

Memo

To	Emma McGivern	Company	RTC
From	Kathryn Rozlapa & Jon Hall	Job No.	238G
Date	3 June 2026	Doc No.	005a
Subject	Environmental Review Document (ERD) Submission Peer Review		

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Department of Water and Environment (DWER) requested more information on Rio Tinto's Environmental Review Document (ERD) submission for the Winu Project.

1.2 Scope of Review

AQ2 were engaged by Rio Tinto to provide input to addressing the above. This included:

- An initial meeting with Rio Tinto and Worley to discuss the overall approach to the response to the DWER request.
- Review of Worley's draft document to address the request from DWER.
- A follow up workshop and provision of AQ2's technical review comments on Worley's draft document.
- Review of Worley's second draft document.
- Review of Worley's final document.

2. REVIEW

The final document prepared by Worley is comprehensive and suitable for the purpose of providing the requested additional information requested by the DWER. The document outlines:

- The hydrogeological conditions at and surrounding the Winu Project, including the baseline hydrological and hydrogeological conditions.
- The methods used to assess groundwater impacts of abstraction for dewatering and water supply, the Managed Aquifer Recharge strategy and mine closure. The approach included the use of numerical groundwater flow and transport models that utilised probabilistic uncertainty analysis (i.e. models with multiple history matches or calibrations were used to complete multiple predictions that could be ranked according to the range of modelled outcomes).
- The potential interactions between the Winu mine area and the Wallal aquifer and potential receptors (Mandora Marsh and 80-Mile Beach) located in the West Canning Basin.

- The potential impacts of the Winu development on local and regional groundwater resources and groundwater dependent ecosystems.

The impacts are discussed for both the operational period of the Winu Project and subsequent mine closure.

The document provides a sound hydrogeological case for (and a clear explanation of) the very low likelihood of impacts of the project outside of the immediate project area.

We trust this information is sufficient for your current requirements.

Regards,

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