

comprehensive. The necessity of ongoing monitoring has been recognised by the Consultative Committee of the MLRRDP, which have passed a resolution calling on the Secretary of DELM to guarantee monitoring will occur for at least the next 5 years.

Recommendation

The long-term water quality monitoring program in Macquarie Harbour should continue. Similar to the King River, remediating the lease site and diminishing/eliminating the discharge of acid drainage into the harbour is the best remediation strategy for the harbour.

8 Where to from here?

The first step towards remediation of the Mount Lyell lease site has already occurred. The utilisation of tailings by CMT for the neutralisation of acid drainage is a step in the right direction which must now be expanded upon by Government. The MLRRDP has identified what improvements in lease site emissions need to be made to promote downstream recovery. Remediation efforts must now focus on incorporating this scientific knowledge into an engineered reality.

The next step must be for the State Government and CMT to negotiate an agreement which will promote remediation, recognise CMT's right to mineral access, and permit the involvement of third parties if required. The agreement must provide a legal, logistical and financial framework within which the following works can cooperatively occur:

- detailed engineering investigation into water management on the lease site which identifies the works required to divert all clean flows, and a plan for a retention pond and associated infrastructure;
- trialing of existing and 'new' technologies, such as SX/EW and osmotic filtration, to better determine potential copper recovery and neutralisation efficiencies.

The recent commitment of approximately \$4 million by the Commonwealth Government towards Mount Lyell remediation will provide a basis for initiating these activities, though additional funding will be required to achieve an improvement in the downstream environment. Funding sources need to be identified at the Commonwealth, State and local level, and should not be limited to Government sources.

In addition to furthering the large scale neutralisation SX/EW option, the trials established by the MLRRDP for the remediation of smaller sources of acid drainage, and the revegetation of the river banks and delta, need to be monitored and assessed at regular intervals. As remediation of the site progresses, the downstream environment needs to be periodically assessed such that improvement is documented, and remediation plans are refined to optimise downstream results.