



DOC16/370928; EF13/2719

Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Megan Dawson

Dear Ms Dawson

### **BULGA OPTIMISATION PROJECT – MODIFICATION 1 (SSD 4960 MOD 1)**

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), dated 12 July 2016, seeking comments from the EPA in relation to the Bulga Optimisation Project Modification 1, reference SSD 4960 Mod 1. The application is detailed in the report titled 'Bulga Surface Operations Eastern Emplacement Area Modification – Statement of Environmental Effects' (SEE) dated July 2016 and prepared by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited.

The EPA has reviewed the SEE and notes the proposal involves the following matters:

- Changes to the Eastern Emplacement Area located in the north eastern area of the site; and
- Disposal of tailings into the Main Pit tailings emplacement area as a replacement for the current strategy of tailings emplacement in former underground mine workings.

Based on the information in the SEE the project is unlikely to result in an increase to the potential impacts from the mining operations, and as such the EPA does not have any comments or recommended conditions of approval in relation to the modification.

It does not appear that any changes or amendments are required to the current Environment Protection Licence (EPL) No. 563 for this premises in response to the proposed modification.

The proposed changes to the Eastern Emplacement Area appear to be minor in nature, in that the emplacement area remains wholly within the currently approved emplacement footprint.

The modification also proposes the placement of tailing into the former Main Pit void. The current tailings emplacement strategy permitted placement of tailings in former underground mine workings, however with underground mining operations now scheduled to be suspended late 2017 this option is no longer considered suitable.

The Main Pit tailing emplacement area is not proposed to result in any changes to the Integrated Water Management System currently utilised at the site. If the modification proposal is approved pumps and pipeline infrastructure will be required at the Main Pit tailings emplacement area and decant water will

be managed in accordance with the current site water management systems. No adverse environmental impacts are expected from this aspect of the modification.

If you require any further information regarding this matter please contact me on 4908 6819.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Howat', written in a cursive style.

**MICHAEL HOWAT**  
**Acting Head Regional Operations Unit - Hunter**  
**Environment Protection Authority**

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