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**Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW, 2124
Monday December 11, 2023**

Submission of Objection to Cadia East Gold/Copper Project Modification 15.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this submission of objection to the above modification application on behalf of the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange (ECCO). Our organization has had a long association with the Cadia mine, during which we have come to have some reservations about its operation, particularly with regard to its expansion, the Mod 15 proposal being a case in point.

We note with concern that there are a number of outstanding issues that need to be resolved before any further development can be considered. I refer to numerous EPA fines, guilty pleas to criminal charges in the Land and Environment Court, investigations by the compliance Department within the Department of Planning and Environment. These serious legal concerns need to be thoroughly addressed to the satisfaction of the appropriate authorities and the community, which has to live with their decisions before local trust can be restored and before the public can have faith in Cadia carrying out any future recommendations put forward by consenting authorities. Faith and trust is in short supply currently, considering that Cadia has not satisfactorily completed all conditions of the previous Mod. 14.

Included in the Description of the proposed modification is the proposal to restart underground mining at the Ridgeway Mine. We can assume that this will be a further extension of mining activity at the site, which means more water will be required for the extended operation. Any such expansion of mining activity should not occur without assurance that the mine will not further encroach on existing water availability. Water supply is likely to become more of an issue in the local area due to the predicted occurrence of lower rainfall and higher temperatures due to climate change. It is more

likely that we will be confronted with a scenario that would require Cadia to reduce operations rather than expand them.

In conclusion, ECCO strongly recommends that this application be rejected until such time as Cadia has resolved outstanding issues and has honored its commitments to the satisfaction of consenting authorities and the community. Part of the conditions of consent should be that any future mining applications take into consideration future water use and that Cadia Operations be prepared to modify operations accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Neil Jones

President, ECCO