

DUBBO FIELD NATURALIST & CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.



Fostering interest, knowledge and enjoyment in natural history and conservation since 1977

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
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CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT TOONGI/DUBBO ZIRCONIA MINE PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Dubbo Field Naturalist and Conservation Society Inc. (DFN&CS) would like to make comment on the Preliminary Environmental Assessment as exhibited by NSW planning. We thank the NSW Government for giving us and opportunity to comment on such a significant proposal.

Our organisation is primarily concerned with biodiversity conservation and the protection of the local environment which affects our residents and members. We have been briefed on the project and visited the proposed impact and offset sites.

Our residual concerns about the proposal are:

- **Impact to Pink-tailed Worm Lizard population:** we have inspected the site and appreciate the ecological challenge of relocating the isolated and significant population of this species. Careful staging and ongoing monitoring of the relocation method, which is unproven, is essential.
- **Risk of pollution of waters:** The management of tailings and waste water leachate should be of top priority within the project. The potential impact on the downstream areas of Wambangalang Creek and Macquarie River are a significant cause for concern. There should be no short-cuts when dealing with potentially radioactive and definitely toxic materials upstream of both sensitive aquatic ecosystems (eg Macquarie Marshes Ramsar site) and drinking and irrigation water sources for several communities.
- **The impacts of the proposed pipeline and power line have not been included in the impact assessment:** It is of concern that the total impact of the proposal has not been included in the preliminary EA. It is understood that the proposal will require both an electricity transmission line and water pipeline to the site. These linear infrastructure components have a potentially significant ecological and community

impact. As such, we would like to see the impact assessment for these integral infrastructure components also to appreciate the total impact of the mine.

- **truck movements:** the proposed truck movements are of concern to both residents and the environment of Obley Road and Dubbo. We'd prefer to see the railway line utilised for heavy loads with a minimal increase in truck traffic.

We are happy to provide further information on any points raised above.

Yours faithfully,

Tim Hosking
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