

RIO TINTO

08-08-2001

Attention: Principal Registrar

Dear Sir or Madam:

Statutory Report

Final Report for EL 8068 "Foelsche River South" 12th July 2000 to 11th July 2001 Northern Territory, Australia

Please find herewith the Final Report No.24539 by Rob Curtis, titled as above.

A copy of the Report in Adobe Acrobat format is enclosed, along with the files in their native format (mainly Microsoft Word, Excel and MapInfo).

Expenditure is enclosed in Appendix 2 and a copy attached.

Rehabilitation

Environmental disturbance was minimised during the bulk sampling by strict adherence to the Ashton Mining field policy. The construction of new access tracks was carried out with the aid of a Samsung front-end-loader. This assisted in minimising the environmental impact by ensuring that vegetation was cleared blade-up to preserve grass, shrub, and topsoil cover and not create deep, permanent windrows. Detours were created to by-pass extensive areas of dense vegetation cover and large individual trees. All debris heaps were also flattened and dispersed and it is anticipated that rapid revegetation will be assisted by wet season conditions.

Following the excavation of the bulk sample the over-size gravel was re-distributed within the site in order to create a suitable trap for future sediment. The progress of natural revegetation is expected to be rapid due to the high volume of water carried by the streams during the wet season.

Yours truly,

Ian Hubbard

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