

R.W.Corkery & Co Pty Limited
62 Hill Street
Orange NSW 2800
Attn: Mitchell Bland

Dear Mitchell Bland

Tomingley Gold Project – proposed Modification 5

I refer to the email dated 16 October 2020 from Mitchell Bland inviting the NSW Resources Regulator to provide comment for the development of a Modification Report for a proposed development application (modification) at Tomingley Gold Mine.

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.

Development Details and Assessment

Tomingley Gold Mine is an underground metaliferous mine located at Tomingley NSW. The proposed development application includes the following:

- Construction and use of Stages 1 and 2 of Reject Storage Facility (RSF) 2, including an extension of the Mine Site boundary to incorporate RSF2.
- An extension of Mine Life from 31 December 2022 to 31 December 2025.

Compliance Operations within the NSW Resources Regulator has reviewed the application and recommends that the standard mining development rehabilitation SEARs (amended to be applicable to tailings facility construction) be applied to this development (see Advice Response below).

Consistent with advice provided during meeting between the NSW Resources Regulator, Corkery and Alkane in August 2020, we expect the proponent to provide an assessment of tailings management options available (including in-pit disposal) and a justification for the tailings management option selected.

ADVICE RESPONSE

Post-mining land use

(a) Identification and assessment of post-mining land use options;

(b) Identification and justification of the preferred post-mining land use outcome(s), including a discussion of how the final land use(s) are aligned with relevant local and regional strategic land use objectives;

Rehabilitation objectives and domains

(c) Inclusion of a set of project rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria that clearly define the outcomes required to achieve the post-mining land use for each domain. Completion criteria should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound. If necessary, objective criteria may be presented as ranges;

Rehabilitation Methodology

(d) Details regarding the rehabilitation methods for disturbed areas and expected time frames for each stage of the rehabilitation process;

Conceptual Final Landform Design

(e) Inclusion of a drawing at an appropriate scale identifying key attributes of the final landform, including final landform contours and the location of the proposed final land use(s);

Monitoring and Research

(f) Outlining the monitoring programs that will be implemented to assess how rehabilitation is trending towards the nominated land use objectives and completion criteria;

(g) Details of the process for triggering intervention and adaptive management measures to address potential adverse results as well as continuously improve rehabilitation practices;

(h) Outlining any proposed rehabilitation research programs and trials, including their objectives. This should include details of how the outcomes of research are considered as part of the ongoing review and improvement of rehabilitation practices;

Post-closure maintenance

(i) Description of how post-rehabilitation areas will be actively managed and maintained in accordance with the intended land use(s) in order to demonstrate progress towards meeting the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria in a timely manner;

Barriers or limitations to effective rehabilitation

(j) Identification and description of those aspects of the site or operations that may present barriers or limitations to effective rehabilitation, including:

(i) evaluation of the likely effectiveness of the proposed rehabilitation techniques against the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria;

(ii) an assessment and life of mine management strategy of the potential for geochemical constraints to rehabilitation (e.g. acid rock drainage, spontaneous combustion etc.), particularly associated with the management of overburden/interburden and reject material;

(iii) the processes that will be implemented throughout the mine life to identify and appropriately manage geochemical risks that may affect the ability to achieve sustainable rehabilitation outcomes;

(iv) a life of mine tailings management strategy, which details measures to be implemented to avoid the exposure of tailings material that may cause environmental risk, as well as promote geotechnical stability of the rehabilitated landform; and

(v) existing and surrounding landforms (showing contours and slopes) and how similar characteristics can be incorporated into the post-mining final landform design. This should include an evaluation of how key geomorphological characteristics evident in stable landforms

within the natural landscape can be adapted to the materials and other constraints associated with the site.

(k) Consideration of the controls likely to be required to either prevent or mitigate against rehabilitation risks as part of the closure plan for the site;

(l) Where an ecological land use is proposed, demonstrate how the revegetation strategy (e.g. seed mix, habitat features, corridor width etc.) has been developed in consideration of the target vegetation community(s);

(m) Where the intended land use is agriculture, demonstrate that the landscape, vegetation and soil will be returned to a condition capable of supporting this; and

(n) Consider any relevant government policies¹.

¹ The following government policies should be considered when addressing rehabilitation issues:

- Mine Rehabilitation (Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry, 2006)
- Mine Closure and Completion (Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry, 2006)
- Strategic Framework for Mine Closure (ANZMEC-MCA, 2000)

If you require additional information, please contact the Resources Regulator on 1300 814 609 or via email at nswresourcesregulator@service-now.com.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Rudens
Manager Environmental Projects
Resources Regulator

4 November 2020