



Our ref: DOC20/882148

Senders ref: DA 14/98 MOD 16

Philip Nevill
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
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Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Via email: philip.nevill@planning.nsw.gov.au

13 November 2020

Dear Mr Nevill

Subject: Cowal Gold Operations (DA 14/98) Modification 16

Thank you for your email dated 21 October 2020 seeking comments from the Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Cowal Gold Operations (DA 14 / 98) Modification 16 – Surface changes to support the Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development (SSD-10367).

We have reviewed the exhibited EIS against the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) provided by the Department to the proponent on 10 September 2019.

BCD considers that the EIS **does** meet the Secretary's requirements for biodiversity.

The Modification Report states that "there will be no additional impacts to ... biodiversity, as Mod 16 will not disturb any new land or require any vegetation to be cleared."

Given this, BCD is satisfied that this proposed modification will not have an additional impact on biodiversity, including threatened species.

If you have any questions about this advice, please contact me via rog.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 6022 0623.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fisher'.

Andrew Fisher
Senior Team Leader Planning
South West Branch
Biodiversity and Conservation Division
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment