

NOTICE OF FILING

Details of Filing

Document Lodged:	Affidavit - Form 59 - Rule 29.02(1)
Court of Filing	FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA (FCA)
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File Title:	FORTESCUE LIMITED ACN 002 594 872 & ORS v ELEMENT ZERO PTY LIMITED ACN 664 342 081 & ORS
Registry:	NEW SOUTH WALES REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



Sia Lagos

Registrar

Important Information

This Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

The date of the filing of the document is determined pursuant to the Court's Rules.



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Details of Filing

Document Lodged: Affidavit - Form 59 - Rule 29.02(1)
Court of Filing: FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA (FCA)
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File Title: FORTESCUE LIMITED ACN 002 594 872 & ORS v ELEMENT ZERO PTY
LIMITED ACN 664 342 081 & ORS
Registry: NEW SOUTH WALES REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



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Form 59
Rule 29.02(1)

Affidavit

Federal Court of Australia

No. NSD 527 of 2024

District Registry: New South Wales

Division: General

FORTESCUE LIMITED ACN 002 594 872 and others named in the schedule

Applicants

ELEMENT ZERO PTY LIMITED ACN 664 342 081 and others named in the schedule

Respondents

Affidavit of: **Michael Geoffrey Hales**

Address: c/- MinterEllison, Level 9, One the Esplanade, Perth WA 6000

Occupation: Solicitor

Date: 12 September 2025

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Filed on behalf of (name & role of party)

Third Respondent, Bjorn Winther-Jensen

Prepared by (name of person/lawyer)

Michael Geoffrey Hales

Law firm (if applicable) MinterEllison

Tel (08) 6189 7800

Fax

perthbusinessservices@minterellison.com; Mike.Hales@minterellison.com;

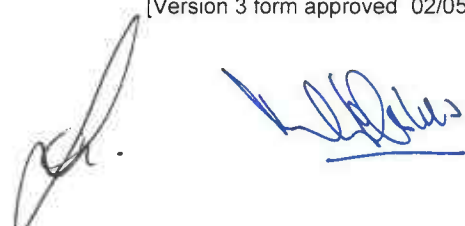
Email Oliver.Hoare@minterellison.com;

Address for service

MinterEllison, Level 9, One the Esplanade, PERTH WA 6000

(include state and postcode)

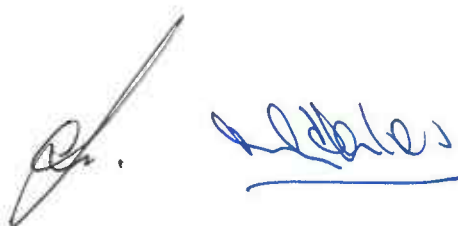
[Version 3 form approved 02/05/2019]



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I, Michael Geoffrey Hales, c/- MinterEllison, Level 9, One the Esplanade, Perth WA 6000, Solicitor, sincerely declare and affirm that:

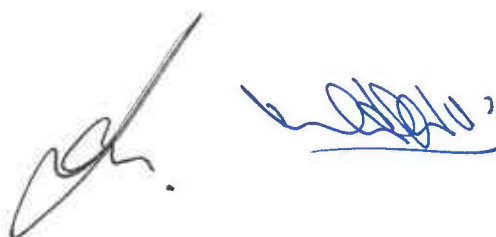
1. I am the solicitor for the Third Respondent in these proceedings. I am the partner at MinterEllison with care and conduct of this proceeding on behalf of the Third Respondent. I am instructed to affirm this affidavit on behalf of the Third Respondent.
2. I have sworn three previous affidavits in these proceedings.
3. I affirm this affidavit from my own knowledge, except where otherwise indicated. Where I depose to matters based on information and belief, I believe these matters to be true and I set out the source of that information or belief.
4. I affirm this affidavit in response to the Applicants' interlocutory application dated 17 June 2025 (**the Applicants' IA**).
5. In this affidavit, I respond to certain statements in the tenth affidavit of Paul Dewar of DCC dated 19 August 2025 directed to the Third Respondent (**the Dewar Affidavit**). Where I have not responded to other parts of the Dewar Affidavit, this is not to be taken as acceptance of their contents.
6. I do not waive and am not authorised to waive the Third Respondent's privilege in respect of any matter in this affidavit.
7. I have practised as a dispute resolution solicitor since 1988, in England & Wales and Australia. I was a dispute resolution partner in a London law firm between 1996 and 2012 and have been a partner in MinterEllison since 2012. During my career, I have run numerous substantial discovery exercises involving large teams of lawyers and technology assisted reviews.



