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By email: andrew.rod@planning .nsw.gov.au

Snapper Mine Northern Extension (MP06_0168-Mod-7): Adequacy of the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE)

Dear Mr Rode,

I refer to the email dated 27 November 2019 inviting the Resources Regulator to provide advice regarding the adequacy of the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) for Project Snapper Mine Northern Extension (The Project).

Development Details

The Snapper Mine is an open cut operation located approximately 85 kilometres north-east of Wentworth NSW. The Snapper Mine Northern Extension is a modification to Development Consent (Project Approval 06_0168) and proposes:

- Extension of the existing/approved mine path and associated supporting infrastructure into Mining Lease Application 1 without increasing the size of the approved surface development area;
- Development of temporary off-path overburden emplacements;
- Additional soil stockpile areas;
- Re-alignment of Nob Road around Mining Lease Application 1;
- Reduction in the number of final depressions from two to one;
- Increased size of the remaining final depression; and
- Relinquishment of approved surface development areas no longer required, resulting in a net reduction in surface development area.

Environment and Rehabilitation

Compliance Operations within the Resources Regulator has responsibility for providing strategic advice for environmental issues pertaining to the proposed project in so far as they relate to or affect rehabilitation.

The Resource Regulator provides the following advice:

1. The Snapper Mine – Mining Lease 1621 (Act 1992) currently operates under an approved Mining Operations Plan (MOP) titled “*Snapper Mineral Sands Mine, Mining Operation Plan (Amendment 1) 2015 – 2020*” approved on 5 July 2019 (DOC19/574904).
2. The Project involves works that will require a MOP amendment prior to construction activities commencing on the modifications.
3. The modifications impact on the existing approved surface footprint will be added to that already approved. A new Rehabilitation Cost Estimate (RCE) will be required to accompany the MOP amendment.

The Resources Regulator requests a review of the draft development consent conditions prior to finalisation and any granting of development consent.

It should be noted that this review does not represent the Resources Regulator’s endorsement of the proposed rehabilitation methodologies as presented in the SEE. Under the conditions of a mining authority granted under the *Mining Act 1992*, the Resources Regulator, requires an authority holder to adopt a risk-based approach to achieving the required rehabilitation outcomes. The applicability of the controls to achieve effective and sustainable rehabilitation is to be determined based on the site specific risk assessments conducted by an authority holder. This risk assessment should be used to not only establish a basis for managing risk when planning an activity, but it should also be used and updated (as required) to continuously evaluate risk and the effectiveness of controls used to prevent or minimise impacts. An authority holder may also be directed by the Resources Regulator to implement further measures, where it is considered that a risk assessment and associated controls are unlikely to result in effective rehabilitation outcomes.

Mine Safety

Mine Safety Operations within the Resource Regulator is responsible for ensuring mine operators manage the risk to worker health and safety through compliance with the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and the subordinate mining legislation. In particular the effective management of risk associated with the principal hazards as specified in the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014*.

Mine Safety Operations have not identified any risk that would require comment in relation to this matter.

For enquiries regarding this matter please contact me on 4063 6444 or nswresourcesregulator@service-now.com

Yours sincerely



Mark Buchan
A/Manager Environmental Operations
Resources Regulator
NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

5 December 2019