further, Hancock does not support gambling or smoking.

Hancock and Roy Hill do not wish to add to Netball's disunity problems, and accordingly Hancock has advised Netball Australia (the governing body of netball in Australia) that it has withdrawn from its proposed partnership effective immediately. Roy Hill, majority-owned by Hancock, will also be discontinuing its sponsorship arrangement with Netball WA (a member organisation of Netball Australia) to be the principal partner of the West Coast Fever.

Hancock appreciates Netball Australia's warm welcome and support, and because of this Hancock and Roy Hill have advised Netball Australia and Netball WA respectively, that it will instead provide a 4-month sponsorship should they and their players wish to accept it, to continue funding the athletes and to help Netball as it arranges alternative funding and sponsorships.

As is evidenced by the other successful sporting partnerships undertaken by Hancock, including the Australian Olympic Committee, Volleyball Australia, Artistic Swimming Australia, Rowing Australia and elite swimmers at both the national and state level, there is overwhelming support for Hancock's athlete focussed funding, enabling training to be prioritised and performances to be enhanced on the global stage – as was proven through the record breaking efforts at recent Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Such assistance Hancock, and more recently Roy Hill, are pleased to provide in order to help young Australians shine on the world stage, and proudly represent our country to the best of their ability.

The facts are that mining and resources companies provide billions of dollars to the Australian economy, billions in taxation to help pay for defence, police, hospitals, emergency services and more, bring opportunities to remote areas and provide many well paid jobs. To be able to operate, the industry must also make, and follow through on comprehensive compliance enforced by regulation related to the management of the environment, native title, and cultural heritage. Hancock (and Roy Hill since its inception) continues to meet all government requirements in this regard and has done so for decades.

In addition to jobs, royalties and taxes that support communities all over Australia, many individual sports choose to partner, and welcome mining and resource company sponsorships – including hockey, athletics, rugby league, rugby, and Australian rules football to name a few.

Furthermore, initiatives that promote the health and wellbeing of indigenous Australians, fund services in remote and rural communities, encourage participation in education and art, are funded by Hancock and Roy Hill, and many other industry participants. Mining is making a real difference to the people where we operate with Hancock and Roy Hill having contributed well in excess of \$300M to indigenous Australians in the form of royalty payments over the past seven years alone. Royalty payments represent only one part of our contribution to indigenous Australians, with our wider engagement extending to providing jobs, training, business opportunities and supporting a wide range of health and cultural programs, which make a real difference.

Mining is critical to securing the minerals essential for everyday life. An often conveniently neglected truth when activists talk emotively about mining is that most, if not all, of the primary products required for the equipment, production, distribution and delivery of renewable energy depend on resources that need to be mined. To quote Australia's Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia, Hon Madeleine King MP "No mining, no net zero".

We wish Netball Australia, the Australian Diamonds, Netball WA and the West Coast Fever every success moving forward.

ENDS

\*\*\*\*\*