

BARNETT & MAY

Dargues Gold Mine

(10_0054)

2023 Independent Environmental
Audit

Prepared for

Big Island Mining Pty Ltd.

Client representative

Abigail Saunders

Date

24 September 2023

Revision 0



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Prepared by — K. Holmes		Date – 24 September 2023
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Revision History

Rev No.	Description	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Authorised by	Date
a	Draft for client Review	K. Holmes	R Peterson	K. Holmes	5 September 2023
0	Final Report	K. Holmes	R Peterson	K. Holmes	24 September 2023

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1. Introduction

Big Island Mining Pty Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Aurelia Metals Ltd, is the operator of the Dargues Project (PA 10_0054) located at Majors Creek in Southeastern NSW South Wales. Dargues Gold Mine is located in New South Wales (NSW), north of the village of Majors Creek and approximately 60 kilometres southeast of Canberra.

The purpose of the audit, that was undertaken in accordance with the **Barnett and May's** proposal (dated 3 June 2023), was to determine if the compliance obligations contained in the Project Approval (MP10_0054) Schedule 5, Conditions 8 which states:

Within 3 months of re-commencing construction on the site, and every 2 years thereafter, unless the Secretary directs otherwise, the Applicant must commission and pay the full cost of an Independent Environmental Audit of the project. This audit must:

(a) be prepared in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (NSW Government 2020); and

(b) be submitted, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, within two months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary.

The Audit was commissioned on 14 August 2023. The site inspection was undertaken by Ken Holmes (Accredited Lead Auditor) of Barnett & May from 14 and 15 August 2023.

1.1 Dargues Project.

The Dargues Gold Project, comprising the development and operation of an underground gold mine, was assessed under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) with further assessment undertaken by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure's (DPI) Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) following the repeal of Part 3A. The PAC approved the construction and operation of the mine on 2 September 2011. Following the settling of two appeals against the mine, the Land and Environment Court (LEC) granted final approval of the mine under Section 75J of the EP&A Act on 7 February 2012 to Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (BIM), a wholly owned subsidiary of Aurelia.

Site establishment activities commenced on 11 February 2013 and included construction of the site access road and intersection from Majors Creek Road; development of the box cut, portal and decline for the underground mine; development of a run-of-mine (ROM) pad, temporary and waste rock emplacement; and establishment of surface water and groundwater harvesting infrastructure. In December 2013, development was suspended, and the mine was placed under care and maintenance. Re commencement of construction of the mine occurred on 27 March 2017, and mine production commenced in late May 2020.

1.2 Audit Objectives

The objectives of this Independent Environmental Audit were to:

1. Assess compliance against the conditions of the Project Approval.
2. Review all relevant post approval documentation required by the Project Approval(s) including an assessment of the implementation of Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans.
3. Review compliance against other environmental licences and approvals excluding any Environmental Protection Licence issued under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.
4. Review the environmental performance of the development including:
 - a. A high-level comparison of actual impacts against predicted impacts as documented in the environmental impact assessment.
 - b. The physical extent of the development in comparison with the approved project boundaries.
 - c. Review of environmental incidents, non-compliances, and complaints relevant to the audit period.
 - d. Performance against any applicable environmental policy or environmental issue identified through consultation with the relevant Regulatory Authorities.
 - e. Feedback received from DPE, other Agencies or Stakeholders including the community Consultative Committee (or equivalent body) relating to environmental performance of the development.
5. Review of the status of non-compliances and recommendations made in the preceding Independent Environmental Audit.
6. A high-level assessment of the adequacy of the Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans required by the Approval.
7. Review performance of the development against any other matters considered relevant by the auditor or the Department, considering relevant regulatory requirements and legislation, knowledge of the development's past performance and comparison to industry best practices.

1.3 Audit Scope

The audit was undertaken as per the brief outlined in the Barnett and May proposal (dated 27 June 2022) and provides an assessment of the compliance of the project with the conditions of the following approvals:

- Project Approval MP10_0054 (Consolidated)
- Mining Lease (ML) Number 1675, dated 1 February 2012

The scope of this audit was developed to meet the requirements of the New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Independent Audit Post Approval Guidelines May 2020 and was developed with consideration of:

- Requirements of the Project Approval(s)
- Relevant correspondence from DPE (provided by the Auditee);
- Inputs provided by the Stakeholders consulted as part of this IEA;
- Review of the findings of the previous IEA; and
- The Auditor's experience in relation to relevant industry practices.


1.4 Audit Period

The audit covered the period from 1 July 2021 to 13 August 2023 (the Audit Period).

2. Definitions

Acronyms	Description
ACHMP	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan
AER	Annual Environmental Review
AR	Annual Review
AQGMP	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan
BMP	Blast Management Plan
BioMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
BOS	Biodiversity Off-set Strategy
CC	Construction Certificate
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
DPI	Department of Planning and Infrastructure (former planning department name)
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (former planning department name)
EMS	Environmental Management System
EMSt	Environmental Management Strategy
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
EP&A Act	NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
EPBC	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
EPL	Environmental Protection License
GMP	Groundwater Management Plan
FHA	Final Hazard Analysis
HMMP	Hazardous Materials Management Plan
IEA	Independent Environmental Audit
MOP	Mining Operations Plan
NOW	NSW Office of Water
NMP	Noise Management Plan
OC	Occupation Certificate
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
OEMP	Operational Environmental Management Plan
PA	Project Approval
PIRMP	Pollution Incident Response Management Plan
(QPRC)	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
REF	Review of Environmental Factors
RMP	Rehabilitation Management Plan
SWB	Site Water Balance
SWMP	Surface Water Management Plan
SWVR	Surface Water Validation Report
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
TSF	Tailing Storage Facility
WMP	Water Management Plan
WRE	Waste Rock Emplacement
WRMP	Waste Rock Management Plan

3. Auditor Certification

Independent Audit Certification Form	
Development Name	Dargues Project
Development Consent No.	10_0054
Description of Development	Gold Mine
Development Address	Majors Creek, New South Wales
Proponent	Big Island Mining Pty Limited
Operator Address	1668 Forest Road, Orange, NSW 2800
Title of Audit	Dargues Gold Mine 2023 Independent Environmental Audit
<p><i>I certify that I have undertaken the independent audit and prepared the contents of the attached independent audit report and to the best of my knowledge:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The audit has been undertaken in accordance with relevant approval condition(s) and in general accordance with the auditing standard AS/NZS ISO 19011:2011 and in general conformance with the DPE's Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (June 2018).</i> <i>The findings of the audit are reported truthfully, accurately and completely;</i> <i>I have exercised due diligence and professional judgement in conducting the audit;</i> <i>I have acted professionally, in an unbiased manner and did not allow undue influence to limit or over-ride objectivity in conducting the audit;</i> <i>I am not related to any owner or operator of the development as an employer, business partner, employee, sharing a common employer, having a contractual arrangement outside the audit, spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child;</i> <i>I do not have any pecuniary interest in the audited development, including where there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation of financial gain or loss to me or to a person to whom I am closely related (i.e. immediate family);</i> <i>Neither I nor my employer have provided consultancy services for the audited development that were subject to this audit except as otherwise declared to the lead regulator prior to the audit; and</i> <i>I have not accepted, nor intend to accept any inducement, commission, gift or any other benefit (apart from fair payment) from any owner or operator of the development, their employees or any interested party. I have not knowingly allowed, nor intend to allow my colleagues to do so.</i> <p><i>Note.</i></p> <p><i>a) The Independent Audit is an 'environmental audit' for the purposes of section 122B (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Section 122E provides that a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an environmental audit if the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The maximum penalty is, in the case of a corporation, \$1 million and for an individual, \$250,000.</i></p> <p><i>b) The Crimes Act 1900 contains other offences relating to false and misleading information: section 192G (Intention to defraud by false or misleading statement—maximum penalty 5 years imprisonment); sections 307A, 307B and 307C (False or misleading applications/information/documents—maximum penalty 2 years imprisonment or \$22,000, or both).</i></p>	
Signature	
Name of Lead/Principal Auditor	Ken Holmes
Address	49 Coba Point, Berowra Waters, NSW
Email Address	ken@baeckea.com.au
Auditor Certification (if relevant)	Exemplar Global 14065
Date	24 September 2023

