

8 September 2015

Mr Mike Young  
Acting Director  
Resources and Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Via Email

Dear Mike

**RE: Withdrawal of Components from Project Application MP10\_0054 MOD3**

Further to our meeting of Wednesday, 2 September 2015, and your letter of Thursday, 3 September 2015, Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (the Proponent) provides the following notification regarding the withdrawal and update of components of application 10\_0054 MOD3 (the Application).

**1. Final Processing of Gold Concentrate**

Section 2.5 of the *Environmental Assessment – Modification 3* outlines the Proponent's proposal to undertake final gold processing at the Project Site. Following the public exhibition period and review of submissions received, the Proponent acknowledges the level of public opinion and angst arising from the proposal to introduce the use of cyanide to process gold at the Project Site.

With this in mind, and by purpose of this letter, the Proponent formally advises that it is withdrawing from the Application, the relevant elements that relate to the proposal to undertake final gold processing using cyanide within the Project Site.

**2. Tailings Management**

Section 2.6 of the *Environmental Assessment – Modification 3* outlines proposed changes to the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) as a result of the proposal to undertake final processing of gold concentrate at the Project Site and the increased resource to be recovered.

By purpose of this letter, we advise that Section 2.6 will be amended to reflect the withdrawal from the Application of the proposal to undertake final processing of gold concentrate at the Project Site.

**3. Extension of Mine Life**

Section 2.2 of the *Environmental Assessment – Modification 3* proposes an extension to the period in which mining and processing operations can be carried out from 31 August 2018 to 31 August 2022.





**UNITY**  
Mining Limited

It is the Proponent's intention to propose an alternative structure to the current "hard" end date for operations as a result of the delays in assessing the Application.

The Proponent will commence preparation of the *Response to Submissions for the Dargues Gold Mine Modification 3*, which will address those issues raised in the submissions that still remain after the changes referred to above are made, and would like the opportunity to discuss with the DPE the best way to address these changes moving forward.

Whilst the removal of these components will reduce the need to address the substantive volume of submissions that refer specifically to the proposed cyanide use, some additional work will be necessary to revise the *Environmental Assessment – Modification 3*, and as a consequence, a date for provision of these documents cannot be provided at this stage. It is the Proponent's intention that this work be completed and submitted as soon as practicable.

I trust that this assists the DPE to understand the Proponent's position in relation to this advice and look forward to working towards a timely determination of this application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss the above.

Yours faithfully

Andrew McIlwain  
Director  
Big Island Mining Pty Ltd