Project Approval

Section 75J of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

I, the Minister for Planning, approve the project referred to in Schedule 1, subject to the conditions in Schedules 2 to 4.

These conditions are required to:

- prevent, minimise, and/or offset adverse environmental impacts;
- set standards and performance measures for acceptable environmental performance;
- require regular monitoring and reporting; and
- provide for the ongoing environmental management of the project.

Frank Sartor MP
Minister for Planning

Sydney 28th Feb 2007 File No: 9036747-2

SCHEDULE 1

Application No:	06-0026
Proponent:	North Mining Limited
Approval Authority:	Minister for Planning
Land:	See Appendix 1
Project:	Northparkes Mines - Continuation and Underground E48 Extension

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEFINITIONS

AEMR	Annual Environmental Management Report
BCA	Building Code of Australia
Council	Parkes Shire Council
Day	Day is defined as the period from 7am to 6pm on Monday to Saturday, and 8am to 6pm on Sundays and Public Holidays
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEUS	Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
Department	Department of Planning
Director-General	Director-General of Department of Planning, or delegate
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
EA	Environmental Assessment entitled *Northparkes Mines – E48 Project, Volume 1 – Parts 1 to 5*, and *Volume 2 – Parts 6 to 9*, prepared by RW Corkery & Co Pty Ltd dated August 2006
EPA Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
EPA Regulation	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*
EPL	Environment Protection Licence issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
Evening	Evening is defined as the period from 6pm to 10pm
Minister	Minister for Planning, or delegate
Night	Night is defined as the period from 10pm to 7am on Monday to Saturday, and 10pm to 8am on Sundays and Public Holidays
Privately-owned land	Land that is not owned by a public agency, or a mining company (or its subsidiary)
Project	The Northparkes Mines - Continuation and Underground E48 Extension Project, including continued operation of existing mining and mining-related infrastructure on site, development of the E48 underground mine and associated infrastructure and implementation of other approved (but undeveloped) development on site (see the EA for a fuller description)
Proponent	North Mining Limited, or its successors in title
RTA	Roads and Traffic Authority
Site	Land to which the project application applies

SCHEDULE 2
ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS

Obligation to Minimise Harm to the Environment

1. The Proponent shall implement all practicable measures to prevent and/or minimise any harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, or rehabilitation of the Project.

Terms of Approval

2. The Proponent shall carry out the Project generally in accordance with the:
   (a) EA;
   (b) statement of commitments (see Appendix 3); and
   (c) conditions of this approval.

   Note: The general layout of the existing and proposed mine are shown in Figures 1 & 2 of Appendix 2.

3. If there is any inconsistency between the above documents, the latter document shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. However, the conditions of this approval shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

4. The Proponent shall comply with any reasonable and feasible requirements of the Director-General arising from the Department's assessment of:
   (a) any reports, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with the conditions of this approval; and
   (b) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these reports, plans or correspondence.

Limits on Approval

5. Mining operations may take place until 31 December 2018.

   Note: Under this Approval, the Proponent is required to rehabilitate the site to the satisfaction of the Director-General and DPI. Consequently this approval will continue to apply in all other respects other than the right to conduct mining operations until the site has been rehabilitated to a satisfactory standard.

6. The Proponent shall not process more than 6.5 million tonnes of ore a year on the site.

7. The Proponent may only transport ore concentrates produced on site by road to the Goonumbla Rail Siding via Bogan Road. All other transport of ore concentrates shall be by rail.

Surrender of Consents

8. Within 6 months of this approval, the Proponent shall surrender all existing development consents for the mine to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

   Note: Following the surrender of these consents, this approval will apply to all mining-related development on site.

Structural Adequacy

9. The Proponent shall ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA.

   Notes:
   - *Under Part 4A of the EP&A Act, the Proponent is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the proposed building works.*
   - *Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the Project.*

Demolition

10. The Proponent shall ensure that all demolition work is carried out in accordance with *Australian Standard AS 2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures*, or its latest version.

Operation of Plant and Equipment

11. The Proponent shall ensure that all plant and equipment used on site is:
    (a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and
    (b) operated in a proper and efficient manner.

Staged Submission of Management Plans/Monitoring Programs

12. With the approval of the Director-General, the Proponent may prepare and submit any management plan or monitoring program required by this approval on a progressive basis. Where a management plan or monitoring program is required before carrying out any development, or stage of development, the plan or program may be prepared and submitted in relation to either discrete components of the Project or for a specified time period.

SCHEDULE 3
SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Bogan Road/Mine Access Road Intersection

1. Within 6 months of this approval, the Proponent shall:
   a. monitor the performance of the Bogan Road/Mine Access Road (Northparkes Lane) intersection; and if necessary,
   b. upgrade this intersection,
   to the satisfaction of the Western Region Development Committee.

Road Upgrade Contribution

2. The Proponent shall pay Council 80% of the costs of:
   (a) resealing Bogan Road between the Mine Access Road (Northparkes Lane) and the Newell Highway; and
   (b) reconstructing Bogan Road between the Mine Access Road (Northparkes Lane) and Goonumbla Rail Siding,
   within 30 days of receiving notification from the Council of those costs.

Road Maintenance Contributions

3. The Proponent shall pay the Council:
   a. $52,267 on 1 July 2007; and
   b. an equivalent amount, indexed in accordance with the RTA's Road Maintenance Index, on the anniversary of that date each year until and including 2018,
   to maintain roads used by mine-related traffic.

4. The Proponent shall be solely responsible for maintaining the Mine Access Road (Northparkes Lane).

Best Endeavours to Minimise Mine Traffic on Minor Routes

5. The Proponent shall use its best endeavours to ensure that as much mine-related traffic as possible, particularly heavy vehicles, uses the Newell Highway and Bogan Road to get to and from the mine.

