



## DRILLING PROGRAM COMMENCES AT GOLD RIDGE PROJECT

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(TSX:SGA)

**TORONTO, Ontario (November 2, 2006)** – Australian Solomons Gold Limited (“ASG” or the “Company”) today announced that as part of its ongoing development program, the Company has commenced a 44 hole, 4,600m drilling program at the Gold Ridge Project (the “Project”) on the island of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. This program is supplementary to work completed previously to finalise a Bankable Feasibility Study with the intention of having the Project back into production by December 2007. Earlier work on the Project identified four deposits: Valehaichichi, Namachamata, Kupers and Dawsons. These four mineralized zones occupy an area of 2.5km x 1.5km.

This drilling program includes extension drilling on two deposits, Valehaichichi and Namachamata, and a series of deep exploration holes to test the under-explored Charivunga Gorge area which trends in a NE direction and separates Valehaichichi and Namachamata to the North from Kupers to the South.

Details of the drilling program:

- **VALEHAICHICHI PIT:** This pit was developed by the previous owners of the Project and produced 210,000 oz during the period August 1998 to June 2000. ASG is planning to drill 30 holes (2550m) to enhance the final pit shell design and test for mineralisation below the current final pit floor
- **NAMACHAMATA DEPOSIT:** 10 holes (600m) designed to test for extensions of the mineralised zone to the south of the current pit design
- **CHARIVUNGA GORGE:** 4 holes (1300m) to test for extensions of previously reported gold mineralisation intersected in holes DDH 032 and DDH 033 completed in December 2005

ASG's tenement holding includes Mining Lease 1/1997 (“Mining Lease”) which covers an area of 30km<sup>2</sup> and Special Prospecting License 194 (“SPL 194”) covering an additional 130km<sup>2</sup>. Exploration work has focused on and around the four pit areas and very little near mine or regional work has been carried out since 1995.

The exploration potential of the 160km<sup>2</sup> area controlled by ASG can be summarized as:

- Near surface pit extensions
- At depth pit extensions
- Near pit additional resources
- Regional potential

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## Near Surface Pit Extensions

There are a number of areas at the lateral margins of the currently defined resources where additional drilling has the potential to prove up additional tonnages of low grade mineralization. These areas include NW Kupers, the area between Kupers and Dawsons, and West and South of Dawsons.

## At Depth Pit Extensions

Previous work has identified steep N-S to NNE-SSW structures below each pit. Limited deeper drilling has encountered these mineralized structures at depth. It is significant to note that less than 4% of all drill holes exceed 200m vertical depth and less than 1% are deeper than 300m. While the near surface mineralization is generally stratabound within favourable lithologies, the style of the deeper mineralization is likely to be related to feed vein and steep fault / crush zones. Detailed re-logging and examination of the drillhole database is currently in progress and will assist in targeting further deep exploration drilling.

## Near Pit Additional Resources

Previous work has identified Charivunga Gorge, located between Valehaichichi and Kupers deposits as the most prospective area at Gold Ridge. This area was first identified by surface mapping and sampling that located a highly altered, gold mineralised zone 600m x 100m. Limited drilling conducted to date indicates the auriferous zones are related to steeply dipping NNE to NNW structures that persist to significant depth.

Structural, clay petrology, and fluid inclusion studies indicate the Charivunga Gorge area was possibly the original focus of the Gold Ridge hydrothermal system and a major area of fluid upflow. This area will be tested with 4 new drillholes before the end of 2006.

## Regional Potential

Previous regional exploration has consisted of limited stream and surface geochemistry conducted by early explorers and warrants appraisal and follow up. This work does not extend far outside the Mining Lease area. Results indicate the entire region surrounding Gold Ridge has elevated gold anomalism. Areas of particular interest include:

- Arsenic Creek: located immediately West of Namachamata, shows elevated gold values in stream sediment and rock chip samples and is likely to be underlain by the Gold Ridge Volcanics (which host the known deposits).
- The ridge East of Valehaichichi: located across the Chovohio River also shows elevated gold values in stream sediment samples taken from streams draining the ridge and is probably underlain by the eastern margin of the Gold Ridge Volcanics
- Stream sediment samples showing elevated gold values to the North and South of Gold Ridge lie on the NNE – SSW striking Gold Ridge transfer fault system that is thought to be responsible for the mineralization. Both these areas are underlain by the prospective Gold Ridge Volcanics unit.

This leaves in excess of 100km<sup>2</sup> of ASG tenement that has had no modern exploration at all. Recent work on adjacent tenements to the SW by a competitor exploration company has identified significant copper-gold porphyry and epithermal gold mineralization that may be related to the Gold Ridge transfer fault system and may extend into the SW corner of SPL 194.

Tony Field, BSc, Grad Dip Env Sc, MAusIMM, MSPE, Exploration Manager, Australian Solomons Gold Limited, is the qualified person responsible for exploration at the Gold Ridge Project and the technical information contained in this press release.

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## About ASG

ASG is developing the Gold Ridge Project, a former producing mine, located on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The mine operated from August 1998 to June 2000 and produced approximately 210,000oz gold during this period. ASG acquired the project in May 2005 and is currently completing a Bankable Feasibility Study to redevelop the Gold Ridge Project which is expected to commence operations by December 2007.

Additional information is available on [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and at the Company web site at [www.solomonsgold.com.au](http://www.solomonsgold.com.au)

## Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information

All statements, trend analysis and other information contained in this press release relative to markets for ASG's trends in resources, recoveries, production and anticipated expense levels, as well as other statements about anticipated future events or results constitute forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are often, but not always, identified by the use of words such as "seek", "anticipate", "believe", "plan", "estimate", "expect" and "intend" and statements that an event or result "may", "will", "should", "could" or "might" occur or be achieved and other similar expressions. Forward-looking statements are subject to business and economic risks and uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results of operations to differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on estimates and opinions of management at the date the statements are made. Some of these risks, uncertainties and other factors are described herein under the heading "Risk Factors" in the Company's prospectus available on [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). ASG does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements even if circumstances or management's estimates or opinions should change. Investors should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

**The Toronto Stock Exchange has neither approved nor disapproved the contents of this press release**

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