



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Darwin, Australia  
2 December 2016

### **Independent Monitor Report – McArthur River Mine**

The Independent Environmental Monitor (IM) today released its report on McArthur River Mine's (MRM) environmental performance for the period October 2014 to September 2015.

The report noted substantial improvements in the way MRM has managed a variety of environmental challenges, while also making recommendations for further improvement, many of which have already been addressed.

The IM has made a number of positive observations, including:

- Improved operation of the tailings storage facility (TSF) in terms of water management and oversight including a range of new controls for the TSF.
- Upgraded water monitoring network which allows for real time analysis of water levels at MRM mine site.
- Improvements in the monitoring of metals in aquatic fauna program to include more sites from Surprise and Barney creeks and the installation of 'No entry' signage along Barney and Surprise Creeks on the mine site where fishing is not permitted.
- Studies commissioned by the NT Government found that outside of the mine lease, eating fish from McArthur River has a very low risk to human health and that the mine site's impact on downstream water quality is limited.
- Acknowledgement that the introduction of large woody debris to the McArthur River diversion channel, as part of rehabilitation efforts, has fostered the establishment of fish communities comparable to those in the natural channel.
- Improved understanding of the geochemistry of the waste rock types based on further testing and identification of additional source of rock to use as part of the waste rock cover design.

We acknowledge that the long term management of waste rock at MRM is an environmental risk which must be managed effectively and this is currently being addressed as part of our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The scope of the IM report ended 14 months ago and MRM has already implemented or is in the process of addressing many of the recommendations it sets out.

Sam Strohmayr, General Manager of MRM, said that Glencore takes the findings of the report very seriously and the company is committed to sound environmental stewardship.

"We're committed to meaningful engagement and consultation with the Borroloola community, the Northern Territory Government and our other key stakeholders. This includes us being open in talking about the considerable progress we've made, the work we need to continue doing and the areas we need to improve further," Mr Strohmayr said.

"This year, we've held three open community meetings in Borroloola and will hold another next week. We've encouraged everyone with an interest in our operations to attend and ask questions.

We believe these meetings have been helpful for the community and also for us, so we are intending to continue holding them several times a year.

“We are proud of the considerable benefits we bring to the Territory and intend to continue operating in a safe, environmentally responsible and sustainable way.”

## **Ends**

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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 about 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. We also provide financing, logistics and other services to producers and consumers of commodities. Glencore's companies employ around 160,000 people, including contractors.

Glencore is proud to be a member of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and the International Council on Mining and Metals. We are an active participant in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. For more information, visit [www.glencore.com.au](http://www.glencore.com.au)

#### **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 about 600 people, including contractors. In 2015, we spent \$92 million on operations, \$283 million on goods and services – much of which we sourced locally – and \$1.4 million on community investment projects.

For more information, visit [www.mccarthurrivermine.com.au](http://www.mccarthurrivermine.com.au)