

KCGM MEDIA RESPONSE

8 February 2008

**Subject: Super Pit Expansion
Journalist: Blake Wilshaw/Paige Taylor
Media: The Australian**

Questions and Responses:

**Current employees: 590 KCGM Employees PLUS 450 permanent contractors
Local Spend last year : approx \$268M dollars on local businesses, plus Payroll
of approx \$65M Cash Community Contribution: Approx \$160,000 plus more on
contra support.**

1. What are the challenges for a company operating a mine so close to a town and has KCGM met them up to now?

There are many challenges working in close proximity to major regional city centre. KCGM works in a very strict regulatory environment, and we continue to strive to meet our ongoing obligations.

2. What is KCGM's response to some residents' fears that they or their health will be in danger from flyrock, dust vibrations and noise if the superpit is expanded closer to their homes?

This issue has been dealt with in an open and consultative manner as part of the comprehensive approvals process that we are still undergoing. All of these concerns have been addressed appropriately including expert review.

3. What is KCGM's response to some residents' claims that the company can not be trusted to regulate itself because it has repeatedly breached regulations as they relate to blast levels and noise levels?

We are a highly regulated company that works within a strict regulatory environment, it is for others to form an opinion of us. Our record shows that the Government does not hesitate to use its regulatory strength to control our industry and this operation. We always strive to be open and cooperative with government and the community.

4. Why has KCGM been operating above approved noise levels?

KCGM is operating in accordance with conditions set by the Minister for the Environment. KCGM has agreed to undergo a public consultation process whereby the government will convert the Ministerial Conditions into the framework of the WA Noise Regulations.

5. Why has KCGM asked for an increased in assigned noise levels?

(As in News & Views attached) Noise modeling indicates that mining of the Golden Pike Cutback both at the ground surface and 20 m below the ground surface would comply with the day time and evening Assigned Noise Levels in the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997. Some levels may be higher than the most stringent night time Assigned Noise Levels when mining at ground level. Compliance with the assigned night time noise levels be achieved once mining drops below 20m below ground level. However, ambient noise levels in Kalgoorlie-Boulder with no



mining activity is mostly above the night time assigned noise levels. KCGM currently has an application to the Minister under Regulation 17, to allow a variation from the assigned noise levels for the mining operations as a whole.

6. How does KCGM regard its relationship with the communities of Boulder and Williamstown?

Overall, KCGM has a positive relationship with the community as a whole, and our independent Social Impact Assessments, tell us that. However a few residents of Williamstown have a poor opinion of KCGM that is long-standing and well documented.

7. Why does KCGM appear to have such a strained relationship with the people of Ninga Mia and what is being done to address this?

KCGM believes it has a good neighbourly and working relationship with the Ninga Mia community. We have consistently supported them with rehabilitation work and have recently approved a request from Ninga Mia to fill in an abandoned dam.

8. What is KCGM's response to claims from some residents of Ninga Mia that they have been neglected by the company and are slowly being surrounded by waste?

The Ninga Mia community have not expressed those concerns to the company.

Response provided by:

GENERAL MANAGER: RUSSELL COLE