

SECTION 14 INCIDENT REPORT (*Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*)

Date and Time of Notification:	16 March 2020 17:00 Initial notification (email) – 6 March 2020 at 19:40.
Person / Company:	McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd (MRM)
Incident:	Spillage of bulk zinc-lead concentrate on the Carpentaria Highway roadside. The source of the spill is likely to have been from a road train travelling from the McArthur River Mine (the Mine) to the Bing Bong Loading Facility (BBLF).
(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	Approximately 15 kg of bulk zinc-lead concentrate was identified on the western roadside of the Carpentaria Highway over a small localised area (approximately 1 square metre).
(b) the place where the incident occurred	The spill occurred on the Carpentaria Highway roadside between the Mine and the BBLF (Figure 1). The Global Positioning System (GPS) point for the spill location is: MGA Zone 53 (GDA94) Easting 631,542; Northing 8,218,585.  <i>Figure 1 – Spill Location</i>

(c) the date and time of the incident	The exact date and time that the incident occurred is currently unknown. The spill was reported to staff by an MRM employee on 4 March 2020; however the photo of the spill site provided was captured on 18 February 2020. MRM will complete a formal investigation to identify the likely cause and timing of the incident.
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	At 17:30 on 4 March 2020, MRM received communication from a local employee that a potential zinc-lead concentrate spill had occurred. The employee had identified and photographed the incident on 18 February 2020. On 5 March 2020, MRM Environment staff carried out an inspection of the spill area to determine the environmental risk and potential for pollution. A small mound of material with the appearance of concentrate was observed on the western side of the highway. No evidence of concentrate was observed on the bitumen. It was noted prior to the inspection that a total of 300 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in the Borroloola region by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) from 18 February 2020 (when the spill was photographed) to 4 March 2020 (when the spill was reported). Based on the photograph and initial inspection, it is estimated that a total of 15kg of concentrate could have been released initially. Due to the potential for the lead-zinc concentrate to have washed into the surrounding environment, the area surrounding the stockpile was also inspected; however no signs of lead-zinc concentrate were identified. No potential sensitive receptors or flow pathways to other areas were identified at the time of the inspection (Figure 2).  <i>Figure 2 – Concentrate spill site prior to clean-up.</i>

	The potential for environmental impact is considered to be low due to the small volume of zinc-lead concentrate that was identified and the remedial response. An investigation to examine environmental sample results and determine the direct cause and timing of the concentrate spill is in progress.
(e) the attempts made to prevent, reduce, control, rectify or clean up the pollution or resultant environmental harm caused or threatening to be caused by the incident	At 6:00 on 6 March 2020, an excavator was deployed to clean-up contaminated material from the roadside. The remediation involved scraping and removal of all impacted material which was then transported back to the mine for permanent disposal. The remediated area was back-filled with clean material to restore the road to its original surface (Figure 3).  <i>Figure 3 – Concentrate spill site post clean-up activities.</i> Following completion of the remedial works on 6 February 2020, MRM Environment staff reinspected the remediated area and visually confirmed that the extent of the concentrate spill had been removed.

	Validation Assessment MRM have undertaken validation sampling of the potentially impacted area in accordance with Schedule B2 of the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 (NEPM, 1999). The following soil samples were collected (Figure 4): ○ Three impact sites (SS-1, SS-2 and SS-3); ○ Three control sites (C-1, C-2 and C-3). All samples will be analysed for relevant contaminants of potential concern (i.e. zinc and lead) at a NATA accredited laboratory and results will be compared against relevant NEPM (1999) guidelines to confirm whether remediation works have been successful. Impact site samples will also be compared with control samples.  <i>Figure 4 – Validation sample locations.</i>
	A formal report will be provided to the NT EPA within three to four weeks.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	Cassie Bell Superintendent - Environment