

20th March 2009

Mr. Kim Taylor
Director General
Department of Water
PO Box K822
Perth WA 6842

Dear Kim,

Pilbara Regional Water Plan

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) is the largest national body for the mining and minerals exploration sector in Australia.

AMEC's current membership base includes a significant number of companies that undertake mining and mineral exploration activities in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia, and therefore have a direct interest in the Pilbara Regional Water Plan (the Plan).

As strategic water planning is essential to ensure that sustainability is maintained, AMEC supports the general thrust of the Plan.

AMEC also specifically concurs with, and promotes best practice water use principles in all mining and minerals exploration activities.

In addition to security of water supply; low cost, efficient access to that water is a key strategic outcome that should be promoted by the Plan.

AMEC notes that the '*Water in Mining Guidelines*', are the subject of independent review.

AMEC would be pleased to be involved in any future consultative reference group forum/s, noting that the minerals exploration sector does not appear to have been previously consulted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Yours faithfully



Simon Bennison
Chief Executive