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9 June 2009

Inquiry into Water Resource Management and Planning Charges
Economic Regulation Authority
PO Box 8469
Perth Business Centre
PERTH WA 6849

By email: watercharges@era.wa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Water Resource Management & Planning Charges – Issues Paper

Bemax Resources is a mineral sands mining and processing company, operating in the South West of WA for over 50 years. Secure access to water supply is a key requirement for both mining and processing, as is information for management of the resource.

Bemax supports the principle of “user pays” for water resource management, however, this must be tempered with recognition of the substantial existing contribution of larger water users such as ourselves. For example, in preparation for assessment of a new mining area, Bemax would generally:

- Install and monitor a comprehensive network of monitoring bores, at a local and possibly regional scale to obtain baseline data.
- Conduct a hydrogeological review of the area, usually including some degree of modelling, to understand the water resources available and current uses.
- Review of the potential impacts of the proposal and development of comprehensive management plans.

Following approval the Company would then implement the management plans, including detailed monitoring of local and regional water resources, and analysis of the results. All of these activities are funded by Bemax, with the information gathered being

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INCORPORATING



CABLE SANDS

made available to the Department of Water as the regulator, and hence contributing to wider resource management.

With respect to administrative charges, if these are to be levied then there is an expectation that minimum service standards should be applied. For example, agreed timeframes for assessment of applications and management plans.

If you require any further information please contact Barbara Jennings (by phone on (08) 9721 0200 or email barbara.jennings@bemax.com.au).

Yours sincerely



GARRY FEE
Operations Manager