



Department of Primary Industries

OUT14/8726

Ms Alice Smith
Mining Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

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28 MAR 2014

Dear Ms Smith,

Cadia East Project (PA 06_0295) Proposed Modification

I refer to your email dated 12 March 2014 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment by NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed modification to the Cadia East Project. The review has identified the following key aspects of the preconditioning proposal as defined by the EA. Comments are also provided below.

KEY PROJECT STATEMENTS

- There would be no change to the amount of water that would drain to and accumulate in the Cadia East underground workings, hence the existing licensing requirements would remain unchanged.
- The modification would cause some fracturing to the surface two to three years earlier than was represented in the original groundwater model. This would not create any additional fracturing beyond that already accounted for by the groundwater modelling, hence the EA indicates no net additional impact to the groundwater regime.
- The water demand is approximately 20ML and this is to be sourced from the existing approved Cadia Valley Operations water supply network.
- The fracturing is predicted to create fractures that will radiate approximately 50m from each drill hole.

COMMENTS

- The assessment meets the Level 1 criteria of the minimal impact considerations of the Aquifer Interference Policy. This is deemed acceptable.

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- The ability of the proponent to ensure the fracturing is limited to within the zone of fracturing of the original environmental assessment is critical. Additional monitoring of nearby bores for water level is recommended during and after the proposed fracturing to confirm the response to groundwater is consistent with current predictions.
- It is recommended the water quality of the injected water be analysed prior to use to ensure it will not lower the beneficial use of the groundwater source.

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

Fisheries NSW, Agriculture NSW and Crown lands have no issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KHolz', is positioned above the printed name.

Kristian Holz
Director Policy, Legislation and Innovation