8. I supervised the process of providing discovery for the Third Respondent. A team of lawyers and specialist discovery technology consultants at MinterEllison undertook the majority of the work but I participated as well. Where below I depose to matters relating to those searches it is either from matters which are within my own knowledge or recorded in our files or information provided to me by a solicitor in the team working on discovery, Oliver Hoare, which I believe to be true.

Summary

9. Pursuant to order 1 of the Orders of Justice Markovic dates 19 June 2025, the Applicants were required to notify the Respondents of the asserted deficiencies in the Respondents' discovery to be relied upon by the Applicants for the purposes of paragraph 1 of the Applicants' IA.
10. On 4 July 2025, DCC wrote to Gilbert + Tobin and MinterEllison setting out the alleged deficiencies. This letter is annexed and marked 'MGH 6'. By this letter, starting at page 22, the Applicants identified alleged deficiencies in the Third Respondent's discovery.
11. On 14 July 2025, DCC wrote to Gilbert + Tobin and MinterEllison setting out further alleged deficiencies. This letter is annexed and marked 'MGH 7'.
12. The letters of 4 and 14 July 2025 raised a total of 41 alleged deficiencies in the Third Respondent's discovery where the Applicants allege that further documents should be discovered.
13. By MinterEllison's letter to DCC dated 24 July 2025 (annexed and marked MGH-8), the Third Respondent responded to each of those deficiencies. In relation to 37 of those alleged deficiencies (#457 – #460, #462, #463, #465, #466, #471 - #474, #495 - #536), the Third Respondent has confirmed he has either discovered all documents responding to the categories or does not have in his control the documents sought. These are therefore not deficiencies.
14. In response to alleged deficiency #461, the Third Respondent confirmed that BWJ.5004.0001.0001, BWJ.5004.0001.0024 and BWJ.5004.0001.0090 are the "3 x spiral bound notebooks" referred to on page 14 of the affidavit of the independent lawyer Stephen Klotz affirmed on 29 May 2024. This too cannot properly be described as a deficiency.
15. In response to alleged deficiency #467, the Third Respondent confirmed a document was discovered in error and was not responsive to the categories. This too is not a deficiency in the sense of the Applicants receiving insufficient discovery.



16. In response to the alleged deficiencies #464 and #468-470, the Third Respondent confirmed four documents had been inadvertently omitted, and produced these four documents as well as nine additional photographs which I explain in the following section.
17. The issues which have arisen have been addressed. In reality, there were only two 'deficiencies' which I am satisfied were the result of a human error. These are not surprising in a discovery of this scale and are not of a number that indicates any intention by the Third Respondent not to comply with his discovery obligations.

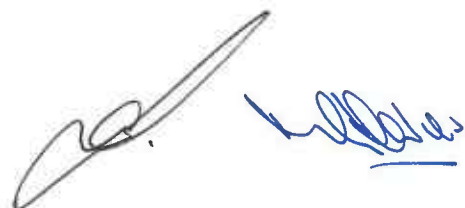
Alleged Deficiencies

18. In response paragraphs 41 to 43 of the Dewar Affidavit, I make the following comments.
19. Mr Dewar states that in response to the Applicants' identified list of alleged discovery deficiencies, the Third Respondent admitted two deficiencies which affect 13 documents, #464 and #468-470 (the latter are grouped by the Applicants).
20. In relation to #464, by MinterEllison's letter to DCC dated 24 July 2025, the Third Respondent confirmed an email and its attachment were inadvertently omitted from his discovery. On behalf of the Third Respondent, MinterEllison provided these two documents on 6 August 2025.
21. I verily believe that the email and its attachment were omitted from the Third Respondent's discovery due to human error on behalf of MinterEllison.
22. The omitted email was included in two subsequent chains that were produced for inspection as BWJ.5000.0003.9301 and BWJ.5000.0003.9304 on 30 May 2025. It is therefore the case that DCC have always had the omitted email.
23. In relation to #468 -70, by MinterEllison's letter to DCC dated 24 July 2025, the Third Respondent confirmed he would discover a photograph which was attached to an email dated 9 September 2022 and the email itself. The email itself was included in the Third Respondent's original discovery in three email chains but without the attached photograph. On behalf of the Third Respondent, MinterEllison provided these two documents on 6 August 2025.
24. The email in question contains no text. Its subject line only contains "FYI". The photo attachment is titled "20220909_103623.jpg". I annex marked MGH-9 a copy of the photo. I am informed by the Third Respondent and believe the photo is of an iron ore deposition.

