

## ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTION

Issued under Section 70E(1) of *the Mining Act 1971*

**TO:** Buckland Dry Creek Pty Ltd (**BDC**)

**C/-** Director, Petar Jurkovic

**OF:** PO Box 234 Port Adelaide SA 5015

**RE:** Mineral Lease (ML) 234, 235, 237, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 389, 390, 391, 392, 404, 405, 406, 416, 417, 418, 421, 429, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 587, 600, 605, 606, 607, 608, 617, 618, 702, 5205, 5206, 5207, 5208, 5209, 5210, 5908, 6514, Private Mine 199 and 248, known as the "**Dry Creek Salt Fields**".

**RE:** Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (**PEPR**) 2017/001

### **PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTION:**

1. This Environmental Direction is issued pursuant to Section 70E(1) of the *Mining Act 1971* ("**the Act**") for the purpose of directing you to take action to prevent or minimise damage to the environment because mining operations are being conducted in a way that results in, or that is reasonably likely to result in:
  - (a) undue damage to the environment; or
  - (b) a breach of the environmental outcomes under a program under Part 10A of the Act.

### **REQUIREMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTION:**

You, BDC, are directed to:

1. Prevent Brine from the Salt Fields from entering the Little Para River, which includes immediately removing water from the transfer pond, adjacent to pond PA11, and
2. Prior to commissioning of any future Brine transfer infrastructure across the Little Para River, provide DEM with a plan of rectification works to prevent further leakage into the Little Para River.

### **BACKGROUND**

1. On 3 December 2020, Authorised Officers from the Environment Protection Authority (**EPA**), and then on 8 December 2020, Authorised Officers from the Department for Energy and Mining, conducted inspections of the Dry Creek Salt Fields and immediate surrounds in response to a public complaint. The following observations were made during these inspections:

- (a) Dieback of riparian and other vegetation in the Little Para River estuary extending west from where the Northern Connector crosses the Little Para River to approximately 260 meters downstream, and
- (b) Seepage of Brine from the transfer pond immediately adjacent to pond PA11.

**GROUNDS ON WHICH THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTION IS ISSUED:**

1. The mining operations described above constitute a failure to comply with PEPR2017/001, specifically to prevent harm to the surrounding environment including but not limited to, coastal natural communities, fauna (including aquatic fauna), habitats, tidally influenced native vegetation and sensitive adjoining sites such as the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary [PEPR 2017/001 p55].
2. Mining operations have been conducted by you in a way that has resulted in, or that is reasonably likely to result in, undue damage to the environment, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Dieback of native vegetation including but not limited to vegetation in the Little Para river, and
  - (b) Impacts upon fauna (including aquatic fauna) and habitats.

This Environmental Direction will be provided to the EPA and DEW for further investigation.

Please note that under Section 70G of the Act, you may apply to the Environment Resources and Development Court for a review of this Environmental Direction within 28 days of receipt of it, or such longer period as the Minister for Energy and Mining may allow in a particular case.

Failure to comply with this Environmental Direction may result in the Department for Energy and Mining bringing prosecution proceedings against you under the Act in relation to these matters. A maximum penalty of \$250,000 is prescribed.

In addition, the Minister may take any action required above and may recover reasonable costs and expenses from you.

Should you require any further information regarding this Environmental Direction, please contact Mark Stewart, A/Manager Mining Compliance and Regulation on 08 8429 2450 or email [mark.stewart2@sa.gov.au](mailto:mark.stewart2@sa.gov.au).

