



**22 April 2016**

**Media Statement**

## **Company fined for hypersaline discharge**

The State's environmental regulator has fined Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore Pty Ltd \$25,000, after the company discharged hypersaline water near Southern Cross.

The Department of Environment Regulation (DER) issued the Modified Penalty to the company, after approximately 288,000 litres of hypersaline water was discharged into the environment at its Koolanobbing mine on 5 January 2015.

The incident occurred as the mine's pipeline was originally constructed with ageing materials.

To minimise environmental impacts, Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore Pty Ltd recovered 130,000 litres of the hypersaline water and flushed the area with fresh water.

The company also notified DER promptly, cooperated during the investigation and reviewed processes with the aim of preventing a recurrence.

DER Director General Jason Banks said the steps the company took to address the situation were taken into account when issuing the fine.

"The amount of hypersaline water discharged into the environment was substantial and could have caused significant harm to the environment in the immediate vicinity," Mr Banks said.

"To ensure the environment is protected, we will continue to take action in cases like these."

The Modified Penalty was administered for causing material environmental harm under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

A Modified Penalty is issued when the required statutory conditions involving timely notification, site remediation and measures to prevent a recurrence have been met.

The company has paid the fine.



*Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore site: Dead vegetation as a result of the hypersaline discharge.*

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