25. I believe that the original email and its attachment were omitted due to the email not having text that fell within any of the search terms used. In my experience, 'FYI' would not ordinarily be used as a search term.
26. During the process of attempting to locate the original photograph, I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that the Third Respondent conducted a search of his computer. He did not know what the missing image might be. To assist in locating this image, he opened his microscope program to see whether it would indicate whether he had used it on the date of the original email. In doing so, he discovered that 9 additional images were stored in his microscope program.
27. Without any admission that he was required to do so, the Third Respondent discovered these 9 additional images, of microscopic views of iron ore depositions, on 6 August 2025 in order to avoid incurring the costs associated with further enquiries.

Backup Drive

28. I refer to paragraphs 46 to 53 of the Dewar Affidavit.
29. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that the Third Respondent cannot now recall why he backed up his computer on that particular date. He has no recollection of it being prompted by the departure of Mr Bart Kolodziejczyk. At the time, he had not yet decided to leave Fortescue, although he was finding the experience of working for Fortescue to be stressful. When he did leave Fortescue, he had no intention of working with Mr Kolodziejczyk or anyone else again. He planned to retire.
30. In the Third Respondent's previous Affidavit at paragraph 18, the Third Respondent outlined his work locations while employed at Fortescue as follows:
 - (a) *While employed by FMGPS and conducting the research described above, I worked from the following locations:*
 - (i) *Thailand from 15 February 2021 to about 12 April 2021. During this time I did not have access to a company laptop and so used my personal laptop to conduct my work;*
 - (ii) *a COVID-19 quarantine hotel in Perth, Western Australia from about 12 April 2021 to about 26 April 2021. During this time I continued to use my personal laptop to conduct my work;*



- (iii) *FFI's office in East Perth, Western Australia from about 26 April 2021 to about late May 2021. During this time, I was provided with a Fortescue laptop, an access card and a company credit card; and*
- (iv) *a laboratory and office rented by FFI at the University of Western Australia in Crawley, Western Australia from about late May 2021 to 12 November 2021. During this time I continued to use my Fortescue-issued laptop to conduct my work.*

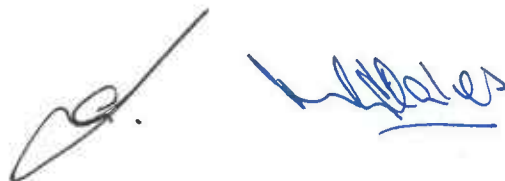
31. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that while the Third Respondent worked at the laboratory and office rented by FFI at the University of Western Australia, he did not have access to Fortescue's backup system. To ensure that he did not lose any research, he adopted a habit of periodically backing up the desktop of his Fortescue laptop to an external hard disk. He typically performed this backup at home, where his backup drive was located. Each time he performed this backup, he replaced the previous backup. Accordingly, the backup performed on 23 October 2021 was the last backup prior to his departure. As the folder "Toshiba Desktop 23-10-21" was a backup of his Fortescue laptop, the Third Respondent discovered the entire contents of this folder in response to category 2A.

Ore Composition After Drying.xlsx

32. I refer to paragraphs 56 to 61 of the Dewar Affidavit.

33. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that:

- (a) The document titled "*Ore composition after drying.xlsx*" is a simple excel calculator that he made while at Fortescue using his own skill and knowledge. The purpose of the calculator is to be able to roughly estimate the composition of a dried iron ore sample when the composition of the wet ("as mined") ore is inputted – or vice versa.
- (b) There is nothing particularly sophisticated or remarkable about the calculator. It would have taken him 20 to 30 minutes to re-create it. It is just a spreadsheet containing some formulae. It can be created without any data. The user then simply inserts the new wet / dry ore data relevant to the calculation they want to do. It can be used for ores from any Pilbara mine.



