Kon Vatskalis
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

6 December 2011

MRM Independent Monitor Report Released

The fourth independent report on the environmental performance of the McArthur River Mine (MRM) was today released by the Minister for Resources Kon Vatskalis, and shows that the company continues to improve its environmental performance and monitoring.

The 2011 Independent Monitor’s Audit Report was prepared by Environmental Earth Services VIC, and covers the October 2009 to September 2010 operating period and on-site inspection in May 2011.

The Independent Monitor’s report was provided to both the mine operator and the Department of Resources for response.

The report shows that while there is scope for improvement of environmental monitoring programs by MRM, the Independent Monitor is satisfied that monitoring of flora and fauna, surface water, fluvial sediment and structural monitoring of river diversions are undertaken properly.

The Independent Monitor presented his findings to a community meeting in Borroloola yesterday and has briefed key interested parties in Darwin this morning.

In its report the Independent Monitor states that: “MRM continues to show a genuine willingness to improve their environmental performance, and have made efforts to follow up on many of the recommendations made in the past Independent Monitor Audit reports.”

The appointment of an Independent Monitor was a stringent condition of the approval of the mine’s open-cut expansion project back in late 2006. The Independent Monitor is in addition to statutory reporting requirements imposed on the operator and monitoring undertaken by the Department of Resources.

The Independent Monitor’s review supports the Department of Resources’ assessment that mining and related operations at MRM are not impacting significantly on the surrounding environment.


Please Note: The Independent Monitor’s Report should be read together with the response by the Department of Resources and McArthur River Mining.

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