

28 February 2020

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director Resources Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

By Email – stephen.odonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Stephen,

Re: Dargues Gold Mine – Biodiversity Offset Strategy

I refer to your letter dated 25 February 2019 regarding an extension to the timeframe to secure biodiversity offsets for the Dargues Gold Mine.

We are writing to request your urgent attention to grant a further extension to the timeframe to secure the biodiversity offsets in accordance with State Significant Development 10_0054. Big Island Mining Pty Limited has been in consultation with your department, the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Ecological Australia and several landowners within the Majors Creek area regarding securing these offsets. While at times we have seen significant progress, we are still in search of a suitable off-site biodiversity strategy for impacts on the Tableland Basalt Forest in the vicinity of the Project site. Substantial resources have been invested into this search and we remain committed to fulfilling our obligations.

The Proponent has investigated several properties in the vicinity of the Project over the past 12 months, in consultation with Ecological Australia. A copy of the property inspection report for the most recently investigated potential offset area is attached for your reference (ref: 14596). As you will be aware, the region surrounding Majors Creek has been significantly impacted by bushfires. The immediate threat had caused the Proponent to cancel and reschedule several inspections and several potential offset areas were directly impacted by fires. While these activities have recommenced, additional time is required to conduct the necessary investigations and stakeholder consultation.

For the reasons stated above, the Proponent is seeking a 12-month extension to the timeframe to secure biodiversity offsets for the Dargues Gold Mine. The Proponent remains committed to fulfilling its obligations.

Not granting an extension will result in significant reputational impacts to the Proponent and material delays to implementation of the other components of the Biodiversity Offset Management Plan and it is for this reason we request your urgent attention.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0467 963 379 should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,



Chase Dingle
Sustainability Manager
Diversified Minerals Pty Ltd

CC:

- Shannon Green – Shannon.Green@divminerals.com.au
- Steve O'Donoghue – Stephen.ODonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au
- James Dornan – James.Dornan@divminerals.com.au

Attachment 1- Preliminary inspection of proposed environmental offset at Majors Creek (Lot 192 on DP755934)