

Veronica Howat
Environmental Risk and Compliance Specialist
PO Box 198
Wallerawang NSW 2845
04/05/2026

Subject: Extension Request for Conservation Bond

Dear Ms Howat,

I refer to your request for an extension of time under Schedule 3 Condition 30 of SSD-5579 which requires the submission of a Conservation Bond within 6 months of the approval of the Biodiversity Management Plan.

The Biodiversity Management Plan was approved by the DPHI on 9 September 2025. The conservation bond was therefore due to be lodged to DPHI by 9 March 2026. On 3 March 2026 the Department approved an extension until 8 May 2026 to allow additional time for the conservation bond to be finalised and to address the Department's request that the bond be adjusted for escalation in costs since its original calculation in 2020.

The Department notes:


- A conservation bond estimate was last approved by the Department on 27 January 2021.
- The applicant provided the draft bank guarantee for the conservation bond to the Department on 26 February 2026 for review and approval.
- The applicant has revised the conservation bond to account for escalation in costs using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the basis of the revision.
- The revised conservation bond estimate for the proposed works is \$578,037 (excl. GST), which accounts for a 24.2% increase in the value of the calculation approved by the Department on 27 January 2021.

The Department considers that the revised conservation bond estimate appropriately accounts for inflation and preserves the value of the bond.

Accordingly, the Secretary has granted an extension of time until 1 July 2026 for the Conservation Bond to be lodged with the Department.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Gabriel Wardenburg on 02 9585 6810.

Yours sincerely



Jessie Evans
Director, Resource Assessments
Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Secretary