

Water quality

There are a number of watercourses running through and adjacent to our site that feed into the McArthur River. To ensure these watercourses do not contain contaminants, the Northern Territory's independent Environment Protection Authority has approved a Waste Discharge Licence for the site, as it does with many mining activities.

Under that licence, a compliance point has been established in the McArthur River downstream from the mine site and "trigger values" have been set for a range of minerals. Water is sampled on a regular basis as required under the licence and any exceedance of these values must be reported to the NTEPA within 24 hours.

The first big rains of the wet season generally flush a higher level of minerals into the natural watercourses upstream from the mine and it is not unusual to see elevated levels of naturally occurring minerals, particularly aluminium and iron, at this time. These are naturally occurring metals that are not mined at MRM. In fact, we often see the levels of these metals higher in water upstream from the mine than they are downstream, after the water had passed through the mine site.

Testing results

MRM now publishes the results of its water quality monitoring at the compliance point on a quarterly basis. This allows the community to see exactly how the McArthur River is faring against our Waste Discharge Licence.



The diagram below shows the results for the second quarter of 2015. The top figures are the allowable concentrations under our Waste Discharge Licence, set by the Environment Protection Authority. The bottom figures are the average concentrations over the second quarter of 2015 at our compliance point on the McArthur River downstream from the mine.

Aluminium and iron are naturally occurring metals in the regional environment but are not mined at MRM. Readings at the Glyde River and McArthur River upstream of the mine are generally consistent with, or greater than, concentrations recorded at our compliance point downstream.

For more information:

Rebecca Gentle
Senior Community Relations Adviser
McArthur River Mine
Phone: 08 8975 8216

Water quality data – April to June 2015

