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Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Xstrata file number 82-34660

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Please find attached the Company's Rule 135(c) announcement published Monday, April 7, 2003.

Yours sincerely,

3. Hall by Brigitte Mattenberger Corporate Affairs

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## Xstrata pic

# Recommended Acquisition of M.I.M. Holdings Limited for US\$2,959 million

#### 7 APRIL 2003

- Xstrata plc ("Xstrata") has agreed to acquire, via a scheme of arrangement (the "Scheme"), the
  entire issued share capital of M.I.M. Holdings Limited ("MIM") for a cash consideration of
  A\$1.72 per ordinary share or a total acquisition value of US\$2,959 million (A\$4,932 million),
  including assumed MIM debt estimated to be US\$894 million at Completion (the
  "Acquisition"). The Acquisition is recommended by the MIM board of directors.
- The acquisition price represents a premium of 37.6% to the MIM closing price of A\$1.25 on 20 November 2002, the day prior to the announcement by Xstrata that the two companies were in early stage discussions, and a 7.5% premium to the MIM closing price of A\$1.60 on Friday 4 April 2003.
- The Acquisition will be part financed through a 3 for 2 rights issue of Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock ("CULS") at 245 pence per unit to raise £901 million (US\$1,406 million) net of expenses (the "Rights Issue"). Each CULS unit will convert into one new Xstrata ordinary share upon the Scheme becoming effective. The balance of the consideration will be satisfied by bank debt.
- Glencore, as a 40% shareholder in Xstrata, has confirmed to the Company that it is fully supportive of the Acquisition and has undertaken to vote in favour of it at the EGM.

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- MIM is a large mining, smelting and refining company incorporated in Australia with a primary listing on the Australian Stock Exchange. MIM's major products include copper, thermal and metallurgical (coking) coal, gold, zinc, lead and silver.
- The Acquisition will provide Xstrata with meaningful entry points into two major global commodity markets (copper and metallurgical coal), while adding to Xstrata's existing global positions in export thermal coal and zinc. The key coal and copper assets of MIM comprise good quality operations, which are competitively positioned within their respective industries and which complement Xstrata's existing portfolio.
- The Enlarged Group will benefit from increased diversification by geography, commodity and customer.
- On a pro forma basis, the Enlarged Group is expected to have an estimated net debt to equity ratio of 45%, based on estimated net debt of some US\$2.4 billion on completion.
- Completion is conditional upon, among other things, the approval of Xstrata shareholders, the
  approval of MIM shareholders, the receipt of certain regulatory approvals and clearances,
  including from the Australian Government, and the approval of the Queensland Supreme Court.
  Completion is expected to occur around 20 June 2003.

ends



## Xstrata plc

# Recommended Acquisition of MIM Holdings Limited for US\$2,959 million

### EXPECTED TIMETABLE OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS

| ltem  | K∈y Date                      |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Circular to Xstrata shareholders posted                             | By 11 April 2003              |
| Expected first Court hearing in Australia to convene Scheme meeting | On or about 28 April 2003     |
| Record Date for voting at EGM                                       | 1030 (1130 CET)<br>6 May 2003 |
| Extraordinary General Meeting (Same date as scheduled Xstrata AGM)  | 1030 (1130 CET)<br>8 May 2003 |
| MIM Scheme Meeting  | 5 June 2003                   |
| Expected second Court hearing in Australia to approve the Scheme    | On or about 12 June 2003      |
| Expected date of Completion of the Acquisition                      | On or about 20 June 2003      |

#### Notes

(1) References to times in this document are to British Summer Time unless otherwise stated.