

SE Business
 HD Territory **iron ore** miner awards Roper Bar contract to Thiess
 BY Jenny Rogers
 WC 271 words
 PD 14 January 2014
 SN The Courier-Mail
 SC COUMAI
 ED CourierMail
 PG 25
 LA English
 CY © 2014 News Limited. All rights reserved.
 LP

THE Northern Territory's largest new miner in almost two decades has awarded a \$135 **million** contract to Leighton subsidiary Thiess to **lead mining operations** at the Roper Bar **iron ore** project.

The three-year contract with Western Desert Resources marks a return to **iron ore mining** for Thiess.

TD

WDR managing director Norm Gardner said Thiess has worked on the project, 600km south east of Darwin, since November.

"(Thiess has) an experienced management team and proven track record," he said. Thiess said central to the relationship between it and WDR was a joint vision to provide opportunities to indigenous Australians.

"We have a shared strategy with WDR to offer indigenous Australians training and employment opportunities," said Michael Wright, Thiess' executive general manager of Australian **mining**.

WDR marked its entry into the ranks of Australia's **iron ore** producers in December when it trucked its first shipment of **iron ore** from its Roper Bar project ready for delivery to **China**.

Its board boasts some corporate heavy hitters.

WDR director, **Gold** Coast lawyer and former Billabong director Scott Perrin was crucial in bringing many of the high net-worth individuals to the table, including pubs **billionaire** Bruce Mathieson.

The pair initially held an 18 per cent **stake** in the **company** through investment vehicle Permat but Mr Mathieson is so confident of the **company**'s future he recently joined the board and is now WDR's biggest shareholder.

Adelaide based Rick Allert, the former chairman of Coles Myer, chairs the **company**. Former Woolworths chief executive Roger Corbett is also an investor.

CO wesde : Western Desert Resources Limited
 IN i211 : Metal Ore Mining | i2111 : Iron Ore Mining | ibasim : Basic Materials/Resources | imet : Mining/Quarrying | i2112 : Gold Ore/Silver Ore Mining
 NS c33 : Contracts/Orders | c333 : Non-governmental Contracts | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : FC&E Industry News Filter
 RE austr : Australia | nterry : Northern Territory | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania
 PUB News Ltd.

AN

Document COUMAI0020140113ea1e00014