3.1 Auditee Details

Audit Title:	Dargues Project 2022 Independent Environmental Audit
Site:	Dargues Gold Mine, Majors Creek, New South Wales
Client Contact:	Abigail Saunders
Position:	Environment and Community Superintendent
Client:	Big Island Mining Pty Ltd
Client Address:	Level 17, 144 Edward Street Brisbane QLD 4000
Client Phone Number	0429 324 244
Client Email:	abigail.saunders@aureliametals.com.au
Audit Team:	Ken Holmes – Certified Lead Auditor
Auditor's Telephone:	0438 046 261
Auditor's Email:	ken@baeckea.com.au
Date of Site Visit	14 – 15 August 2023

4. Audit process

4.1 Audit Guidelines

This audit report has also been prepared in accordance with the 'Independent Audit Guideline, May 2020 (Audit Guidelines) (DPIE, 2020). Table 1 lists key requirements from the Audit Guidelines, the relevant Section of the Guidelines which references the requirement and indicates where each is addressed in this report.

Table 1 - Post Approval Audit Guidelines

Section	Independent Audit Report Requirements	Addressed
4.1	<p>Version Control</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the application number of the project; 2) each version or revision number of the report; 3) the date on which the report was prepared and issued to the Department; and 4) the title and name of the person who certified the Independent Audit Report. 	<p>Section 3</p> <p>Page iii</p> <p>Page iii</p> <p>Section 3.1</p>
4.2	<p>Contents</p>	
4.2.1	<p>Introduction – a brief overview of the audit including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) background of the project; 2) the audit team (including qualifications and experience); 3) the objectives of the audit; 4) the audit scope; and 5) the temporal period covered by the audit. 	<p>Section 1.1</p> <p>Section 4.3.1 and Appendix E</p> <p>Section 1.2</p> <p>Section 1.3</p> <p>Section 1.4</p>
4.2.2	<p>Audit Methodology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) documentation from the Planning Secretary agreeing to the auditor and any technical specialist(s); 2) how the audit scope was developed; 3) a summary of the audit process adopted to determine the compliance status and assess if documents are adequate; 4) site personnel interviewed including their name and position title (and including if access was not granted or possible with any required personnel and why); 5) details of site inspections undertaken (including any areas where access was not granted or possible and why); 6) a summary of the consultation undertaken; and 7) meanings of compliance status descriptors used, as set out in this document. 	<p>Appendix C</p> <p>Section 1.3</p> <p>Section 4</p> <p>Section 4.5.3</p> <p>Section 4.5.2</p> <p>Section 5</p> <p>Section 4.6</p>
4.2.3	<p>Audit Findings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a list of the approvals and documents audited; 2) a summary of the assessment of compliance i.e. comparison between the total number of compliance requirements and any non-compliances identified during the reporting period. Graphics can be used to summarise project performance in relation to compliance requirements; 3) a summary of any notices, orders, penalty notices or prosecutions issued in relation to the consent during the audit period; 	<p>Appendix A</p> <p>Section 6.1</p> <p>Section 7.3</p>

Section	Independent Audit Report Requirements	Addressed
	4) exception reporting of all non-compliances identified during the audit period. Details must include the relevant consent condition, the condition reference number, a unique non-compliance identification number, details of the non-compliance and the auditor's recommended actions that are proposed to be taken or have been taken to address the non-compliance;	Section 6.2
	5) a brief discussion or table of the status of actions arising from previous audits and the progress or outcomes of each action. Details must include the source of the action, reference (condition number), action proposed, proposed completion date, the status (date completed, if relevant) and the action complete.	Section 7.6
	6) a brief discussion of whether the Environmental Management Plans, Sub-plans and compliance documents are adequate, implemented and whether there are any opportunities for improvement;	Section 7.5
	7) a discussion of other matters considered relevant by the auditor or the Department taking into account relevant regulatory requirements and legislation and knowledge of the development's past performance;	Section 7.9
	8) documentation of any feedback received as a result of consultation undertaken with the Department, and other agencies or stakeholders including the community and Community Consultative Committee for the audit and the outcomes of this consultation;	Section 5
	9) a summary of complaints, and the adequacy of the response to, and management of complaints;	Section 7.2
	10) details of any incidents (including any enforcement action by any agency) and the adequacy of the response to, and management of such incidents;	Section 7.1
	11) an assessment of the compliance between actual and predicted impacts documented in environmental impact assessment, including an assessment of the physical extent of the development in comparison with the approved boundary and any potential off-site impacts of the development required under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979;	Section 7.8
	12) evidence collected through site inspections undertaken during the audit;	Appendix A
	13) evidence to support compliance assessment provided by the personnel interviewed during the audit;	Appendix A
	14) a brief discussion of any continual environmental management improvement opportunities identified as part of the audit; and	Section 6.2
	15) key strengths of the development's environmental management and performance identified by the auditor.	Section 7.4
4.2.4	Recommendations and opportunities for Improvement	Section 6.2
4.2.5	<p>Appendices</p> <p>1) a completed Independent Compliance Register with all relevant conditions of consent, identifying each requirement, compliance status assessed, documenting verified evidence and providing recommendations for any non-compliance that is identified;</p> <p>2) a copy of documentation from the Planning Secretary agreeing to the auditor and any technical specialist(s);</p> <p>3) documentation detailing consultation with the Department, and other agencies or stakeholders including the community and Community Consultative Committee;</p> <p>4) completed and signed Independent Audit Declaration Form(s);</p>	<p>Appendix A</p> <p>Appendix C</p> <p>Appendix D</p> <p>Section 3</p>

Section	Independent Audit Report Requirements	Addressed
	5) any reports prepared by the agreed technical specialist(s), as required; and 6) site inspection photographs.	Not required – expert inputs are integrated into this report. Appendix B

4.2 Overview

The audit process and methodology are summarised in this section, and comprised the following key undertakings:

- Preliminary planning activities
- Review of information and preparation of a compliance register (audit protocol/ checklist)
- Site inspection and interviews:
 - Opening meeting
 - Site inspection
 - Review of relevant records
- Review of additional information provided after the site inspection
- Preparation of this audit report.

4.3 Preliminary activities

Off-site planning for the site audit comprised:

- Initial discussions with client representative, to organise the site inspection and access to audit documentation
- Prepare the audit compliance checklist
- Completion of a project specific Risk Assessment
- Review of online information
- Submission of a preliminary document/ record request
- Consultation with relevant agencies.

4.3.1 Approval of audit teams

Dargues sought the Secretary's endorsement for the audit team to undertake this Independent Environmental Audit.

