



## A world first for Atlas Iron's Pilbara operations

Hancock Prospecting company Atlas Iron is leading the way in creating safer, healthier, and more satisfying work environments for miners.

In a world first for the mining industry, Atlas's Sanjiv Ridge iron ore site, located 240km from Port Hedland, has been awarded the WELL Health-Safety Rating.

"Our Sanjiv Ridge mining operation is the first mine site in the world to be awarded the WELL Health-Safety Rating, which reinforces our commitment to prioritising the health, safety and comfort of our people," explained CEO Hancock Operations Gerhard Veldsman.

"Championed by our Executive Chairman Mrs Gina Rinehart AO, and previous-Atlas CEO, now Atlas board member, Sanjiv Manchanda, achieving this certification demonstrates that we are putting the wellbeing of our people first, both on site and within the village facilities."

The WELL Health-Safety rating is a subset of the WELL Building Standard, setting pathways for implementing health-first strategies that support physical and mental health, and which are evidence-based and third-party verified.

The WELL Building Standard was pioneered by Delos and is administered by the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI). WELL is the culmination of ten years of rigorous research in collaboration with leading physicians, scientists and industry professionals.

Mr Veldsman continued, "We are proud to be leading the charge on implementing this in a non-urban and remote location. A world first which we are excited to soon extend across Atlas' other sites."

The WELL Health-Safety Rating for Facility Operations and Management is an evidence-based rating for all new and existing building and facility types.

The rating is made up of six action areas – cleaning and sanitisation procedures, Emergency Preparedness programs, Health Service Resources, Air and Water Quality Management, Stakeholder Engagement and Communication and Innovation.

The certification delivers an established set of minimum standards to protect and nurture the health and safety of the workforce. The outcome results in a clear pathway of policies and procedures that consistently ensure best practice.

Cleaning contractors employed by Atlas can only use cleaning products that contain less hazardous ingredients, significantly reducing the risk of respiratory and dermal symptoms.

Everyone who resides at the Sanjiv Ridge operation can participate in annual training on CPR, first aid and the correct use of the AED defibrillators. They also have access to free flu vaccinations; skin cancer checks and healthy heart assessments.

All Atlas staff receive financial reimbursement to offset their private health insurance, giving them greater access to comprehensive medical assistance. All this was driven by the Executive Chairman, Mrs Gina Rinehart AO.

In addition to the tangible workplace benefits, it provides employees with the confidence that the company considers and prioritises their wellbeing.

Atlas Non-Executive Chairman Spiro Pappas said about the certification, "Achieving the WELL Health Safety Rating means a safer, healthier, and more satisfying work environment for employees, with clear benefits such as reduced health risks, improved wellbeing, and a positive workplace culture.

"It reinforces our commitment to our employees' health and safety. We are proud of Atlas, and proud of the efforts of our employees. Larger corporations tend to treat their projects and even staff, as numbers. Here at Atlas, we don't."



## **About Atlas**

Atlas is an Australian iron ore company which mines and exports direct-shipped iron ore from its Mt Webber, Sanjiv Ridge (named after previous Atlas CEO Sanjiv Manchanda) and Miralga mines in the northern Pilbara region of West Australia. Atlas has a portfolio of exploration and development projects which now includes two magnetite projects. Atlas was acquired by Hancock Prospecting in 2018 when Atlas was facing financial problems and without an input of additional capital, may have needed to close its operations.

## **Further Information:**

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