



Save the Nature of the Kimberley  
**environs**  
**KIMBERLEY**  
INC

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **World-famous Horizontal Falls faces mining scrap heap**

Thousands of tourists who flock to the Kimberley's Horizontal Falls each year will be confronted by toxic mining pollution rather than a stunning coastal landscape if a proposed copper mine is given the go ahead, environment groups warned today.

Protesting outside the Annual General Meeting of Pegasus Metals at South Perth Golf Club today, environment groups launched a new campaign against the proposed copper mine at Horizontal waterfalls, which has been described by acclaimed naturalist Sir David Attenborough as 'one of the greatest natural wonders of the world'.

The campaign is being backed by Environs Kimberley, Pew Environment Group Australia, the Conservation Council of Western Australia and The Wilderness Society.

Horizontal Falls appears on tourism promotion posters across Australia and overseas. Its' name comes from the stunning horizontal waterfall effect created by massive 10-metre tides hurtling through two narrow coastal gorges.

Conservation Council of WA Director Piers Verstegen said "The multi-million dollar bounty that pours into the Kimberley's economy from tourism at Horizontal Falls is under threat from a proposed copper mine that would destroy and pollute one of the world's most spectacular natural heritage places.

"Despite the Premier's public comments in August this year that the area should be protected, exploratory drilling is underway about four kilometres from the falls by Pegasus Metals. Such a mine would ruin the extremely high tourism value of the falls by destroying the wilderness experience and polluting the beautiful marine and coastal environments."

WA Wilderness Society Coordinator Peter Robertson said Horizontal Falls did not need a copper mine to be a lasting economic asset to the local community and the region.

"Horizontal Falls is already a significant tourism asset for Western Australia, with millions of dollars coming in each year from visitors to the region.

"However, we recognise that Traditional Owners to date have not received their fair share from tourism at the Falls. There is a real need to share tourism profits through a levy imposed on tourists to the region, similar to that which applies on the Great Barrier Reef, and funding assistance to local indigenous tourism projects.

Environs Kimberley Director Martin Pritchard said it was also unclear why Horizontal Falls coastal area and the greater Buccaneer Archipelago generally were not included in any government plans for marine protection but instead were open for mining and exploration.

"There is no doubt that the Buccaneer Archipelago is one of the most spectacular coastlines in the world. The archipelago has more than 900 rocky islands with coral reefs, algal reef flats and shallow sandy banks — and acts as an important refuge for many wildlife species. Yet this stunning area has been omitted from the Premier's marine park plans without any explanation.

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