

OUT22/3498

Dr Mandana Mazheri  
Principal Planning Officer  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Via Major Planning Projects Portal

Dear Dr Mazheri

**Response to the Assessment of the Tomingley Gold Expansion Project (SSD-9176045)  
(Narromine Shire)**

Thank you for the notification of the exhibition of the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Tomingley Gold Expansion Project on 25 February 2022. The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) has reviewed the EIS, with a focus on the accompanying Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS).

NSW DPI recommends a number of areas where the Agriculture Impact Statement (AIS) can be further clarified to meet the requirements of the *Strategic Regional Land Use Policy Guideline for AISs* (Re-issued October 2012) and *AIS technical notes: A companion to the AIS guideline* (April 2013).

NSW DPI's recommendations are attached and aim to ensure the physical impacts of the mine on agriculture are appropriately considered and mitigated, especially in relation to the biophysical strategic agricultural land that has been verified on site, and how it is to be dealt with in relation to reinstatement and final land use.

NSW DPI considers the socio-economic impacts of the project are unlikely to be significant. However, our assessment of the proposed mitigation measures is that they do not satisfy requirements for agricultural enterprises. The attached provides further detail.

Should you have any questions in relation to this response I have asked the Ms Mary Kovac be available to answer your enquiries. Ms Kovac may be contacted on 0427 949 987.

Yours sincerely



Dianna Watkins  
**Director, Strategic Policy and Initiatives**  
1/4/22

## DPI Agriculture Assessment comments - Tomingley Gold Expansion Project (SSD-9176045) (Narromine Shire)

### Mine Site Comments

It is noted that as well as a soils assessment a BSAL site verification has been completed. The findings of this assessment include 385ha of BSAL being verified despite no mapped BSAL being present on the site. To inform the remediation plan it is recommended that the following additional information could be included:

- A comparison of the BSAL location to the LSC mapping
- Confirmation as to the amount of BSAL noting the AIS the summary on Page 7 includes that “373 ha or 38% of the BSAL Assessment Area satisfies the BSAL criteria.” does not match the conclusion statement on Page 41 “The final BSAL map shows that the BSAL Assessment Area had 385 ha of BSAL...”.
- Clarify the amount of verified BSAL which is to be disturbed and rehabilitated. Information to understand the baseline productivity, soil profile and characteristics of the verified BSAL, and a program of rehabilitation and monitoring to ensure this land is restored to a similar state.

### Socio-Economic Comments

This review, in accordance with the [AIS technical notes](#) Section 5.0 (5.2, p.11), concludes that the assessment of mitigation measures **does not satisfy** requirements for agricultural enterprises.

While monitoring of agricultural productivity will be measured “seasonally”, there is no mention if a rehabilitation plan will be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders to minimise the loss of agricultural land and agricultural productivity, only that expert opinion would be sought and implemented. The AIS technical notes (NSW DPI, 2013) state that “Monitoring should also include monitoring of consultation and issue groups. The concerns of these groups should be addressed in a timely fashion.” (p11)

This review recommends that a revised assessment should include a commitment to consult with, and address the concerns of, consultation and issue groups, as outlined in the AIS technical notes (NSW DPI, 2013).