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Dear Elle

Cowal Gold Mine Mod 13 - Exhibition

I refer to your email dated 17 November 2016 inviting the Division of Resources & Energy (the Division) to provide comments on the Cowal Gold Mine Mod 13 – Exhibition.

The Division has reviewed and assessed the adequacy of information in relation to Cowal Gold Mine Mod 13 - Exhibition requested by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and provides the following advice.

The Division notes DPE did not request Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) from the Division prior to exhibiting the EA.

The Division has reviewed and assessed the adequacy of the information provided in the EA to assess the potential impacts of Mod 13. More specifically, the review was intended to establish whether sustainable rehabilitation outcomes can be achieved as a result of the project and if identified, risks can be effectively regulated through the conditions of mining authorities issued under the *Mining Act 1992*.

The modification also proposes to utilise the additional waste rock generated by the pit extension to rock buttress the outer slopes of the TSFs to increase stability.

The proposed changes to the final post mining landform include a 3% increase in final pit void volume and a modest increase in TSF height and footprint. The rehabilitation proposals for the Modification retain the existing approved final landform design, land use and rehabilitation concepts.

The Division has assessed the EA and considers that the environmental controls proposed by the Applicant are appropriate for the proposed modification. The Applicant has also detailed sustainable rehabilitation practices.

The Division has determined that sustainable rehabilitation outcomes can be achieved as a result of the project. The Division has also determined that the applicant has adequately identified and

assessed risks to environmental sustainability and adequately addressed the risks to the conclusion that the project is likely to reach a satisfactory outcome.

The Division has identified the proposed modification allows for better resource utilisation and seeks to maximise the resource recovery. The modification if approved, will extend the mine life, which benefits the local community by providing ongoing employment, stimulates the local and regional economy and provides benefits to the State by the way of additional royalty contributions.

The Division requests a review of the draft consent conditions prior to finalisation and prior to project approval.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Steve Cozens, Senior Project Officer, Royalty & Advisory Services on 9842 8573.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zane West', with a stylized, cursive script.

Zane West

Manager Royalties & Advisory Services