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HD **Chevron chatter signals trouble**  
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The drums are beating louder and louder that Andrew Forrest is preparing to get involved in the stoush between the Onslow community and Chevron , builder of the \$29 **billion** Wheatstone LNG plant about 20km south of town.

The **iron ore billionaire** would not comment yesterday but chatter suggests he is siding with the townsfolk in their campaign to overturn Chevron's decision to house the 300-odd Wheatstone operational FIFO workforce in accommodation at Wheatstone, rather than in Onslow as per Chevron's earlier commitment.

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Forrest's family homestead, Minderoo , is between Onslow and the Wheatstone project area. Whether his objection to a FIFO camp at Wheatstone is based on proximity to Minderoo Station and its cattle is unclear.

It would not be the first time the Fortescue Metals Group chairman and Chevron have been on opposing sides.

A plan by Forrest to supply Onslow with potable water, in part to cover demand from a supposed influx of Wheatstone workers, was hanging in the balance earlier this year when Chevron and the Water Corp pushed on with plans for a desalination plant for Onslow.

Incidentally, a residual saline stream produced during the desalination process was to be pumped into Quick Mud Creek, which runs through Minderoo Station.

## FIRING CRACKERS

In what was surely one of the most well-attended office opening parties in history (particularly for an office that only employs two permanent staff) about 200 **oil** and gas aficionados turned out to celebrate the ribbon cutting at Woodside's Singapore digs on Monday night.

Held at the lavish Fullerton Bay Hotel's rooftop bar, guests could sip their Tiger beer while overlooking Marina Bay.

Woodside flew over executive vice-president Rob Cole for the event, which, coincidentally, allowed the affable Cole a chance to watch Perth's own Daniel Ricciardo zoom around the Marina Bay circuit on his way to a podium finish.

Cole enlightened the crowd about some of Woodside's recent business achievements.

But halfway through the speech he was interrupted by two minutes of fireworks shooting off the top of Singapore's UBS building.

"That cost us a fortune," Cole quipped.

Singapore being Singapore, fireworks are as common as sweaty underarms, and no doubt UBS executives were probably just celebrating the end of a Monday.

Cole added that the **company** had been pushing for a Singapore office for a long time to jump on to the “increasingly innovative and diverse relationships” coming out of the financial hub.

Although it only has two permanent staff right now, the **company** expects a further 10 or so to arrive in the next 12 months. Woodside employees coming through the travel hub are also expected to use the office regularly.

“In closing,” Cole said, summing up his speech. “Hmmm, the fireworks were meant to happen now.”

#### GUY HAS A BALL

After close to two years as the Bull’s resident **China** commentator, Robert Guy is off to **Hong Kong** once he has filed his final Observed column tomorrow. Guy has been appointed the inaugural managing editor of Barron’s Asia . His partner Yvonne Ball bade farewell to her employer Fortescue Metals Group on Friday afternoon, an event highlighted by the **iron ore** miner’s external affairs boss Tim Langmead breaking into song as part of festivities. No word yet whether Langmead’s boss, Nev Power , has nominated Langmead for the next season of The X Factor. Maybe Fortescue bean counter Stephen Pearce can use Langmead for backing vocals in his band Flipside.

#### A SEXY FIND?

Something is stirring at one of our favourite **gold** stocks, Paynes Find **Gold** , which went into a trading halt yesterday pending a “material **acquisition**”.

The Bull has had a soft spot for the innocuous Paynes Find for some time. After all, name another explorer with a sex toys purveyor as its major shareholder.

The Malcolm Day -chaired Delecta now owns 48.9 per cent of the penny dreadful, having picked up the shortfall from Paynes Find’s recent rights issue.

With Peter Klinger, Nick Sas,

Sean Smith and Nick Evans

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