

## ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTION

Issued under Section 70E(1) of *the Mining Act 1971*

**TO:** Buckland Dry Creek Pty Ltd (**BDC**)

**C/-** Director, Petar Jurkovic

**OF:** PO Box 234 Port Adelaide SA 5015

**RE:** Mineral Lease (ML) 234, 235, 237, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 389, 390, 391, 392, 404, 405, 406, 416, 417, 418, 421, 429, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 587, 600, 605, 606, 607, 608, 617, 618, 702, 5205, 5206, 5207, 5208, 5209, 5210, 5908, 6514, Private Mine 199 and 248, known as the "**Dry Creek Salt Fields**".

**RE:** Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (**PEPR2017/001**)

Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (**MPEPR2020/039**)

### **PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTION:**

This Environmental Direction is issued pursuant to Section 70E(1) of the *Mining Act 1971* ("**the Act**") for the purpose of directing you to take action to prevent or minimise damage to the environment because mining operations are being conducted in a way that results in, or that is reasonably likely to result in:

(a) undue damage to the environment; or

(b) a breach of the environmental outcomes under a program under Part 10A of the Act.

### **REQUIREMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTION:**

You, BDC, are directed to immediately, and until further notice:

1. As far as reasonably practical, remove all Brine from all ponds within Section 2 of the Dry Creek Salt Fields, and
2. Prevent Brine from Section 3 of the Salt Fields from entering Section 2 of the Salt Fields.

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 18 September 2020, Authorised Officers from the Department for Energy and Mining, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) have conducted an investigation into the reported dieback of mangroves and other native vegetation directly adjacent to Section 2 of the Dry Creek

Salt Fields. The following conclusions have been made as a result of these on-going investigations:

1. There is substantial dieback of mangroves and other vegetation at the start of the St Kilda boardwalk on both sides and along the old seawall approximately 300 metres to the south;
2. There is seepage (off tenement) of Brine from the Salt Fields pond PA6 from the outward west-facing PA6 bund wall in various locations;
3. There is seepage of Brine (off tenement) from pond PA11 and the transfer pond immediately adjacent to pond PA11, and
4. There is dieback of riparian and other vegetation in the Little Para River estuary extending west from where the Northern Connector crosses the Little Para River to approximately 260 meters downstream.

**GROUND ON WHICH THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTION IS ISSUED:**

1. The mining operations described above constitutes a failure to comply with PEPR2017/001 and MPEPR 2020/039, specifically to prevent harm to the surrounding environment including but not limited to, coastal natural communities, fauna (including aquatic fauna), habitats, tidally influenced native vegetation and sensitive adjoining sites such as the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.
2. Mining operations have been conducted by you in a way that has resulted in, or that is reasonably likely to result in, undue damage to the environment, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Dieback of native vegetation, and
  - (b) Impacts upon fauna (including aquatic fauna) and habitats.

This Environmental Direction will be provided to the EPA and DEW for further investigation.

Please note that under Section 70G of the Act, you may apply to the Environment Resources and Development Court for a review of this Environmental Direction within 28 days of receipt of it, or such longer period as the Minister for Energy and Mining may allow in a particular case.

Failure to comply with this Environmental Direction may result in the Department for Energy and Mining bringing prosecution proceedings against you under the Act in relation to these matters. A maximum penalty of \$250,000 is prescribed.

In addition, the Minister may take any action required above and may recover reasonable costs and expenses from you.

Ref: 2020D042661

Should you require any further information regarding this Environmental Direction, please contact Mark Stewart, Acting Manager Mining Compliance and Regulation on 08 8429 2450 or email [mark.stewart2@sa.gov.au](mailto:mark.stewart2@sa.gov.au).

Dated: 24 December 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PDI', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul De Ianno

ACTING DIRECTOR MINING REGULATION  
DELEGATE OF THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND MINING

Enclosed:

*Attachment 1: Maps and Plans of the Dry Creek Salt Fields*