The Secretary approved the following team on 16 June 2023 (Appendix C):

- Ken Holmes – Certified Lead Auditor
- Dr Gitanjali Karak – Ecologist
- Dr Brian Luinstra – Hydrology and Water Modelling

4.3.2 Consultation with Agencies

The Auditor consulted with the following agencies during the audit planning stage:

- Department of Planning and Environment (DPE);
- NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA);
- DPE Water / Water NSW
- Resource Regulator
- Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)
- Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

Emails were initially sent (via Email) to each of the above agencies / groups advising them of the audit and the scope of the audit and inviting them to provide comments/ requirements or specific environmental issues they required the audit to target. Where required (where no response was provided by the nominated stakeholder organisation) a follow up email was sent to repeat the invitation to provide input into the audit.

4.4 Information Review and Compliance Register

Prior to the site inspection the Auditor prepared a detailed audit checklist that was used to assess and track compliance. This spreadsheet formed the basis of the compliance register presented in the Appendices of this report.

4.5 Site audit

The site inspection component of the audit was undertaken over two days from 14-15 August 2023.

4.5.1 Opening Meeting

Following site inductions, the opening meeting was held on-site. It was attended by the following personnel:

- Angus Wyllie, General Manager
- Lucy Ball, Mine Manager
- Anthony McArthur, Process Manager
- Tim Cooke, Process Superintendent
- Jonathon Thompson, Group Environmental Manager
- Abigail Saunders, Environmental & Social Responsibility Advisor
- Tayler Fish, Environmental Technician
- Cassandra Johnston, Environment & Community Superintendent and
- Ken Holmes (Lead Auditor) – Barnett and May.

Introductions were made, and the purpose and scope of the audit was outlined. An explanation of the audit process was communicated. That is, a site inspection, site interviews and detailed review of records to identify compliance with the approval conditions relevant to the current operations at the site.

4.5.2 Site Inspections

An initial tour of the site was undertaken by the Auditor, accompanied by Ms Johnston. Subsequent detailed inspections of specific areas of the operation were undertaken. The Auditor was provided with access to all areas of the site, except for underground areas, for safety reasons. The site inspection included observation of:

- Site Access and Security;
- Dargues surface mine infrastructure;
- Processing Plant;
- Tailings Storage Facility;
- Waste storage areas;
- Fuel and dangerous goods storage areas;
- Equipment maintenance area;
- Rehabilitation Areas; and
- Surface water management infrastructure.

4.5.3 Site Interviews

Audit interviews comprised of a series of meetings with:

- Cassandra Johnston (Environmental and Community Superintendent)
- Michael Francombe (Senior rehabilitation Specialist)
- Peter Grant (Maintenance Supervisor)
- Sanders Watson (Processing Plant Maintenance Coordinator / Planner)
- Nik Harris (Health, Safety & Training Superintendent), and
- Abigail Sounders (Environment and Social Responsibility Advisor)

4.5.4 Document review

Compliance related documents that were not available prior to, and during site discussions of, the audit, were requested to be provided following the audit. The Auditee's personnel assisted with the provision of documentation following the audit, through secure file transfer mechanisms. The key documents reviewed during this audit are listed in the Compliance Registers against specific conditions.

4.5.5 Closing Meeting

At the completion of the site-based activities a closing meeting was held during which the Auditor presented the preliminary audit findings. The closing meeting was attended by the following Dargues personnel:

- Angus Wyllie, General Manager
- Rochelle Carey, Company Secretary and General Counsel
- Lucy Ball, Mine Manager
- Tim Cooke, Process Superintendent
- Jonathon Thompson, Group Environmental Manager
- Michael Francombe, Senior Rehabilitation Specialist
- Cassandra Johnston, Environment & Community Superintendent.

4.6 Reporting

The compliance register was completed using notes and observations recorded during the site inspection / interviews and review of appropriate documentation. The completed compliance register is presented in **Appendix A**. A summary of the non-compliances identified during this audit are provided in Table 5 and Table 6. The audit criteria used to determine compliance for this audit is defined in Table 2

Table 2 - Compliance Assessment Matrix

Assessment	Criteria
Compliance	<p>Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site complies with the requirements of applicable pre-operational Consent Conditions. A judgment made by an auditor that the activities undertaken, and the results achieved fulfil the specified requirements of the audit criteria. While further improvements may still be possible, the minimum requirements are being met.
Non-Compliance	<p>Non-Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear evidence has been collected to demonstrate the requirement has not been complied with and is within the scope of the audit. Site displays little or no evidence of compliance with the requirements of the regulatory documentation. <p>Note: Where the auditor has not been able to collect enough verifiable evidence to demonstrate that the intent and all elements of the requirement of the regulatory approval have been complied with within the scope of the audit. In the absence of enough verification, the auditor may in some instances be able to verify by other means (visual inspection, personal communication, etc.) that a requirement has been met. In such a situation, the requirement should still be assessed as not verified. As the condition cannot be verified it is treated as a non-compliance.</p>
Not Triggered	<p>Not Applicable / Not Triggered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The respective condition/ requirement was not activated within the scope of the audit.
Noted	A statement or fact, where no assessment of compliance is required.

Risk levels for each non-compliance identified have been assessed in accordance with

Table 3 - Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk Level	Description
High	Non-compliance with potential for significant environmental consequences, regardless of the likelihood of occurrence.
Medium	Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential for serious environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or • potential for moderate environmental consequences but is likely to occur.
Low	Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or • potential for low environmental consequences but is likely to occur.
Administrative non-compliance	Only to be applied where the non-compliance does not result in any risk of environmental harm (e.g. submitting a report to government later than required under approval conditions).

5. Stakeholder Consultation

Table 4 - Summary of Stakeholder Inputs provides a summary of the Stakeholder Consultation undertaken by the Auditors. The scope requests from DPE and DPE(Water) have been addressed in Appendix A and Section 7.9 (Other Matters).

Table 4 - Summary of Stakeholder Inputs

Department	Contact	Stakeholder Comments
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment	Katrina O'Reilly – Senior Compliance Officer.	<p>The department would like areas to be focused on to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion and sediment management and maintenance; • Management and monitoring of the tailings dam/ releases/ water reuse, etc.; • Water management – surface and groundwater monitoring and management/ reuse management; • Compliance with all commitments/ actions/ monitoring in all management plans; • Evidence of mgt plans being review and revised; • Compliance with project footprint; • REA management, (height compliance); • Traffic management/ Truck movements; • Management/ actions/ measures of Dust and noise to ensure compliance with criteria/condition/management plans; • Complaints register and its management.
Queanbeyan-Palerang Council	Manager of Development Graeme Harlor and the Acting Manager of Environment and Compliance Mel Corey.	Council did not respond to the consultation request.
NSW EPA	Nathaniel Rizzuto – (Regional Operations Officer)	The EPA did not respond to the consultation request.

