

Jack Turner
Resource Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment

By Email:
Jack.Turner@planning.nsw.gov.au

Our ref: AUR-300-718

Dear Jack

RE: Dargues Gold Mine (MP_10_0054) – Biodiversity Offset Extension Request

The Proponent requests a 6-month extension to the timeframe to secure either (a) a legally binding Letter of Undertaking to lodge a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) application for a relevant property or (b) where the offset site is owned by a 3rd party, written agreement from the landholder that they agree to a BSA. The Proponent seeks this extension because it will be unable to secure a BSA prior to the current timeframe of end August 2022 as agreed by the Secretary via letter 12/03/2021.

The program to secure a biodiversity offset was delayed initially due to uncertainty regarding the appropriate plant community type (PCT). The PCT identified in the commitment is Tablelands Basalt TEC, yet the mine impacted area is on granite. The Department recently clarified that the PCTs are indeed the Tablelands Basalt TEC but indicated Flat Forests PCT type could you also be applied.

The proponent has conducted numerous desktop assessments of prospective properties and engaged qualified ecologists to complete assessments at several properties. The Proponent has been unsuccessful in securing a biodiversity offset for a variety of reasons including market availability of relevant properties, inadequate coverage of the appropriate PCT on prospective properties or landowners deciding not to proceed with a biodiversity offset on their property following positive evaluation.

Please contact the Environment team (dgm.community@aureliametals.com.au) should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely



Angus Wyllie
General Manager
Dargues Gold Mine