

Mr Howard Reed
Manager Mining
Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Caitlin Elliot (caitlin.elliott@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Reed

**Snapper Mineral Sands Project (06_0168 MOD 5)
Exhibition of Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your email dated 13 August 2014 requesting comments on the Environmental Assessment for Cristal Mining Australia Limited's modification to increase production at the Snapper Mineral Sands Mine.

NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services, Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) has reviewed the *Snapper Mine Production Increase Modification Environmental Assessment, August 2014*.

The proposed modification is a continuation of existing mining activities at the Snapper mineral sands mine. Grades have decreased at the Snapper mine resulting in a cessation of transport of high-grade ore to the heavy mineral concentrator at the Ginkgo mine.

The proposal is to increase production from 9.1 Mt of ore per year to 14 Mt per year of ore resulting in a production increase of heavy metal concentrate (HMC) from approximately 735,000 tpa to approximately 975,000 tpa.

Three mining options for the dredge mine path are considered in the proposal. Dry mining will continue to supplement the dredge mining as appropriate above the water table. The HMC unit may be moved to Snapper with ilmenite-rich material currently stockpiled at Ginkgo.

A slurry pipeline system will transport overburden.

The Modification has conceptually addressed the rehabilitation impacts of the proposed modification. DRE would require the following issues to be addressed:

1. The three mining options proposed do not specify a final location for the dredge pond and final depression post mining.

2. Any Impacts on rehabilitation and post mining land use should be described.
3. Disturbances and rehabilitation associated with the proposed overburden slurry pipeline are to be incorporated into the Mining Operations Plan (MOP).
4. Should approval be given for the proposed amendment, the proponent is to review the current Mine Closure Plan.

Overall, DRE has no objections to the proposed modification and requires no additional special conditions of approval.

DRE are happy to meet with the Proponent to discuss the proposed amendment and clarify requirements.

For any further information regarding these matters, please contact Steve Cozens, Senior Project Officer on (02) 8281 7335 or Tom Sizer, Inspector Environment, Western Region on (08) 8088 9323 or 040 9507 473

Yours sincerely



Bryan Whitlock
Acting Director, Industry Coordination