



NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Attention: Philip Nevill
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy St Parramatta NS 2150

Dear Sir

Western NSW Local Health District Comments on proposed New Cobar Complex Project (SSD - 10419)

Thank you for the opportunity for the Western NSW Local Health District to make a submission on the above project.

The HHRA has addressed health impacts in the community surrounding the Mine Site related to air emissions, noise and changes in the quantity and quality of water (groundwater and surface water). It's noted a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) uses a methodology consistent with the guidelines for Assessing Human Health Risks from Environmental Hazards (enHealth 2012) and the Health Impact Assessment Guidelines, Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (enHealth 2017).

The HHRA has evaluated a range of metals concentrations arsenic, cadmium, chromium, manganese, antimony, barium, beryllium, copper, mercury, nickel, silver, and arsenic, cadmium, chromium, manganese, antimony, barium, beryllium, copper, mercury, nickel, silver, and zinc in airborne dust and deposition to soil at a range of Human receptor sites. For Lead (Pb) potential health impacts were assessed for a range of intake pathways (such as air, rainwater, food dust and drinking water) using a validated model (IEUBK) from US EPA to predict blood lead (BPb) in 1-2 year old children. Uncertainty in assessment and modelling was considered using 3 exposure models. The third being a cumulative assessment. The modelled Blood Pb was compared with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC 2015) action level of 5 µg/dL. Estimated exposure to metals including Pb were well below their respective health guidelines. No mitigation measures were presented.

The EPA makes comment from an Air Quality perspective that the Impact assessment does not include a detailed description of the activities undertaken at the Peak complex including the processing circuit and therefore it is unclear whether all relevant emission sources from this facility have been assessed. When considering uncertainty factors highlighted in the HHRA with understanding Lead (Pb) concentrations data and potential health risk. The recommendation of the EPA in relation to cumulative impacts due to activities undertaken at both complexes, including the processing circuit could also be highlighted for guiding lead (Pb) risks. It would be helpful to understand Health Risk using the above considerations

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rather than the existing concentrations of Pb in PM10 based on 2017 annual average measured data at a monitoring station at the Hera Mine (~80 km southeast of Cobar).

Should you wish to discuss your concerns in further detail I encourage you to contact Tim Brokenshire, Manager Environmental Health on timothy.brokenshire@health.nsw.gov.au or on 6330 5939

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Stanley', written in a cursive style.

Priscilla Stanley
Manager Health Protection
Date 13 September 2021