Dated: 10 December 2020



Paul De Ionno

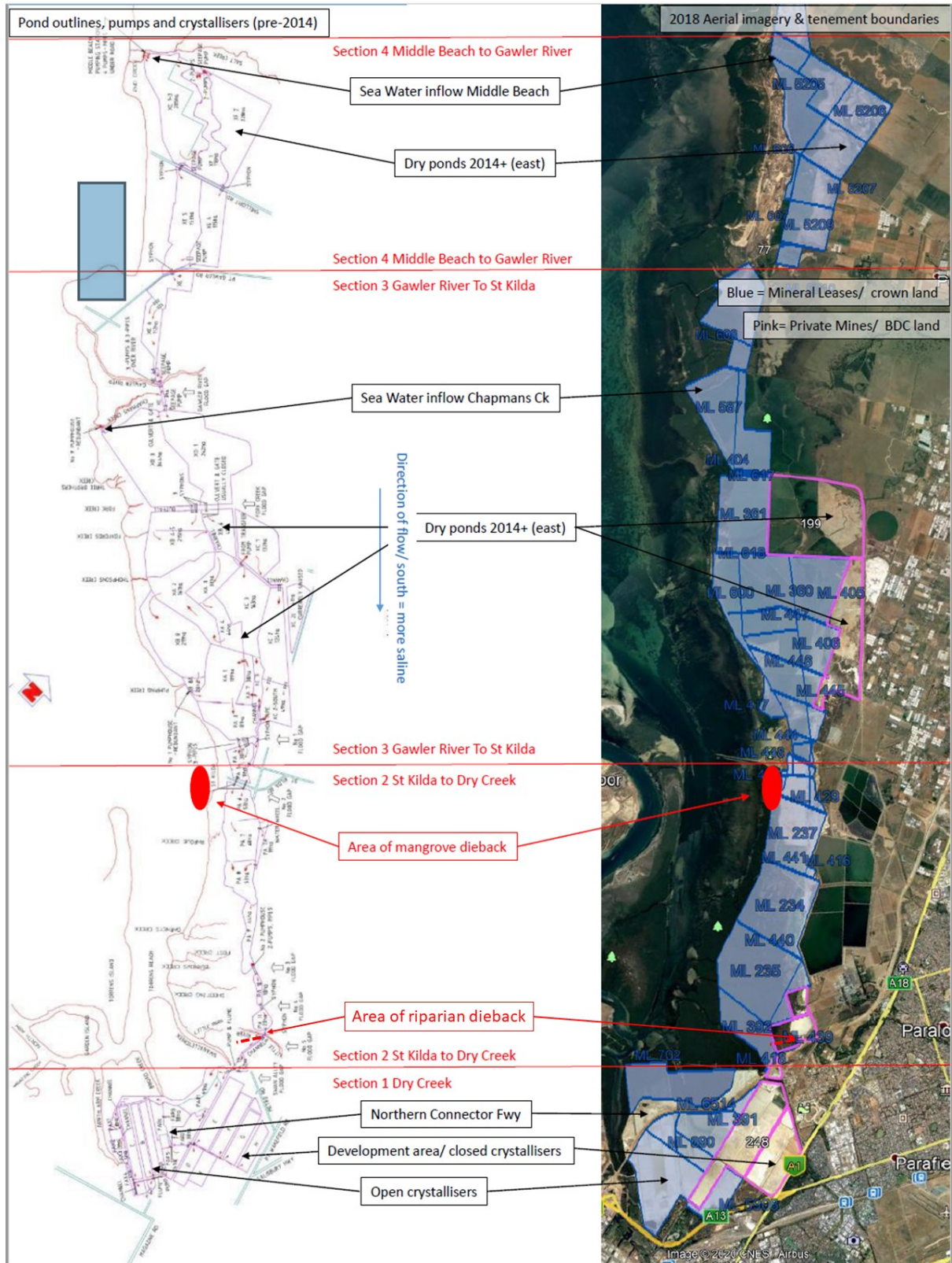
ACTING DIRECTOR MINING REGULATION  
DELEGATE OF THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND MINING

Enclosed:

*Attachment 1: Maps and Plans of the Dry Creek Salt Fields*

*Attachment 2: Photos 1-3*

# ATTACHMENT 1 – Map and Plan of the Dry Creek Salt Fields



## ATTACHMENT 2 – Photos

**Photo 1:** Little Para River area, looking North towards pond PA11, 3 December 2020.



**Photo 2:** Little Para River, facing West with impacted vegetation, 3 December 2020.



**Photo 3:** Seepage observed from the Transfer pond adjacent to pond PA11, 3 December 2020.

