

Our Reference: CTS 12738/25

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10 July 2025

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2025 regarding Parliamentary Petition No.4225-25 concerning Ballymore Resources Pty Ltd's Dittmer Gold Mine Project.

Ballymore Resources is a registered suitable operator authorised under their current environmental authority to carry out mining activities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Environmental Protection Act) on authorised resource tenures.

I can advise that, while mining occurred historically at Dittmer, the existing mining leases for the Dittmer Gold Mine were granted in 2011 and that Ballymore Resources have been operating under a Standard environmental authority which is subject to the eligibility criteria and standard conditions for mining lease activities. The eligibility criteria and standard conditions limit the type and scale of mining activities that can be undertaken which includes prevention and mitigation of impacts to waters.

Following correspondence received from concerned community members, officers from the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) have undertaken site inspections and have since concluded these investigations.

DETSI is of the view that Ballymore Resources is operating in accordance with the regulatory requirements under the Environmental Protection Act and that there are no grounds to suspend current drilling activities associated with exploratory works.

The Petition also raises matters regarding the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 which are matters that fall within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Government, specifically, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Similarly, matters relating to the Water Act 2000 fall within the jurisdiction of the Queensland Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers.

I can confirm that on 10 June 2024, having considered the regulatory requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, which includes consideration of the precautionary principle, DETSI decided to approve an environmental authority amendment application lodged by Ballymore Resources to add a new Mining Lease to its standard environmental authority. In approving this application, DETSI imposed a range of additional conditions to address community concerns and mitigate impacts on the surrounding environment including surface and groundwater.

The decision to approve the environmental authority amendment application was referred to the Land Court and I am advised that this matter was heard by the Court on 6 to 8 May 2025 and 17 June 2025. At the conclusion of the hearing the Court reserved its judgment, which will be delivered on a date to be fixed. DETSI must await any recommendation of the Land Court on the matter and must have regard to the Court's recommendation when making its final decision on the draft environmental authority and whether to either approve, refuse or approve it on stated conditions that differ from the draft amended environmental authority.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Powell', followed by a period.

**Andrew Powell MP**

Minister for the Environment and Tourism  
Minister for Science and Innovation