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**Application: MP06\_0295-Mod-15 submission**

**Cadia East Gold/Copper Project Modification 15**

**Providing Comment - Ridgeway Underground Mine restart component**

The Modification 15 Information Sheet #3 indicates that the restart of the Ridgeway Underground Mine will not change the mining method, approved annual processing rate and mine life. Approximately 96 Mt of ore was originally approved for extraction of which approximately 15 Mt remains to be extracted.

Section 3.3 of the exhibited 00. Modification Report indicates that during mining the rock situated over horizontal tunnels gradually subsided, eventually leading to surface expression of a subsidence area above the mine workings. The document states that the overall area of subsidence is smaller than originally predicted and notes that the mine has not operated since September 2017.

The Modification proposes removing the remaining 15Mt of ore above the caved level (4,786m (RL)) at the rate of 2Mt per annum. To do so it recommends the following refurbishment works:

- installation of new and rehabilitation of existing ground support;
- replacement of existing electrical equipment where no longer serviceable;
- replacement of existing ventilation equipment where no longer serviceable;
- rehabilitation of draw points (i.e. where ore is extracted using a front end loader);
- rehabilitation of roads and drives;
- minor mine dewatering activities as per the Cadia Water Management Plan (CHPL, 2023a) (WMP)
- replace and repair conveyor systems including motor replacement;
- reinstallation of communication infrastructure including infrastructure to support tele-remote loaders;
- installation of emergency response infrastructure as per current legislative requirements; and
- other minor rehabilitation of existing infrastructure as identified in the project risk assessment.

It is noted that it is the intention to extend the existing decline to 4,570m RL to allow further exploration of the orebody and potentially further extraction in the future, subject to additional approvals.

Council is not opposed to works required to make the mine again operational, as outline above, in line with current approvals for extraction. We do however request that the consent authority be satisfied that the restarting of mine operations to remove the remaining 15Mt of ore will not lead to additional future subsidence of the mine.

Richard Pamplin

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14 December 2023