ASX/MEDIA RELEASE



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## STRAITS RESOURCES LIMITED (ASX: SRQ)

## **Management Appointments and Corporate Restructuring**

Straits Resources is pleased to announce the appointments of Mr Ian Sheppard as Chief Operating Officer and Mr Kalman Salgo as General Manager – Mt Muro Mine. Ian and Kalman will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Straits Resources Managing Director, Andre Labuschagne, said "It is a great reflection on the upside potential of the Straits assets that we have been able to attract mining professionals of the calibre of Ian and Kalman to our Executive team. I welcome them both to Straits and look forward to working with them as we turnaround the performance of the operations. Their appointments are another step in meeting one the 5 key objectives announced by the Straits Board in November 2012, being to appoint a new CEO and strong Board and Management team for the demerged entities."

Mr Sheppard graduated from University of NSW in 1984 with a degree in Mining Engineering and also has a Masters in Mineral Economics from Curtin University of Technology. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and has more than 27 years of experience in mine operations, technical studies and business development gained in gold, base metals and iron ore. Mr Sheppard holds a First Class Mine Managers Certificate from Western Australia. He has worked in Australia, Canada and PNG and has recently held General Manager roles with Norton Gold Fields Limited and PanAust Limited. Prior to this he spent over seven years with Ok Tedi Mining in PNG as General Manager and Executive Manager with responsibility at various times for operations, technical services, business development and exploration.

Mr Salgo is a qualified mining engineer with more than 30 years of experience in the mining industry. He has a Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) from University of South Australia and holds First Class Mine Manager's certificates in both Queensland and Western Australia. Mr Salgo has extensive experience in both open cut and underground operations across gold, base metals and mineral sands. He has held general management and senior operational roles with his most recent position being Operations Manager at a gold mine in the Cote d'Ivoire. "Post the demerger both Ian and Salman will remain with the gold business. The demerger process is continuing and we are focusing on establishing quality Executive teams for both demerged entities whilst ensuring streamlined corporate overhead structures are in place. To this end we continue to reduce the Straits Corporate Office in line with the resized organisation. At 1 July last year the Straits Corporate Office had 38 personnel, it is now at 16 people and at the time of the demerger this will have reduced again to 9. This downsizing in the corporate office will deliver real annualised savings in salaries and on-costs of more than \$6 million" said Mr Labuschagne.

"We will also be closing the Company's Sydney office and in the next few months will relocate the Perth team to a smaller office more in line with our future needs. As the demerger process progresses the gold business will also be establishing a similarly streamlined corporate function in Brisbane."

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For further information, please contact: Mr. Andre Labuschagne – Managing Director Tel: +61 8 9480 0500, or visit our website at <u>www.straits.com.au</u>