

## ASX / Media Release

9 July 2009

### **Meridian completes strategic Placement to advance exploration activities at Lennard Shelf**

**Key points:**

- **Meridian has successfully placed 17,218,000 ordinary fully paid shares, raising a total of A\$774,810,**
- **Funds will be applied to pre-drilling logistical requirements at Lennard Shelf Project in WA, and**
- **Meridian has exclusive option over project and expects to commence +20,000m drill program at project in August.**

Australian resources company Meridian Minerals Limited ('Meridian' or 'Company') (**ASX: MII**) has successfully completed a strategic capital raising of A\$774,810 to advance continued evaluation and pre-exploration activities at the Lennard Shelf Project ('Lennard Shelf'), located in the Kimberly region of Western Australia and to meet other working capital requirements.

Patersons Securities ('Patersons') acted as Lead Manager to the Placement, which comprised a total issue of 17,218,000 new ordinary shares at A\$0.045 per share to clients of Patersons Securities Limited and Sophisticated and Professional Investors.

Meridian has an exclusive option agreement over Lennard Shelf, which was recently extended until 19 August 2009, with current owners Lennard Shelf Pty Ltd (LSPL) allowing Meridian access to the project tenements in order to prepare for an upcoming major infill and extension drill program.

While Meridian has not yet taken up its rights in regards to Lennard Shelf, Managing Director Jeremy Read believes that this strategic Placement will ensure the company has the required funds in place to commence the scheduling of a significant drilling program planned to commence in August 2009.

"Together with our current cash, the funds raised in the Placement will ensure we have sufficient monies to commence the logistical requirements for the proposed drilling programme, when the purchase transaction is completed in the coming months," Meridian's Managing Director, Mr Jeremy Read said.

"Meridian is currently planning a +20,000m drill program to be completed at the Kapok and Kapok West mineral resources and we want to ensure we have the required logistical activities completed to enable us to be ready to commence drilling onsite in August."

Mr Read added "Funds will also be available to cover any tenement-related costs that occur due during the extended exclusive period."

"Patersons Securities Limited acted as Lead Manager for the capital raising and it is extremely pleasing to have received their support to secure these funds to allow us to progress the Lennard Shelf Project and prepare for the upcoming drill program."



Meridian is also in discussions with a number of other parties regarding further funding requirements to fast track the development of the Lennard Shelf Project and commence operations as soon as practicable.

### **About the Lennard Shelf Project**

The Lennard Shelf region is one of the world's premier Mississippi Valley Type ("MVT") zinc-lead provinces containing pre-mining zinc-lead resources of 41 million tonnes ("Mt") @ 7.9% zinc and 3.2% lead.

The MVT style of zinc and lead mineralisation, which occurs on the Lennard Shelf project, produces metal concentrates which are very highly sought by smelting companies due to the very high-grade and clean nature of the concentrates. Of all the resources mined to date, the overall recovery has been around 95% for zinc and 85% for lead. Concentrate grades have also been high with the zinc concentrate historically containing 58-60% zinc and the lead concentrate containing 72-77% lead. It is as a result of their clean, high-grade nature, that concentrates from the Lennard Shelf project have in the past attracted a premium price from smelters.

BHP Minerals commenced exploration of the Lennard Shelf region in the late 1970's and shared the exploration risk through a series of joint ventures. After several years of extensive exploration the Cadjebut deposit was discovered in 1984, Goongewa in 1987 and Kapok in 1989. BHP Minerals and Billiton jointly brought Cadjebut into production in 1987 and in the mid-1990's both BHP Minerals and Billiton sold their respective interests in the Lennard Shelf Project to Western Metals.

Following purchase of the project, Western Metals continued with exploration and extended the known resources at Cadjebut, Goongewa, Kapok, Kapok West and discovered a new resource at Kutarta. Production from Cadjebut ceased in 1998. Goongewa produced from 1995 to 2001, and Kapok from 1997 until 2003.

Teck purchased the Lennard Shelf assets from the receivers of Western Metals in 2003 and subsequently sold a 50% interest in the project to Noranda (now Xstrata), forming the joint-venture company Lennard Shelf Pty Ltd.

LSPL undertook exploration within the Lennard Shelf tenements during the field seasons of 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Highlights included intersecting previously undiscovered mineralisation at the Palijippa prospect in 2005 where, following further drilling in 2006, an in-house inferred resource was estimated. The Palijippa discovery by LSPL demonstrates the excellent potential of the project area for the discovery of additional mineral resources.

**For further information please visit [www.meridianminerals.com.au](http://www.meridianminerals.com.au) or contact:**

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*The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Mr Jeremy Read, who is a member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Read is a full-time employee of Meridian Minerals Limited. He has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Read consents to the inclusion in this announcement of the matters based upon his information in the form and context in which it appears.*