



I N L A N D
R I V E R S
N E T W O R K

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Friday 30 May 2015

Submission of Objection

Cadia East Modification 6 - Processing Rate Increase

The Inland Rivers Network ("IRN") is a coalition of environment groups and individuals concerned about the degradation of the rivers, wetlands and groundwaters of the Murray-Darling Basin.

IRN firstly wishes to lodge a formal complaint with Department of Planning about the short period of public exhibition for the Cadia East Modification 6 ("the proposal"). This is an inadequate period of time for the community to respond to a proposed change in operations at a major development.

IRN objects to the proposal for the following reasons:

1. The regional impacts of the Cadia gold mine operation under predicted climate change scenarios for the Central West have not been assessed
2. The increased use of water for the proposal has not been clearly identified in the assessment documents
3. The impacts of current water use requirements have not been adequately modelled for worst case drought scenarios
4. The relationship of Cadia water license holdings to the various water sources and Water Sharing Plans in the region has not been clearly identified.

INLAND RIVERS NETWORK

Working for river and wetland health since 1991

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5. The proposal falls within the Belubulah River Water Source catchment area. This river system is recognised as having environmental stress. Any increase in water usage will further exacerbate deteriorating river health.
6. The Cadia Mine has a large water demand at the headwaters of the Murray-Darling Basin. A comprehensive regional water study is required to assess the current impacts of the operation on both groundwater and surface water sources before any increase in water demand can be approved.

IRN considers that the severe water shortage experienced by Cadia Mine during the millennium drought has not been clearly identified in the assessment documents.

Any increased water demand caused by the proposal will impact on shares of other water users in the region, and particularly the environment, during future periods of prolonged drought.

IRN particularly objects to the NSW Government plans to construct a new large water impoundment on the Belubulah River.

This proposal should not be considered until such time as all planning processes for a new dam in the region have been conducted and a comprehensive regional water study is completed.

Yours faithfully



Bev Smiles

President