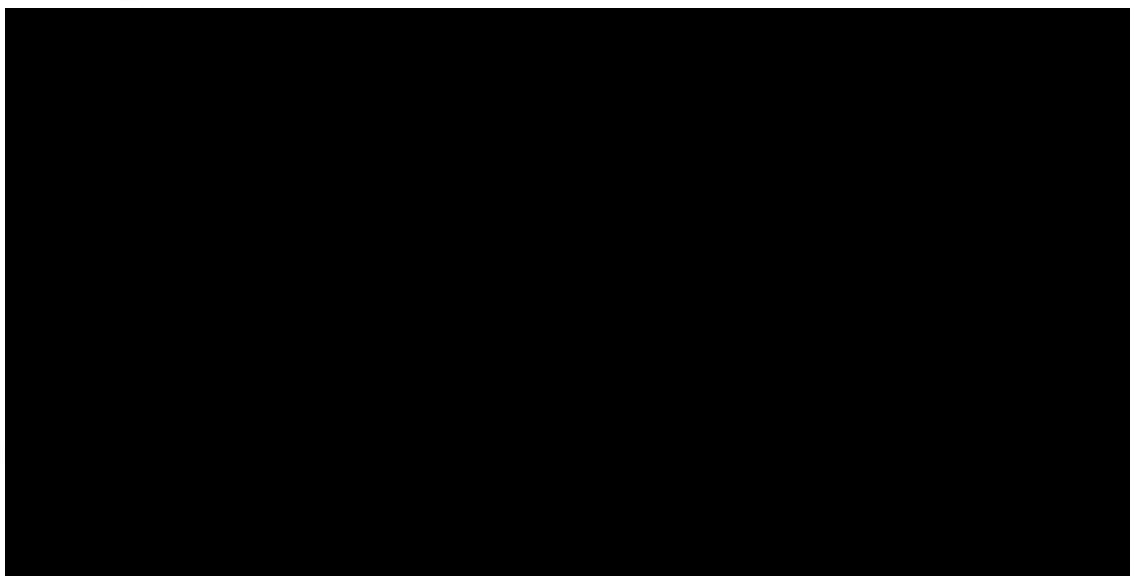
- (c) The calculator contains a data set of dried and wet ores. These are changed as new ores are being assessed without affecting the function of the calculator. When using the calculator, data for a new dry or wet sample is inputted and the calculator then calculates the composition of the relevant dry/wet ore. This new input data and the calculated values are not automatically saved.
- (d) The calculator can only give a rough estimate of ore compositions. It does not have inputs or methods for dealing with variation in the hematite/goethite ratio between the ores in the data set and the ore of interest in the calculations.
- (e) The calculator cannot be used for any other purpose than roughly estimating the composition of a wet or dry iron ore sample. The data set in the calculator only includes a limited number of components of the iron ore. It is not a full analysis and it does not have any data on size distribution or other relevant factors to assist with the tasks deposited to at paragraph 57 of Mr Dewar's Tenth Affidavit.
- (f) The calculator has not been shared with NewPro in any form. Neither has data from the calculator been shared with NewPro. NewPro used their own iron ore data set for their work.

Technology Base Presentation

34. I refer to paragraph 67 of the Dewar Affidavit.

35.

36.



37.

38.

Overview Feasibility Study Report

39. I refer to paragraphs 192 to 196 of the Dewar Affidavit.

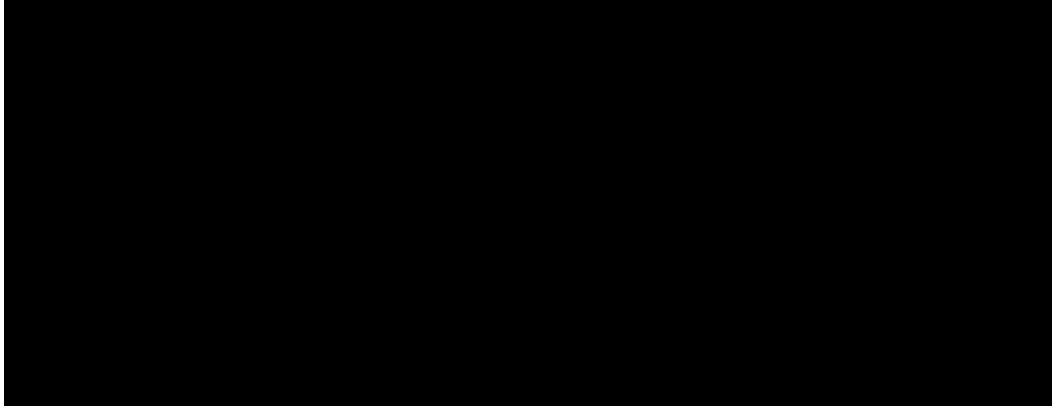
40. By MinterEllison's letter to DCC dated 24 July 2025, the Third Respondent confirmed the following in response to the alleged deficiency that Appendices 10.4, 10.6 and 10.7 to the "Overview Feasibility Study Report" had not been discovered by him in category 11(a):

41. At paragraphs 196 and 126(d) of the Dewar Affidavit, Mr Dewar notes that the Third Respondent discovered an email from Jonathan Clements of NewPro dated 23 March 2023, with the subject "Green Metals – Presentation of study outcomes" marked as BWJ.5000.0004.7280. Mr Dewar deposed that this email attached documents whose file names appear to match the Appendices to the Overview Feasibility Study Report.
42. As set out in the Third Respondent's response above, the Third Respondent does not have a copy of the Overview Feasibility Study Report which contains Appendices 10.4, 10.6 and 10.7. On this basis, he cannot confirm whether the attachments to the above email are the final appendices to the Overview Feasibility Study Report. If they are, then the Third Respondent has already discovered them as noted by Mr Dewar. If they are not, the Third Respondent does not have the final appendices in his control as they would otherwise have been produced by the discovery search.

