

ASX e-lodgement

Monday, 20 December 2010

**ASX: MTN**

**MARATHON BOARD TO ASSESS S.A. GOVERNMENT  
PROPOSAL TO RENEW EXPLORATION LICENCE EL 4355**

Marathon Resources Limited has been advised that the South Australian government proposes to renew EL 4355 as per the attached News Release of 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.

Marathon Resources will immediately commence consultation with the government on the terms and operating conditions of the renewed licence.

**Media Contacts:**

Peter Williams  
Chairman  
Marathon Resources Limited  
08 8348 3500

John Field  
Field Public Relations  
08-8234 9555 or 0418 819 527

**Notes to Editors**

Marathon is a minerals exploration company focused on the development of one of Australia's largest undeveloped uranium deposits.

The Company's North Flinders Ranges project is located within the Paralana Mineral System of South Australia, a uranium-rich state which is home to the world's largest uranium deposit at Olympic Dam.

Marathon listed on the Australian Securities Exchange on 15 March 2005, under the stock code of MTN.  
[www.marathonresources.com.au](http://www.marathonresources.com.au)

Saturday, 18 December 2010

## **STRICTER CONDITIONS FOR ARKAROOOLA EXPLORATION**

The state government has advised Marathon Resources that it proposes to renew its exploration licence for the Northern Flinders Ranges for one year and not the two years sought by the Company.

Acting Minister for Mineral Resources Development Jack Snelling said the exploration licence renewal would be subject to consultation on its stricter operating conditions.

“Marathon Resources remain compliant with the *Mining Act 1971* and conditions of their licence, and as such the Government is legally obliged to approve the application for renewal,” the Minister said.

“The Government has proposed to renew Marathon Resources licence for a term of one year, but without an automatic renewal as a condition of the licence. Marathon Resources may exclusively apply for a further renewal under section 30A of the *Mining Act 1971 (SA)*.

“The review of the terms and operating conditions of the renewed licence will be undertaken in consultation with Marathon Resources. The company has been asked to respond to this request for consultation within 28 days.

“Marathon has also been advised the Government is considering a range of possible conservation options, which may involve exclusion, or limiting, of mining in the environmentally sensitive areas of the Ranges, including the areas subject to the licence.”

The Northern Flinders Ranges has long been recognised as an area of unique scenic beauty.

The area has also been historically identified as having high prospectivity for copper, gold, uranium and other metals with many of the tourist trails throughout the ranges a legacy of previous exploration activity.

“The Government is currently looking closely at all options for the future management of the Arkaroola region and will be considering all of available options to preserve its iconic landscapes, biodiversity, cultural, wilderness, scientific and tourism values,” Mr Snelling says.

Mr Snelling also pointed out that recent amendments to the *Mining Act* have significantly strengthened the environmental compliance and penalty provisions for exploration and mining companies operating in South Australia.