Department	Contact	Stakeholder Comments
DPE Water	Tim Baker – Senior Water Regulation Officer	<p>The department requests that the audit address compliance with the following specific elements of the consent conditions and related legislative requirements in a manner consistent with the above audit scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirement to prepare and implement management plans that relate to water sources and their dependent ecosystems and users, and associated impact management and mitigation. These plans may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water Management Plans and related sub-plans eg. Site Water Balance, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Stormwater Management Plan, Surface and Groundwater Management Plan. ○ Extraction Plans and related sub-plans eg. Water Management Plan, Subsidence Management Plan. • The requirement to prepare and implement trigger action response plans for water source impacts which set clearly defined limits and actions. This is to be reported on within annual and exceedance-based reporting. • Water supply availability is clearly defined for the project. • Water take at the site via storage, diversion, interception or extraction is clearly documented and is authorised by a relevant Water Access Licence or exemption under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018. • Water metering at the site is in accordance with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Framework where relevant. • Water Access Licence/s used to account for water take by the project nominates the work where the water is being taken from. • Annual reporting clearly documents; 1) water take, use and water source impacts, 2) compares results with previous the year, and 3) identifies exceedances and how these are managed/ mitigated.
CCC	Brian Weir (Independent Chair)	<p>I refer to your recent request for comment from the Dargues Gold Mine (DGM) Community Consultative Committee (CCC) as part of your Environmental Audit of the mine’s operation for the past two years.</p> <p>INTRODUCTION:</p> <p>The DGM CCC comprises representatives from the community, the two affected Councils and the Proponent, with myself appointed as the Independent Chairperson.</p>

Department	Contact	Stakeholder Comments
		<p>All sectors of the CCC have worked cooperatively and constructively towards understanding, and if possible, finding mutually acceptable solutions to the environmental challenges at the mine site.</p> <p>The CCC meetings, which are held quarterly, over the last two years have continued to be heavily focused on environmental issues.</p> <p>There have been four major issues on which the CCC Members have focussed.</p> <p>DATA:</p> <p>The first issue was the need for the Proponent to present top quality, accurate and easily interpreted environmental data in a prompt and transparent manner so as to give confidence to the Community Members that acceptable policies and practices were being undertaken in accordance with the conditions of project approval.</p> <p>The change in mine ownership in December 2020 hindered this objective being achieved easily and quickly due to the need to transfer, integrate and/ or compile the requisite reports and to then make them available to the CCC.</p> <p>However, the creation of a dashboard portal mechanism during 2022 to facilitate the access to and evaluation of the data has proven to be to the satisfaction of the community representatives in monitoring and evaluating environmental performance. This dashboard has enabled data to be analysed and variations/ “spikes” to be observed, identified and queried.</p> <p>During this consultation process I have received a comment from one Member criticising the Proponent in regards to being “tardy” in publicising some environmental monitoring results on its website, e, g, aquatic ecology survey results, during the review period.</p> <p>The CCC Members have all worked constructively to identify, suggest and agree on improvements in data compilation/evaluation /presentation.</p> <p>WATER QUALITY:</p> <p>The second issue was water quality.</p> <p>The Community and Local Government Members took great interest in the use, treatment and control of water on site as well as the study of water runoff, and its quality, from the site.</p> <p>The importance of the water runoff quality for downstream users including the large number within the expansive Eurobodalla Shire catchment area, especially during periods of heavy rainfall, cannot be overstated – nor can the importance of the timeliness of reporting or non-reporting to downstream users.</p>

Department	Contact	Stakeholder Comments
		<p>The proponent's initiatives in this regard - such as with the Tailings Storage Facility works- received considerable attention and was the subject of several specific onsite inspections.</p> <p>NOISE:</p> <p>The third major issue was with respect to noise including its source, timing and severity. Noise affected nearby residents to varying degrees and distances depending on the weather considerations, wind direction etc. The principal sources were mine blasting and the crushing plant operations. Possible solutions were discussed.</p> <p>In late 2022 the installation of the crushing plant (sic, the Auditor notes that the equipment installed was a fan noise attenuator) noise amelioration unit took place. Its effectiveness is currently being monitored. The Committee is hopeful that this nuisance will be softened to a less intrusive level.</p> <p>GROUND VIBRATION:</p> <p>The fourth issue was ground vibration caused by blasting operations. There were discussions regarding this issue and efforts made, where possible, to explain the reasons for a particular incident and, to consider whether any improvements or refinements could be undertaken to reduce this in the future.</p> <p>CONCLUSION:</p> <p>In conclusion, I would point out that the CCC Meeting Minutes have been displayed on the Proponent's website following each meeting. They provide an accurate record of the Committee's deliberations including its deliberations on the issues outlined above.</p> <p>I thank you for consulting with me as the Independent Chairperson and I am happy to respond to any further enquiries you may make.</p>
Resources Regulator	Jenny Ehmsen – Senior Inspector Environment	The Department did not respond to the consultation request.

6. Statutory Compliance and Recommendations

Compliance with the Conditions of Consent and the Environment Protection Licence has been reviewed by assessing compliance against the various documentation related to the project approvals and licences listed in Section 1.3 of this report. The Compliance Register presented in Appendix A provides a detailed review of the compliance status of the site, including recommendations to address non-conformances.

6.1 Summary of Compliance Status

A summary of compliance with pre-operations statutory requirements is provided in Table 5 - Summary of Statutory Compliance. The number of conditions include relevant sub-clauses within each approval document.

Table 5 - Summary of Statutory Compliance

Approval/ Licence	No. of Conditions	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Noted	Not Triggered
PA 10_0054	214	148	21	9	36
Mining Lease Standard Conditions	111	43	7	28	23
ML 1675	9	3	0	3	2
TOTAL	334	194	28	39	61

6.2 Non-Compliances and other recommendations

Non-compliances identified during the site inspection, interviews and document reviews are recorded in detail in the Compliance Registers in **Appendix A** and are summarised in Table 6.

Note that the environmental management conditions of the original mining leases were superseded by Schedule 8A Standard conditions of mining leases, Part 2 Standard Conditions, as set out in the Mining Regulation 2016, as of 2 July 2022. Compliance with the conditions of the original mining leases was required prior to this time. Table 6 also summarises the findings of the assessment of compliance against the environmental management Standard Mining Lease Conditions and the Conditions of the relevant mining leases.

Table 6 - Statutory Non-Compliances

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
PROJECT APPROVAL – 10_0054				
Sch 2 C2	<p>The Applicant must carry out the Project:</p> <p>a. generally, in accordance with the EA, Statement of Commitments; and</p>	<p>In 2022 Dargues discovered that the net harvestable rights dam volume of 56.63 ML exceeded the 39.4 ML maximum for the operation (GHD 2022) and therefore the not consistent with the Water Management Regulations.</p> <p>The approved Water Management Plan for Dargues Gold Mine also states that dams will be constructed so as not to exceed the maximum harvestable rights capacity.</p> <p>DPE issued a Show Cause notice to Dargues stating that DPE considers “that the size and capacity of the dams is not less than or equal to BIMs harvestable right entitlement under the Water Management Act 2000 and is therefore not generally in accordance with the EA”.</p> <p>In March 2023 DPE emailed Dargues to communicate the decision to take no action as the Harvestable Rights entitlement for the mine had increased, as a result of the publication of a new Harvestable Rights Order (May 2022).</p> <p>During February and March 2022 Dargues temporarily stockpiled waste rock at a height greater than the indicative layout in the EA (up to 7 metres higher than the indicative level in the EA).</p>	<p>Implement the recommendations of the 2022 GHD report.</p> <p>The stockpile heights have been permanently reduced. No further action is recommended.</p>	<p>Low</p>

