

DOC17/20272-02, File No. EF13/3519

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Mr Thomas Watt (thomas.watt@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Watt

**RIX'S CREEK EXTENSION PROJECT SSD 6300
ADDENDUM RTS-MAIN REPORT**

I refer to your email dated 16 January 2017 in respect of Rix's Creek Extension Project SSD 6300 and the document titled "*Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project Response to Submissions Addendum*" dated 21 December 2016 prepared by AECOM ("Addendum RTS").

The Environment Protection Authority ("EPA") understands that the Addendum RTS was prepared to provide assessment of an additional portion of land (mining disturbance area) within the project area. The EPA understands that the noise, air, groundwater and hydrology reports provided as part of the Environment Impact Statement included the entire project area and as a result the EPA does not have any comment in respect to the Addendum RTS which relates to biodiversity and agricultural impact assessments.

The EPA previously reviewed the Response to Submissions and provided Department of Planning and Environment ("DPE") with advice that:

1. The air quality impact assessment ("AQIA") predicted exceedances of the impact assessment criteria but did not list all potentially impacted receptors;
2. The proponent should evaluate the feasibility of additional measures to mitigate these exceedances; and
3. Additional information on diesel emissions should be obtained post-approval if the proposal is approved.

The EPA has reviewed the Addendum RTS and advises DPE that there is no additional information that alters our previous advice regarding the issues in points 1-3 above.

Further the EPA advises DPE that it remains the case that the assessment shows exceedances of the EPA's published impact assessment criteria. No additional analysis or interpretation is provided to establish how many receptors potentially exceed the 24-hour PM₁₀ impact assessment criterion.

As noted in our previous advice Table 6 in Appendix D to the proponents RTS lists additional exceedances of the 24-hour PM₁₀ criterion for receptor 45 in years 2020 (1), 2023(4) and 2026(3). No evaluation of additional exceedances is provided for nearby receptors such as 40-43, 46, 48, 49, 54,

55, 97 and 104. Further receptor 45 is not included in the cumulative assessment set out in Appendix F of the exhibited Environmental Impact Statement.

The Addendum RTS does not evaluate the feasibility of additional mitigation measures and DPE needs to consider what is reasonable and feasible.

The EPA note however that following acquisition of the Integra Mine, production from Rix's Creek extension can reduce by 25% in the years 2021 to 2025. A detailed assessment of this reduction has not been submitted. Further the EPA is not aware of a significantly amended mine plan or an amendment to the proposed maximum production associated with the proposal.

If you require any further information regarding this matter please contact Natasha Ryan on (02) 4908 6833.

Yours sincerely



NATASHA RYAN
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