WATER MANAGEMENT

Discharge

6. Except as may be expressly provided for by an EPL, the Proponent shall not discharge any water from the site.

Site Water Management Plan

7. The Proponent shall prepare and implement a Site Water Management Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This plan must:
   a. be submitted to the Director-General for approval within 6 months of this approval;
   b. be prepared by suitably qualified expert/s whose appointment/s have been approved by the Director-General,
   c. be prepared in consultation with the DEC and DNR; and
   d. include a:
      - Site Water Balance;
      - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan;
      - Surface Water Monitoring Plan;
      - Groundwater Monitoring Program; and
      - Surface and Groundwater Response Plan, setting out the procedures for:
        - investigating, and if necessary mitigating, any exceedances of the surface or groundwater assessment criteria (see below); and
        - responding to any unforseen impacts during the Project.

Site Water Balance

8. The Site Water Balance must:
   (a) include details of:
      - sources of water;
      - reliability of water supply;
      - water use on site;
      - water management on site;
      - off-site water transfers;
      - reporting procedures;
   (b) describe measures to:
      - minimise water use by the Project;
      - improve recovery of water from all mining process operations including tailings disposal; and
      - reduce the reliance of the Project on the Parkes town water supply and the Lachlan River.

Erosion and Sediment Control

9. The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan must:
   (a) be consistent with the requirements of the Department of Housing's *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* manual;
   (b) identify activities that could cause soil erosion and generate sediment;
   (c) describe measures to minimise soil erosion and the potential for transport of sediment to downstream waters;
   (d) describe the location, function, and capacity of erosion and sediment control structures; and
   (e) describe what measures would be implemented to monitor and maintain the structures over time.

Surface Water Monitoring Program

10. The Surface Water Management and Monitoring Plan must include:
   (a) detailed baseline data on surface water flows and quality in creeks and other waterbodies that could be affected by the Project;
   (b) surface water impact assessment criteria;
   (c) a program to monitor the impact of the Project on surface water flows and quality;
   (d) procedures for reporting the results of this monitoring.

Groundwater Monitoring Program

11. The Groundwater Monitoring Program must include:
   (a) detailed baseline data to benchmark the natural variation in groundwater levels, yield and quality (including at any privately-owned bores in the vicinity of the mine;
   (b) groundwater impact assessment criteria;
   (c) a program to monitor the impact of the Project on groundwater levels, yield and quality; and
   (d) procedures for reporting the results of this monitoring.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Rehabilitation

12. The Proponent shall rehabilitate the site to the satisfaction of the Director-General and DPI (Minerals).

Limestone National Forest Offset

13. The Proponent shall:
   a. revegetate the 45.14ha of land adjacent to the Limestone National Forest (as marked in blue and labelled "Addition To Limestone National Forest" on Figure 2 in Appendix 2); and
   b. monitor and maintain this vegetation for 3 years,
   to the satisfaction of DPI (Forests).

Landscape Management Plan

14. The Proponent shall prepare and implement a detailed Landscape Management Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Director-General and DPI (Minerals). This plan must:
   (a) be submitted to the Director-General for approval within 6 months of this approval;
   (b) be prepared by suitably qualified expert/s whose appointment/s have been endorsed by the Director-General;
   (c) be prepared in consultation with DNR, DEC and Council; and

(d) include a:
- Rehabilitation Management Plan;
- Final Void Management Plan; and
- Mine Closure Plan.

Rehabilitation Management Plan

15. The Rehabilitation Management Plan must include:
(a) the rehabilitation objectives for the site;
(b) a strategic description of how the rehabilitation of the site would be integrated with the 4,400 hectares of land owned by the Proponent surrounding the site, with a view to improving or enhancing the regional landscape and flora and fauna habitat values;
(c) a general description of the short, medium and long term measures that would be implemented to rehabilitate the site;
(d) a detailed description of the measures that would be implemented over the next three years to rehabilitate the site, including the measures to be implemented for:
- progressively rehabilitating areas disturbed by mining the site;
- managing the remnant vegetation and habitat on site;
- increasing the connectivity, condition and size of existing remnants;
- revegetating, monitoring and maintaining the Limestone National Forest offset area;
- undertaking pre-clearance surveys;
- minimising impacts on fauna;
- minimising visual impacts;
- conserving and reusing topsoil;
- collecting and propagating seeds for rehabilitation works;
- salvaging and reusing material from the site for habitat enhancement;
- controlling weeds, feral pests, and access;
- managing bushfires; and
- managing any potential conflicts between the rehabilitation works and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

(e) detailed performance and completion criteria for the rehabilitation of the site;
(f) a detailed description of how the performance of the rehabilitation works would be monitored over time to achieve the stated objectives and against the relevant performance and completion criteria; and
(g) details of who is responsible for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the plan.

Final Void Management

16. The Final Void Management Plan must describe what actions and measures would be implemented to:
(a) minimise any potential adverse impacts associated with the final voids; and
(b) manage and monitor the potential impacts of the final voids over time.

Mine Closure Plan

17. The Mine Closure Plan must:
(a) define the objectives and criteria for mine closure;
(b) investigate options for the future use of the site, including the final voids;
(c) investigate ways to minimise the adverse socio-economic effects associated with mine closure, including reduction in local and regional employment levels;
(d) describe the measures that would be implemented to minimise or manage the on-going environmental effects of the Project; and
(e) describe how the performance of these measures would be monitored over time.

NOISE

Noise Impact Assessment Criteria

18. The Proponent shall ensure that the noise generated by the Project does not exceed 35dB(A) $L_{Aeq(15\ minute)}$, or 45dB(A) $L_{A1(1\ minute)}$, at the any privately-owned residence.

