

DOC17/586369-01; EF13/3519

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Ms Gen Seed

11 December 2017

Dear Ms Seed

**RIX'S CREEK CONTINUATION OF MINING PROJECT SSD 6300
REVISED RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS**

I refer to your email dated 27 November 2017 requesting review of the document titled "Rixs Creek Mine – Continuation of Mining Project: Environmental Impact Statement Revised Response to Submissions" dated 24 November 2017 and prepared by AECOM ("RRTS").

The Department of Planning and Environment ("DPE") advised that the issues subject to the RRTS include:

- Biodiversity issues;
- Aboriginal cultural and historic heritage issues;
- Surface water issues with Stonequarry Gully diversion being removed; and
- Surface area disturbance area issues and post mine landuse.

The Environment Protection Authority ("EPA") previously provided responses to DPE on this project on:

- Response to Submissions dated 15 November 2016;
- Addendum Response to Submissions Report Supplementary Advice 1 February 2017;
- Addendum Response to Submissions Report Main Report 25 January 2017; and
- Recommended Conditions of Approval 10 December 2015.

The EPA has reviewed the RRTS, in particular Appendix M titled Surface Water Specialist Response and provide the following comments and Recommended Conditions of Approval.

Recommended Conditions of Approval and Supplementary comments - Water

The EPA is pleased to see analysis of surface water quality issues within the assessment, as many similar Environmental Assessments for mining activities lack this detailed information, including metals and trivialise surface water quality impacts.

Given the likelihood for sediment dam discharges the EPA recommends that DPE include a condition of approval requirement water quality monitoring from each dam discharge for electrical conductivity, turbidity, total suspended solids, pH and metals.

The EPA has not authorised the discharge of waters from sediment storages and as such all discharges must meet section 120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, unless otherwise authorised by the Environment Protection Licence

The EPA also advises DPE that the proponent should ensure that any saline water is managed as part of the mine water system and not discharged through the sediment dams.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact me on 4908 6833 or by email to hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



MARK HARTWELL
Head Regional Operations Unit - Hunter
Environment Protection Authority

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