

ASX/Media Release - 14 January 2009

## APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Australian gold producer, Focus Minerals Ltd (ASX: **FML** "Focus"), is pleased to announce the appointment of experienced international mining executive, **Mr Campbell Baird**, to the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO), effective immediately.

The appointment of Mr Baird to the newly created position further strengthens Focus' senior management team as the Company continues to ramp up gold production at its flagship Coolgardie Gold Project, located in Western Australia's Eastern Goldfields region.

Mr Baird is a mining engineer with extensive experience in operations, management, feasibility studies and mine design. He has specialised in open pit, underground and narrow vein mining operations and has been closely involved with numerous feasibility studies in various commodities both domestically and internationally.

Mr Baird has gained considerable management experience with companies such as WMC at Kambalda, Mt Morgans Gold Mine with Homestake, Northparkes and the Iron Ore Company of Canada with North Limited.

More recently, he was General Manager - Operations for Vulcan Resources Limited and before joining Vulcan in 2005, was a senior consultant with well known mining consultants SRK Consulting for five years.

Mr Baird holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of New South Wales as well as a Masters of International Finance from Curtin University, Western Australia. In addition, he holds a First Class Mine Managers Ticket, Western Australian Underground Shift Supervisors Ticket and is also a Member of AusIMM.

In announcing Mr Baird's appointment, Focus' Managing Director, Mr Peter Williams said: "We are very pleased to have secured someone of Campbell's calibre and experience to join our team. His extensive operational experience in a number of areas, including the gold sector, will significantly enhance and strengthen our existing management team.

Campbell will assume responsibility for the operational aspects of the Coolgardie Gold Project to complete the production ramp-up which is targeting 54,000 ounces this Financial Year.

He will also manage the operational aspects of developing our additional production pipeline as we progress our other high-priority deposits within the tenement area," added Mr Williams.



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“Campbell’s experience will be invaluable as we move these development assets into production as quickly as possible to achieve our overall corporate objective of building a sustainable 80 - 100,000 ounce per annum plus production profile in the medium term.”

**ENDS**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION – FOCUS MINERALS LTD**

Focus Minerals Ltd (ASX: **FML**) is an Australian-based exploration and development group whose focus is to become a significant gold and nickel producer in the Coolgardie-Kalgoorlie-Widgiemoorlha region of Western Australia.

Focus Minerals is the largest landholder in the Coolgardie Gold Belt located in Western Australia, 560km east of Perth and 35km west of the ‘Super Pit’ in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. More than 2.6 million ounces of gold has been produced from the Coolgardie gold belt alone since 1892. Focus holds the mineral rights to more than 210sq km of tenements including an extensive inventory of Measured, Indicated and Inferred gold resources as well as the 1.2mtpa Three Mile Hill processing plant.