



Our demands of Rio Tinto are consistent with the company's commitments to transparency and accountability and why we continue to press for more openness and resolution on a number of social and environmental issues related to the QMM operation.

For years the company has assured communities, civil society and its investors that there is “no negative impact on the environment” from the QMM mine. That position remains at the core of QMM's ‘water management roadmap’ (QMM, March 2022). In reality, QMM appears to be struggling to find a sustainable solution to manage the contaminants detected in its mine process wastewater. It now appears that the 13m dollar treatment plant, explained to shareholders at Rio Tinto's 2022 AGM to offer a “[permanent solution](#)” to QMM's wastewater management, is no longer a viable long-term option <sup>1</sup>. After two years of our inquiries into this new treatment plant process, without receiving meaningful answers, QMM now acknowledges there is no in-country capacity to manage the *waste residue* – the exact contents of which remain unknown and amassing in ‘geotextile bags’ on the mine site.

Rio Tinto is failing to manage the deeper inquiry being sought into water quality at QMM. Promised reports are withheld<sup>2</sup>. On-site experimentation continues. Meanwhile, local communities remain exposed to potential health risks from contaminants on a daily basis.

We therefore contend that QMM is falling short of the company's global commitment to the UNGPs, and requires independent assessments, especially with regard to its water quality. [Investors](#) are also calling for these independent water assessments at QMM, and beyond. There is no logical explanation for refusing them, and we ask the company to welcome the opportunity to have its claims verified by credible, independent third parties and with the full participation of communities and CSOs.

CSOs, investors or others who wish to learn more about the statements we have made are welcome to be in direct contact with us via this email: [info@andrewleestrust.org](mailto:info@andrewleestrust.org)

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Dated 4th March 2024

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<sup>1</sup> Email from QMM to ALT UK and PWYP MG, dated 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

<sup>2</sup> For example, the WRG report on the 2022 fish deaths promised by QMM in 2022