



Mr Howard Reed  
Manager Mining Projects  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Alice Smith (alice.smith@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Reed

**Cowal Gold Mine Project - Modification (DA 14/98)  
Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your email dated 1 October 2013 regarding the proposal by Barrick (Cowal) Limited to modify the approval for the Cowal Gold Mine (CGM). The modification includes changes to the footprint and depth of the existing open cut, the footprint and height of the Waste Rock Emplacement (WRE), the footprint and height of the tailings storage facility and ancillary components.

NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services, Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) has reviewed the *Environmental Assessment for the Cowal Gold Mine Modification 11*.

DRE notes the final height of the Northern Waste Emplacement will be increased by 42 metres to 308metres AHD. While this is significant, it is not expected to dominate or detract from the landscape qualities of the local environment when rehabilitation has been completed in accordance with the EA.

The rehabilitation and mine closure measures and outcomes are not significantly different from the existing approved project, but there are constraints associated with sub soil sodicity. These constraints are recognised in the EA and adequate ameliorative measures have been incorporated into the project.

DRE recommends that the following conditions be incorporated into any Project Approval for the CGM Modification:

**Rehabilitation Plan**

The Proponent must prepare and implement a Rehabilitation Plan to the satisfaction of the Director General of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services. The Rehabilitation Plan must:

- a. be prepared in accordance with DRE guidelines;
- b. be submitted and approved by the Director General of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services prior to the implementation of the Modification;
- c. address all aspects of rehabilitation and mine closure, including post mining land use, rehabilitation objectives, completion criteria and rehabilitation monitoring and,
- d. include a final landform design that is consistent with the surrounding topography principles

It is the intention of DRE that the Rehabilitation Plan fulfils the requirements of the Mining Operation Plan (which will become the REMP once the Mining Act Amendments have commenced).

DRE does not object to the approval of the Project, provided the above recommendations are taken into account and implemented.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Steve Cozens, Senior project Officer, Industry Coordination on (02) 8281 7335.

Yours sincerely



**Adrian Delany**  
**Acting Director, Industry Coordination**

8.11.13