



Our Ref: MA008478

Dr Simon Perrin  
Bendigo District Environment Council Inc



Dear Dr Perrin

**Woodvale Evaporation Ponds**

Thank you for your email of 8 March 2020 about the Woodvale Evaporation Ponds. I also refer to your letter of 11 March 2020 to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP.

As stated in my last letter to you, Dr Scott Pigdon, Regional Manager – North West Region, is my delegate for this matter. I encourage you to contact Dr Pigdon with any further enquiries. I reiterate that where your correspondence does not raise new concerns, EPA will not provide a response.

I note you have also written to Earth Resources Regulation, which is the primary regulator for the site, and it is undertaking appropriate action regarding the mining company and Woodvale Ponds.

If you are dissatisfied with EPA's actions in relation to this matter, you may contact the Victorian Ombudsman on 1800 806 314 or via its website: [www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au/Complaints](http://www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au/Complaints).

Yours sincerely



DR CATHY WILKINSON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY VICTORIA

10 /06 /2020

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## Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

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Ref: CORG-2-20-2096

Dr Simon Perrin  
Bendigo and District Environment Council Inc.



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 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Anthony Hurst**  
Executive Director  
Earth Resources Regulation

Date: 28 May 2020

CC Cathy Wilkinson, Environmental Protection Authority

Our Ref: MA007701

Mr Simon Perrin  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Perrin

### **Management of Woodvale Evaporation Ponds Complex**

Thank you for your emails dated 6 April 2018 and 10 April 2018 regarding your ongoing interest in the management of the Woodvale Evaporation Ponds Complex.

As you know, an Environmental Audit under the Environment Protection Act 1970 is currently being undertaken. The audit will independently assess the site and will provide recommendations for ongoing and future management. Following completion of the audit, Victoria's Chief Environmental Scientist will review the results and determine what, if any further advice is required to be provided to GBM Gold to ensure the site continues to pose a low risk to public health.

As outlined in our letter to you on 4 April 2018, the Chief Environmental Scientist has made recommendations to GBM Gold to enhance the monitoring program for the ponds and further reduce any potential mobilisation of sediments, and hence prevent exposure to arsenic and heavy metals. At this point and until the audit is completed, EPA is comfortable the site poses a low risk to public health.

EPA has also provided you numerous responses in relation to this matter over an extended period. This current correspondence doesn't raise anything with which EPA has not previously addressed with you.

Given this, EPA has nothing further to add until the Environmental Audit has been completed and recommendations established. Should you be dissatisfied with this response you may wish to submit a complaint to the Victorian Ombudsman on 1800 806 314 or via its website <https://www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au/Complaints/Make-a-Complaint>

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

DAMIAN WELLS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REGIONAL SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY VICTORIA

30/4 /2018



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