

Mr Jonathon Thompson
Group Manager - Environment
Aurelia Metals Limited
Hillston Road
Cobar New South Wales 2835

13/02/2020

Dear Mr Thompson

**New Cobar Complex Underground Project (SSD-10419)
Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements**

Please find attached a copy of the Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for New Cobar Complex Underground Project (see **Attachment 1**).

These requirements have been prepared in consultation with relevant public authorities based on the information you have provided to date. I have attached a copy of the public authorities' advice for your consideration during the preparation of the EIS (see **Attachment 2**). The Department has not yet received advice from Cobar Shire Council, Transport for NSW and NSW Health. Any advice received from these agencies will be forwarded on for your consideration during the preparation of the EIS.

Please note that the Planning Secretary may modify these requirements at any time. If you do not submit a Development Application (DA) and EIS within 2 years, you must consult further with the Planning Secretary in relation to the preparation of the EIS.

Prior to exhibiting the EIS, the Department will review the document in consultation with relevant authorities to determine if it addresses the requirements in Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*. You will be required to submit an amended EIS if it does not adequately address the requirements.

Please contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit your development application and EIS. This will enable the Department to provide lodgement instructions, confirm the applicable fee, determine the number of copies (hard-copy and USB), and discuss potential exhibition periods and locations.

The Department is currently developing a new environmental impact assessment guidance series for State significant projects in NSW which is likely to include a specific guideline for preparing an EIS. It is recommended that Aurelia Metals Limited has regard to this guidance series, if released during preparation of the EIS.

The Department wishes to emphasise the importance of effective and genuine community consultation where a comprehensive open and transparent community consultation engagement process must be undertaken during the preparation of the EIS. This process must ensure that the community is provided with a good understanding of what is proposed, description of any potential impacts and they are actively engaged in issues of concern to them.

If your development is likely to have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation; however, there may be opportunity to streamline the two assessment processes in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement or an accredited process between the NSW and Commonwealth governments.

Please contact the Commonwealth Department of the Agriculture, Water and the Environment to determine if an approval under the EPBC Act is required (<http://www.environment.gov.au> or 6274 1111).

If you have any questions, please contact Gen Lucas on 02 9274 6489.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments

as delegate for the Secretary

Enclosed:

Attachment 1: SEARs

Attachment 2: Public authority advice