

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 595

asked on Thursday, 7 August 2014

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MR KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise when the last site inspection was taken out at Baal Gammon mine site to check compliance of the new owner Snow Peak Mining and what additional measures have been put in place to ensure that contaminated water does not flow into Jamie Creek since the previous mine owner was prosecuted?

### ANSWER:

Baal Gammon Copper Pty Ltd is the principal holder of the Environmental Authority for the Baal Gammon Mine located on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland. The mine is operated under a mineral rights agreement by Snow Peak Mining Pty Ltd.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection prosecuted both the owner, and separately, the former mine operator, for failing to meet their environmental obligations with significant penalties being imposed by the courts. Since this time, Snow Peak Mining has fulfilled the objectives of a management program designed to minimise the potential for environmental harm by reducing the volume of contaminated water stored on the site through a water treatment process.

The department continues to closely monitor the effectiveness of measures installed by Snow Peak Mining and last inspected the site on 11 June 2014. Should at any stage Snow Peak Mining, or the mine owner, fail to meet their environmental obligations, the department will take enforcement action consistent with its Enforcement Guidelines.

The department continues to liaise with the mine owner, the mine operators and the local community to address environmental concerns at the Baal Gammon Mine.