

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Our ref: OUT26/3650

Mandana Mazaheri

Planning Group

NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Email: mandana.mazaheri@dpie.nsw.gov.au

26/03/2026

Subject: Cadia East Gold/Copper Mine – Northern Tailings Storage Facility- hydrocyclone sands buttressing (MP06_0295 – Mod 16) – Modification Report

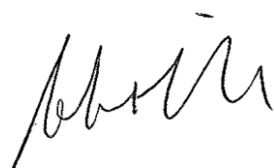
Dear Mandana Mazaheri,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 6 March 2026 to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

DCCEEW Water has reviewed the Modification Report and is satisfied with the information provided. Post approval recommendations are made in regard to updating the Water Management Plan to reflect the proposed construction and monitoring activities. Please see Attachment A for more detail.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact DCCEEW Water Assessments water.assessments@dcceew.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rob Brownbill,

Manager, Water Assessments, Planning & Knowledge Division

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding the Cadia East Gold/Copper Mine Mod 16 – Modification Report

1.0 Water impacts and management

1.1 Recommendation – post approval

That Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure requests the proponent to update the Water Management Plan (WMP) to:

- Include detail of the sand buttressing and excess sand placement areas, additional underdrainage systems and collector drains, and associated monitoring and management requirements.
- Identify the location of the Werribee Fault Zone and include details of the expanded groundwater monitoring network west of the Southern Tailings Storage Facility.
- Complete WMP updates and the commencement of groundwater monitoring within 6 months of approval of the modification.

Explanation

The proposed modification includes new emplacements and drainage systems within the Southern Tailings Storage Facility which are currently not included in the existing version of the WMP. An update to the WMP to include these and how they are integrated into the monitoring and management of water at the site is required.

Based on a review of the Water Management Plan in 2025 the proponent was yet to commence monitoring groundwater level and quality impacts west of the Southern Tailings Storage Facility, including the Werribee Fault Zone. This is a requirement of consent condition 34 (c) and is relevant to both the proposed modification and the broader management of potential impacts near the tailing storages. A timeline for implementation would support compliance with the consent and ensure that monitoring is in place to manage risk of contamination and inform potential changes.

End Attachment A