

Emily Murray  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Energy, Industry & Compliance, Planning & Assessment  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
4 Paramatta Square, 12 Darcy St, Parramatta, NSW 2150  
Locked Bag 5022 Parramatta NSW 2124  
[Emily.Murray@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Murray@planning.nsw.gov.au)

29/01/2021

Our ref: MP 09 0155 MOD 5

Dear Emily,

**Tomingley Gold Mine (MP09\_0155) MOD 5  
Application to Modify Development Consent**

Dams Safety NSW has reviewed the modification application for Tomingley Gold Mine (MP09\_0155) MOD 5 and has the following comments. The Modification proposes construction of a second Residue Storage Facility (RSF2) on site to the south of the existing RSF1. Residue Storage Facility 1 (RSF1) is a declared dam and as such is currently regulated under the *Dams Safety Regulation 2019*. At this stage DSNSW has not received information pertaining to the proposed dam however it is likely that once DSNSW receives notification of the intention of Tomingley Gold Mine to proceed with the proposed dam that it will declare the dam.

The existing RSF1 has been assigned a consequence category of 'Significant' largely due to the toxicity of the impounded tailings which contain cyanide in addition to toxic heavy metals such as arsenic. Because of the similarity of the tailings that will be stored in RSF1 it is likely that this dam also will be assigned a consequence category of at least 'Significant'.

A Notification Area has been delineated around the existing Tomingley Residue Storage Facility (RSF1). Once the proposal to construct RSF2 is received DSNSW will increase the size of the existing Tomingley Notification Area to include the new storage facility.

The Mine will need to submit a letter of its intention to mine around the new dam within the Notification area, it is unlikely that the existing approved mining operations, which entail open cut and underground operations will be altered beyond extension of the existing monitoring and inspection regimes for the existing dam to the proposed dam.

Dams Safety NSW is currently regulating the safety of Tomingley's RSF1 under dam safety conditions within Tomingley's Mining Lease. Regulation includes monitoring of seepage,

subsidence and movement of the embankment, blast vibrations registering on the embankments and dam inspections.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Tomingley Mine notifies Dams Safety NSW of the intention to construct RSF2 in writing prior to design and construction commencing.
- Following notification of the intention to construct RSF2, should Dams Safety NSW declare the dam to be a declared dam, Tomingley will need to ensure that the requirements of the *Dams Safety Regulation 2019* are implemented with respect to RSF2.
- Tomingley notifies Dams Safety NSW of its intention to mine near the proposed dam and arrangements are made to continue monitoring RSF1 and extend to monitoring RSF2.
- Tomingley ensures that RSF2 is suitably designed to remain stable in a mining environment with exposure to ongoing blast vibrations.

The limits of blast vibration (PPV) at both RSF embankment will be < 50mm/s and there will be ongoing monitoring of seepage and ground movements from both RSFs.

If you have any queries in this regard, please contact Heather Middleton on 0428288391 or [heather.middleton@damsafety.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heather.middleton@damsafety.nsw.gov.au).

Yours faithfully,



Heather Middleton  
Manager Mining Impacts – Dams Safety NSW