

28 May 2024

Manda Mazaheri

Mandana.mazaheri@planning.nsw.au

Dear Manda

COPI MINERAL SADS PROJECT – SSD-41294067 - EXH 70795958

I refer to your recent information in regard to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Mineral Sands Mine located to the north of Lake Victoria.

Groundwater

The proposed mining technique and water extraction provided in the EIS, indicates the potential for mixing of the shallow and deep aquifer in this location. The studies provided in the EIS documentation indicate that any mixing of the aquifers would be low likelihood and of limited risk to the local and regional aquifers and environment.

The proposed short- and long-term monitoring of groundwater bores and network, does not seem sufficient to provide advance notice of any issues that may be caused by the proposal. It is requested that additional monitoring on the local and regional networks be undertaken and publicly reported and provided to local neighbours for information and consideration. This monitoring should be enduring as any impacts will potentially last into the decades to remediate.

Cultural Heritage

It is noted that it is likely that a number of existing cultural sites will be damaged during the mine occupation, including cultural sites. A number of the damaged sites should be subject to additional testing and validation of dates to provide additional knowledge of habitation dates, which will increase the localised body of knowledge in this area. It is specifically requested that where possible that testing (dating) of the proposed damaged hearths be undertaken should it be deemed acceptable to the local indigenous community.

Should you have any further queries in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me garry.fyfe@sawater.com.au.

Regards



Garry Fyfe

Senior Manager – River Murray Operations