



**22 April 2016**

**Media Statement**

## **Mining company fined for hypersaline discharges**

A Goldfields mining operator has been fined \$50,000 by the State Government's environmental regulator, following two hypersaline water spills at a mine in Widgiemooltha last year.

The Department of Environment Regulation (DER) issued the two \$25,000 Modified Penalties to Mincor Resources NL after investigating the two incidents, which occurred at the Miitel mine site on 24 March 2015 and 29 April 2015.

The first incident saw 30,000 litres of hypersaline water discharge into nearby native vegetation during pipeline pressure testing, while 20,000 litres of hypersaline water entered the environment in the second incident after a grader damaged the pipeline.

Mincor Resources NL notified DER promptly on both occasions; cooperated during the investigation; and reviewed processes with the aim of preventing recurrences.

DER Director General Jason Banks said that while the company had taken steps to prevent reoccurrences in the future, the impact on the environment was significant.

"These penalties are appropriate in cases like these, where vegetation has been damaged in a similar manner on two different occasions," Mr Banks said.

"Ultimately, these incidents could have been avoided and DER will continue to take action to ensure similar incidents are prevented."

The Modified Penalties were issued for causing material environmental harm under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

The company has paid the fines.

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



*Mincor Resources' site: Dead vegetation as a result of the hypersaline discharge.*

**Media contact: [media@der.wa.gov.au](mailto:media@der.wa.gov.au)**

**Tel: 08 6467 5151**