

OUT21/11116

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Dear Mr O'Donoghue

**McPhillamys Gold Project (SSD-9505)**


In our advice provided to you in June 2021 (OUT21/8080) we indicated that information on the volumetric implications resulting from an upgraded hydroline dataset would be provided separately. This further advice should be read in conjunction with our June advice, in particular NRAR advice on possible design modifications.

Currently, the McPhillamys Gold Project would require 2247.6 ML of entitlement based on the 2018 hydroline dataset. Should the hydroline dataset be updated then we believe this project would require 1974.4 ML. Please note further detail in Attachment A.

The storages which account for the majority of the water take (1758ML) are located on third or higher order streams based on the 2018 hydroline dataset. This includes the tailing storage facility (TSF) and two clean water dams CWF1(a and b). We acknowledge that CWF1(a and b) and also MWMF and RWMF would be on minor streams once the hydroline is updated but these dams do not meet the provisions in Schedule 1 (3 or 4) of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* that would exempt the need for water licensing. The key aspects of the storages that require most of the entitlement are that:

- the proposed clean water diversion around the TSF does not effectively divert the fifth order watercourse it is located on, noting that there is still a significant volume of water captured, and the diversion removes a significant section of the river and replaces it with dams, pumps and pipelines, and
- the CWF1(a and b) dams capture clean water, and the primary purpose is considered to be to enable mining activity rather than for an environmental management purpose. Although this water is to be returned to the watercourse there is no ability at this time for these return flows to reduce entitlement requirements.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs  
Chief Knowledge Officer  
**Department of Planning, Industry and Environment: Water**  
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**Attachment A:**

**Licence requirements for surface water dams/structures for the proposed McPhillamys mine**

1. Scenario	2. 2018 hydroline layer		3. With revised hydroline	
Structure	Stream order	Entitlement	Stream order	Entitlement
WMF1	3	168	minor	exempt
WMF2	minor	exempt	minor	exempt
WMF3	minor	exempt	minor	exempt
WMF4	minor	exempt	minor	exempt
WMF5	minor	exempt	minor	exempt
WMF6	3	93.3	3	93.3
CWF1 (a and b)	3	655	minor	655
CWF2	minor	Within HR	minor	Within HR
CWF3	minor	Within HR	minor	Within HR
SRWMF	minor	exempt	minor	exempt
CWMF	minor	exempt	minor	exempt
MWMF	4	178	minor	72.8
RWMF	4	50.3	minor	50.3
TSF	5	1103	3	1103
<b>Total Entitlement</b>		<b>2247.6</b>		<b>1974.4</b>