Dr Kerr

43. I refer to paragraphs 209 to 211 of Mr Dewar's Tenth Affidavit.

44. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe that, as identified in the above paragraphs, the Third Respondent emailed Dr Robert Kerr on 29 November 2022 a copy of Element Zero's provision patent as filed. I set out the contents of that email below:



45. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that when he thanked Dr Kerr for his assistance, he was thanking him for his assistance with performing the SEM analysis. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that the Third Respondent has discovered all relevant correspondence related to this.
46. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that Dr Kerr did not help out with any other work in relation to the provisional patent application. To the best of the Third Respondent's recollection, he did not send Dr Kerr any drafts of the patent application as alleged by Mr Dewar at paragraph 211 of Mr Dewar's Tenth Affidavit. This is supported by the Third Respondent's discovery in which no such communication has been located.
47. As there has been no relevant disclosure to Dr Kerr, there is no basis for the Applicant's allegation that privilege has been waived by the Third Respondent.

Revised Category 2

48. The revised category 2 is not a narrow category as Mr Dewar deposes. I note Ms Dunn's calculation of the number of search permutations it requires at paragraph 197 of her affidavit of her seventh affidavit sworn on 9 September 2025. The new category will put the Third Respondent to significant work and expense. It is unclear to me from the Dewar Affidavit precisely what category of documents the category is intended to identify beyond those already discovered in the extensive discovery exercise to date.

New Category 15

49. Paragraph 222 of the Dewar Affidavit proposes a new discovery category, 15. The additional category 3A seeks discovery in respect of work, research and development during the period of November 2021 and December 2021 that would otherwise fall within category 11(e) or 11(f).
50. This category ignores the content of the Third Respondent's Affidavit in which he deposed that he did not commence his retirement project until 2022.
51. I extract the relevant sections below:
- (a) *On 3 November 2021, I resigned from FMGPS by sending an email with an attached letter to Michaela Johnstone, Human Resources, and Rachelle Doyle, who had taken over responsibility for the 'Green Iron' project after Dr Kolodziejczyk resigned.*
 - (b) *I resigned because I was experiencing significant stress and anxiety:*
 - (i) *Professionally, I felt that the volume of work and the deadlines that I was required to meet were incredibly difficult and in some cases impossible to achieve. As a result, I felt a lot of anxiety about my work.*
 - (ii) *Personally, I was processing the fact that my sister in Denmark was battling cancer metastases in her brain. I was also geographically separated from my wife and niece (who has lived with us and been our dependant since 2015), who both remained in Thailand due to Covid-19 restrictions after I travelled to Perth. This made me feel isolated and depressed, and made focusing on work even more challenging.*
 - (c) *When I resigned from FMGPS, my intention was to retire. I considered that I was financially stable and had adequate funds in my superannuation account and so I did not need to continue working, especially under such stressful circumstances. I intended to focus on enjoying retirement with my wife and helping to raise my niece. I thought that any further research or study I did in my field would be purely for my own intellectual curiosity and enjoyment.*

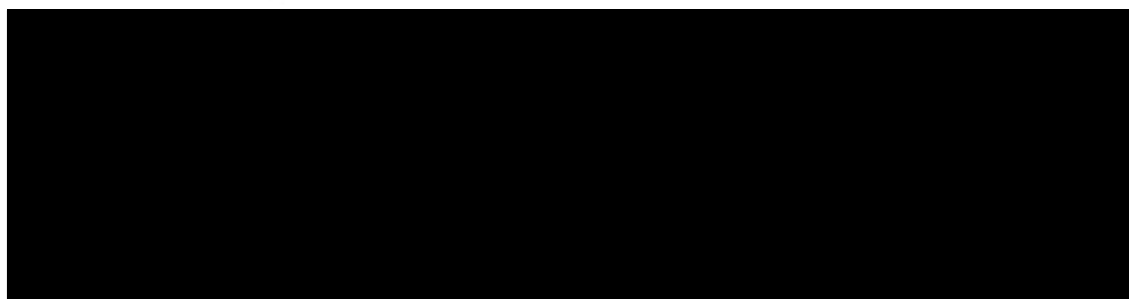
...

