



Department of Primary Industries

FE20/340

C20/215

22 April 2020
Gen Lucas
Infrastructure Assessments/Planning & Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Dear Gen,

RE: Angus Place Mine Extension Project (SSD-5602) Amendment Report

DPI Fisheries are responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is “no net loss” of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, the Department ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act respectively) and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)*.

DPI Fisheries have reviewed the Angus Place Mine Extension Project (APMEP) Amendment Report and have the following comments regarding impacts on Type 1-Highly Sensitive Key Fish Habitat such as the Wolgan River and Carne Creek ;

- 1) In addition to the existing monitoring of watercourses expected to experience subsidence, fracturing and loss of aquatic habitats, the Aquatic Ecology Monitoring Program should include monitoring of the major watercourses (Wolgan River and Carne Creek), particularly along sections of the Wolgan River that are located inside the 26.5° angle of draw to confirm predicted subsidence levels, fracturing and aquatic and riparian habitat loss occur as per the APMEP Amendment Report.
- 2) Should the Aquatic Ecology Monitoring Program detect subsidence, fracturing, or loss of aquatic and riparian habitat within the Wolgan River and Carne Creek, further monitoring and assessment will need to be undertaken to determine the significance and impacts on the connectivity for fish passage and the availability or loss of aquatic habitats as per the *NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects*, Fact Sheet - Aquatic Biodiversity at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/biodiversity/14817aqoffs.pdf> which outlines requirements for site-based offsets to compensate for the loss of impacted Type 1-3 Key Fish Habitats and/or payment to the NSW DPI Fish Conservation Trust Fund.

Should you require further clarification on the above issues, please contact me on (02) 6763 1255 or 0429 908 856.

D. Ward.

David Ward
Fisheries Manager (Tamworth)