



Darwin, Australia
23 October 2014

Release of Independent Monitor Report – McArthur River Mining (MRM)

The Independent Environmental Monitor (IM) today released its Report for the period 2012 to 2013 for McArthur River Mine.

Chief Operating Officer of Glencore’s zinc assets in Australia, Greg Ashe, acknowledged the important role the Monitor plays in auditing MRM’s environmental performance. He said that MRM takes the IM Report seriously and believes it gives Territorians an independent and honest assessment of what’s occurring at MRM.

“The Report is balanced and looks at the effectiveness of our environmental management and recommends ongoing improvements. The Report also confirms what MRM’s monitoring and testing shows – that the environment is safe for the people working and living around MRM and in Borroloola community”, Ashe said.

This is largely a result of the many improvements MRM has made over the past five years, including:

- Rehabilitation of McArthur River diversion channel including the planting of almost 200,000 trees and maintaining the health of the waterways around our mine. We are now seeing increasing numbers of Barramundi and Freshwater Sawfish returning to McArthur River;
- Minimising dust emissions and installation of a siltation pond onsite which is reducing contaminants entering Barney Creek, with notable reductions in lead and zinc levels;
- Improving the stability of our tailings dam, capping Cell 1, raising Cell 2 and recycling water from Cell 2 back into our mill operations;
- Reducing the concentration of metals in sediments in the Bing Bong operational area through dust minimisation measures.

General Manager of Glencore’s McArthur River Mine, Sam Strohmayer, said that the operation was already in the process of implementing the recommendations made in the Report.

“MRM has addressed emissions coming from the waste rock pile as a result of the naturally occurring reaction of pyrite-rich rocks coming into contact with air and water”, said Strohmayer. “This is under control, emissions have almost completely stopped and air quality monitoring data shows no risk to the surrounding community in Borroloola.”

While the Report noted elevated lead levels in a small number of fish sampled, the affected fish were localised to a section of Barney Creek on the mine site where no fishing is permitted. Fish samples from Surprise Creek did not show elevated lead levels and continue to meet national food standards. Studies conducted on fish samples from both upstream and downstream in McArthur River revealed only two fish with elevated lead levels. Tests found that the lead in these fish was not mine derived.

The Report confirmed that there were no environmental offsite impacts from our operation. It also confirmed there is no measureable impact on marine ecology outside of Bing Bong operational area.

“MRM will continue to work with the community, government and the Independent Monitor to understand and address any concerns”, said Strohmayer. “We are committed to managing a safe, environmentally sustainable and profitable mining operation that continues to make a valuable contribution to the community and the Territory.”

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Notes for editors

About Glencore

Glencore is one of the world's largest global diversified natural resource companies and a major producer and marketer of more than 90 commodities. The Group's operations comprise over 150 mining and metallurgical sites, oil production assets and agricultural facilities.

With a strong footprint in both established and emerging regions for natural resources, Glencore's industrial and marketing activities are supported by a global network of more than 90 offices located in over 50 countries.

Glencore's customers are industrial consumers, such as those in the automotive, steel, power generation, oil and food processing industries. We also provide financing, logistics and other services to producers and consumers of commodities. Glencore employ around 200,000 people, including contractors.

For more information, visit www.glencore.com

About McArthur River Mine

McArthur River Mine is located in the Northern Territory approximately 970km south-east from Darwin and 60km south-west of its closest township, Borroloola. MRM mines one of the world's largest zinc and lead deposits.

Established as an underground operation in 1995, MRM converted to open pit mining in 2006. MRM produces zinc and lead in concentrates which are primarily exported through Bing Bong loading facility on the southern coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The current mine life extends to 2036.

The mine provides direct employment to nearly 700 people, including contractors. In 2013, we spent \$100 million on wages and salaries, \$200 million on goods and services and \$1.4 million on community investment projects.

For more information, visit www.mcarthurrivermine.com.au