

Tuesday, 17 March 2026

Mandana Mazaheri
Department Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
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Via: Major Projects Portal/NSW Planning Portal

Dear Ms Mazaheri,

I refer to the Cadia Valley Operations Modification 16, Northern Tailings Storage Facility, Buttress Optimisation Report (Mod 16 Report) submitted to the Resources Regulator on the 10 March 2026. The Regulator has reviewed the Mod 16 Report, which outlines the proposal to construct a buttress to the existing Northern TSF. This is required to improve stability of existing wall, which has been founded on weak materials at depth that led to the partial collapse of wall in 2018.

Based on a review of the Mod 16 Report, the Regulator is of the view that there is insufficient information in regards to rehabilitation. Section 3.2.5 states that the sand buttress would be armoured with a layer of rock, but thickness is not disclosed. Section 3.2.6 then states that buttress would then be capped with topsoil and seeded with native grasses.

Therefore, the Regulator requests further information in relation to the following:

- the proposed capping over the reclaimed sand buttress, thickness, types of materials and proposed source(s);
- dispersive characteristics of the reclaimed sand and if problematic, how will this be addressed in the final landform design/capping and surface water management design; and
- further details on conceptual surface water management for the final landform associated with the reclaimed sand buttress, and the TSF generally, in the event further modifications are not progressed.

LIMITATIONS

It should be noted that the Resources Regulator does not provide any endorsement of the proposed rehabilitation methodologies presented in the plans provided. Under the conditions of a

mining authorisation granted under the *Mining Act 1992*, the Resources Regulator requires the holder to adopt a risk-based approach to achieving the required rehabilitation outcomes.

The applicability of the controls to achieve effective and sustainable rehabilitation is to be determined based on site-specific risk assessments conducted by the authorisation holder. An authorisation holder may also be directed by the Resources Regulator to implement further risk control measures required to achieve effective rehabilitation outcomes during the life of the mine.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS IF APPROVED

The proponent will be required to comply with rehabilitation requirements under the mining authorisations prior to the commencement of the works associated with the proposal.

The Resources Regulator may undertake assessments of the mine operators' proposed mining activities under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and Regulation as well as other WHS regulatory obligations.

BACKGROUND

The Mining Act Inspectorate within the Resources Regulator undertake risk-based compliance and enforcement activities in relation to obligations under the *Mining Act 1992*. This includes undertaking assessment and compliance activities in relation to mine rehabilitation activities and determination of security deposits. To ensure consistency, the Regulator requests the opportunity to review a copy of the draft development consent prior to any approval of the project.

The Mine Safety Inspectorate within the Resources Regulator is responsible for ensuring the mine operators' compliance with the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation, in particular the effective management of risks associated with the principal hazards as specified in the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022*.

CONTACT

Should you require any further information or clarification, please contact the Regulator on 1300 814 609 (Press Option 2 Press Option 5) or email nswresourcesregulator@service-now.com.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Margetts

Chief Inspector of Mines

Resources Regulator