- (d) *After I ceased work for Fortescue, I travelled to Denmark to be with my sister and then to Thailand to reunite with my wife and niece, which was a key factor in my resignation from FMGPS. I returned to Perth in early February 2022.*
- (e) *In March 2022 (after returning to Perth in early February) I started setting up electrochemical gear in my garage. This was driven by curiosity and to have a small retirement "project" exploring the footsteps of Humphry Davy's and Michael Faraday's work from 1807 on electrodeposition from molten hydroxides. I worked with nickel initially but then branched into iron in about July 2022. It was this work that eventually led to the creation of Element Zero.*
- ...

52. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that he did not conduct work, research and development during the period of November 2021 and December 2021 so that there are no documents from this period that would otherwise fall within categories 11(e) or 11(f).

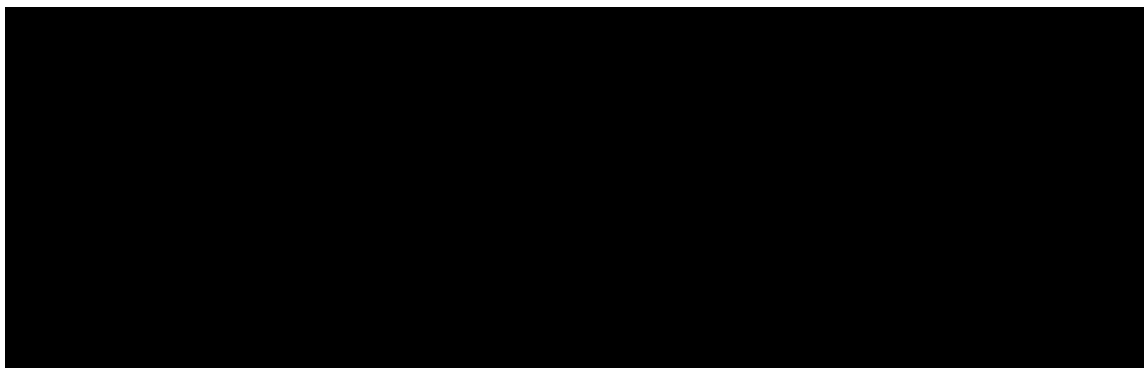
New Category 16

53.



New Category 17

54.



New Category 18 and 19

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55. Paragraphs 228 and 229 of the Dewar Affidavit propose new discovery categories 18 and 19. During the discovery process, searches were conducted to locate all documents from and communications with NewPro responsive to the initial discovery categories and where relevant the documents have been disclosed. It is not understood why the proposed searches are necessary given this, or whether and if so, how they extend the scope of the initial categories for which searches have already been conducted.

New Category 20 and 21

56. Paragraphs 232 and 233 of the Dewar Affidavit propose new discovery categories 20 and 21. The discovery searches searched for all documents in the Third Respondent's control recording or evidencing communications between any of the Respondents and David Arnall or Robert Kerr in relation to the Element Zero Process, the development of a trial or pilot plant for Element Zero, or services provided or to be provided by Mr Arnall or Dr Kerr to or for Element Zero. There would therefore be no further documents to be produced in relation to these proposed categories.

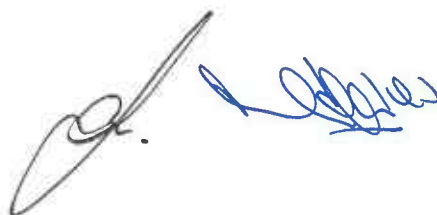
New Category 22

57. Paragraph 235 of the Dewar Affidavit proposes a new discovery category, 22. This category is very broad and is not tied in any way to the issues in dispute in these proceedings. The discovery searches we have conducted would have discovered any documents relating to BWJ Materials Consulting that fall within the discovery categories. The utility of the further search is therefore not understood.

