



D'Entrecasteaux Coalition

Warren Environment Group
PO Box 137, Pemberton, WA 6260
savelakejasper.org.au

33-35 Strickland St (PO BOX 142) Denmark WA 6333
Ph (08) 9848 1644 • Fax (08) 9848 1248
denviron@denviron.org.au ABN 78 197 582 304
www.denmarkenvironmentcentre.org.au

1st May 2019

Executive Director
Strategic Energy Resources Ltd

Dear Sir

Re: Strategic Sands' ML 70/1385 (suspended) mining lease application next to Lake Jasper in WA

In August 2018, Strategic Energy Resources (SER) wholly owned subsidiary, Strategic Sands, made an application for a mining lease (ML 70/1385) at Jangardup South in South West WA.

I would like to use this opportunity to express some grave concerns the D'Entrecasteaux Coalition has about this application for a mining lease, which is within a highly significant conservation area and was until 1996 part of the D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

The proposed mining lease is adjacent to Lake Jasper and in the Gingilup-Jasper Wetlands. Past mining leases in this area have been strongly opposed by the conservation movement since exploration occurred in the late 1980's.

The proposed mining lease area lies within the winter flooding zone of Lake Jasper, South West WA's largest natural freshwater lake, and is within the important Gingilup-Jasper wetland ecosystem. Lake Jasper and the Gingilup-Jasper Wetlands represent outstanding and important ecosystems and refuges for rare fauna and flora, and are recognised as such by their listing in the Register of the National Estate. Lake Jasper also represents an Aboriginal archaeological site of worldwide significance containing Australia's only underwater prehistoric site of human habitation.

We believe it is imperative that you recognise the ecological importance of the Gingilup-Jasper Wetlands adjacent to Lake Jasper in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park. This is a great opportunity for SER to

demonstrate leadership in your field by relinquishing all mineral sands mining interests in this highly contentious area. By taking this course of action you will be demonstrating to the people of Western Australia your commitment to the environment. It will enable the conservation movement to move forward in the knowledge that the management of SER will adopt a proactive position in the protection of the conservation estate.

I would like to further point out that high risk Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) have been discovered at the proposed mining lease site. BHP disregarded the risk of ASS disturbance at its former Beenup mineral sands mine near Augusta (40 kilometres west) and was forced to close, ahead of schedule, after two years. (BHP's planned mine life was fifty years). The legacy is a significant plume of sulphuric acid in the surrounding groundwater that it has to deal with. Former Cables Sands' mine at Jangardup also has a sulphuric acid plume in the surrounding groundwater.

This is a critical time for SER to display corporate leadership and recognise the unsuitability of mining within areas of high risk acid sulphate soils especially when it is within wetlands of high ecological importance. The Coalition looks forward to hearing that SER recognises that the Gingilup-Jasper Wetlands and Lake Jasper are special and unique places and will relinquish all mining lease applications over the area.

The D'Entrecasteaux Coalition is the peak group which has been organising the campaign to protect Lake Jasper and the Gingilup-Jasper Wetlands, since 1988.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Evans, Convenor
D'Entrecasteaux Coalition