



## ***Court told of Fortescue's spy campaign before raids***

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### **Body**

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***Fortescue*** detectives spied on family shopping trips to Kmart, rummaged through mail and watched the wives and children of former executives for 19 days, the Federal Court has heard.

Further details about the iron ore giant's efforts to monitor its green steel rivals, Element Zero, and their executives Bart Kolodziejczyk and Bjorn Winther-Jensen before launching raids on their homes and offices over allegations they stole intellectual property were revealed on Wednesday.

Federal Court Judge Brigitte Markovic also told ***Fortescue***'s lawyers they should revise the "ambit" of their broad suppression order requests, which included a bid to keep the entire 600 pages of a report produced by private investigators secret.

In a statement on Wednesday, ***Fortescue***'s executive chairman Andrew Forrest effectively conceded that the company's lawyers had overstepped the mark in their pursuit of the three men saying the engagement of Davies Collison Cave Law was under review.

"I was surprised to learn of the investigations and have been advised by ***Fortescue***'s legal team that they were necessary in order to be granted search orders from the Federal Court," Dr Forrest said.

"***Fortescue***'s external legal team have been reminded that they also have an obligation to comply with the company's values and their engagement is now under review," he said.

"***Fortescue*** is a first mover which invests significant time and resources into its intellectual property." A report was provided to independent lawyers who carried out the raids - which is required under Federal Court rules authorising privately obtained search warrants - and showed pictures had been taken Dr Winther-Jensen's wife and 16-year-old daughter who, the report noted, had been watched as she left for school and returned home on one day. The matter will return to court in August.

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