



## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Iron Road Limited (Iron Road, ASX:IRD)



# IRON ROAD AND EMERALD GRAIN ADVANCE SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE VISION

**New Grain Supply Chain Alongside Minerals To Enhance Benefits of Central Eyre Iron Project to the Region**

## Highlights

- Iron Road and Emerald Grain announce partnership to explore opportunities to access planned Central Eyre Iron Project (CEIP) rail and port infrastructure; continues MoU signed with Emerald Grain in February 2014.
- Proposed port at Cape Hardy and associated rail infrastructure to facilitate modern, efficient and internationally competitive grain distribution and supply chain network.
- Emerald Grain is one of the largest grain marketing and supply chain businesses in Australia and a wholly owned subsidiary of Sumitomo, one of Japan's most respected companies.
- Despite difficult market conditions, Iron Road continues to progress the CEIP through a systematic programme of project commercialisation activities as it works towards a financing solution for this long life, high grade export project.

**Iron Road Limited** (Iron Road, ASX: IRD) and Emerald Grain, a wholly owned subsidiary of Japanese conglomerate Sumitomo Corporation, are pleased to announce their partnership to develop a new grain distribution and supply chain network utilising Iron Road's planned rail and port facilities at Cape Hardy on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. Emerald Grain's media announcement is attached.

Iron Road Managing Director, Mr Andrew Stocks, said Iron Road was working towards development of new credible and cost competitive magnetite and infrastructure businesses, which would unlock significant benefits well beyond the mining and ore processing operations.

"We have from day one operated on a principle of third party access to our planned infrastructure business. The planned deep water port, capable of handling the largest bulk cargo vessels, alongside a substantial heavy haulage railway, will be a first for South Australia and a radical improvement on the State's existing infrastructure base." Mr Stocks said.

Mr Stocks said an ongoing partnership with Emerald Grain was important in delivering the CEIP and ensured maximum benefit for local communities, commodity exporters and the region.

“We have always put a priority on developing a multi-user facility with cross commodity access for other industries, such as grain, which we believe will open up substantial additional export and import opportunities to maximise benefits at a regional and State level.

“We are pleased to continue our partnership with Emerald Grain and move to the next stage for this vital project,” he said.

Emerald Grain’s Chairman and Chief Executive Officer John Murray said Emerald Grain had long advocated for improvements to the rail infrastructure and port capabilities in Australia.

“Working together with Iron Road allows us to realise our shared vision to deliver the most efficient supply chain we possibly can. Ultimately this is about doing all we can to help growers remain viable and compete on the world market,” Mr Murray said.

The agreement comes as Iron Road continues to work through a systematic programme of project commercialisation activities to advance and ultimately build and operate the CEIP. In support of this programme, Iron Road is building a consortium of aligned organisations with interests in iron ore offtake, mining, mineral processing, electricity supply, rail, port export logistics and related activities.

CEIP is a credible, long life project as demonstrated through an eight year development journey, with a definitive feasibility study and follow-on value engineering and optimisation work now completed. A high grade, low impurity iron concentrate will be produced for export to Asia, attracting a quality premium over reference iron ore prices. Substantial benefits for steel mill customers in pollution reduction and operating efficiencies have been validated through bulk CEIP sample tonnage preparation and testing. The shared export infrastructure is expected to be a strong catalyst for further development in the Eyre Peninsula region.

– ENDS –

**For further information, please contact:**

Andrew Stocks, Managing Director  
Iron Road Limited  
Tel: +61 8 8214 4400  
Email: [admin@ironroadlimited.com.au](mailto:admin@ironroadlimited.com.au)

Shane Murphy  
FTI Consulting  
Tel: +61 8 9485 8888  
Email: [shane.murphy@fticonsulting.com](mailto:shane.murphy@fticonsulting.com)

**Or visit [www.ironroadlimited.com.au](http://www.ironroadlimited.com.au)**

## About Emerald

The company purpose is to support Australian grain growers and their communities by employing local people and customising grain marketing plans to suit each grower's needs. These sentiments are supported by their parent company Sumitomo Corporation, one of the largest diversified trading houses on the globe.

