



update:

COMPASS

on the FAST TRACK

The development of Compass Resources' Browns Oxide Project has kicked-off at a number of bush sites near Batchelor. Earthmovers have begun levelling the site of the plant where the processing of copper, cobalt and nickel will be undertaken. The foundations for the plant were set out, with the topsoil moved and stored for future rehabilitation. The hydro-metallurgical plant will break down minerals after crushing and grinding.

A large collection of native cycads, clipped and bound, are stored at the entrance to the construction project. They are the species *Cycas armstrongii*, not listed as rare or endangered but listed as threatened by Territory Parks and Wildlife. In their Public Environmental Report Compass proposed measures to minimise disturbance to the cycads and transplant them at a later date. The company sought advice from a variety of groups in the controlled removal and transplant techniques for cycads.

After talks with the Traditional Owners of the area, Compass removed around 2000

When up-rooted the cycads had their roots and fronds clipped before they were set aside for safe keeping until they can be replanted. About 1500 will be transplanted and 500 are to be given to one of the Traditional Owners in Batchelor for his use.

Further evidence of Compass' growing profile in the Top End was reflected in the opening of their new Darwin office under the leadership of newly-appointed Managing Director, Richard Swann, a mining executive with 38 years experience behind him.

Mr Swann joins Compass at a time of strong growth and activity.

"We will actually produce copper metal on the site," says Mr Swann. "The cobalt and the nickel will be precipitated out as a mixed concentrate powder that will be processed and exported.

"We're in the process of finalising a joint venture agreement with the Chinese company, Hunan Nonferrous Group."

The company's activity comes after

effectively fast tracking the project through the bureaucratic regulation process. The Government approves MPFS when a project has at least \$50 million invested and is likely to produce good economic outcomes for Australia. Compass' Technical Director, Rod Elvish called the status, "the ultimate support that one can get for a major project of any nature."

All approvals have been achieved and a Mine Management Plan has been submitted to the Northern Territory Government. Ore mining is due to begin early in the second quarter in 2007 with the plant to begin operations at the end of that quarter.

A workforce of about 150 is anticipated for the first Oxide Phase of the mine, with most of those recruited from communities around the Top End. "We've received a lot of expressions of interest in employment from Batchelor, Adelaide River and Darwin," explained Mr Swann. "It certainly makes a lot of sense to us to draw as many people as possible from those communities.

Above > Compass staff remove cycads for storage.