Notes:
- *To determine compliance with the $L_{Aeq(15\ minute)}$ limit, noise from the Project is to be measured at the most affected point within the residential boundary, or at the most affected point within 30 metres of a dwelling (rural situations) where the dwelling is more than 30 metres from the boundary. Where it can be demonstrated that direct measurement of noise from the development is impractical, the DEC may accept alternative means of determining compliance (see Chapter 11 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy). The modification factors in Section 4 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy shall also be applied to the measured noise levels where applicable.*

- *To determine compliance with the $L_{A1(1\ minute)}$ limit, noise from the Project is to be measured at 1 metre from the dwelling façade. Where it can be demonstrated that direct measurement of noise from the Project is impractical, the DEC may accept alternative means of determining compliance (see Chapter 11 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy).*
- *The noise limits above apply under the following meteorological conditions:*
  - *wind speeds of up to 3 m/s at 10 metres above ground level; or*
  - *temperature inversion conditions of up to 3°C/100m, and wind speeds of up to 2 m/s at 10 metres above ground level.*
- *These limits do not apply if the Proponent has an agreement with the relevant owner/s of these residences to generate higher noise levels, and the Proponent has advised the Department in writing of the terms of this agreement.*

Construction Noise at Avondale

19. During the construction of Tailings Storage Facility 3, the Proponent may exceed the noise limits in condition 18 above at the residence on the Avondale property with the written approval of the Director-General. In seeking this approval, the Proponent shall submit a Construction Noise Management Plan to the Director-General. This plan must be prepared in consultation with the owners of the property, and describe the measures that would be implemented during the construction of the tailings facility to minimise the noise impacts of the Project on the residence on the property.

Note: This requirement does not apply if the Proponent has an agreement with the owners of the Avondale property to generate higher noise levels, or if the residence is not occupied during the construction of Tailings Storage Facility 3, and the Proponent has advised the Department in writing of the terms of the agreement or the unoccupied status of the residence.

Noise Monitoring

20. The Proponent shall prepare and implement a Noise Monitoring Program for the Project to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This program must:
    (a) be submitted to the Director-General for approval within 6 months of this approval;
    (b) be prepared in consultation with the DEC;
    (c) use a combination of attended and unattended monitoring measures to monitor the performance of the Project.

BLASTING AND VIBRATION

Airblast Overpressure Criteria

21. The Proponent shall ensure that the airblast overpressure level from blasting at the Project does not exceed the criteria in Table 1 at any residence on privately-owned land.

Table 1: Airblast overpressure impact assessment criteria

Airblast overpressure level (dB(Lin Peak))	Allowable exceedance
115	5% of the total number of blasts over a period of 12 months
120	0%

Ground Vibration Impact Assessment Criteria

22. The Proponent shall ensure that the ground vibration level from blasting at the Project does not exceed the criteria in Table 2 at any residence on privately-owned land.

Table 2: Ground vibration impact assessment criteria

Peak particle velocity (mm/s)	Allowable exceedance
5	5% of the total number of blasts over a period of 12 months
10	0%

Blasting Hours

23. The Proponent shall restrict all surface blasting on site to between 9am and 5pm Monday to Saturday inclusive. No surface blasting is allowed outside the above hours without the written approval of the Director-General.

AIR QUALITY

Impact Assessment Criteria

24. The Proponent shall ensure that dust generated by the Project does not cause additional exceedances of the criteria listed in Tables 3 to 5 at any residence on, or on more than 25 percent of, any privately-owned land.

Table 3: Long term impact assessment criteria for particulate matter

Pollutant	Averaging period	Criterion
Total suspended particulate (TSP) matter	Annual	90 $\mu g/m^3$
Particulate matter < 10 µm (PM_{10})	Annual	30 $\mu g/m^3$

Table 4: Short term impact assessment criteria for particulate matter

Pollutant	Averaging period	Criterion
Particulate matter < 10 µm (PM_{10})	24 hour	50 $\mu g/m^3$

Table 5: Long term impact assessment criteria for deposited dust

Pollutant	Averaging period	Maximum increase in deposited dust level	Maximum total deposited dust level
Deposited dust	Annual	2 g/m^2/month	4 g/m^2/month

Note: Deposited dust is assessed as insoluble solids as defined by Standards Australia, 1991, AS/NZS 3580.10.1-2003: Methods for Sampling and Analysis of Ambient Air - Determination of Particulates - Deposited Matter - Gravimetric Method.

Monitoring

25. The Proponent shall prepare and implement an Air Quality Monitoring Program to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This program must:
    a. be submitted to the Director-General for approval within 6 months of this approval;
    b. be prepared in consultation with the DEC; and
    c. use a combination of high volume samplers and dust deposition gauges to monitor the performance of the Project.

METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING

26. During the Project, the Proponent shall maintain a suitable meteorological station on site to the satisfaction of the DEC and Director-General. This station must satisfy the requirements in the *Approved Methods for Sampling of Air Pollutants in New South Wales* publication.

HERITAGE

Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

27. The Proponent shall not destroy any known Aboriginal objects without the written approval of the Director-General.

28. The Proponent shall prepare and implement an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This plan must:
    (a) be submitted the Director-General within 6 months of this approval;
    (b) be prepared in consultation with the DEC and the Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council;

(c) include a:
   a. subsurface testing program that will be implemented prior to any disturbance in Zone 1 (Goonumbla Creek);
   b. salvage program for temporarily storing and then replacing retrieved material; and
   c. protocol for the ongoing consultation and involvement of Aboriginal communities in the conservation and management of Aboriginal heritage on site;

(d) describe the measures that would be implemented to protect Aboriginal sites on site, or if any new Aboriginal objects or skeletal remains are discovered during the Project.

Non-Indigenous Heritage

29. Within 6 months of this approval, the Proponent shall prepare an archival record of the Blacksmith's Shed, Worker's Hut, and Rosedale Shearing Shed to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This archival record must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Heritage Office.

VISUAL IMPACT

Visual Amenity

30. The Proponent shall minimise the visual impacts of the Project to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

Lighting Emissions

31. The Proponent shall ensure that no outdoor lights shine above the horizontal.

GREENHOUSE GAS

Energy Savings Action Plan

32. The Proponent shall prepare and implement an Energy Savings Action Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This plan must be prepared in accordance with the requirements and guidelines of DEUS, and submitted to the Director-General for approval within 6 months of this approval.

Recording and Reporting

33. The Proponent shall:
   a. record the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the Project, and the effectiveness of the measures implemented under the Energy Savings Action Plan; and
   b. report on this monitoring in the AEMR.