Emerald's trading and marketing team, based in Australia, are experts in commodity trading in domestic and international markets. Emerald is a trusted supplier of quality Australian grain to over 35 countries across the globe.

Linking these international customers to quality Australian grain is Emerald's supply chain business in Australia with 11 up-country grain storage facilities in Victoria and New South Wales, feeding Emerald's Melbourne Port Terminal and new joint venture terminal at Port Kembla.

Emerald's strong team across Australia is working alongside growers on the ground and partnering with grain buyers across the globe to feed the rapidly growing populations and economies of the world.



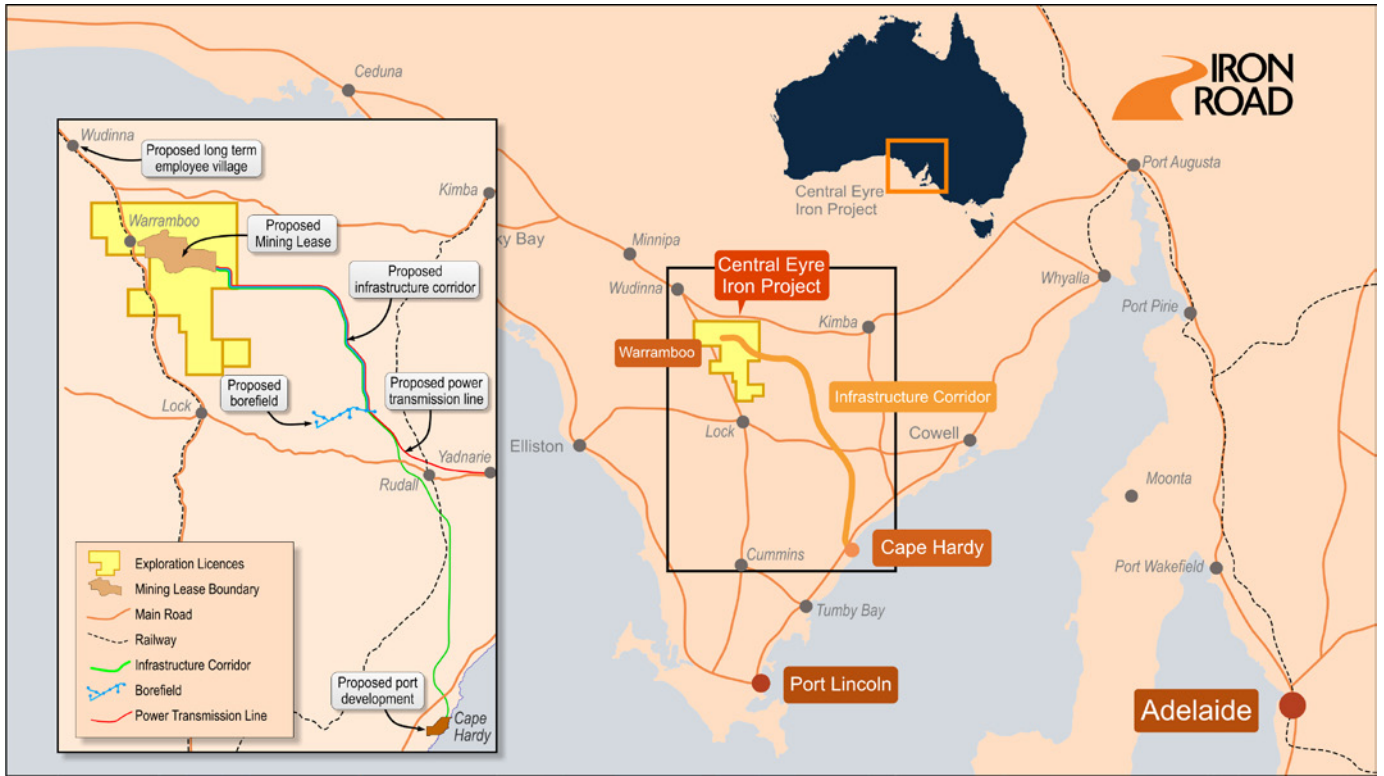
## About Sumitomo

In February 2014, Sumitomo Corporation acquired 100 per cent ownership of Emerald Grain providing the capital strength and balance sheet to fund future growth.

