

OUT16/48753

Ms Elle Donnelley
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Dear Ms Donnelley

**Cowal Gold Mine (DA 14/98 MOD 13)
Comment on the Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your email of 18 November 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant divisions of DPI. Views were also sought from NSW Department of Industry - Lands that are now a division of the broader Department and no longer within NSW DPI.

Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI has reviewed the application and Environmental Assessment and provides the following recommendations:

- Prior to project approval the proponent should prepare graphical plots depicting concentration versus time of dissolved arsenic and cyanide for bores with detectable concentrations of these analytes at the mine site. These plots are considered important to determine that significant concentrations have not leached from the Tailings Storage Facilities into surrounding groundwater.
- The proponent should update the existing Water Management Plan in consultation with DPI Water. This should include addressing changes to surface water management within the site and the development of trigger levels and contingency measures for rising groundwater levels near the Tailings Storage Facilities.
- The proponent should continue to monitor groundwater quality at the project site to assess any impact on groundwater quality in the vicinity of the pit void.
- Options for the final landform should include minimising the ongoing runoff from clean areas into the void. This will enable diversion back into the natural surface water system and reduce the potential for water licensing requirements.
- The proponent should develop a stabilised surface water management system for the final landform that is consistent with DPI Water [Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land \(2012\)](#).

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
12 December 2016

DPI appreciates your help to improve our advice to you. Please complete this three minute survey about the advice we have provided to you, here: <https://goo.gl/o8TXWz>