



Department of Primary Industries

OUT16/28538

Ms Megan Dawson
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

megan.dawson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Megan Dawson

Bulga Optimisation Project Modification 1 (SSD 4960 MOD 1) Comment on the exhibition of the Environmental Assessment

I refer to your email dated 12 July 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries requesting comment on the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant divisions of DPI. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI has reviewed the response and provides the following comments and recommendations:

Tailings emplacement

DPI is satisfied that the proposed emplacement of fine tailings within the open cut void is unlikely to produce significant additional impacts beyond those associated with the approved tailings emplacement activities under SSD 4960.

Eastern emplacement area

The revised emplacement area results in a maximum 70 ha reduction in catchment area within the Loders Creek catchment at Year 7 of the project. In the Final Landform, there are no predicted additional impacts on the catchment area from the approved project. The loss of catchment area during operations appears to include direct emplacement over a 2nd order watercourse and two 1st order watercourses as well as additional disturbance of two further 1st order watercourses.

The proponent has stated that it will license all water take as required by the provisions of the *Water Management Act 2000*. Further information is required that outlines specifically how reductions in catchment and any other water take will be accounted for with reference to the licensing provisions of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Further information is also required on the direct and indirect disturbance of watercourses and riparian areas, and associated impacts, with reference to the DPI Water Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land. DPI notes that the existing consent requires that the design, installation and maintenance of infrastructure within 40 m of watercourses be generally in accordance with the Guidelines.

It is also requested that the proponent provides a map to demonstrate that the emplacement area doesn't overlie highly productive alluvial aquifers. Should this indicate

that emplacement is proposed over highly productive aquifers, further information and review will be required consistent with the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy.

For further information please contact Brendan Mee, Water Regulation Officer (Newcastle) on (02) 4904 2524 or Brendan.mee@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Graeme White

AI Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice

29 July 2016