



4 November 2020

Mr Stephen O'Donoghue  
Director, Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Steve,

### **Russell Vale Underground Expansion Project**

I write in relation to the above application which is currently before the Independent Planning Commission (**Commission**) for public hearing and determination. In its consideration of the Application, the Commission would be assisted by the Department providing clarification on the matters set out below.

#### **Project Economics**

- 1) In light of submissions made at the public hearing regarding the predicted economic benefits of the Project, does the Department maintain the position set out in its Assessment Report regarding economic benefits to the State and region?
- 2) If mining operations at the Project Site were to end prior to 5 years from the date of commencement, would the rehabilitation costs be covered?

#### **Rehabilitation Costs**

- 3) What is the current cost of rehabilitation?
- 4) Will additional rehabilitation be required if development consent is granted?
- 5) What will be the cost of any additional rehabilitation if development consent is granted?
- 6) Will the current security deposit of \$12.3 million be sufficient to cover both existing and additional rehabilitation costs if development consent is granted?

The Commission would appreciate if you could provide a response to these matters by 5pm, 13 November 2020. If you have any questions, I have asked Mr Brad James, [REDACTED] to liaise directly with you.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Barry  
Acting Executive Director