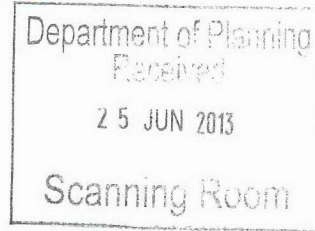




**Catchment Management
Authority**
Murray

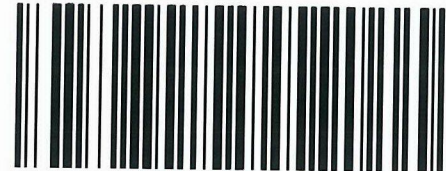
32 Enterprise Way,
PO Box 363
Buronga, NSW, 2739
☎ 03 5021 9460
Fax 03 5021 1308

19 June 2013



Our Ref (A1525090)

Mining & Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



PCU045572

Attention: Catlin Elliot, Senior Planner

Dear Caitlin

**Re: Atlas - Campaspe Mineral Sands Project
Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
from Cristal Mining Pty Ltd**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Atlas - Campaspe Mineral Sands Project Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from Cristal Mining Pty Ltd.

The Murray Catchment Management Authority (Murray CMA) considers that the EIS is an extremely thorough and comprehensive document of high standard. We consider that all the environmental issues have been adequately addressed and appropriate hazard prevention and mitigation measures are included in the project development and operating plans.

The flora and fauna surveys were comprehensive and detailed, with findings consistent with data collected by Murray CMA in the same broad area.

Whilst the development is exempt from the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, Murray CMA do believe that requirements for clearing should be consistent with that required of landholders in the same region.

It is noted that the area to be cleared for the mine development (approximately 4,150 hectares) is significant, almost twice that approved to be cleared for agriculture in the region in the past 8 years.

The size of the offset (16,270 Ha), the vegetation communities contained in the offset, and the location adjacent to Mungo National Park go some way to negating this significant environmental impact.

In addition to the area cleared we have some concerns over the proposal for securing the ongoing protection of the biodiversity offset area. We note that Cristal Mining state that within 12 months of granting of Development Consent a voluntary conservation agreement pursuant to section 69B of the *NSW Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or similar agreement will be entered into. Cristal also state that a Biodiversity Management Plan for the offset would be prepared within 12 months of granting of Development Consent.

For consistency with landholders obtaining PVPs in the region, Murray CMA would recommend that the Development Consent or Operating Licence not allow clearing to commence until the Biodiversity Management Plan has been development and the offset secured.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to review the Development Application and if you have any queries or wish to discuss this further please contact me on 03 5021 9460.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Gregory', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Gregory
Manager Land Services

RG/NH/nh