



## Resources & Energy

OUT15/3221

Mr Carl Dumpleton  
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Mining Projects  
NSW Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Carl Dumpleton (carl.dumpleton@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Dumpleton

### **Exhibition of Environmental Assessment Hillgrove Mine Modification 3 (DA 98/00802)**

I refer to your email of 13 January 2015 inviting comments by the Department of Trade and Investment (DTIRIS), Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) regarding an application from Hillgrove Mines Pty Ltd (HMPL) to extend the operational life of its mining operations.

DRE has reviewed the *Hillgrove Mine Environmental Assessment Section 75W Modification to Development Consent DA98/00802*, dated 28 November 2014 and provides the following comments which are directed at specific areas of responsibility within DRE for this proposal.

It is understood that the modification seeks to allow for the continuation of mining operations until 31 December 2019, via an amendment to Condition 4 of DA 98/00802, which specifies the life of consent for the mine. The modification will not include any changes to mining operations or activities currently approved.

DRE therefore supports the modification based on the above understanding.

The recommended conditions of approval have been reviewed for consistency and standardisation with other project assessments and are provided below.

### **RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

DRE recommends that the following conditions be incorporated into the Development Consent, if granted:

## Rehabilitation Objectives and Commitments

The Proponent shall rehabilitate the site to the satisfaction of the Secretary of DTIRIS.

Rehabilitation must be substantially consistent with the Rehabilitation Objectives described in the following table:

Rehabilitation Feature	Objective
Mine site (as a whole of the disturbed land and water)	Safe, stable and non-polluting, fit for the purpose of the intended post-mining land use(s).
Rehabilitation materials	Materials (including topsoils, substrates and seeds of the disturbed areas) are recovered, appropriately managed and used effectively as resources in the rehabilitation.
Landforms	<p>Final landforms sustain the intended land use for the post-mining domain(s).</p> <p>Final landforms are consistent with and complement the topography of the surrounding region to minimise the visual prominence of the final landforms in the post mining landscape.</p> <p>Final landforms incorporate design relief patterns and principles for consistent with natural drainage.</p>
Water Quality	<p>Water retained on site is fit for the intended land use(s) for the post-mining domain(s).</p> <p>Water discharged from site is consistent with the baseline ecological, hydrological and geomorphic conditions of the creeks prior to mining disturbance.</p> <p>Water management is consistent with the regional catchment management strategy.</p>
Native flora and fauna habitat	<p>Rehabilitation and revegetation works are to be undertaken in a manner which complements and sustains the local biodiversity.</p> <p>Species are selected that re-establishes and complements regional and local biodiversity.</p>
Post-mining agricultural pursuits	The land capability classification for the relevant nominated agricultural pursuit for each domain is established and self-sustaining within 5 years of land use establishment (first planting of vegetation.)

## **Progressive Rehabilitation**

The proponent shall carry out all surface disturbing activities (eg pre-stripping in advance of mining operations) in a manner that, as far is reasonably practicable, minimises potential for dust emissions and shall carry out rehabilitation of disturbed areas progressively, as soon as reasonably practicable, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of DTIRIS.

## **Rehabilitation Plan**

1. The Proponent must prepare and implement a Rehabilitation Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary of DTIRIS.
2. A Rehabilitation Plan must:
  - a. be submitted and approved by the Secretary of DTIRIS prior to carrying out any surface disturbing activities of the development, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary of DTIRIS;
  - b. be prepared in accordance with DRE guidelines and in consultation with DTIRIS, Office of Environment & Heritage, Environmental Protection Agency, NSW Office of Water, Armidale-Dumaresqu Council and the Community Consultation Committee;
  - c. incorporate and be consistent with the rehabilitation objectives in the EA, the statement of commitments and the above table;
  - d. integrate and build on, to the maximum extent practicable, the other management plans required under this approval; and
  - e. address all aspects of mine closure and rehabilitation, including post mining land use domains, rehabilitation objectives, completion criteria and rehabilitation monitoring and management.

*Note: The approved Mining Operation Plan (which will become the REMP once the Mining Act Amendments have commenced), required as a condition of the Mining Lease(s) issued in relation to this project, will satisfy the requirements of this condition for a Rehabilitation Plan.*

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Steve Cozens, Senior Project Officer, Industry Coordination on 9842 8573.

Yours sincerely



**ADRIAN DELANY**  
**A/DIRECTOR INDUSTRY COORDINATION**

23.2.15