



Mr Chase Dingle
Sustainability Manager
Aurelia Metals Ltd
920 Majors Creek Road
MAJORS CREEK NSW 2622

12/03/2021

Dear Mr Dingle

**Dargues Gold Project (MP 10_0054)
Post Approval (PA-22) - Biodiversity Offset Strategy**

I refer to your letter dated 25 February 2021, requesting for an 18-month extension to the timeframe to secure off-site biodiversity offsets for the Dargues Gold Project.

The Department has carefully reviewed the request, including the supporting letter from Mr Alex Cockerill – Ecology National Team Executive WSP (dated 3 February 2021), and noted that Aurelia Metals Ltd has identified three options to satisfy its biodiversity offsets obligations, as described in commitment 5.9a of the project approval's Statement of Commitments.

The Department can facilitate a meeting with its Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) to clarify issues related to the requirements for identifying and implementing the off-site biodiversity offsets. The Department does not object to extending the timeframe for securing off-site biodiversity offsets until the end of August 2022, subject to continuation of receiving quarterly progress reports.

As previously required, Aurelia Metals Ltd must provide details on its consultation and outcomes in its quarterly progress reports to the Department. This information must also be provided in the updated Biodiversity Management Plan and forwarded to the Planning Secretary for approval as soon as practicable and no later than end of August 2022.

If you wish to discuss this matter, please contact Mandana Mazaheri on 02 9995 5093.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SOD'.

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments
as nominee of the Planning Secretary