

# Dargues Gold Mine – DoPIE concludes investigation into water sourcing activities

11 MARCH 2021 BY CHASE DINGLE

During June and July 2020, Dargues Gold Mine, owned and operated by Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (Big Island Mining) sourced a secondary water supply from treated recycled water from the Bungendore sewage treatment plant to support operations following significant delays to key construction activities.

The Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (the Department) has investigated Big Island Mining sourcing and using a secondary water source and has subsequently found that the activity did not comply with the conditions of consent of MP 10\_0054 (as modified) (the Consent). The Department has assessed the breach in accordance with its Compliance Policy and has determined to issue Big Island Mining with a \$15,000 Penalty Notice in this instance.

Dargues Mine's Interim General Manager Jamie Frankcombe said, "the event was regrettable, and the Company apologises for any distress this activity may have caused to members of our valued community. We will learn from this experience and continue to work hard in ensuring we have the highest level of environmental standards and community consultation.

On a positive note, once the matter was identified, I was pleased with the way the team at Dargues Mine responded to the investigation in a prompt and professional manner, working cooperatively with the Department during and after the investigative process, as well as keeping the community, through the Community Consultation Committee, informed on progress of the investigation."

The Department's investigation noted that Big Island Mining fully cooperated with the investigation and that nil or negligible environmental harm has resulted from the breach. The Department further noted that Big Island Mining has committed to a modification to the Consent to capture these activities, should the project need arise.

"Transparency is important to us and we will continue to engage with key stakeholders about the appropriate permitting requirements to support any future operational needs," Mr Frankcombe added.

For further information, please contact the Dargues Mine Community Information Line on 1800 732 002 or via email at [dgm.community@aureliametals.com.au](mailto:dgm.community@aureliametals.com.au).