



Ms Carolyn McNally
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

15 September 2017

Dear Ms McNally

**Determination of Integra to Mount Owen Complex – Water Pipeline
(MP 08_0101 MOD 7 and SSD 5850 MOD 1)**

Thank you for the Department of Planning and Environment's (the Department) letter received on 11 September 2017 referring the above modification request to the Planning Assessment Commission (the Commission) for determination under Ministerial delegation of 14 September 2011, as the proponent, Glencore Australia Holdings Pty Ltd, declared reportable political donations. The request has been lodged pursuant to section 75W and section 96 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. I have been nominated by the chair of the Commission to determine the modification.

The proponent seeks to modify the Integra Underground Project and Mount Owen Continuation Project consents to allow for the construction and operation of a water pipeline from Integra Underground to Mount Owen. The proposed pipeline would be approximately 10km in length and would cross Glennies Creek, Bettys Creek and Main Creek, by either digging and backfilling trenches, underboring the pipeline beneath the creeks or erecting bridges. The pipeline would effectively integrate Integra Underground into the Glencore's Greater Ravensworth Area Water Sharing Scheme. The Commission notes that no members of the public made submissions on the modification.

The Commission has carefully considered the proposal, the Department's assessment of the proposal and the OEH and EPA submissions, in particular and accordingly has determined to grant consent to the modification application subject to the conditions set out in the modification instruments. The Commission's determination is outlined below.

Commission's determination

The water modelling prepared by the proponent identified that the existing Glencore's Greater Ravensworth Area Water Sharing Scheme would have sufficient capacity to manage mine water transfers from Integra Underground to Mount Owen. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) identified that the Environmental Protection License would need to be amended if the modification was approved and requested further details of the management and contingency measures employed to mitigate undetected breakages in the pipeline. The proponent, in the response to EPA's request, committed to install and operate flow meters between the pump and outlets to detect potential leakages or breakages in the pipeline. The Department and EPA were satisfied with the proponent's commitments and that the modification is unlikely to result in detrimental impacts on nearby water resources and downstream users.

The pipeline corridor comprises 7.3ha of native woodland, 1.6ha of planted vegetation and 125.2ha of derived native grassland or disturbed area. The proponent acknowledged the likely occurrence of 18 threatened fauna species and five threatened flora species within the assessment boundary and that the potential disturbance would occur to isolated patches of open woodland or along the edge of larger parcels of woodland. The proponent committed to returning topsoil to disturbed areas as soon as possible following installation of the pipeline. To address potential impacts on threatened flora species and fauna habitats, the Department recommended the proponent undertake pre-clearance surveys to avoid impacts where practicable. The Department and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) are satisfied that the likelihood of significant long term impacts are very low and manageable through implementation of the relevant consent conditions.

OEH submission identified that the proponent's offset obligations would require the accumulation of 105 ecosystem credits. The Department considered that the biodiversity impacts of the modification can be better addressed by planting 10 like-for-like trees for every one mature tree that cannot be avoided and is cleared as part of the pipeline construction and that the disturbed land is replanted and rehabilitated in a timely manner. OEH reviewed the Department's proposed condition and is satisfied that the rehabilitation requirements and additional compensatory planting is sufficient to account for the biodiversity impacts.

The proponent's modelling found that the pipeline would result in a localised increase in flood velocities and peak flood levels, primarily on proponent owned land, and increase flood risks and impacts on other mine-owned and privately-owned properties. The proponent predicted that the pipeline would result in localised increases to peak flood levels locally of up to 12cm and a minor decrease directly downstream. The modelling showed that the increases would extend around 160m upstream of the Glennies Creek pipeline bridge when modelled against the worst-case impacts. The Department was satisfied that the flood risks could adequately be managed and recommended additional conditions that strengthen the existing requirements for management of flooding and erosion risks. In addition, the Department recommended a new condition requiring the detailed design of any bridge crossing for the water pipeline infrastructure to be determined to the satisfaction of OEH. OEH reviewed the recommended condition and is satisfied that the proponent has adequately address concerns in relation to flood management and mitigation.

The Commission has carefully considered the proposal, the Department's assessment of the proposal and the OEH and EPA submissions. The Commission finds that water, biodiversity and flood impacts are appropriately mitigated by the proponent and the conditions recommended by the Department. Consequently, the Commission has determined to grant consent to the modification application subject to the conditions set out in the modification instruments.



Paul Forward
Member of the Commission

cc. The Hon. Anthony Roberts, MP
Minister for Planning
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