![NSW Government Planning, Industry & Environment logo]

Our ref: DOC20/1026220
Senders ref: MP10_0191-Mod-6

Jack Turner
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Planning and Assessment Group
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
jack.turner@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Dear Jack,

Hera Gold Mine Mod 6

Thank you for your email dated 25 November 2020 to the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) inviting comments on the Modification Report for the Hera Gold Mine Mod 6.

BCS has reviewed the Modification Report and the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). Please note that, as of the date of this letter, the BAM Calculator for this project had not been submitted to BCS for review. BCS will review the calculator upon submission and provide additional comments.

BCS comments and recommendation on the information reviewed to date are provided in **Attachment A.**

Should you require further clarification on the items above please contact David Geering, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, via david.geering@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 6883 5335.

Yours sincerely

[signature: Samantha Wynn]

Samantha Wynn
Senior Team Leader Planning North West
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate

15 December 2020

BCS's detailed comments and recommendation

Hera Gold Mine Mod 6

1   All biodiversity impacts must be assessed

The Modification Report provides a description of the modification. This includes an extended pipeline network. Section 2.9.2 indicates that the pipeline would be laid on the surface to minimise vegetation disturbance. It is further stated that minimal vegetation would be disturbed and that the exact route of the pipeline will be selected to avoid such disturbance.

This suggests that impacts to native vegetation are possible, although this may not yet have been quantified. All impacts to native vegetation must be addressed in the BDAR.

Recommendation

    1.1   The BDAR must address all biodiversity impacts of the development. The route of the pipeline should be provided, the impacts quantified, and offset requirements established if required.