



OUT16/6162

Ms Phillipa Duncan
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Phillipa.Duncan@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Duncan,

**Ginkgo Mineral Sands Mine Modification 12 (DA 251-09-01 MOD 12)
Comment on the Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your email dated 15 January 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from DPI Water, Fisheries, Agriculture and Lands. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au. DPI Agriculture and Fisheries have no issues. Lands and Water comments are as follows.

Comment by DPI Lands

DPI Lands has reviewed the EA and notes that Cristal Mining has stated that an application to change the current lease purpose of Western Lands Lease 17 is to be submitted to the department prior to 30 June 2016.

Accordingly, DPI Lands has no further comments on the modification.

If you have any further queries in regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Jarrod Smith, Senior Natural Resource Management Officer on 02 6883 5448 or via email at jarrod.smith@crowland.nsw.gov.au.

Comment by DPI Water

DPI Water has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ginkgo Mineral Sands Mine Southern Extension Project and submits the following comments to assist the determination of the project.

- The project consists of the following key activities:
 - A 32ha increase to the surface development area to support additional stockpiles and other supporting infrastructure.
 - A 2ha increase to the Ginkgo mine path area.

- Section 2.5 of the EA indicates the proponent's current groundwater take at the Ginkgo mine site is significantly less than their water entitlement held in a Water Access Licence. DPI Water considers the minor extension is unlikely to require the purchase of additional water entitlement. The proponent also has the ability to make application to transfer entitlement from another Water Access Licence associated with the Snapper Mine which is not fully utilised.
- Section 3.6.2 of the EA indicates the proposed 2ha extension to the mine path will result in negligible impacts to groundwater resources and are within the Level 1 Minimal Impact Considerations of the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy. DPI Water supports this assessment.
- Impacts to groundwater resources due to the Ginkgo Mine will continue to be managed in accordance with the existing Borefield Impact Management Plan (BIMP) which is currently being integrated into a Water Management Plan for all of the proponent's mines in the Murray Basin. The BIMP includes trigger levels to monitor the drawdown impacts of the mine on existing water users. The existing trigger levels, monitoring and investigation requirements and remedial actions are considered satisfactory to manage groundwater impacts for the proposed extension. Amendments to the BIMP (Water Management Plan) would require consultation with DPI Water.
- Ongoing metering and reporting of groundwater take from bores and the open cut is critical to review the adequacy of water entitlements and to compare predicted versus actual water take and impacts.
- Surface water impacts are proposed to be managed in accordance with the existing Murray Basin Mines Water, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. It is recommended this plan be reviewed to ensure its relevance for the proposed modification.

For further information please contact Tim Baker, Senior Water Regulation Officer (Dubbo Office) on 6841 7403 or at tim.baker@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
 12/02/2016