

Jacqueline Cooke  
Compliance Manager  
Centennial Airly Pty Limited

Sent via NSW Major Projects Portal

27/09/2024

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Subject: Airly Mine Cliff Line Zone of First Workings Extraction Plan (ML1814)

Dear Ms Cooke

I refer to the Cliff Line Zone of First Workings Extraction Plan (ML1814) submitted in accordance with Condition 7, Schedule 3 of the consent for the Airly Mine Extension Project (SSD 5581). I also acknowledge your responses to the Department's review comments and requests for additional information, including submission of a revised Extraction Plan (Rev 2) on 25 July 2024.

The Department has carefully reviewed the plan in consultation with the Airly Independent Expert Panel (the Panel), the Biodiversity Conservation and Science group (BCS) of Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Heritage NSW, Regional NSW – Mining, Exploration and Geoscience and the Resources Regulator.

The Department acknowledges changes made to the extraction plan in response to agency advice, including:

- redesign of the 500 Mains Panel to avoid directly undermining a known Aboriginal heritage site;
- removal of workings in the vicinity of *Pultenaea* sp. 'Genowlan Point' critically endangered species habitat;
- additional vegetation monitoring downstream of the Oasis; and
- additional provision for consultation with registered Aboriginal parties if previously unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are identified.

The Panel is satisfied that the proposed mining geometry would provide a high level of protection from mining-induced impacts to cliffs within the CLZ.

The Department supports the Panel's recommendation that Centennial Airly develop a program of work aimed to help dissociate natural rock falls from mining-induced rock falls, however notes that this is a risk-based decision for Centennial that may assist in identifying any areas of pre-existing natural instability.

The Department is satisfied that the mining proposed under the CLZ EP has been designed to be long term stable and would result in negligible subsidence impacts or environmental consequences for key

sensitive features including cliffs and other sensitive geological features, The Grotto, The Oasis, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, surface water and sensitive ecological features.

The Department notes that BCS has recommended additional subsidence monitoring be installed at a number of sensitive geological features within and outside the CLZ. The Department is satisfied that suitable setbacks have been adopted to adequately protect many of these features. Where setbacks have not been adopted, or where there is a lack of proposed subsidence monitoring to confirm the subsidence predictions, the Department has required installation of additional subsidence monitoring prior to mining occurring in the vicinity of these features, including at Ultimate Slot and Genowlan Point.

The Department considers that with the implementation of the monitoring and management measures proposed under the plan, the subsidence impact performance measures established by the development consent are unlikely to be exceeded.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the Cliff Line Zone of First Workings Extraction Plan (ML1814) (Rev\_2, July 2024), subject to the following condition:

1. Prior to mining occurring within 500 metres of the geological features known as Ultimate Slot and Genowlan Point, Centennial Airly must install additional GNSS subsidence monitoring unit/s to monitor subsidence movements at these features.

You are reminded that if there are any inconsistencies between the Extraction Plan and the conditions of development consent (SSD 5581), the conditions prevail.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Gabrielle Allan on 02 9585 6078.

Yours sincerely



Jessie Evans  
Director, Resource Assessments  
Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary