

Orange Regional Water Security Association
5 Gilroy Place
Orange 2800
February 17, 2021

Re: Cadia East Gold/Copper Project-Modification14

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

I am lodging this submission on behalf of the Orange Regional Water Security Association, an organisation dedicated to the security of water supply for the Orange District and surrounding region. It is in this capacity that I express ORWSA's opposition to the above project for the following reasons:

- The application states that there will be a significant increase in the mine's capacity to extract ore for processing. It is obvious that if this is to occur future operations will require an increase in the amount of water required, despite stated water saving plans. Changes to water supply will inevitably result in the mine requiring more water-a resource which is already in short supply, and coming under increasing pressure from irrigation interests, increases in regional population and increased drought events.
- It is essential that we take into consideration the present and future predicted effects of our changing climate. Climate change is no longer a phenomenon that is a future threat. It is happening now, and its effects have been experienced in the Central West as well as across the continent. The effects are evident in more frequent periods of drought, higher than average temperatures and shifts in rainfall patterns. ORSWA cannot support an enterprise in our district that threatens to further encroach on scarce water resources in the face of these present and future challenges.
- Orange currently has an agreement with Cadia to supply an amount of its waste water to the mine. This is an arrangement which needs to be reviewed in the light of increased demand and increased scarcity.
- One innovative approach to water saving is the installation of a "purple pipe" designed to provide new suburbs with appropriately treated waste water for non potable use. Currently the system is using potable water because there is no access to waste water .because it is being piped to Cadia.. An extension of mining operations would make this water even more important to the mine. ORWSA has long advocated for the return of this water to Orange. We are concerned that further demand from the mine for water will make this less likely.
- As previously mentioned, we anticipate longer hot dry periods which will impact on our water supply. This will be further exacerbated by a predicted increase in the population of Orange, creating the need for more innovative ways of using available water. One way which has already been discussed is the use of recycled waste water for potable purposes. Again, this will make it necessary to review the waste water arrangement Orange has with Cadia.. We must prioritise water for our Orange community over any large scale commercial development which has the potential to make unrealistic demands on our water during times of scarcity. An extension of the Cadia Mine would put more pressure on this priority.

In Conclusion: For the above reasons ORWSA cannot support the Modification Application. With the knowledge that there will be extended periods of drought we must consider first the immediate needs of our community and oppose any projects such as the mine extension that could inhibit our response to those needs.

Yours sincerely

Cyril Smith ,President, ORWSA

