

CONSULTATION

Under Section 75X of the EP&A Act, the Secretary is required to make the modification application publically available. In accordance with this provision, the Department placed the application and accompanying information on its website from 19 February 2016. Due to the minor administrative nature of this modification, exhibition of the proposal was not undertaken.

4 ASSESSMENT

In assessing the merits of the proposal, the Department has considered:

- the modification application and supporting information (**see Appendix C**);
- the EA and conditions of approval for the original project;
- relevant environmental planning instruments, policies and guidelines; and
- the requirements of the EP&A Act

This modification application seeks to correct a minor administrative error in the Northparkes Extension Project approval by updating the Schedule of Lands (Appendix 1) to accurately identify all land within the approval boundary.

This modification does not involve any physical changes to the project, and would not alter the approved mining footprint or increase production rates. Consequently, it would not result in any changes to the predicted environmental impacts, which have already been assessed and approved.

The Department notes that CMOC is seeking to purchase the unformed road from the Crown and has already consulted with the Department of Primary Industries about this option. The outcome of any application to purchase the road from the Crown has no bearing on this modification application, as it would not change the predicted environmental impacts of the approved project.

The Department therefore supports the proposed modification and recommends its approval.

5 RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

The Department has drafted a recommended Notice of Modification (**see Appendix A**) and consolidated Project Approval (**see Appendix B**), which recommends updating the Schedule of Lands (Appendix 1) in the existing approval to accurately identify all land within the approval boundary.

6 CONCLUSION

The Department has assessed the modification application and supporting information in accordance with the relevant requirements of the EP&A Act.

The Department believes it is in the public interest to correct a minor administrative error in the Northparkes Extension Project approval. The Department is satisfied that the proposed modification would not result in any environmental impacts beyond those already approved under the existing project approval.

Consequently, the Department believes the proposed modification should be approved, subject to conditions.

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Director, Resources Assessments, as delegate of the Minister:

- **considers** the findings and recommendations of this report;
- **determines** that the modification is within the scope of section 75W of the EP&A Act;
- **approves** the application under section 75W, subject to conditions; and
- **signs** the notice of modification (**Appendix A**).

Clay Preshaw 31/3/16

Clay Preshaw
A/Director
Resource Assessments