



MAKING SENSE

Path quickly cleared for bauxite project

A BAUXITE mine project near Weipa has been given a big boost with the Federal government ruling it does not need an environmental impact statement assessment.

Metallica Minerals Ltd says the Urquhart bauxite project will be assessed by preliminary documentation. Such assessment requires management plans to be developed and approved to mitigate potential impacts of the project.

The plan to use the nearby Hey Point facilities, negating the need to construct marine and barge loading infrastructure, played a large part in reducing the project's impact.

Metallica's chief executive Simon Slesarewich said the company remained confident the Queensland Government

also would confirm the project would be assessed without the need for an EIS.

"The joint venture continues to work closely with the Queensland Government and other stakeholders, including the traditional owners, so as to receive all approvals to commence production," Mr Slesarewich said.

"The determination by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment is a major endorsement of the company's development plan and the relatively low impact of the direct shipping Urquhart Bauxite project in North Queensland.

"This major milestone confirms that the project remains on schedule for a low capital start up in the first half of 2017."