

OUT21/615

Emily Murray
Planning & Assessment
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

emily.murray@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Murray

**Cadia East Gold/Copper Project MOD 14 - Increased Processing Rate (MP06_0295)
Modification Report**

I refer to your email of 18 January 2021 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter. The following recommendations are provided by NRAR.

Post Approval Recommendations

Water Take and Licencing

The proponent should:

- Ensure sufficient water entitlement is held in a water access licence/s (WAL) to account for the maximum predicted take for each water source prior to take occurring.
Comments: The EA states the groundwater take from the preconditioning is to remain within existing water license entitlements. The AIP assessment however in Appendix B indicates the groundwater take from the Orange Basalt Groundwater Source is to be 289ML and the current WAL held (WAL31062) has 286 units of entitlement. Therefore, an additional 3 units is required prior to this water volume being taken. This may be completed via purchase of additional entitlement or the use of another WAL held by the proponent where available.
NRAR also notes that the predicted increase in water demand of 9.4% due to the increased processing rate is proposed to be met by the existing water sources and water licences. The site water balance has indicated the lowest water supply reliability in any of the climatic scenarios modelled is 89.5% (the average is 98%). The proponent therefore needs to be aware there is the potential for water supply limitations during dry periods which may result in the need for a reduced processing rate and/or the sourcing of additional water.
- Implement the ability to accurately meter and monitor water take from surface and groundwater sources with ongoing review of actual versus modelled predictions where relevant.
- Report on water take at the site each year (direct and indirect) in the Annual Review. This is to include water take where a water licence is required and where an exemption applies. Where a water licence is required the water take needs to be reviewed against existing water licences.

Other Requirements

The proponent should:

- Update the Water Management Plan to reflect the additional disturbance areas, water management infrastructure and transfer requirements and relevant mitigating measures due to the modification project.
- Design dams constructed on minor streams to manage dirty/contaminated runoff in accordance with relevant industry standards. These dams must be solely used for the purpose of managing runoff to prevent contamination. This is necessary to meet the relevant



Planning, Industry & Environment

exclusion for dams under Schedule 1(3) of the Water Management Regulation 2018 which are exempt from the requirement for consideration under Harvestable Rights and water licensing.

- Comply with the rules of the relevant water sharing plans.
- Meet the requirements of the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (NRAR 2018) for any works within waterfront land.

Yours sincerely

Simon Francis
Senior Project Officer, Assessments
Water – Knowledge Office
19 February 2021