



5 November, 2007

HWE Mining awarded contract extension totalling A\$700 million

Leighton Contractors today announced that HWE Mining has been awarded a two-year contract extension at the Area C mine in Western Australia's Pilbara region. The value of the contract is approximately A\$700 million.

The two-year contract extension at BHP Billiton's Area C mine will see HWE Mining provide complete mining services at the operation from the current completion date of June 2008 until June 2010.

Peter McMorro, Managing Director of Leighton Contractors, said the contract extension was testament to the successful, long-standing partnership between HWE Mining and BHP Billiton Iron Ore.

"We have formed a successful and collaborative partnership with BHP Billiton Iron Ore over many years," he said.

"The award of this contract recognises our ability to work closely alongside respected clients to add value to their operations."

Craig Laslett, Executive General Manager of Leighton Contractors' Mining Division, said the contract extension demonstrated the dedication of the HWE Mining team who have been integral to ensuring successful operations at both mines.

"Area C is a world class mine with exceptional safety records and we are proud to have been involved in its success."

Area C presently produces 23 million tonnes of iron ore per year. Currently in a major expansion phase, Area C is ramping up to almost double production to over 42 million tonnes per year.



HWE Mining provides a complete mining service including drill and blast, load and haul, processing, train loading, infrastructure management, maintenance and other related services.

Leighton Contractors is one of Australia's leading construction, mining, services and telecommunications groups with over \$7 billion work in hand, employing more than 7,000 people across Australia and New Zealand.

For further information please contact:

Peter McMorrow

Managing Director

Leighton Contractors Pty Limited

Telephone: 02 8668 6151 or 0422 392 855