

5 April 2022

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

Dear Minister,

RE: INDEPENDENT MONITOR ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT 2021 – MCARTHUR RIVER MINE

McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd (MRM) references the Independent Monitor (IM) Annual Environmental Performance Audit Report 2021 dated 15 March 2022 (IM Report), which covers the period 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021 (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 continued attention on key environmental risk areas and the implementation of management actions to avoid or reduce environmental risk.

The IM reported that MRM achieved a high level of compliance with the conditions outlined in the Variation of Authorisation 0059 (VOA) (which they found to be an indicator of high level of environmental performance) and the Waste Discharge Licence 174-11 (WDL). The IM acknowledged an improvement in MRM's VOA and WDL compliance scores compared to the previous 2020 IM Report.

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 664 conditions of which the IM identified no non-compliances. The 44 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. The IM noted that the management actions undertaken to remove potentially contaminated sediments from a tributary to McArthur River (Barney Creek channel) appears to have contributed to protecting downstream beneficial uses and environmental values.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information regarding the above on 08 8975 8287 or Adam.Hatfield@glencore.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Hatfield

Adam Hatfield
Acting General Manager
McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd