

McArthur River Mine Community Reference Group

Public Communique – Meeting held Tuesday 21 April 2026

Members of the Community Reference Group (CRG) met in the MRM Borroloola Community on 21 April 2026.

A key focus of the meeting was an update from the Northern Territory Department of Lands, Planning and Environment on the first Independent Expert Panel review of the Northern Overburden Emplacement Facility (NOEF). Members were advised that the review had been completed and found the NOEF design is consistent with the approved design, reflects current mining industry practice and is suited to site conditions. The review also found environmental performance and monitoring outcomes are generally consistent with expectations and that the overarching objective of protecting the McArthur River from mining-related impacts attributable to the NOEF continues to be achieved.

The meeting also welcomed representatives from the Gudanji Yanyuwa Garrwa Marra (GYGM) Aboriginal Corporation who attended as observers for the first time. Members acknowledged the important role of Traditional Owners and welcomed opportunities to strengthen information sharing between the CRG and the governance forums established under the Cooperation Agreement, Cultural Heritage Management Agreement and Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

Amanda Smith, Superintendent Communities and Social Performance provided an update on operational activities, workforce participation, community investment initiatives and cultural heritage programs. Members discussed ongoing community partnerships, Indigenous employment and training opportunities, and activities being undertaken to support local communities.

The CRG reviewed community feedback and complaints received since the previous meeting and discussed actions taken by MRM in response. Members noted the importance of maintaining open communication and transparent reporting on issues raised by the community.

Ben McTavish, Environment Superintendent provided an update on environmental performance, monitoring programs and recent environmental incidents. Discussion included ongoing rehabilitation activities, environmental monitoring results and regulatory reporting requirements.

The Department of Lands, Planning and Environment also provided an update on the Independent Monitor arrangements, compliance activities and approvals processes. Members heard that work is progressing on the establishment of future Independent Expert Panel reviews relating to the Tailings Storage Facility and Mine Closure.

The CRG discussed recommendations arising from the review of the group's Terms of Reference, including opportunities to strengthen membership representation, meeting effectiveness and communication with the wider community.

The next meeting of the Community Reference Group will be held in August 2026.

Further information on the Community Reference Group is available through the Northern Territory Government website.



Left to right: CRG member Peggy Mawson, MRM Superintendent Communities and Social Performance, Amanda Smith, CRG Chair Richard Galton, NT Government representative Andria Handley,