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
Sch 3 C4c	The Applicant must: c) minimise the noise impacts during temperature inversions and	Section 15 of the Noise Management Plan states that Dargues site induction training provides: “Awareness of the noise enhancing effects of temperature inversions and the times of day and meteorological conditions under which they may occur”. The site induction training materials did not cover noise impacts during temperature inversions.	Update the site induction training program to include a section on noise impacts and mitigation. The training should also include information on temperature inversions and the precautions that personnel should take to minimise noise impacts on residents during temperature inversions.	Low
Sch 3 C4d	The Applicant must: b) investigate ways to minimise the noise generated by the project, including any reversing alarms on machinery or vehicles. d) report on these investigations and the implementation and effectiveness of these measures in the Annual Review.	Section 6.3.3 of the Annual Reviews prepared during the audit period reference the investigations undertaken and key mitigation measures introduced during the respective reporting periods, however they do not report on the effectiveness of those measures.	Ensure that future Annual Reviews provide commentary on the effectiveness of any future noise mitigation initiatives.	Administrative non-compliance
Sch 3 C13	The Applicant must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the release of greenhouse gas emissions from the site to the satisfaction of the Secretary.	No greenhouse gas minimisation objectives or strategies are provided in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan. The Auditor did not identify any greenhouse gas minimisation initiatives during this IEA.	Review the options for minimisation of greenhouse gases generated as a result of this project (for example purchasing policies / solar power generation to supply office power, etc. and update the AQGGMP to reflect the initiatives to be implemented.	Low
Sch 3 C21	The Applicant must ensure that all surface water discharges from the site comply with section 120 of the POEO Act, unless an EPL authorises otherwise.	On 24 July 2023 Dargues reported a spike in Electrical Conductivity and water flow in Spring Creek (between 18 and 19 July 2023) to the EPA. The report also stated that mine water had inadvertently overflowed from a mine dust suppression tank into a sedimentation basin that subsequently overflowed into Spring Creek. The EPA subsequently issued a cleanup notice requiring Dargues to pump and dispose of any liquids in the sediment basin and provide a further report to the EPA.	Investigate the feasibility of installing a lock out mechanism that prevents drain valves on dust suppression water tanks from being inadvertently left open.	Medium

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
Sch 3 C26a	<p>The Applicant must prepare a Water Management Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The plan must:</p> <p>a) be prepared in consultation with ESC, Council, EPA, DPE Water, WaterNSW and DPI Fisheries by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been approved by the Secretary;</p>	<p>Revision 10 of the Water Management Plan was available on the Dargues website. The revision table of that plan indicated that the DPE approval was pending. Section 2 of the states that the organisations specified in this Condition have been consulted, however no documentation was available to verify that the consultation had been completed.</p> <p>Compliance with this condition could not be verified.</p>	<p>Ensure that the required consultation has been undertaken and the documents evidencing that consultation is maintained.</p>	Administrative non-compliance
Sch 3 C26B	<p>The Applicant must implement the approved Water Management Plan.</p>	<p>The Auditor's observations and review of water related monitoring data indicates that the Water Management Plan is generally being implemented, however three areas of the mine site, inspected by the Auditor, indicate that improvements in erosion and sediment control is required. The areas where ERSED works are required include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clean water diversion channel above the TSF. Significant erosion of the channel has occurred. Eroding soils in this channel will impact the quality of water collected in this channel, which drain into Spring Creek. • Heavy Vehicle Crossing of Spring Creek. Sediment laden rainwater that flows onto the crossing can drain directly into Spring Creek. No ERSED controls were in place to prevent the discharge of sediment contaminated water into the creek. • Soil erosion was observed on some on-site access tracks. <p>Please refer also to the compliance assessment of Sch 3 C 28c below relating to the implementation of an ERSED Audit Program.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stabilise the clean water diversion channel above the TSF. 2. Install sedimentation controls on the heavy vehicle crossing of Spring Creek. 3. Inspect all on-site access tracks to identify areas requiring stabilisation to prevent potential soil erosion. 	Medium

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
Sch 3 C33	The Applicant must ensure that the offset area is managed in a manner that would ensure the regeneration of native grassland, which is consistent with the Natural Temperate Grassland EEC.	<p>The agistment (grazing) of cattle has occurred at the mine site throughout the audit period. Cattle agistment within the site is not being managed in accordance with the Agistment Agreement (referenced in Section 6.4.5.1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan). Cattle were observed grazing outside of the area licensed by the agistment agreement and for example within the riparian zone of Majors Creek as shown on the agistment plan in Annexure A to the Agreement.</p> <p>No evidence was available to verify that the requirements of the Grazing Management Plan had been implemented, for example the requirements around grazing rotation and restriction of stocking rates in high value conservation areas to 2 head per hectare.</p>	Implement all requirements of the Grazing Management Plan and enforce the requirements of the Agistment Agreement, in particular the no-grazing areas.	Medium
Sch 3 C37	<p>The Applicant must prepare an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary and carry out the Project in accordance with this plan. The plan must:</p> <p>a) be prepared in consultation with Heritage NSW - ACH and the Aboriginal community;</p>	<p>The 2021 IEA assessed compliance of Revision 6 of the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan against this condition.</p> <p>Revision 7 has been issued to DPE and consultation undertaken with Heritage NSW.</p> <p>No evidence of Aboriginal Group consultation during the preparation of the current version of the plan was available. Therefore, compliance with this Condition could not be verified.</p>	Ensure that the required consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Groups is undertaken.	Administrative non-compliance
Sch 3 C40b	b) provide the Secretary with a summary of these truck movements on a quarterly basis.	Dargues reports truck movements via the Dargues Annual Review.	Provide DPE with quarterly truck movement reports.	Administrative non-compliance

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
Sch 3 C41b	the dispatch of concentrate from the site is limited to between the hours of 7am to 10pm Monday to Saturday and 8am-10pm Sundays and Public Holidays;	<p>A review of the concentrate truck records identified two concentrate truck movements prior to 07:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 June 2022 (Concentrate Truck) • 1 August 2022 (Concentrate Truck) <p>No departure times were recorded for the following concentrate truck movements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 September 2021 • 21 October 2021 	Ensure that all concentrate movements occur within the approved hours.	Low
Sch 3 C41c	all heavy vehicle movements to or from the site are prohibited between the hours of 7am - 8.30am and 3pm-5pm on school days;	<p>During the audit period heavy vehicles exited the site during the heavy vehicle curfew hours on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 April 2023 (Boral Cement Truck) • 26 June 2023 (Boral Cement Truck) 	Ensure that all heavy vehicle movements occur within the approved hours.	Low
Sch 3 C43A	The Applicant must implement the approved Traffic Management Plan.	<p>Section 5.3 of the TMP specifies the heavy vehicle transport times and routes. During the audit period four incidents involving heavy vehicles leaving the site during curfew times were recorded.</p> <p>Section 5.3 of TMP also specifies the records to be maintained and reporting to be undertaken. That reporting includes quarterly concentrate truck movement reports to be provided to DPE and Council. The Auditor understands that Dargues provides this data in the Annual Reviews, but not in quarterly reports are specified in the TMP.</p>	<p>Ensure that quarterly Concentrate transport reports are provided to Council and DPE.</p> <p>Training is provided to all personnel regarding heavy vehicle transport restrictions.</p>	Administrative non-compliance

