

POLICE STOP DIY PUMPING AT ST KILDA



Yuandamarra from Red Centre Enterprises conducts a welcome to country and inset, Faith Coleman starts the pump. Picture: Emma Brasier

CLARE PEDDIE

POLICE were called to St Kilda on Thursday afternoon to stop activists, as citizens took it upon themselves to pump brine out of a leaky pond.

Faith Coleman of environmental consultancy firm EcoProTem said she led three hours of pumping, shifting about "18 tonnes of salt to where the

miner will be able to discharge it to the Bolivar Channel".

"We got well and truly more done than the government's got done in a year, so that's a bonus," she said.

"It was quite evident that it was the miner who asked for police to move me on. And it's really evident that he doesn't want the clean-up done for him and he doesn't want to clean up."

On Thursday morning Environment Minister David Speirs said a licence from the Environment Protection Authority was needed and worried the pumping could have "perverse environmental consequences ... potentially killing more mangroves".

But that afternoon the EPA said a licence was not needed.

"However, it is possible her actions

could interfere with a licensed activity," the spokesman said

Opposition environment spokeswoman Susan Close said: "The local community has lost faith in the government managing the mangroves and conflicting messages from the EPA, David Speirs and the Mining Department makes the whole mess worse".