



OUT21/10021

Ms Rose-Ann Hawkeswood
DPIE – Planning

C/- Major Projects Portal

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

**Review of Response to Submissions Report and additional Amendment Report –
Bowdens Silver (SSD 5765)**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13 July 2021. The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Agriculture have considered the Response to Submissions Report (RtS) for the above proposal as well as the associated amendment report regarding the realignment of the transmission line.

NSW DPI Agriculture is committed to the protection and growth of agricultural industries, and the land and resources upon which these industries depend.

The below issues remain outstanding from our comments made in July 2020 (OUT20/8553) in relation to the initial environmental assessment. These issues can be dealt with through consent conditions, should the project be approved.

- Social and visual impacts
(RtS Section 5.29.2 and 5.29.3, Pages 392-400)
We acknowledge the statement that in relation to the daytime and night time visual impacts, that the impacts of light from the project would have negligible impacts on astronomical observations in the region. We recommend that this aspect is included in the monitoring and reporting framework of the project.
- Rehabilitation Planning
(RtS Section 5.22.3 Pages 250-51)
The Rehabilitation Management Plan should include a goal to reinstate agricultural production outcomes in areas where the final landuse is allocated to this. Land and soil capability is not a direct corollary to agricultural production – the inherent values of land and soil are not solely reflective of agricultural production where management can influence changes through soil amelioration, groundcover modification, and management.
Additionally it is noted that agricultural production data and land and soil capability assessments are proposed as baseline studies to determine the efficacy of rehabilitation. It should be made clearer that these will be used to inform rehabilitation metrics.

In relation to the other issues that the Department raised for the proposal, the following is noted and DPI have no further concerns:

- The Biosecurity Measures (Section 5.22.10. page 258) will see pest and disease management addressed in the Landscape Management Plan.
- That Adaptive Management to deal with impacts associated with ground and surface water monitoring will take place and consultation with relevant stakeholders will take place. As noted these issues were identified as being of high and medium risk to agriculture so this will help in dealing with external agricultural interests. Contingency Measures (Section 5.4.4, page 74) and Best Management Measures (Section 5.24.20 Page 337)
- Soil volume estimates are supplied (Section 5.22.13 Page 260) and there is a theoretical indication that there is a surplus of both top and subsoil material to meet the proposed rehabilitation and closure objectives can be achieved. This surplus is useful with loss readjustment. We also note the comment that all topsoil recovered from the mine site will be used for the best standard of rehabilitation to be achieved.
- The consultation program described (Section 5.4.5 Page 75) is supported.
- We support the commitment to the project maintaining a positive relationship with the surrounding agricultural industry and maximising agricultural productivity on the land retained for agriculture during and post project (Section 5.22.3 Page 252 Agricultural Activities).

Water Supply Pipeline

In relation to this part of the development we support the collection of appropriate soil and land information in relation to recording and monitoring pipeline construction, installation and revegetating include physical assessment of the soils within the landscapes that are affected (Section 5.31.14 Page 421).

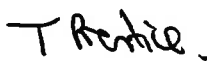
We also support the approach undertaken to deal with cropping lands. (Section 5.31.12 Page 420).

Amendment for the realignment of the Transmission Line.

There are no further comments in relation to this additional change.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please contact Ms Mary Kovac, Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer on 0427 949 987 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



27/7/21

Tamara Prentice
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