WASTE MINIMISATION

34. The Proponent shall:
   (a) monitor the amount of waste generated by the Project;
   (b) investigate ways to minimise waste generated by the Project;
   (c) implement reasonable and feasible measures to minimise waste generated by the Project;
   (d) ensure irrigation of treated wastewater is undertaken in accordance with DEC's *Environmental Guideline for the Utilisation of Treated Effluent*; and
   (e) report on waste management and minimisation in the AEMR,

   to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

SCHEDULE 4

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1. The Proponent shall prepare and implement an Environmental Management Strategy for the Project to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This strategy must be submitted to the Director-General within 6 months of this approval, and:
   (a) provide the strategic context for environmental management of the Project;
   (b) identify the statutory requirements that apply to the Project;
   (c) describe in general how the environmental performance of the Project would be monitored and managed;
   (d) describe the procedures that would be implemented to:
      - keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the Project;
      - receive, handle, respond to and record complaints;
      - resolve any disputes that may arise during the course of activities associated with the Project;
      - respond to any non-compliance;
      - manage cumulative impacts; and
      - respond to emergencies; and
   (e) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM

2. The Proponent shall prepare and implement an Environmental Monitoring Program for the Project to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This program must consolidate the various monitoring requirements of this approval into a single document.

INCIDENT REPORTING

3. Within 7 days of detecting an exceedance of the limits/performance criteria in this approval, or an incident causing (or threatening to cause) material harm to the environment, the Proponent shall report the exceedance/incident to the Department and any other relevant agency. This report must:
   (a) describe the date, time and nature of the exceedance/incident;
   (b) identify the cause (or likely cause) of the exceedance/incident;
   (c) describe what action has been taken to date; and
   (d) describe the proposed measures to address the exceedance/incident.

ANNUAL REPORTING

4. Within 12 months of this approval, and annually thereafter, the Proponent shall submit an AEMR to the Director-General and to all relevant agencies. This report must:
   (a) identify the standards and performance measures that apply to the Project;
   (b) describe the works carried out in the last 12 months;
   (c) describe the works that will be carried out in the next 12 months;
   (d) include a summary of the complaints received during the past year, and compare this to the complaints received in previous years;
   (e) include a summary of the monitoring results for the Project during the past year;
   (f) include an analysis of these monitoring results against the relevant:
      - impact assessment criteria/limits;
      - monitoring results from previous years; and
      - predictions in the EA;
   (g) identify any trends in the monitoring results over the life of the Project;
   (h) identify any non-compliance during the previous year; and
   (i) describe what actions were, or are being, taken to ensure compliance.

INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

5. Within 1 year of this approval, and every 3 years thereafter, unless the Director-General directs otherwise, the Proponent shall commission and pay the full cost of an Independent Environmental Audit of the Project. This audit must:
   (a) be conducted by suitably qualified, experienced and independent expert/s whose appointment has been endorsed by the Director-General;
   (b) include consultation with the relevant agencies;
   (c) assess the various aspects of the environmental performance of the Project, and its effects on the surrounding environment;
   (d) assess whether the Project is complying with the relevant standards, performance measures and statutory requirements;
   (e) review the adequacy of any strategy/plan/program required under this approval; and, if necessary,
   (f) recommend measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of the Project, and/or any strategy/plan/program required under this approval.

6. Within 3 months of completing this audit, or as otherwise agreed by the Director-General, the Proponent shall submit a copy of the audit report to the Director-General, with its response to any recommendations contained in the audit report.

7. Within 3 months of completing the audit, the Proponent shall review, and if necessary revise, each of the environmental management and monitoring strategies/plans/programs required in schedules 3 and 4, to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

8. During the Project, the Proponent shall employ a suitably qualified and experienced expert (or experts) to oversee the environmental performance of the Project, and ensure that it complies with the conditions of this approval.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

9. Within 3 months of the approval of any plan/strategy/program required under this approval (or any subsequent revision of these plans/strategies/programs), or the completion of the audits or AEMRs required under this approval, the Proponent shall:
   (a) provide a copy of the relevant document/s to the relevant agencies;
   (b) ensure that a copy of the relevant document/s is made publicly available at the mine; and
   (c) put a copy of the relevant document/s on the Proponent's website;

10. During the Project, the Proponent shall:
   (a) make a summary of monitoring results required under this approval publicly available at the mine and on its website; and
   (b) update these results on a regular basis (at least every three months).

