



New South Wales Government

Independent Planning Commission

Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel

Conditional Gateway Certificate

Tomingley Gold Extension Project

Part 4AA, Division 4 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007*

Pursuant to clause 17H of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007*, we determine the application made by Tomingley Gold Operation Pty Ltd by issuing this certificate.

We certify that in the opinion of the Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel (**Gateway Panel**), with regard to the relevant criteria in clause 17H(4) of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007*, the proposed development described in Schedule 1:

- does meet the following relevant BSAL criteria:
 - 17H(4)(a)(v),
 - 17H(4)(a)(vi).
- does not meet the following relevant BSAL criteria:
 - 17H(4)(a)(i),
 - 17H(4)(a)(ii),
 - 17H(4)(a)(iii),
 - 17H(4)(a)(iv).
- does not include any Critical Industry Cluster land in the Application area.

The reasons for forming the opinion on each of the relevant criteria, together with recommendations of the Gateway Panel, are contained in Schedule 2.

Prof Neal Menzies

Chairperson

Dr Clinton Foster PSM

Member of the Gateway Panel

Mr Hugh Middlemis

Member of the Gateway Panel

Date certificate issued: 15 November 2021

This certificate will remain current for 5 years from the date of issue

SCHEDULE 1

Site:

The site is located approximately 50 kilometres south-west of Dubbo in Central West NSW within the Narromine Shire Local Government Area.

Development description:

The Tomingley Gold Extension Project proposes to extend the existing open cut and underground mining operations to extend the existing Tomingley Gold Mine. The Project will allow an increase of total production from 1.5 million tonnes per annum (**Mtpa**) to 1.75 Mtpa, make minor modifications to the processing plant to increase the maximum processing rate and extend the life of the mine from 2025 to 2032.

Applicant:

Tomingley Gold Operations Pty Ltd

SCHEDULE 2

Relevant criteria	Consideration	Recommendations
17H(4)(a)(i) to (vi)	<p>The Gateway Panel finds, under the BSAL Protocol, that the ability to exclude BSAL less than 20 ha only applies in areas covered by the Upper Hunter or New England Strategic Regional Land Use Plans. Given this Site is outside of those areas, the 20 ha minimum size does not apply and such areas should therefore be included in the BSAL assessment.</p> <p>The Gateway Panel finds the duration of post-mining impacts will extend indefinitely, notably in terms of drawdown around the final void lake and its water quality degradation.</p>	<p>The Gateway Panel recommends the EIS identify and address all areas of BSAL, including those less than 20 ha in area.</p> <p>The Gateway Panel recommends the EIS address the duration of any impact identified below and to detail any proposed avoidance, mitigation, offset or rehabilitation measures in respect of any impact.</p>
17H(4)(a)(i)	<p>The Gateway Panel considers overall the likelihood of subsidence impacts is low, but further consideration should be</p>	<p>The Gateway Panel recommends a management plan to be prepared as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) detailing the long-term</p>

	<p>given to the long-term monitoring and management of the geomorphic landform waste rock emplacements with respect to the potential for subsidence to influence water flows, potentially causing water to concentrate in defined flow paths, reducing the overall stability of the landform.</p>	<p>monitoring and management of the geomorphic landform waste rock dumps to ensure landform stability is achieved. The Gateway Panel also recommends the Applicant establish a baseline to allow any subsidence over the life of the project to be determined.</p>
17H(4)(a)(ii)	<p>The Gateway Panel considers that the process of soil stripping and replacement should include gypsum treatment of sodic soil to improve soil drainage and increase soil fertility.</p>	<p>The Gateway Panel recommends a management plan to be prepared as part of the EIS detailing how the soil handling process will be managed to improve soil drainage and increase soil fertility. In this regard, the Gateway Panel recommends the EIS detail the strategies to be used to improve the productivity of LSC Class 6 land to LSC Class 4, and to rehabilitate disturbed land to LSC Class 4 to offset direct mining impacts.</p>
17H(4)(a)(iii)	<p>The Gateway Panel considers that the geomorphic landform waste rock emplacement and residue storage facilities will result in slopes that are sufficiently steep that they constrain land uses and represent an erosion risk that will need to be managed. Furthermore, the residue storage facility may present a range of other environmental risks that need to be considered.</p>	<p>The Gateway Panel recommends a management plan to be prepared as part of the EIS that addresses post-mine land use and future land management, including strategies and measures to avoid, mitigate or reduce potential impacts associated with the geomorphic landform waste rock emplacement and residue storage facilities. If the residue storage facilities are likely to present environmental risks, such as if it becomes acid-generating in the long-term, the consequential impacts on groundwater and soil fertility should be addressed.</p>
17H(4)(a)(iv)	<p>The Gateway Panel recognises that the groundwater modelling work completed to date is adequate for this early stage of assessment of water impacts under the Aquifer Interference Policy, but that further work is necessary to inform the EIS and confirm and justify the preliminary findings.</p>	<p>The Gateway Panel recommends additional data gathering and analysis to be prepared as part of the EIS to confirm the conceptual groundwater model premise of a hydraulic disconnect locally between the shallow alluvial aquifer units associated with drainage lines, the transported colluvium overlying the saprolite, and the regional fractured rock groundwater system. Additional sampling, data, analysis and detailed reporting is also</p>

		<p>recommended on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems that may be associated with those systems as part of the EIS.</p> <p>Improved details are also required on any future groundwater modelling and uncertainty analysis that is to be used in an EIS, to confirm and justify the preliminary findings, including on the final void water balance and water quality and the duration of the impacts.</p>
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Note: Further information on the Gateway Panel's reasoning in relation to the relevant criteria is contained in the Gateway Panel report available at:
<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2021/08/tomingley-gold-extension-project-gateway-certificate-application>
