

OUT19/13382

Joel Herbert
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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Dear Mr Herbert

**Bulga Optimisation Project (SSD-4960) MOD 3 and Bulga Underground (DA 376-8-2003)
MOD 7 –
Statement of Environmental Effects**

I refer to your email of 30 September 2019 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter.

The following advice for you to consider is from DPIE Water and NRAR. Please note the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Crown Lands now provide a separate response.

Prior to approval

- The proponent should provide a discussion of actual derived parameters (e.g. K and S hydraulic property values) fed into the numerical groundwater model. The inclusion of the re-distributed overburden/spoil/tailings and its hydraulic properties needs further explanation.
- Some aspects of the groundwater impact discussions are confusing or incomplete hampering a comprehensive understanding of the reporting. The proponent should address these matters in an updated report with a view to improving internal consistency and readability.
- The Request for Additional Information made by DPIE has not been fully addressed. Information we are still awaiting includes a figure showing surface water catchment boundaries in the vicinity of the mine, and the rectification of deficiencies identified in the peer review of the numerical groundwater model. These deficiencies relate extensively to clarifying presentation and providing suitable graphics to explain statements. Once addressed, this should rectify the readability problems identified above in our 2nd dot point.

Post approval

- The project must obtain the required Water Access Licenses prior to commencement of works.
- Works on waterfront land are to be carried out in accordance with the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (NRAR 2018)
<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/licensing-trade/approvals/controlled-activities>.
- In its Water Management Plan (WMP), the proponent should commit to:
 - taking action immediately upon any approval of the present modification.
 - investigating and monitoring the hydrogeological setting of the Warkworth Sands Woodlands and developing a TARP to deal with any adverse impacts.
 - consulting with DPIE-Water on the revised WMP.

Any further referrals to DPIE – NRAR & Water can be sent by email to:
landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Any further referrals to DPI & Crown Lands can be sent by email
to: dpi.cabinet@dpi.nsw.gov.au & lands.ministerials@industry.nsw.gov.au respectively.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Rogers
Manager, Assessments
DPIE Water – Strategic Relations
14 January 2020