

Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund Project Assessment Panel
GPO Box 320
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Ref. A2107827

19 August 2014

The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy
GPO Box 2264
ADELAIDE SA 5001

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Dear Minister Koutsantonis

I am writing in response to your letter regarding the functions of the Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund Project Assessment Panel.

The Panel was constituted in 2004 and has the following responsibilities:

- Assess all applications for the granting of funds from the Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund (EARF) for the rehabilitation of extractive mineral sites, where the project is valued over \$55,000. All applications are assessed in terms of the effectiveness of the project in achieving the objectives defined under section 63 of the *Mining Act 1971* and the EARF Guidelines for Operation, and to make recommendations to the relevant agency delegate.
- Periodically review the operation of the EARF Guidelines for Operation and update the Guidelines as necessary.
- Periodically review the EARF contribution rates.
- Report annually to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy.

The Panel is funded by monies held in the EARF as part of the regulatory support contribution defined under section 63(4) of the *Mining Act 1971*. Expenditure on Project Assessment Panel administration costs for the financial years ending 2012 and 2013 were \$2035.00 and \$1978.12 respectively.

In light of the above I strongly support the retention of the EARF Project Assessment Panel as a cost effective, independent body for the governance of the EARF.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Miller
CHAIR
EARF PROJECT ASSESSMENT PANEL