Search Order

58. In the Third Respondent's previous affidavit, he deposed to the materials taken during the Search Order. I repeat those paragraphs:
- (a) *The Search Orders were executed on 15 May 2024 at my residential premises, Unit 4, 213 Gildercliffe Street, Scarborough, Western Australia, 6019 (Premises).*
 - (b) ...
 - (c) *During the search, a large number of documents were copied from devices or removed for later copying and later returned. This includes:*

- (i) *the entire contents of my personal Google account, which is linked to my email address bjornwj@gmail.com. I use this Google account for my personal emails and the storage of my personal documents, and have done so since 2010;*
 - (ii) *my personal Microsoft account and the linked email address bjornwj@hotmail.com, which contains emails and documents going back to 2001;*
 - (iii) *the entire contents of my current and previous personal mobile phones;*
 - (iv) *the entire contents of my personal laptop;*
 - (v) *the entire contents of my personal external hard drive and a number of USB drives;*
 - (vi) *the entire contents of my wife's personal mobile phone;*
 - (vii) *the entire contents of my wife's personal laptop;*
 - (viii) *the entire contents of my wife's personal external hard drive and a USB drive; and*
 - (ix) *a number of hard copy documents, including three notebooks.*
- (d) *My wife's email accounts were also assessed, but I am not aware if these were copied.*
- (e) *Two laptops belonging to my niece were also searched, but no copies were made. One USB drive containing documents regarding my niece's previous and current visa applications was copied.*
- (f) *At paragraphs 69 to 79 of his affidavit, Dr Kolodziejczyk describes the materials obtained from his premises during the execution of the Search Orders, and his concerns about those materials. I have the same concerns about the materials obtained from my premises.*
- (g) *My personal email accounts contain confidential material including:*

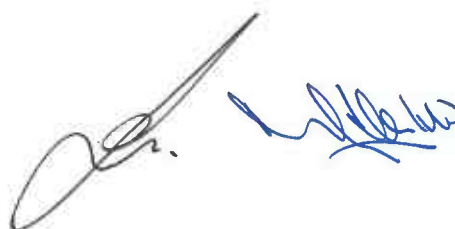


- (i) *historical projects with commercial parties and educational institutions; and*
- (ii) *personal information from my previous students from my time teaching at Monash University and Waseda University.*
- (h) *Those third parties would not be aware of the fact that their documents have been captured in the process of executing the Search Orders and I expect that they would be concerned if that information was accessed by Fortescue or otherwise disclosed.*
- (i) *My personal external hard drive also contains unpublished and confidential research from previous collaborations and my own work, including with commercial parties and educational institutions, which is unrelated to the issues in this proceedings.*
- (j) *My and my wife's personal mobile phones contain our personal text messages and other communications with friends, personal files, photographs and videos.*
- (k) *Each of our personal laptops also contains personal files, photographs and videos.*
- (l) *As Dr Kolodziejczyk identifies at paragraph 78 of his affidavit, the Search Orders include a category of documents described as 'All documents (whether in hardcopy or electronic) recording or evidence research and development work by or on behalf of Element Zero, Dr Kolodziejczyk, or Dr Winther-Jensen, including laboratory notebooks and experimental data.' I believe this category would encompass laboratory notebooks and experimental data for any research or development work that I undertook in any role prior to my employment at FMGPS, which is unrelated to the issues in these proceedings.*

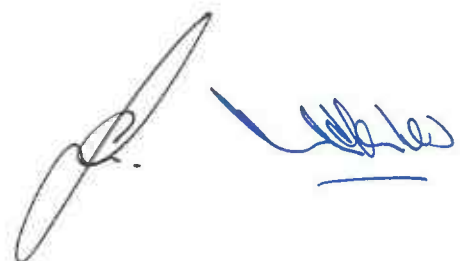
59. I repeat the Third Respondent's concerns with respect to the re-opening of the search order. I am concerned that it would enable Fortescue to review documents that are not the Third Respondent's and documents regarding personal and family matters.

Affidavit of Dr Grant Jacobsen

60. I have read the affidavit of Dr Grant Jacobsen dated 20 August 2025.



61. As referred to above, in the Third Respondent's previous affidavit he deposed to his retirement project. The nature of the project (referred to in paragraph 51 above) explains why documentation which Dr Jacobsen anticipates should exist does not in fact do so.
62. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that:
- (a) The Third Respondent was not undertaking a formal industrial R&D exercise.
 - (b) The purpose was to follow his intellectual curiosity.
 - (c) The Third Respondent was conducting his own experiments without a requirement to report to anyone.
 - (d) Accordingly, he was not seeking to create formal or detailed documentation around his work.
63. It is apparent that Dr Jacobsen was not provided with the Third Respondent's affidavit. As such, his evidence about the documents he would expect to exist in relation to the Third Respondent's work is based on a false premise and has no relevance or value for discovery purposes.
64. I am informed by the Third Respondent, and believe, that in his experience, it is possible to file a provisional patent application without complete and detailed analysis of all aspects of the patent, instead using theory. The absence of documents recording experiments justifying every part of the patent application does not therefore indicate that there are additional documents that were created which have not been discovered. The Third Respondent can recall a similar process occurring in relation to a patent application in which he was involved at Fortescue.
65. In any event, all documents responsive to categories 11(e) and 11(f) in the Third Respondent's control have been discovered.



