



14 May 2021

The Hon. Nicole Manison
Minister for Mining and Industry
GPO Box 3200
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Minister,

RE: INDEPENDENT MONITOR ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT 2020 – MCARTHUR RIVER MINE

McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd (MRM) references the Independent Monitor (IM) Annual Environmental Performance Audit Report 2020 dated April 2021 (IM Report), which covers the period 1 April 2018 to 30 April 2020 (the 'review period'). MRM appreciates the IM's detailed report and thoroughness of the environmental performance review. MRM acknowledges the important role that the IM continues to play in independently reviewing the environmental performance of MRM's operations and identifying priority areas for mitigation and management of potential impacts.

Overall conclusions

MRM is pleased to note that the IM found no significant environmental issues requiring urgent investigation during the review period, concluding that this was due to MRM's increased attention on key environmental risk areas and the implementation of management actions to avoid or reduce environmental risk.

The IM reported that MRM achieved full compliance with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) active recommendations outlined in *Assessment Report 86*. The IM also reported that MRM had a high level of compliance with conditions outlined in the Variation of Authorisation 0059 (which they found to be an indicator of high level of environmental performance) and the Waste Discharge Licence 174-11.

The IM reported that the McArthur River and its tributaries are considered to be in good health. This finding supports the conclusion reached by MRM and external experts in its recent annual environmental monitoring reports, that the NT EPA's overarching environmental outcome is being met.

Current update

The review included an assessment of 274 conditions of which the IM identified no non-compliances. The 35 partial compliances that were identified pose a low risk to the environment, are largely administrative matters and have had limited impact on MRM's environmental performance. Since the review period, MRM has addressed a number of these areas and is well advanced on addressing the remaining items.

The IM highlighted elevated levels of metals found in fish in isolated sections of Barney Creek. Barney Creek is located adjacent to mining activities (it is within the mineral lease boundary) and is not accessible to the public. Waterway signage at this location states that public access to these areas is prohibited. Since the review period, MRM has implemented the following preventative actions to reduce these levels further:

- Trialled a dust suppressant to reduce dust generated in operational areas of the McArthur River Mine, close to the Barney Creek haul bridge;

- Commissioned new water trucks to reduce wheel-sourced dust from vehicle movements; and
- Continued the existing sediment removal program along Barney Creek, which has proved effective in reducing metals in fish in this area.

Please don't hesitate to contact Adam Hatfield, Manager – Health, Safety, Environment & Community if you require any additional information regarding the above on 08 8975 8287 or Adam.Hatfield@glencore.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Rooney', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left and a shorter one to the right.

Steven Rooney
General Manager
McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd