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Your ref: SSD-9505

Ms Mandana Mazaheri
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Dear Mandana

McPhillamys Gold Project – Amendment 2

Thank you for your submission, via the Major Projects Portal, dated 27 September 2022 to the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) inviting comments on the McPhillamys Gold Project Amendment 2.

BCS has reviewed the updated Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR), finalised on 9 September 2022, and is satisfied that the assessment meets the requirements of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and our previous comments have been addressed.

BCS notes that the proposed development will be required to offset residual impacts to native vegetation, threatened species and their habitats for both the mine site and pipeline components of the project. If the project is approved, all biodiversity credits generated must be included in the project consent and offset in accordance with the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 prior to any development activities impacting on biodiversity values commencing.

BCS notes that the revised BDAR does not contain like-for-like credit reports for the project's six BAM-C cases. A like-for-like credit report allows all relevant parties including the proponent and the consent authority to trace the available credit trading options and would assist in the auditing of associated consent conditions. As such, if the project is approved, BCS recommends that like-for-like credit reports are used to prepare conditions of consent. BCS would be happy to generate and directly provide the associated like-for-like credit reports to Planning and Assessment Group via email.

Should the project be approved, BCS would appreciate the opportunity to review the draft consent conditions.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Ellis, Principal Project Officer, via ben.ellis@environment.nsw.gov.au or (02) 8275 1838.

Yours sincerely

Michell Howarth
A/Senior Team Leader Planning North West
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate

7 October 2022