

29 June 2021

Matthew Sprott
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Dear Matthew

**Re: Glendell Continued Operations Project (SSD-9349)
– Request for Additional Information**

We are writing to you in response to your letter correspondence dated 23 June 2021 requesting additional information in regard to the Glendell Continued Operations Project (the Project), following feedback received from the Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD) to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). Our response below relates to the points raised in this correspondence.

An assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of all Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) with potential to be impacted by the Project, including migratory species, and whether these entities require an assessment of significance;

An assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of all Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) has been provided previously in the *Ecological Matters of National Environmental Significance Report* as an attachment to the EPBC Referral (Umwelt 2019). Please refer to Table 3.1 of that document.

An assessment of the potential for built structures within the Project area to provide roosting habitat for the Large-eared Pied Bat.

The large-eared pied bat roosts, typically, in caves or crevices in cliff faces, often associated with sandstone escarpments and proximate to remnant forest or woodland communities of fertile soils (Pennay 2008, DERM 2011, Williams and Thomson 2018, DAWE 2021, DPIE 2021). They have also been documented, on occasions, utilising disused mine shafts and the mud nests of fairy martins (Schulz 1998). Whilst built structures, like ventilation shafts or concrete buildings, may provide some form of refuge habitat for this species, the available literature suggests it is unlikely that built structures provide appropriate roosting habitat.

The only built structures within the Project's Additional Disturbance Area are three dwellings. Of these, two are, or have been recently, occupied by mine staff and the third, the Ravensworth Homestead, which has been unoccupied for several years, has been subject to numerous inspections including structural investigations during the assessment process. None of the three dwellings have been suspected of being inhabited by any bat species. In addition, three ecologists visited the Ravensworth Homestead in 2019 and no evidence of bat occupancy (stains or guano) were observed in this dwelling during the visit.

Based on the literature and the overall survey results as documented in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) through recordings and extensive monitoring, it is considered unlikely that large-eared pied bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) is roosting within any of the built structures within the Project's Additional Disturbance Area.

We trust this information meets your requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 0409 112 771 or Bridie McWhirter (Umwelt Project Manager) on 0418 493 811 should you require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR'.

Allison Riley
NSW Ecology Manager - Umwelt

References

Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) (2021). *Chalinolobus dwyeri* in Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of the Environment, Canberra.

Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM). 2011. National recovery plan for the large-eared pied bat *Chalinolobus dwyeri*. Report to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra.

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) (2021). BioNET Species profiles.

Pennay M. 2008. A maternity roost of the large-eared pied bat *Chalinolobus dwyeri* (Ryan) (Microchiroptera: Vespertilionidae) in central New South Wales Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 34, 564-569.

Schulz M. 1998. Bats and other fauna in disused Fairy Martin *Hirundo arial* nests. *Emu* 98, 184-191.

Umwelt (2019). EPBC Act Referral, Glendell Continued Operations Project.

Williams, Elizabeth & Thomson, Bruce. (2018). Aspects of the foraging and roosting ecology of the large-eared pied bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) in the western Blue Mountains, with implications for conservation. *Australian Mammalogy*. 41. 10.1071/AM17064.