

Our Ref: 5766690

20 June 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Application Number MP10_0054-Mod-6 - Dargues Reef Gold Mine – Proposed Modification (#6) – Opportunity to Comment

The Deua River, which eventually becomes the Moruya River near Kiora, is the primary source of drinking water for the Eurobodalla region. The significance of this resource cannot be understated as it provides the region with a safe, secure supply of drinking water.

Water from the Deau River is pumped into Deep Creek Dam where it is stored until it is processed at a water treatment plant to ensure it meets drinking water standards. Once treated, it enters the Eurobodalla's reticulation system, supplying homes and businesses across the region.

Keeping the Deua River uncontaminated is critically important for several reasons, particularly as it is the primary source of drinking water for Eurobodalla region. Changes to water quality in the Deau River can lead to severe negative ramifications as seen below.

Public Health and Safety

- Contaminated water can carry pathogens, heavy metals and chemicals that pose serious health risks.
- Ensuring clean water helps prevent waterborne diseases and supports the well-being of thousands of residents within the Eurobodalla Shire.

Environmental Protection

- The Deua River supports a diverse ecosystem, including platypus, fish, macroinvertebrates, and riparian vegetation.
- Pollution can disrupt these habitats, leading to biodiversity loss and long-term ecological damage.

Sustainable Water Supply

- Clean sourced water reduces the cost and complexity of water treatment.
- Preventing contamination ensures a reliable and sustainable supply for future generations.

Cultural and Recreational Value

- The river is valued for recreation, tourism, and cultural heritage, especially by local communities and Traditional Owners.
- Maintaining water quality preserves these values and supports community identity and connection to place.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

- Dargues Gold Mine is legally required to monitor and protect water quality. Failing to do so can result in fines, legal action, and loss of community trust.

Noting the above, ESCs stance and expectation is that the responsibility lies entirely on Dargues Gold Mine to ensure that the Deua Rivers' water quality remains at the highest quality, without any change, or impact resulting from the proposed modification #6. Failing to do so can have severe implications for the Eurobodalla region, both environmentally and culturally, as well as keeping the population safe, secure and healthy.

Should you require further information, please contact Council's Water and Sewer Environmental Engineer, Joshua Aschmann on 0476 963 400 or email Joshua.aschmann@esc.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Josh Aschmann
Environmental Engineer, Water & Sewer