MEDIA STATEMENT
Darwin, Australia
21 December 2017

Independent Monitor Report – McArthur River Mine


The report noted substantial improvements in the way MRM has managed the environment. Many of the recommendations for further improvement noted by the IM have already been addressed, given that the review period ended 14 months ago.

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

- Better understanding of waste rock and tailings material geochemical properties at the mine site and improved waste rock classification criteria.
- Improved understanding of groundwater across the site.
- Continued improvements in tailings management.
- Improved quality control in constructing the northern overburden emplacement facility.
- Increased metals monitoring in freshwater fauna and flora in Barney Creek, including freshwater macrophytes (aquatic plants).
- Continued falling levels of contaminants in biota sampled within the mine site, where the presence of lead has declined 600% since 2014.
- Planting of over 25,000 plants, including over 20,000 along the McArthur River diversion channel.
- Placing large wood debris into the downstream end of the McArthur River diversion channel.

We acknowledge that the long-term management of waste rock at MRM is an environmental risk which must be managed effectively and we are currently addressing this as part of the Draft EIS submitted in March 2017 and the Supplementary EIS, which is in preparation.

MRM General Manager Sam Strohmayr said Glencore takes the findings of the report very seriously and values the IM comments and recommendations.

“We’re committed to achieving best practice environmental stewardship. The IM process is an example of industry leading transparency and demonstrates the considerable progress we’ve made to achieving that goal.” Mr Strohmayr said.

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

About McArthur River Mine

McArthur River Mine (MRM) 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 1,000 people, including contractors. In 2016, we spent $61 million on wages, $238 million on goods and services – much of which we sourced locally – and $1.3 million on community investment projects.

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