



Your ref: Reg ID37489
Our ref: RF4022-08, Report12/1263
Enquiries: Natalie Leach 9144 0200

Adam Buckeridge
Environmental Officer
Department of Mines and Petroleum
Mineral House
100 Plain St
East Perth WA 6004

Dear Mr Buckeridge

MINING PROPOSAL – AUTOHAUL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES FOR RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE ADJACENT TO THE TOM PRICE RAIL LINE WITHIN MILLSTREAM CHICHESTER NATIONAL PARK – L47/47, L47/228

Thank you for your referral of the above mentioned mining proposal. The Department of Water (DoW) has assessed the proposal and offers the following comments.

Harding Dam Public Drinking Water Source Area

Part of the construction activities fall within the Harding Dam Catchment Area. The Harding Dam was gazetted under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (CAWS)* in January 2001. This area has been assigned 'Priority 1 (P1)' under the Water Source Protection Classification System. A Drinking Water Source Protection Plan was prepared for the Harding Dam Catchment Area (West Pilbara – Water Supply Scheme) in 1999.

Catchment management is the first step in protecting water quality and ensuring safe drinking water supply. The Harding Dam Drinking Water Source Protection Plan should be consulted to ensure activities associated with the proposal, including infrastructure, lay down areas, refueling, and topsoil storage are consistent with the Department's Land Use Compatibility Tables. The Department of Water has produced a series of *Water Quality Protection Guidelines for the Mining and Mineral Industry*. DoW notes that these management practices have been incorporated into the AutoHaul™ Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This will avoid the risk of incidental impacts from the proposal.

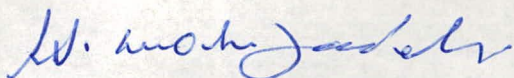
Summary

The Department has been involved in consultation with RTIO and Water Corporation with regards to communications protocols for working within the reserve, as well as the Harding Dam catchment emergency hydrocarbon spill response plan. All activities undertaken in relation to this mining proposal shall be undertaken in accordance with these final documents.

The DoW will continue to liaise with Rio Tinto and its contractors to ensure that works associated with the expansion proposal are managed to prevent impacts to the Harding Dam Water Reserve, including emergency and spill response management.

Should you have any further queries please contact the Department of Water, Pilbara Office on (08) 9144 2000.

Yours sincerely



Dr Hamid Mohsenzadeh
Regional Manager
Department of Water
Pilbara Region

15 November 2012