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INFORMATION**

MINISTER'S OFFICE	
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July 2014

The Honourable Tom Koutsantonis
Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy
Level 8
State Administration Centre
200 Victoria Square
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

Future of the Brukunga Mine Site Remediation Board

The Brukunga Mine Site Remediation Board (BMSRB) is established under your portfolio of Mineral Resources and Energy. The Board has been in place since 1999 and has been strongly supported by successive Ministers and your Department with the important responsibility of bringing together the local and regional community to work with your Department and independent experts to develop and implement new management solutions to the very serious acid and metalliferous drainage and surface water contamination problem at the former Brukunga mine site.

I am writing to you following receipt of an email forwarded to me by the Premier of South Australia advising me as Chair of this Board that it is the Government's intention to abolish all Boards and Committees including the BMSRB, unless it can be demonstrated that this Board fulfils an essential purpose that cannot be fulfilled in an alternative way.

The Board met with members of your Department on Wednesday 9 July 2014 as part of the regular schedule of meetings, designed to oversee progress on remediation and management of major environmental issues at Brukunga. At that meeting, the Board fully discussed the advice from the Premier and has unanimously requested that I write to you to outline the importance of retaining this Board and the functions and responsibilities it fulfils.

As Chair, I am pleased to advise that this Board has an admirable record of timely and practical advice to the Minister of the day and has demonstrated over the years a genuine commitment to work closely with your Department to deliver progressive improvements to water quality in Dawesley Creek and to the strategic planning and implementation of long term remediation at the mine site.

The role and objectives of the BMSRB are to:

- Ensure suitable improvements in water quality in the Dawesley Creek watercourse, through management and control of pollution released by mineral alteration on the former Brukunga mine site;
- Make appropriate recommendations to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy about remediation goals and strategies for the former Brukunga Mine site, that strive to achieve both the government and stakeholder needs; and
- Facilitate consultation and the dissemination of information to stakeholders.

The Board was established originally in 1999 by the then Deputy Premier and Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, to replace the previous technically based Brukunga Taskforce.

In 2008, the then Minister for Mineral Resources and Development, the Hon. Paul Holloway, approved a revised set of Terms of Reference for the BMSRB. I have attached a copy of the current Terms of Reference for your information

As the responsible Minister, you appoint the membership of the Board consisting of representatives from the Dawesley Creek Catchment Landcare Group, the District Council of Mount Barker, the community and the Department of State Development. The Terms of Reference specify that the Board is to consist of:

- An independent Chair
- The Executive Director of Mineral Resources, DSD
- A representative of the District Council of Mount Barker
- A representative of the Dawesley Creek community
- A community representative living in the local hills area
- A community representative living downstream of the mine site

Members are remunerated in accordance with the remuneration framework of Boards and Committees, which exist for the purpose of consultation of advice and liaison of the local community.

I advise that you appointed the current membership of the BMSRB most recently in July 2013.

The Board would expect that your Department would also endorse the position of the Board on the importance of retaining the Board and its functions and responsibilities. An important consideration is the confidence and trust that the Board has worked hard to achieve with the local community through regular community meetings and forums. These forums together with regular Board sponsored newsletters to all local community members, local council and local media have substantially improved the

acceptance of the long term program of work at Brukunga and the future vision for final remediation.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in the coming weeks to further discuss the performance of the Board and the importance for the community of retaining this formal advisory body to oversee and guide the continuing program at Brukunga.

Yours sincerely



Hume Macdonald
CHAIRMAN
BRUKUNGA MINE SITE REMEDIATION BOARD

Attachment: Terms of Reference for the Brukunga Mine Site Remediation