Sumitomo is one of Japan's most respected companies with a history dating back to the 17th century. The company is listed on several stock exchanges in Japan.

Sumitomo employs 70,000 people at 140 offices in 66 countries. This provides Emerald and its customers with unrivalled access to a range of grain consumers throughout the world, particularly into rapidly growing East and South Asia.

Sumitomo's business in Australasia commenced in 1961 and its current activities include a diverse portfolio of investments, manufacturing, and the import and export of commodities that serve the agricultural, mining and industrial markets. Sumitomo Australia also provides a range of administrative and business services to many of the Sumitomo group companies in Australia and New Zealand.





## NEWS RELEASE

**UNDER EMBARGO until 1 March, 2016**

### **EMERALD GRAIN PARTNERS WITH IRON ROAD TO DEVELOP CAPE HARDY PORT**

Leading agribusiness Emerald Grain has announced it has partnered with mining company Iron Road in the development of a multi-commodity export facility proposed for Cape Hardy on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia.

Emerald Grain and Iron Road have an agreement to collaborate in the development and design of Iron Road's planned Cape Hardy facility to ensure it is capable of exporting grain, subject to gaining the necessary government approvals.

Located on the east coast of the Eyre Peninsula with deep-sea capability, Cape Hardy is ideally positioned to draw grain from across the region.

Chairman and Managing Director of Emerald Grain John Murray said the port was a significant infrastructure project that would provide an alternative export pathway for growers and deliver value for Eyre Peninsula communities.

"Once developed, Cape Hardy will be a cape-size port, the only one of its kind in South Australia, which will unlock value and options that are currently unavailable to local growers," said Mr Murray.

"Importantly, Cape Hardy is not just another grain export facility, it represents another port operator and an alternative supply chain for the benefit of Eyre Peninsula growers.

"This facility could be a game changer for us and the industry. It would complement our other grain infrastructure investments and support our national grain marketing program.

"The Cape Hardy export facility is a long-term strategy for Emerald, and will require the support of various stakeholders to be fully realised. We've had a relationship with Iron Road for over two years now and we'll continue to work closely with them to progress the project."

Managing Director of Iron Road Andrew Stocks said the partnership with Emerald Grain was a positive step in delivering the Central Eyre Iron Project (CEIP) and would ensure maximum benefit for both commodity exporters and the region.

"We have always put a priority on developing a multi-user facility with cross commodity access for other industries, such as grain, to deliver greater benefits at a regional and State level.

"We are pleased to partner with Emerald Grain for the next stage of this vital project," he said.

The CEIP project has received State and Federal support with the South Australian Resources Infrastructure Taskforce identifying it as a priority development to meet South Australia's future export demand.



## **ABOUT EMERALD GRAIN**

Emerald Grain is one of the largest grain marketing and supply chain businesses in Australia, with a global network and industry understanding. As a trusted supplier of quality Australian grain to over 35 countries, Emerald Grain demonstrates an extensive industry network catering to the needs of Australian grain growers. The Emerald Grain trading and marketing team are experts in commodity trading in domestic and international markets. The company runs 11 up-country grain storage facilities in Victoria and New South Wales, feeding their Melbourne Port Terminal and a new joint venture terminal at Port Kembla.

In February 2014, Sumitomo acquired 100 per cent ownership of Emerald Grain providing the capital strength and balance sheet to fund future growth. The Sumitomo Corporation is a respected Japanese global trading company employing over 70,000 people across 66 countries. Sumitomo's business in Australasia commenced in 1961 and its current activities include a diverse portfolio of investments, manufacturing, and the import and export of commodities that serve the agricultural, mining and industrial markets.

## **Media Enquiries**

Paul Tierney

M: 0415 900 891

Tel: 08 8419 2888