APPENDIX 1
LAND DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 DP830291

Lot 2 DP830291

Lot 1 DP823413

Lot 49 DP753998

Lot 4 DP831119

Lot 38 DP753998

Lot 12 DP753998

Lot 46 DP753998

Lot 1 DP823413

Lot 2 DP831119

Lot 3 DP831119

Lot 14 DP753998

Lot 1 DP831622

APPENDIX 2
INDICATIVE LAYOUT OF THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED PROJECT

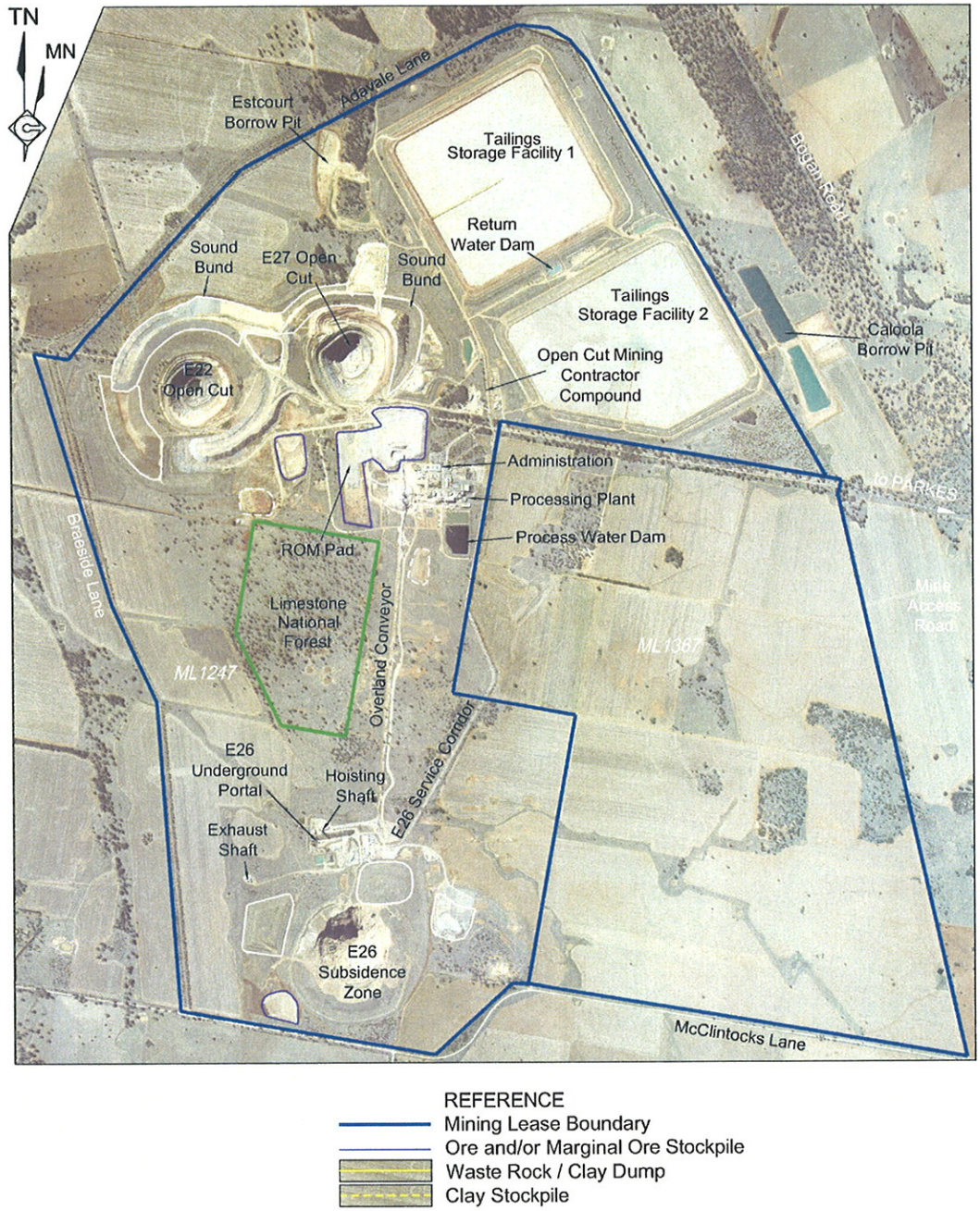

Figure 1: Existing Layout of Mine

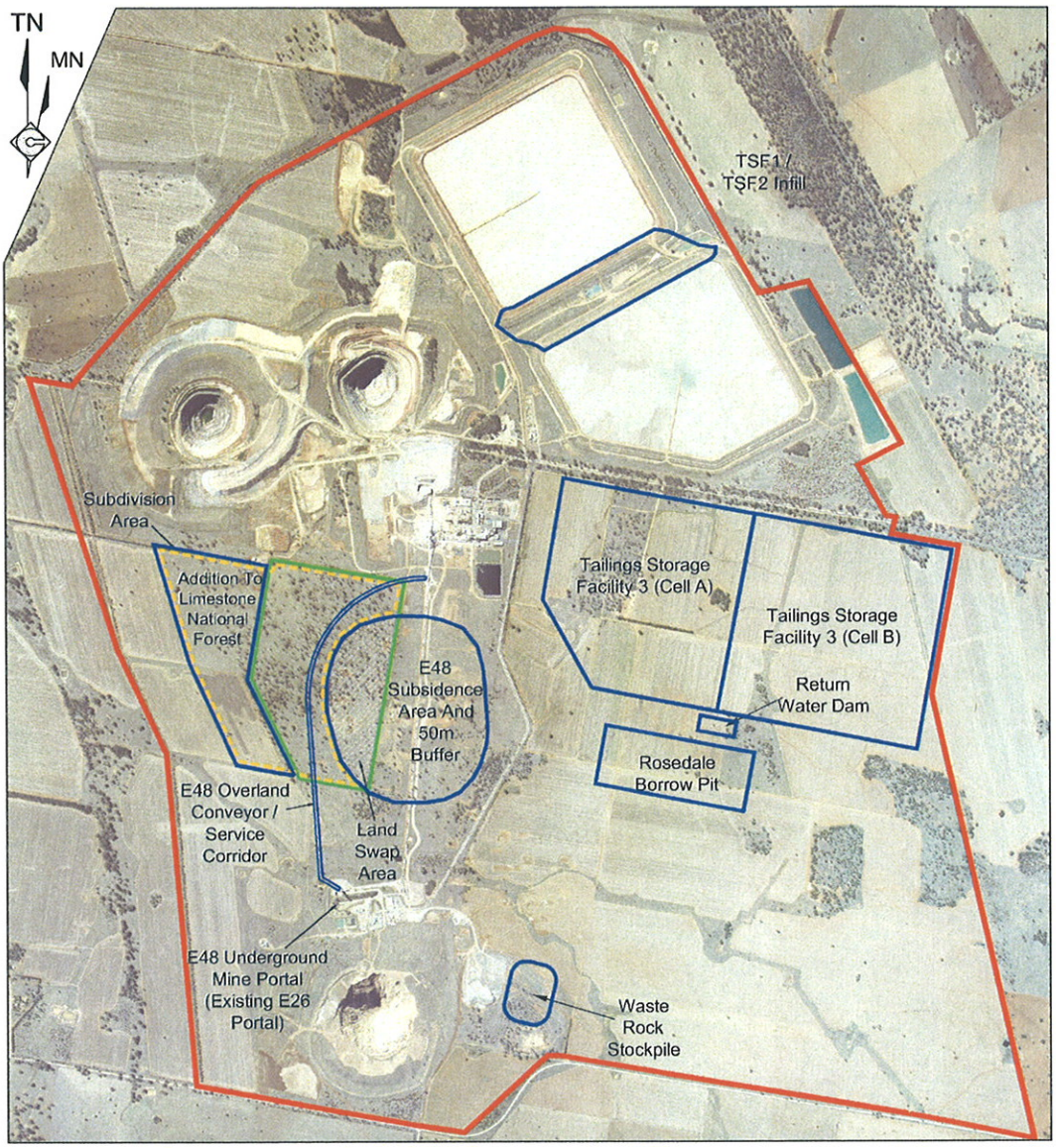

Figure 2: Proposed Layout of Mine

APPENDIX 3
PROPONENT'S STATEMENT OF COMMITMENTS

Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
1. PROJECT COMPONENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT		
1. Continue operation of existing activities	1.1 Undertake all activities as described in Part B.	Ongoing for life of mine
2. Construct and operate the E48 mine and related components	1.2 Undertake all activities as described in Part C.	Ongoing for life of mine
3. Comply with all conditional requirements in all approvals, licences and leases.	1.3 Comply with all commitments recorded in this table. 1.4 Comply with all conditional requirements included in the: • Project Approval; • Environment Protection Licence; • Mining Leases; and • any other approvals.	Continuous and as required.
4. Conduct all operations in accordance with all relevant documentation.	1.5 Undertake all activities in accordance with any current Mining Operations Plan, environmental procedures, safety management plan or site-specific documentation.	Continuous and as required.
2. OPERATING HOURS		
5. Construction and operating hours are managed in accordance with the approved project approval conditions.	2.1 Blasting (underground): 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. 2.2 Blasting (open cut): 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Saturday 2.3 Underground Mine Development: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. 2.4 Underground Mining: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week 2.5 Tailings Storage Facility Construction: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week 2.6 Maintenance: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week 2.7 Processing: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week 2.8 Product Transport – Trucks: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week (but timed to avoid school buses) – Trains: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week	6. Continuous during project construction and operations

Desired Outcome	Action		Timing
3. NOISE AND VIBRATION			
Noise impacts attributable to the Project are minimised at all surrounding residences and comply with DEC criteria.	3.1	Regularly service major earthmoving equipment to ensure equipment sound power levels are within nominated range.	Standard servicing schedules.
	3.2	Avoid unnecessary clustering of earthmoving equipment.	During all above ground construction activities.
	3.3	Determine and implement a sequenced construction program to minimise tailings storage facility construction at night during gentle winds towards "Avondale" and temperature inversions.	During adverse weather conditions when "Avondale" residence is occupied.
All open cut blasts meet DEC airblast overpressure and ground vibration criteria at all surrounding residences.	3.4	Ensure all blasting contractors adopt appropriate blasting controls to minimise air blast overpressure and vibration.	All open cut blasts.
	3.5	Monitor open cut blasts at "Hubberstone".	All open cut blasts.
4. SOILS AND LAND CAPABILITY			
7. Maintain soil value for rehabilitation and minimise soil loss through erosion.	4.1	Minimise handling of soils.	During soil stripping operations
