



Mr Paul Freeman
Associate Director
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Via email: pfreeman@emmconsulting.com.au

26/08/2020

Dear Paul

Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development (SSD 10367) Revised Environmental Assessment Requirements

I refer to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued on 27 September 2019 for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development (SSD 10367).

Revised SEARs are attached, which incorporate the proposed changes to the Project, including the development of a box cut entry to the underground mine, increased ore production due to optimised mine design and extended life of the Project.

The revised requirements are based on the information you have provided to date. For completeness, the Department has re-enclosed the public authorities' comments in **Attachment 2** (SSD project) and **Attachment 3** (Cowal Gold Mine – Modification 16). Please note that the Planning Secretary may modify these requirements at any time.

If you do not submit a Development Application (DA) and EIS within 2 years of the date of this letter, you must consult further with the Planning Secretary in relation to the preparation of the EIS.

Prior to exhibiting the EIS, the Department will review the document to determine if it addresses the requirements in Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* and the information requi. You will be required to submit an amended EIS if it does not adequately address the requirements.

Community Consultation

The Department wishes to emphasise the importance of effective and genuine community consultation in preparing the EIS for the project. This process must ensure that the community has a good understanding of the project and its potential impacts, and is actively engaged on issues of concern.

Commonwealth Requirements

The Department notes that on 5 November 2019, the Commonwealth determined that the project would not be a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. The Department notes that it is your responsibility to contact the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy to determine if any changes to the action would need further consideration by the Commonwealth (<http://www.environment.gov.au> or 6274 1111).

Prior to Submission of the EIS

I would appreciate if you could contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit your DA and EIS. This will enable the Department to:

- confirm the applicable fee (see Division 1AA, Part 15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000); and
- determine the number of copies (hard-copy and CD/DVD) of the DA and EIS that will be required for review and exhibition purposes.

If you have any questions, please contact Philip Nevill on (02) 8275 1036 or at philip.nevill@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments

as delegate for the Planning Secretary