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Ref: D2010/04587

Mr Howard Reed
Manager Mining Projects
Department of Planning
22-33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Reed

Attention: Mr. Mobayed

Dargues Reef Gold Project – MP 10_0054

The Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment and recommended conditions of approval in relation to the on the environmental assessment of proposed gold mining operations at Dargues Reef (MP 10_0054).

It is noted that while the gold mine site is largely located outside the southern boundary of the Shoalhaven River catchment which is part of the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment, there is some potential impact on this catchment. Consequently the SCA considers it is important the proposed Dargues Reef Gold Project is to be constructed and operated in a manner which does not adversely affect the quality of surface and ground waters in this catchment beyond the boundaries of the site.

The SCA has completed its review of the Environmental Assessment report and is satisfied that the report provides adequate information with regard to the potential contamination and water management issues for the construction and operation stages of the development.

Given the information contained in the EA report, the SCA considers the proposal is likely to achieve a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality providing the following conditions are included in the approval:

1. Any road construction within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment is to include an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan in accordance with *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volumes 2C Unsealed Roads* (DECC, 2008);
2. The SCA is to be included in the consultation regarding the review of the analysis and verification of groundwater modelling;
3. The SCA is to receive a copy of the Annual Environmental Management Report containing results and analysis of groundwater monitoring.

If you wish to discuss any matter raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Caddey on 4824 3401 or james.caddey@sca.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

 3/11/10

GREG SHEEHY
Senior Manager Sustainability