	4.2	Select soil stockpile locations to minimise subsequent movement.	During soil stripping operations
	4.3	Minimise handling of soils during periods of high soil moisture.	During soil stripping operations
	4.4	Topsoil stockpiles will be created between 1m and 2m in height while subsoil stockpiles will not normally exceed 3m in height.	Continuous
	4.5	Prevent mobile equipment, including light vehicles, from accessing soil stockpiles once created.	Continuous
	4.6	Install well maintained upslope water diversion banks or swales where overland surface water flow has the potential to impact on the soil stockpiles.	Continuous
	4.7	Implement appropriate downslope sedimentation controls.	Until the surface of the soil stockpile is stabilised
	4.8	Sow surfaces of soil stockpiles with appropriate groundcover.	As soon as practicable following construction
	4.9	Take reasonable measures to protect natural or stockpiled soils from any spills or contaminating activities.	Continuous
	4.10	Ensure Soil Mapping Unit SMU2 subsoils >70cm in depth are mixed with overburden before being stockpiled.	During soil stripping campaigns.

Desired Outcome	Action		Timing
5. AIR QUALITY			
8. Undertake site activities without exceeding DEC air quality criteria or goals.	5.1	Avoid disturbing areas outside approved footprints of disturbance (including tracks).	During construction periods
	5.2	Keep unsealed roads damp when in use by off-road trucks.	As required
	5.3	Tailings storage facilities operated to minimise dust and capped as early as practicable.	Continuous
	5.4	Erect and maintain partial cover on above ground conveyors.	Continuous during operations
	5.5	Progressively rehabilitate areas no longer required for operational purposes.	As required
	5.6	Prepare and implement a dust control strategy.	
6. SURFACE WATER AND WATER SUPPLIES			
9. A surface water management system including a contingency plan, is developed and implemented for the entire Project Site and the E48 Project.	6.1	Construct appropriate catch drains and diversion banks around the margins of TSF3 (Cell A).	Prior to construction of TSF 3 (Cell A)
	6.2	Construct necessary sediment ponds to contain sediment-laden water on site.	Prior to construction of TSF3 (Cell A).
	6.3	Maintain the existing drainage systems for Farm Dams south of the mine access road.	Until TSF 3 (Cell B) works commence
	6.4	Construct catch drains and diversion banks around the margins of TSF 3 (Cell B).	Prior to construction of TSF 3 (Cell B)
10. Ensure that there is a secure water supply to the E48 Project.	6.5	To work with the Parkes Shire Council and other relevant authorities to put in place a formal agreement to secure adequate water supply to the E48 Project.	Commencing immediately with a view to completion by mid 2007.
11. Ensure no 'dirty' or 'contaminated' water leaves the Project Site as a result of the E48 Project surface disturbance.	6.6	Vegetate the embankments of TSF 3 to provide erosion protection, with consideration to be given to subsequent afforestation of these areas or rock armour the embankments to minimise erosion.	On completion of each period of TSF 3 embankment construction
	6.7	Contain tailings supernatant and accumulated rainfall within the processing plant water circuit for extreme rainfall events up to 1 in 100 year 72 hour storm or sustained wet periods.	Continuous
	6.8	Conduct and report upon regular inspections of the TSF3 dam walls.	
	6.9	Undertake activities at the premises in a manner that does not cause or permit water pollution as defined in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.	

Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
6. SURFACE WATER AND WATER SUPPLIES (CONT'D)		
12. Ensure the NPM operations water usage from off-site sources do not cause unacceptable short falls for other users.	6.10 Continue to negotiate and reach agreement with Parkes Shire Council regarding the supply of water during the operational phase of the NPM operations.	As required
7. TRAFFIC		
13. All motorists travel safely to and from the NPM operations.	14. 7.1 Ensure all employees and contractors are regularly informed about the safe driving requirements to and from the NPM operations.	Continuous
	7.2 Transport all oversize loads with all necessary permits.	As required
15. Interaction between the road train and school bus is avoided.	16. 7.3 Avoid despatch of road train (with concentrate) between 7:30am/9:30am and 3:00pm/5:00pm.	School days
17. The standard of road pavement is maintained at an appropriate level for the type and volume of traffic.	18. 7.4 Continue to work collaboratively with the Parkes Shire Council on road pavement and traffic issues. An annual road maintenance contribution of $52,267, index linked will be made in order to maintain Bogan Road in good repair.	Annually or as agreed
8. GROUNDWATER		
19. Protect the groundwater resources from contamination.	8.1 Ensure the floor and walls of TSF 3 have a permeability satisfying the standard required by the DEC (ie. <1 x 10-9m/s).	During construction program
	8.2 Conduct testing to ensure required permeability levels are achieved.	During construction program
	8.3 Ensure all programs for managing hydrocarbons and chemicals are fully implemented.	Ongoing
	8.4 Prepare a Groundwater Management Plan, for the entire Project Site in consultation with and to the satisfaction of the Department of Natural Resources.	Within 6 months of the grant of project approval.
9. ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY OFFSET STRATEGY		
20. Minimise long term impacts on flora and fauna on and around the Project Site.	9.1 Clearly identify the boundaries of all construction areas. No clearing will occur outside these boundaries.	Prior to clearing
	9.2 Where practicable, clearing within woodland communities would be timed to avoid more sensitive breeding, torpor and dispersal periods of the year. Where it is not practicable to clear during these times, any fauna species identified during the pre-clearing survey will be relocated.	During clearing

Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
9. ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY OFFSET STRATEGY (CONT'D)		
21. Minimise long term impacts on flora and fauna on and around the Project Site.	9.3 Implement a feral baiting and/ or trapping program, consistent with the existing feral animal control strategy.	Prior to clearing
	9.4 Spread all cleared native vegetation in revegetation areas.	Following clearing if areas available, otherwise when revegetation area available
	9.5 Re-site hollow-bearing trees removed where practicable.	During clearing
	9.6 Continue the existing feral animal management program.	Continuous
	9.7 Inspect TSF 3 and the Rosedale Borrow Pit daily for fauna during the course of daily maintenance and operation inspections.	Daily
	9.8 Progressive and final rehabilitation will occur across the Project Site to recreate a final land use of agriculture and native vegetation.	As required
22.	9.9 Continue current programs of habitat enhancement and revegetation across the Proponent's land.	Ongoing
23.	9.10 Review the revegetation program to ensure it remains relevant.	Annually
	9.11 Ensure all native trees and shrubs planted on the Project Site are local endemic species.	Ongoing
	9.12 Prepare and implement a detailed revegetation plan for the Limestone National Forest offset area.	Within 6 months of the grant of a project approval.
	9.13 Incorporate in the Mine Closure Plan details of the mechanisms to achieve long term security of both remnant and planted native vegetation across the Proponent's landholding.	No later than 3 years prior to the scheduled closure of the mine.
	9.14 Undertake pre-clearing surveys to target Threatened species known to potentially occur in the vicinity of the Project Site. Undertake appropriate measures for the relevant species in the event any of the targeted species are located in an area to be cleared.	Prior to each tree clearing campaign.

Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
9. ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY OFFSET STRATEGY (CONT'D)		
24. Minimise long term impacts on flora and fauna on and around the Project Site.	9.15 Ensure that during all operations involving the clearing of mature trees, an ecologist or appropriately trained personnel is present to check any tree felled for wildlife inhabiting these trees.	During each tree felling campaign.
	9.16 Undertake a small scale vegetation survey across the 6 000ha of surrounding properties owned by the Proponent to provide guidance on a suite of species appropriate for rehabilitation.	Within 2 years of E48 Approval.
	9.17 Swap an area of 45ha (as identified in Figure F1 of the Environmental Assessment in agreement with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI Forests) for 24ha located within the E48 subsidence zone.	
	9.18 Prepare, seed, plant, monitor and maintain (including weed control) in order to revegetate the offset area.	Ongoing
	9.19 Ensure revegetation of offset area involves the use of local native species, sourced locally.	Ongoing
10. INDIGENOUS HERITAGE		
25. Employees who are sensitive to, and respectful of, possible Aboriginal heritage on the Project Site.	10.1 Inform relevant staff and contractors of their responsibilities under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.	During site induction
26. Appropriate salvage or protection provided for archaeological sensitive sites. 27.	10.2 Implement the following proposed actions. 28.	Salvage prior to surface disturbance in that area. Protect continually

Action	Site Id	Type	Impact	Proposed
2	Campsite	None	Protect	
8	Campsite	Farming	Salvage	
9	Campsite	Farming	Salvage	
10	Campsite	Farming	Salvage	
11	Campsite	Farming	Salvage	
12	Campsite	Farming	Salvage	
P1	Scarred Tree?	E48 Project	Salvage	
P2	Isolated Find	E48 Project	Salvage	
P3	Isolated Find	E48 Project	Salvage	
P4	Isolated Find	E48 Project	Salvage	
A1	Campsite	Farming	Salvage	
A2	Isolated Find	E48 Project	Salvage	
A3	Isolated Find	E48 Project	Salvage	

Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
10. INDIGENOUS HERITAGE (CONT'D)		
29.	10.3 For those sites that require salvaging, the artefacts will be recovered as part of a salvage project that will be undertaken with the Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council. The salvage work will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist and members of the Land Council.	When programmed
30. Minimise disturbance to potential unidentified sites.	10.4 Conduct a program of test pitting in Zone 1 (Goonumbla Creek).	Prior to any disturbance in Zone 1.
11. EUROPEAN HERITAGE		
31. Ensure appropriate records of the heritage buildings are made prior to their demolition.	11.1 A site plan of the heritage area be recorded to include: – detailed recording of historic landscaping features; and – location of structures within the Project Site and in relation to one another.	Prior to disturbance
33.	11.2 Record elevations of: – Blacksmith's shed; and – Workman's Hut.	Prior to disturbance
	11.3 Compilation of the above details with the documentation and recordings provided by Jolly (2005).	Prior to disturbance
12. VISUAL		
34. Limit adverse visual impacts	12.1 Progressively revegetate all project-related components.	As areas are finalised
	12.2 Maintain site in clean and tidy manner.	Continuous
13. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING		
35. Identification of the level of impact(s) (if any) the NPM operations is having on the surrounding environment. 36. 37.	13.1 Monitor noise at the principal residence (if occupied) on "Hubberstone", "Avondale", "Milpose" and "Lone Pine".	Within 2 weeks of the start of each TSF construction program
	13.2 Monitor blasts at "Hubberstone".	Every blast in E22 Open Cut
	13.3 Monitor 24 hour total suspended particulates (TSP) at "Milpose" and "Hubberstone".	6 day cycle
	13.4 Monitor deposited dust levels at 11 sites.	Monthly
	13.5 Monitor surface water quality at existing sites and all new structures associated with E48 Project activities.	Separate schedule

Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
13. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING (CONT'D)		
38.	13.6 Monitor groundwater levels and quality in monitoring bore network.	Separate schedule
	13.7 Monitor pH / EC of water pumped from E48 mine.	Daily
	13.8 Review monitoring parameters and frequency to ensure meaningful data is collected.	Annually
14. COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS		
39. Minimise impact on surrounding land users.	14.1 Maintain a substantial buffer zone (beyond the Project Site) surrounding the current and proposed mining operations.	Continuous while surface operations take place.
40. Keep surrounding land owners and land users informed about site activities.	14.2 Continue current practice of regular meetings and one-to-one liaison.	Ongoing
41. Continue to enhance community communication.	14.3 Continue to participate in a community consultative committee comprising mine management and local community representatives in order to enhance feedback between the mine and the local community on matters of community significance.	Up to two meetings per year.
15. DOCUMENTATION		
42. A systematic set of documents are in place to guide the planning and implementation of all environmental management strategies.	15.1 Incorporate the E48 Project management measures into the existing EMS.	Prior to commencement of the E48 Project and continuous review
	15.2 Update the Mining Operations Plan for the mine site.	Prior to commencement of E48 construction activities
	15.3 Incorporate relevant data/information regarding the E48 Project in Annual Environmental Management Reports.	Annually
16. MINE DECOMMISSIONING		
43. Decommission the mine and related infrastructure with least impact on the local environment and Parkes and district community.	16.1 Undertake all mine decommissioning in accordance with an approved Mine Closure Plan	Complete the mine closure plan no later than 3 years prior to scheduled closure of the mine
	16.2 Prepare a memorandum of understanding with Parkes Shire Council regarding water allocations currently used by the NPM operations.	As required but prior to mine closure
	16.3 Consult with Parkes Shire Council regarding programs for retraining personnel and social impacts following mine closure.	Prior to mine closure

APPENDIX B. RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

APPENDIX C. CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects)

See discussion in Section 4.

State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No.11 – Traffic Generating Development

The proposal is affected by the provisions of SEPP 11, as an 'extractive industry or mining' (Schedule 1 paragraph 'm'. As such, the application was referred to the RTA, who subsequently confirmed that it had no objection to the proposal.

SEPP No.33 – Hazardous and Offensive Development

The Environmental Assessment report examined the storage and transport of hazardous materials according to the relevant guideline[2]. These materials consisted of diesel fuel, lubricants, LPG, and explosives.

Environmental Assessment report concluded, on the basis of the quantities and storage locations, none of the materials met the guidelines thresholds which would require further consideration in a Preliminary Hazard Analysis. As such, the Department is satisfied that the proposal is generally consistent with the aims, objectives, and requirements of SEPP 33.

SEPP No.44 – Koala Habitat Protection

The Environmental Assessment identified that the project site does not contain 'core' or 'potential' Koala habitat and does not have a resident population of Koalas. As such, the Department is satisfied that the proposal is generally consistent with the aims, objectives, and requirements of SEPP 44.

SEPP 55 – Remediation of Land

SEPP 55 aims to promote the remediation of contaminated land for the purpose of reducing the risk of harm to human health or any other aspect of the environment. In particular, this policy requires consideration of whether a development requires a consent for remediation works or not and requires that remediation works meet certain standards and notification requirements.

The existing and proposed tailings storage facilities on the Project Site could be considered contaminated land. This SEPP requires the consent authority to consider whether, if land is contaminated, it is suitable in this contaminated state for the proposed development.

Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF1 and TSF2) exist and provide tailings containment to the satisfaction of the NSW Dam Safety Committee. The only works to be conducted on these structures is continued use and final rehabilitation. The proposed Tailings Storage Facility (TSF3) would also be constructed to the satisfaction of the NSW Dam Safety Committee and would be constructed on uncontaminated land. As such, the land is considered suitable for the proposed development.

[2] See DUAP (1997) *Applying SEPP 33 2nd edition.*