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
Sch 3 C47A	<p>The Applicant must ensure that any paste fill used to fill mine voids on site:</p> <p>(a) complies with the leachable concentration (TCLP) criteria and specific contaminant concentration (SCC) criteria for general solid waste (non-putrescible); and</p> <p>(b) is not classified as a liquid waste, under the Waste Classification Guidelines (EPA, 2009), or its latest version.</p>	<p>The Waste Management Plan specifies that paste fill will be sampled weekly for analysis. In accordance with the EPA's guidelines, TCLP testing is triggered by a SCC (CT1) trigger exceedance. No exceedances have occurred of this SCC threshold during the audit period, and therefore the TCLP criteria, for all paste fill analysis since June 2022. Weekly sampling and testing of paste fill commenced in October 2022, prior to that time sampling and testing was more sporadic. Therefore, the Auditor has not been able to verify compliance, for the period of June 2021 to June 2022, with this Condition.</p> <p>The Dargues Annual Reviews included two tables that provide the trigger values for paste fill. In addition, Dargues provided the Auditor with a spreadsheet containing chemical test results for paste fill from June 2022 to June 2023. The test results were twice-monthly chemical testing of the paste film and did not include leachate testing.</p>	<p>Since October 2022 paste fill sampling and testing frequency has met the requirements of the Waste Management Plan, therefore no recommendations are required in that regard. However, it is recommended that in accordance with Schedule 5 Condition 5 of the Approval that this monitoring data be uploaded (monthly) to the project website.</p>	Low
Sch 5 C1d	<p>The Applicant must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the Project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The strategy must:</p> <p>(d) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the Project;</p>	<p>Section 12 of the EMS describes roles and responsibilities. However, the Roles and Responsibilities presented in Table 12 do not cover the roles of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Community Superintendent, • Senior Rehabilitation Specialist • key corporate environment support positions; or • Key operational management positions that have direct control over environmental and compliance outcomes. 	<p>Revise the EMS to include all of the current environmental and other management positions that have direct control over environmental and compliance outcomes.</p>	Administrative non-compliance
Sch 5 C2a	<p>The Applicant must ensure that the management plans required under this consent are prepared in accordance with any relevant guidelines, and include:</p> <p>a) detailed baseline data;</p>	<p>All plans where baseline data is relevant (for example background data is not relevant in the Bushfire Management Plan) contain background data with the exception of the Noise Management Plan.</p>	<p>Revise the Noise Management Plan to include background noise data.</p>	Administrative non-compliance

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
Sch 5 C2b	<p>The Applicant must ensure that the management plans required under this consent are prepared in accordance with any relevant guidelines, and include:</p> <p>b) a description of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions); • any relevant limits or performance measures/criteria; • the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the Project or any management measures; 	<p>All management plans contain the information required by this condition with the exception of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management – the plan makes no reference the requirement to operate under an Environment Protection Licence that are particularly relevant to waste management and to the management of paste backfill this disposed of on-site. • Noise Management Plan and Blasting Management Plan – these plans do not reference the requirement to operate under an Environment Protection. 	<p>Review all plans to identify deficiencies in the identification of relevant approvals and operational permits and licences.</p>	Administrative non-compliance
Sch 5 C8b	<p>Independent Environmental Audit</p> <p>b) be submitted, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, within two months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary.</p>	<p>The site inspection for the 2021 IEA was undertaken between 23 and 23 February. The report was issued to DPE on or after 27 May 2021.</p>	<p>Ensure that, for future IEAs that an extension of time is sought from DPE for any delays in submission of the final report.</p>	Administrative non-compliance
Sch 5 C9c	<p>Independent Environmental Audit</p> <p>c) implement the recommendations to the satisfaction of the Secretary; and</p>	<p>Refer to Section 7.6</p>	<p>Ensure that all recommendation contained in IEA reports are implemented or the justification to not implement a decision is documented and where necessary reported to DPE.</p>	Administrative non-compliance

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
Sch5 C10	<p>From the commencement of Project under this consent, the Applicant must:</p> <p>(a) make copies of the following publicly available on its website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •the documents referred to in Condition 2 of Schedule 2; •all current statutory approvals for the project; •all approved strategies, plans and programs required under the conditions of this approval; •the monitoring results of the project, reported in accordance with the specifications in any conditions of this approval, or any approved plans and programs; •a complaints register, updated on a monthly basis; •minutes of CCC meetings; •the annual reviews of the project; •any independent environmental audit of the project, and the Applicant’s response to the recommendations in any audit; •any other matter required by the Secretary; •any incident report referred to in Condition 6 of Schedule 5; •a certificate of currency of public liability insurance held by the Applicant as in force from time to time; and <p>(b) keep this information up-to-date, within a reasonable period, and in any event no later than 28 days after the above information becomes available,</p>	<p>All information required to be published on the Dargues Website has been uploaded except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paste Backfill Sampling and Testing Results • Certificate of currency of public liability insurance 	<p>Ensure that all documentation required is uploaded to the project website.</p>	<p>Administrative non-compliance</p>

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
Mining Lease Standard Conditions				
D1 C4	The holder of a mining lease must take all reasonable measures to prevent, or if that is not reasonably practicable, to minimise, harm to the environment caused by activities under the mining lease.	On 24 July 2023 Dargues reported a spike in Electrical Conductivity and water flow in Spring Creek (between 18 and 19 July 2023) to the EPA. The report also stated that mine water had inadvertently drained from a mine dust suppression tank into a sedimentation basin that subsequently overflowed into Spring Creek. The EPA subsequently issued a cleanup notice requiring Dargues to pump and dispose of any liquids in the sediment basin and provide a further report to the EPA.		Medium
D3 C13(2)b	The Annual Rehabilitation Report must include: (a) a report demonstrating the progress made through the phases of rehabilitation provided for in the forward program applying to the reporting period,	Other than an annotation of “Not Applicable” under the heading of “Variation to the Rehabilitation Schedule – Identify the components of the most recent forward program that were not achieved”. No further information relating to progress is provided.	Ensure that future Annual Rehabilitation Reports include a report demonstrating the progress made through the phases of rehabilitation provided for in the forward program.	Administrative non-compliance
D3 C13(2)c	The Annual Rehabilitation Report must include (c) a report demonstrating progress made towards the achievement of the following— (i) the objectives set out in the rehabilitation objectives statement, (ii) the criteria set out in the rehabilitation completion criteria statement, (iii) for large mines—the final land use as spatially depicted in the final landform and rehabilitation plan.	Other than a table summarising current disturbance and rehabilitation highlights no clear reference is made to the objectives in the rehabilitation objectives statement or the rehabilitation completion criteria.	Ensure that future Annual Rehabilitation Reports include a report demonstrating the progress made towards meeting the objectives of the Rehabilitation Documents.	Administrative non-compliance

No.	Condition	Observation	Recommendation	Risk Level
D3 C15(2)b	(2) The holder of the mining lease must prepare a forward program and annual rehabilitation report and give them to the Secretary before— a)60 days after the last day of each annual reporting period, commencing with the annual reporting period in which the forward program was given to Secretary under subclause (1)(c), or b)a later date approved by the Secretary.	The first Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program have been provided to the RR. It is noted that the second versions of those reports were due in July 2023, however those reports were not prepared. Subsequently the RR has approved a change in reporting date. Dargues next Annual Rehabilitation Report will cover the period 17 October 2022 to 18 October 2023 and is due for submission on 13 December 2023.	Ensure that the Annual Rehabilitation Reports and Forward Plans are prepared and issued to the RR with the approved timeframes.	Administrative non-compliance
D3 C15(3)	(3) A rehabilitation completion criteria statement relating to completion of rehabilitation during a period covered by a forward program must be given to the Secretary for approval when the forward program is required to be given to the Secretary.	The first Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program have been provided to the RR. The second versions of those reports were due in July 2023; however, those reports were not prepared. Likewise, a rehabilitation completion criteria statement relating to the last reporting period was not prepared.	Ensure that the next Rehabilitation completion statement is prepared and issued to the RR with the next version of the Forward Plan.	Administrative non-compliance
D3 C16(2)	The holder of a mining lease must make a document to which this clause applies publicly available by— publishing it on its website in a prominent position	The Annual Rehabilitation Report was not available on the project website.	Ensure that each annual rehabilitation report is uploaded to the website	Administrative non-compliance
D4 C17	The holder of a mining lease must create and maintain records of all actions taken that demonstrate compliance with each of the conditions set out in this Part.	Sufficient records were not available to the Auditor to verify compliance with all conditions of the Mining Lease Standard Conditions.	Ensure that all relevant records are maintained and easily accessible to demonstrate compliance with these mining lease conditions.	Administrative non-compliance

7. Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements

This audit focused on the compliance requirements established by the Conditions of Approval. While the scope of the audit, as specified in the Conditions of Consent do not refer specifically to the DPIE Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (DPIE, May 2020), for completeness the Audit has, where possible, assessed the environmental performance of the project in accordance with those guidelines. This section of the report covers the specific requirements contained in the DPIE Guidelines.

