



## **New Zealand's Aluminium Smelter MEDIA STATEMENT**

18 March 2016

### **NZAS seeks leave to appeal 'Lieu Days' claim**

NZAS has today sought leave to the Supreme Court to appeal the Court of Appeal's decision on the 'lieu days' claim.

"This isn't a decision we have taken lightly," says NZAS Chief Executive and site GM Gretta Stephens. "But I believe it is very important for NZAS to obtain this final legal determination so this can be resolved with certainty for all."

If NZAS is granted leave, its appeal will be about confirming the correct legal interpretation of the Holidays Act 1981. NZAS accepts it is required to accrue a lieu day for every day worked on a holiday granted by that Act. But it disagrees employees are entitled to accrue a lieu day if they actually had the public holiday off work.

"At NZAS we are committed to being an employer of choice and are very proud that the average length tenure of our employees is 17 years with about 150 people who have worked here for more than 30 years," says Ms Stephens.

As this matter is now before the Courts NZAS will not be making any further comment.

**ENDS**

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### **About NZAS**

*The Tiwai Point smelter is a world class facility which contributes \$525 million to the Southland economy annually (10.5% of Southland's GDP) and supports more than 3,200 direct and indirect jobs in the region. In 2014, NZAS made \$366 million in payments to New Zealand suppliers, including \$47 million to suppliers in Southland. It is one of two smelters in the world producing ultra-high purity aluminium and the only one producing this using electricity generated from renewable sources.*