



## **Ex-Fortescue chief joins the Evolution board**

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**Byline:** Brad Thompson

### **Body**

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Fiona Hick has joined the board of gold and copper producer Evolution Mining in her first major career move since leaving **Fortescue** after just six months as chief executive of its iron ore division.

Ms Hick is considering at least one other non-executive director role as her career enters a new chapter after a bruising experience at **Fortescue**.

As a board member she will become a member of Evolution's risk and sustainability committee, and is expected to become a non-executive director at a second ASX-listed company within the next few weeks.

Ms Hicks has not spoken publicly since her abrupt departure from **Fortescue** in August, announced on the same day as the company's full-year results.

**Fortescue** executive chairman Andrew Forrest said at the time that her departure - announced shortly after a major celebration in the Pilbara to celebrate the company's 20th anniversary - was "friendly and mutual".

Days later Dr Forrest claimed Ms Hick had not fully supported his reinvention of the iron ore miner as a green energy producer and had faced a choice to "get on the bus, or get off the bus".

"What we have now is literally a galloping herd of people who want to see this company go green. So if you want to step outside that, you're given a choice," the billionaire businessman said.

Evolution executive chairman Jake Klein said Ms Hicks was "a highly regarded executive and her depth of experience, and skills will complement those of our existing directors and further enhance the board".

Perth-based Ms Hick has held senior roles with Rio Tinto and Woodside Energy over a 29-year career in the resources industry. She was also president of the West Australian Chamber of Minerals and Energy between 2021 and 23 and in that job pushed the industry to tackle sexual assault and harassment problems.

## Ex-Fortescue chief joins the Evolution board

At Woodside, she held leadership positions in the areas of health, safety and environment, strategy and planning, and engineering, and was executive vice president of the oil and gas giant's Australian operations when she left to take on the top job at **Fortescue**.

Ms Hick recently joined the Evolution board on visits to the company's Cowal and Northparkes mines. She said the visits "reinforced my view of the quality of the people and assets within the company".

Evolution acquired a majority stake in the Northparkes copper and gold mine in Central Western NSW from China Molybdenum Company for \$720 million last year. Metals Acquisition Corp had also bid on the mine, while ASX-listed Sandfire Resources had considered an offer.

CMOC has owned Northparkes for almost a decade, paying Rio Tinto \$US820 million for its 80 per cent stake in December 2013. It started to test the market for the 29-year-old asset earlier this year as BHP closed in on its \$9.6 billion acquisition of OZ Minerals.

Evolution shares fell 6.5¢ yesterday to close at \$3.42.

Ms Hick joined **Fortescue** in February 2023 and was tasked with keeping the iron ore operations firing, sorting out the problematic Iron Bridge magnetite project, decarbonising mining, starting iron ore production in Gabon, and developing a critical minerals division.

Her departure last August made her the 10th senior executive to leave **Fortescue** in three years; others have exited over the past 11 months.

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