7.1 Summary of Environmental Incidents

Dargues records all incidents in the INX Software System, a proprietary EHSQ management system that allows operational personnel to log incidents directly in Dargues' management system. All incidents are recorded and actioned through that system. The System requires details of the incident, actions taken, incident investigation results and corrective and preventative (learnings/recommendations taken). All Dargues personnel have access to that system.

Incident management procedures are described in Section 7 of the Environmental Management Strategy and incident response (actions) are detailed in the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP).

A screenshot of recorded incidents was provided to the Auditor. Table 7 provides an overview of the incidents recorded during the Audit Period. Three reportable incidents or non-compliances were recorded during the audit period. Ten incidents related to fauna deaths on-site, sixteen were related to minor spills and leaks, two were related to air quality monitoring, three were related to discharges of waters from site and two were related to traffic,

Table 7 - Summary of Incidents

Date	Ref	Category	Description	Reportable
6/09/21	206738	Pollution/ Spill	Mill bund overflow.	No
8/09/21	206786	Fauna	Wombat in TSF	No
15/09/21	206927	Pollution/ Spill	Concentrate filter pump mech seal failed	No
18/09/21	206961	Pollution/ Spill	Waste grease drums found knocked of a pallet and leaking in me laydown yard	No
20/09/21	206984	Pollution/ Spill	Filter feed pump dampener/ expansion joint failed	No
22/09/21	207030	Pollution/ Spill	Slurry discharged onto ground after mill tripped	No
29/10/21	207957	Pollution/ Spill	Oil Water Separator at wash bay over filled and spilt outside of a banded area	No
20/01/22	210191	Fauna	2 animals found dead in TSF appear to have drowned.	No
20/01/22	209720	Pollution/ Spill	Fittings at OWS not correctly fitted resulting in a small amount of wash bay water spill to land	No
27/01/22	209976	Pollution/ Spill	Bund overflowed with mostly water	No
8/03/22	2B022	Other	TSF water breached the operational freeboard on 8 March 2022. TSF water remained contained and on the HOPE liner. no	No

Date	Ref	Category	Description	Reportable
			uncontrolled discharge occurred, but did result in temporary suspension of operations,	
17/03/22	213512	Other	EPA issued dean up notice following increasing volume held in the TSF	No
17/04/22	211785	Pollution/Spill	Reagent found spilling outside of bunded area	No
1/06/22	213493	Other	Independent environmental audit· Dargues	No
15/06/22	213494	Air Quality	Dust monitoring samples not collected. Failed stream gauging stations Department of planning issued	No
12/07/22	213830	Pollution/Spill	Filter feed pump discharge line spraying slurry outside a bunded area.	No
12/07/22	213829	Fauna	Resident process water pond turtles died	No
17/08/22	214729	Pollution/Spill	Tailings transfer line holed out, Spraying roughly 100L of diluted slurry outside the tailing bund	No
9/09/22	215417	Air Quality	001 dust sampling vessel was damaged whilst in transit between Mine and laboratory	No
3/10/22	216143	Other	After a thorough review it has been identified that Dargues Mine is not operating in general accordance with the Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding harvestable rights.	Yes
21/10/22	216505	Pollution/Spill	Overflow of sludge IBC bund at the Oil and Water Separator - Small hydrocarbon spilt to land.	No
21/11/22	217157	Pollution/Spill	About 0.5m3 of dense liquid at base of thickener spilled over bund.	No
10/12/22	217735	Fauna	Deceased Canine found in process water pond	No
21/12/22	218041	Pollution/Spill	Scrap metal operator bumped transformer resulting in crack which leaked oil.	No
31/12/22	218246	Fauna	Deceased wildlife	No
13/02/23	219797	Pollution/Spill	Slurry spill in carpark of mill	No
6/03/23	219812	Fauna	4 Deceased ducks found on grass by sediment basin.	No
7/03/23	219854	Pollution/Spill	Oil and water Separator break down and overflow.	No
9/03/23	219924	Water	Raw water pond - Irrigation water exceeding irrigation criteria for pH and Turbidity	No
31/03/23	220333	Fauna	Wildlife death.	No
28/04/23	220963	Traffic	Boral truck was remotely "buzzed" {via the boom gates} off site on Friday afternoon, 28 April at approximately 1544hrs.	No
14/06/23	221703	Fauna	Deceased wombat appeared to have been hit by vehicle on haul	No

Date	Ref	Category	Description	Reportable
			road	
26/06/23	221990	Traffic	Boral Truck left site within curfew hours	No
13/07/23	22510	Water	Suspected pipeline Failure at TSF resulting in mine water discharge	Yes
13/07/23	22509	Water	Telemetry readings between SW2 and SW 11 showing Exceedances in EC, Water Level and pH	Yes
16/08/23	223051	Fauna	Kangaroo / killed by vehicle strike	No
2/09/23	223531	Fauna	Injured Bird	No

7.1.1 Incident Response Assessment

During this IEA the Auditor accessed the incident management system and reviewed the Incident Register. The system implemented by Dargues is documented in the Environmental Management Strategy and includes:

- Incident reporting;
- Implementation of immediate response actions;
- Incident investigation;
- Development of corrective and preventative actions;
- Reporting (internal and external): and
- Incident record management.

The Auditor sighted evidence that the incident management system is generally understood and being implemented. However, the recording of incidents may not be consistent. For example, there were four traffic (truck movements out of approved hours), however only two of those incidents were recorded in the incident register.

Recommendation: that all (relevant) personnel are updated on the use of the incident management system and in particular what defines an incident and when incidents are reportable (to external authorities).

7.2 Summary of Complaints

A complaints register is maintained for internal use that contains details of community contacts (including complaints) received. This summary of the register is available on the company website.

During the audit period (to 30 July 2023) one hundred and fifty-six (156) complaints were recorded. Table 8 provides an overview of the complaints received, noise being the dominant issue raised by the complainants.

Noise complaints represent 93% of the complaints received during the audit period. While noise monitoring undertaken indicates that Dargues is compliant with the relevant noise criteria, the number of complaints is indicative of the sensitivity of the local residents to mechanical noise (plant and equipment) in, what is a rural environment with very low background noise levels. The Auditor was satisfied that Dargues has responded appropriately to noise complaints over the audit period, and have implemented additional noise management measures where identified by their external noise consultants to address otherwise noise complaint, but audible noise sources.

