Response from QMM

We are working on solutions to strengthening our environmental and water expertise and performance, and to ensuring transparent communications and information sharing.

On March 5th 2021, QMM published [comprehensive historical water quality data](https://www.riotinto.com/operations/madagascar/qit-madagascar-minerals) related to the ilmenite mine from 2015 to 2020. As highlighted in the report, we acknowledge that the water management system has not always performed as expected, resulting in some historical exceedances of aluminium and cadmium at the discharge points within the mining lease. However, the latest data and our own internal investigations do not demonstrate any perceptible impacts in the receiving environment, although we recognise that more monitoring data needs to be collected to be conclusive.

We are continuously developing our understanding of impacts and mitigations, and to this end, we have commissioned brownfield consultancy and water remediation experts, JBS&G Australia Pty Ltd (JBS&G), to conduct an independent study of radiation around the mine.

First (Nov-Dec 2019) and second rounds (Sept-Dec 2020) of investigation from the study indicate that concentrations and levels are safe to the community around the mine.

These rounds also included incidental water quality sampling program. As of now, the results for specific water quality parameters did not detect concentrations of selected heavy metals, namely uranium, lead, cadmium and aluminium above the World Health Organization (WHO - 2017) drinking water quality guidelines in any of the representative samples collected. Moreover, concentrations of heavy metals were not detected above the WHO (2017) drinking water quality guidelines in any of the samples collected from the river adjacent to mine surface water discharge points, or from those collected downstream of the discharge points.

In accordance with our commitment to transparency, the results from the intermediary rounds are being shared with the authorities, the communities, interested NGOs and Civil society organisations.

Results from the third round of the radiation study will be available by December 2021 and the complete results of the study will be released when JBS&G delivers the final report in 2022.