

**ASX
ANNOUNCEMENT**

9 JANUARY 2008

Thundelarra Exploration Ltd

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THUNDELARRA
EXPLORATION

COPERNICUS MINING LEASE GRANTED

Thundelarra Exploration Ltd is pleased to announce that a Mining Lease has been granted for the Copernicus Nickel Project.

Mining Lease M80/540 came into effect on the 8th of January 2008 marking a key milestone in the project's development.

In addition, responses have been received from the State Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Commonwealth Department of Environment and Water Resources (DEWR) on the proposed development. Both agencies have advised the environmental impact of the project is not at a level requiring their formal assessment, leaving approval by the Department of Infrastructure and Resources (DoIR) as the only significant statutory requirement for mining to commence.

Copernicus is a joint venture between Thundelarra (40%) and Sally Malay Mining Limited (60%). Thundelarra has secured funding for its share of project development costs, estimated to be approximately \$5 million, through the recent sale of 12.1 million United Minerals Corporation (UMC) options, which netted \$9.44 million after expenses. Thundelarra retains 20.4 million fully paid UMC shares with a market value of \$26.5 million based on the last close of trade.

Subject to the receipt of final statutory approvals, open pit mining at Copernicus remains on schedule to commence mid this year.