



AUSTPAC RESOURCES N.L.  
ACN 002 264 057  
Level 12, Currency House  
23 Hunter Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
GPO Box 5297  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Telephone: (+61 2) 9221 3211  
Facsimile: (+61 2) 9223 1975  
Email: [apgtio2@ozemail.com.au](mailto:apgtio2@ozemail.com.au)  
[www.austpacresources.com](http://www.austpacresources.com)

20 March 2003

PRESS RELEASE

AUSTPAC RECEIVES TAX CONCESSION  
FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AT NEWCASTLE

Austpac is pleased to announce that it has received a \$300,000 Government tax concession cash refund for research and development in recognition of the ongoing R&D activities at the Company's Newcastle pilot plant. Austpac's ERMS SR (synthetic rutile) and EARS (acid regeneration) processes are ready for commercialisation. In addition, the Company is working on processing fine grained minerals, and new techniques for low temperature roasting, solids cooling, leaching and pyrohydrolysis.

The large WIM 150 heavy mineral deposit is located in the southern part of the Murray Basin and lies within Exploration Licence 4521, Victoria, which is held 100% by Austpac. It was discovered over 20 years ago by Rio Tinto, but because the heavy minerals are very fine, they could not be beneficiated by traditional mineral sand processes. Austpac is successfully addressing the separation, removal of contaminants, upgrading to synthetic rutile and the agglomeration of the synthetic rutile at Newcastle.

Austpac's Managing Director, Mike Turbott, said the main thrust of the Company's activity remains the establishment of a commercial scale synthetic rutile plant using the ERMS SR process. He said the Company is presently examining several opportunities to set up an ERMS SR project with a production capacity around 30,000 tpa of high grade synthetic rutile.

For further information please contact:

M.J. Turbott  
Managing Director  
Austpac Resources N.L.

Tel: (61-2) 9221-3211