



Ref: CORG-2-20-2096

Dr Simon Perrin
Bendigo and District Environment Council Inc.
PO Box 147
BENDIGO VIC 3552

Dear Dr Perrin

ARSENIC EXPOSURE IN WOODVALE

Thank you for your recent correspondence addressed to Earth Resources Regulation, Dr Wilkinson of the EPA and the Hon Jaclyn Symes, MP, Minister for Resources regarding the Woodvale Evaporation Ponds Complex, former licence MIN5364.

I reaffirm that the former licensee, Kralcopic Pty Ltd, is responsible for the rehabilitation of the Woodvale Ponds site, including the control of any potential offsite impacts, in accordance with its obligations under the State's mining law. Earth Resources Regulation holds a rehabilitation bond in the form of a bank guarantee that we can draw upon if the former licensee defaults ~~on its rehabilitation obligations.~~

I also reaffirm that Earth Resources Regulation has worked closely with other government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Authority, to ensure that site risks are identified and managed in accordance with the legislative requirements.

The work plan approved in September 2017 for the site included a requirement for the submission of a revised rehabilitation plan, informed by an Environmental Audit report prepared in line with section 53V of the *Environment Protection Act 1979*. Kralcopic Pty Ltd subsequently submitted the required rehabilitation plan, in line with the audit report, which was approved in July 2019.

Consultation in relation to the final rehabilitation plan, included several information and feedback sessions conducted by the company in January 2018. The community's feedback was used to inform the content of the closure plan for the site and was presented in the WEPC Closure Plan.

The final rehabilitation outcomes of the site must be completed in accordance with the approved rehabilitation plan.

I also reaffirm that the former licensee's obligation to convene an environmental review committee ceased with the licence in August 2019.

Earth Resources Regulation will continue to provide updates about the rehabilitation of the site to the local community.

Any further inquiries about the rehabilitation of the Woodvale ponds site can be directed to Paul Rutzou, Regional Manager North West, Earth Resources Regulation of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on (03) 5430 4692 or paul.rutzou@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Hurst
Executive Director
Earth Resources Regulation

Date: 28 May 2020

CC Cathy Wilkinson, Environmental Protection Authority