Affirmed by the deponent
at Perth
in the State of Western Australia
on 12 September 2025

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Signature of deponent

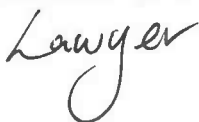
Before me:


Signature of witness


Name of witness

Legal practitioner who has held a practising certificate for at
least 2 years and who holds a current practising certificate

Qualification of witness



Schedule

Federal Court of Australia

No. NSD 527 of 2024

District Registry: New South Wales

Division: General

Applicants

Second Applicant: **Fortescue Future Industries Pty Ltd ACN 625 711 373**

Third Applicant: **FMG Personnel Services Pty Ltd ACN 159 057 646**

Respondents

Second Respondent: **Bartłomiej Piotr Kolodziejczyk**

Third Respondent: **Bjorn Winther-Jensen**

Fourth Respondent: **Michael George Masterman**

Date: 12 September 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'B' or 'J' followed by a flourish.

Exhibit certificate MGH-10

No. NSD 527 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia

District Registry: New South Wales

Division: General

FORTESCUE LIMITED ACN 002 594 872 and others

Applicants

ELEMENT ZERO PTY LIMITED ACN 664 342 081 and others

Respondents

This is the exhibit marked "**MGH-10**" now produced and shown to Michael Geoffrey Hales at the time of affirming his affidavit on 12 September 2025 before me:

Cathy Jane Smith
 Name of witness

[Signature]
 Signature of witness

Legal practitioner who has held a practising
 certificate for at least 2 years and who holds a
 current practising certificate

Qualification of witness

Filed on behalf of (name & role of
 party)

Third Respondent, Bjorn Winther-Jensen

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News**Fortescue produces first-ever green iron ore****NICKOLAS ZAKHARIA**

July 7, 2021, 10:23 am



The Christmas Creek ore processing facility. Image: Fortescue

Fortescue Metals Group has produced high-purity green iron ore and trialled ammonia-powered freight as part of its Fortescue Future Industries (FFI) renewable energy and industry initiative.

The initiative aimed to test if there was 100 per cent green energy to manufacture green iron and steel, fertiliser and cement.

According to FFI chief executive officer Julie Shuttleworth, trialling hydrogen, ammonia and battery technology was successful in powering the company's trains, ship engines, haul trucks and drill rigs.

“To demonstrate this within Fortescue, we set ambitious decarbonisation targets for our own heavy industry,” Shuttleworth said.

“These are being driven by FFI’s Green Team, who are aiming to eliminate carbon emissions from our own operations. This work commenced in earnest only several months ago and the results have been immense.

“FFI’s green team has established a major facility at Hazelmere in Perth, where we have been managing and trialling technology on hydrogen, ammonia and battery power for trains, ship engines, haul trucks and drill rigs for technology demonstration. Our dedicated specialist teams have worked relentlessly to bring our own heavy industry decarbonisation into reality.”

FFI has created iron ore with more than 97 per cent purity at low temperature in a continuous flow process during the initiative.

The initiative also trialled the use of waste from the green iron process to make green cement with other sourced materials.

The testing also included the combustion of ammonia to create renewable green fuel, design and construction of a combustion testing device for ship engines, the finalised design of a next generation ore carrier.

For mine sites, Fortescue has tested battery cells to be used on its haul trucks, and designed and constructed hydrogen powered technology for drill rigs and haul trucks.

Fortescue chief executive officer Elizabeth Gaines said the company is hard at work to transition from a fossil fuel importer to a renewable energy exporter.

“At Fortescue, we are leading the heavy industry battle against global warming, transitioning from being a major fossil fuel importer to a significant green and renewable energy and product exporter,” Gaines said.

“We are leading by example to decrease emissions across our operations, using our large industrial platform of operating mine sites in the Pilbara to trial and demonstrate technologies in completely renewable green hydrogen, green ammonia and green electricity.

“All of us at Fortescue are committed to its decarbonisation. Our great progress to date and our ongoing projects underpin Fortescue’s plan to become a major renewable energy and industry product exporter. As part of this plan, we are aiming to meet or beat our internal global industry-leading target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.”

#ammonia #Andrew Forrest #carbon #climate change #Fortescue Metals Group
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