Table 8 - Complaints overview

Complaint Category	Number	Percentage
Noise	145	93%
Blasting	5	3%
Traffic	4	3%
Visual	2	1%

7.2.1 Compliant Management System Assessment

During this IEA the Auditor accessed the complaints registers provided on the Dargues Project Website, the complaints records maintained by Dargues, with includes a register that identifies complainant details and reference to the record number for each of the detailed complaint record maintained in the INX system. The Auditor also reviewed the complaints management system implemented by Dargues as documented in the Environmental Management Strategy. The EMS complaints management procedure includes:

- Complaint reporting;
- Communication protocol (initial and on-going contact with complainants);
- Compliant investigation;
- Development of corrective and preventative actions (where appropriate);
- Reporting (internal and external);
- Complaint record management.

The Auditor sighted evidence that the complaints management system is understood and being implemented.

7.3 Summary of Notices

7.3.1 Notices Issued by the DPE

During the audit period the DPE issued the following notices to Dargues:

- Warning Letter – Breach of Section 4.2(1) (b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, dated 19 April 2022. During February and March 2022 Dargues temporarily stockpiled waste rock at a height greater than the indicative layout in the EA (up to 7 metres higher than the indicative level in the EA).
- Warning Letter - Breach of Section 4.2(1) (b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, dated 12 August 2022. The notice related to two reported breaches of the heavy vehicle curfew (30 June 2022 and 1 August 2022).

7.3.2 Notices Issued by the RR

During the audit period the Resources Regulator issued the following notices to Dargues:

- Advisory Letter titled “Advisory Letter – Water Management Legislation know the rule: Water Management Act – Maximum Harvestable Rights”, dated 6 March 2023.

7.3.3 Notices Issued by the EPA

During the audit period the EPA issued the following Notices to Dargues:

- Clean Up Notice 3502090, dated 17 March 2022. The notice directed Dargues to restore freeboard to the TSF.
- Clean Up Notice 3506109, dated 26 July 2023. The notice directed Dargues to pump out and dispose of wastewater that had inadvertently drained from a mine dust suppression tank into a sedimentation basin that subsequently overflowed into Spring Creek. The Notice also directed Dargues to provide a report on the incident to the EPA.

7.4 Project Environmental Management System

The Auditor reviewed the systems in place to manage environmental compliance at the mine and the following general observations were made:

- Dargues' Environmental Monitoring System is Esdat, it's a recognised EMS within the industry.
- A computer-based environmental record-keeping system (INX database) is utilised.
- Environmental records are maintained by the Environment and Community Superintendent and the Environment and Community Department on the site-based server file system. The Auditor notes that access to the records requested by the Auditor was not as efficient as would be expected and that some records / documents requested were not available. The current Environment and Community Superintendent joined the Dargues team during this audit period. The difficulty in accessing records was associated with locating records from prior to the current Environment and Community Superintendent's tenure.
- In general compliance requirements are communicated to operational personnel through toolbox sessions. There is no formal "environmental awareness training provided to operational personnel.
- Documented operational procedures exist, however there are limited environmental management procedures in place.
- Effective signage is used around the site, for example to show workers where to dispose of waste.
- A centralised incident register has been developed; and incident related records are maintained.
- The site employs an environmental team that is supported by the Group Manager – Environment and a Senior Rehabilitation Specialist (Corporate positions).

During the audit twenty-eight (28) environmental non-compliances were identified, the majority of those non-compliances were associated with administrative obligations. The range of non-compliances suggests that the implementation of the Environmental Management Plans and therefore the relevant environmental elements of the Dargues Business Management System has not been consistent. The implementation of some environmental controls, for example the management of heavy vehicles during curfew periods, (multiple instances of breaches were recorded) is indicative of the need to reinforce the day-to-day environmental management obligations to the broader workforce and contractors.

Given the transition to mine closure in 2024, it will be important for the Dargues operation to prepare the site for rehabilitation, but also maintain all operational environmental controls, in particular those that directly impact the surrounding community.

7.5 Implementation of the Operational Environmental Management Plan and Sub-plans

The Conditions of Approval required the preparation and implementation of the following management plans:

1. Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan.
2. Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan.
3. Blast Management Plan.
4. Biodiversity Management Plan.
5. Bushfire Management Plan
6. Environment Management Strategy.
7. Noise Management Plan.
8. Rehabilitation Management Plan.
9. Traffic Management Plan.
10. Water Management Plan.

During the document review phase of the project the contents of each of the plans were reviewed. During the site inspection the Auditor reviewed, (by sampling elements from each plan) the implementation of the management plans and determined that other than the implementation issues presented in Appendix A (Compliance Register) the operations were generally being conducted in general accordance with the approved plans.

Dargues management confirmed, in relation to the latest versions of each plan that the:

- Noise Management Plan, Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Management Plan, Bushfire Management Plan, Waste Management Plan and Indigenous Heritage Management Plan had been reviewed and approved by DPE.
- The Water Management Plan and Biodiversity Management Plan were under review by DPE, (Dargues was in the process of replying to DPE's request for further information relating to those plans).
- Comments have been received from stakeholders on the Traffic Management Plan; Noise Management Plan; Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan; and Blast Management Plan. Those plans would now need to be revised and relodged for reassessment by DPE.

During the review of the plans the Auditor made the following observations in relation to version control of the management plans:

- Noise Management Plan –
 - The revision table date for latest version of the plan is different that the date on the cover of the plan.
 - The previous version of the plan was Revision 7, dated 11 June 2020, while the latest version of the plan is Revision 5, dated 10 January 2023. The revision tables in both versions of the plan are inconsistent.
 - Section 2 of the latest version of the plan has not been completed.
- Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Management Plan –
 - The revision table date for latest version of the plan is different that the date on the cover of the plan.
 - Both revisions of the plan are marked as Revision 5 (note for clarity, the compliance assessment of the latest version of the plan in Appendix A refers to Revision 6).
 - The revision tables in both versions of the plan are inconsistent.
- Biodiversity Management Plan –
 - The revision table date for latest version of the plan is different that the date on the cover of the plan.
 - Appendix 2 (Grazing Management Plan) does not include a site map identifying the areas of the site where grazing is permitted – this is considered by the Auditor as a key deficiency of the plan.

- Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan –
 - The revision table date for latest version of the plan is different that the date on the cover of the plan.
- Traffic Management Plan –
 - The revision table date for latest version of the plan is different that the date on the cover of the plan.
- Waste Management Plan –
 - The revision table date for latest version of the plan is different that the date on the cover of the plan.
- Bushfire Management Plan -

7.6 Status of Previous IEA Findings

The previous audit (2021 IEA) was the audit report issued in May 2022. Table 9 lists each non-compliance identified during the 2021 Audit and the status of those non-compliance.

Table 9 - Status of 2021 Audit Findings

Condition	2021 IEA Finding / Recommendations	2023 Assessment	Status
<p>Schedule 2 Condition 2 Terms of Approval</p> <p>Schedule 3 Condition 20 Water Supply</p>	<p>DPIE issued a \$15,000 Penalty Notice to Aurelia in July 2020 for utilisation of water from the Bungendore Sewage Treatment Plant to support operations following significant delays to key construction activities. Aurelia have advised an application to modify the Project Approval will be submitted to include this potential water source should the project need arise in the future. Prior to this, community consultation and a water security options analysis will occur to investigate potential water sourcing options.</p> <p>Recommendation: Submit an application to amend the Project Approval to include contingency water sources.</p>	<p>Modification 5 to Project Approval 10_0054 (Mod 5) includes an additional water storage facility and emergency trucking of water from a secondary source.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>Schedule 3 Condition 1 Noise Criteria</p>	<p>Noise compliance survey not completed in December 2019 due to bushfires (2019-2020 Annual Review, Section 6.2 p 15). There is no reason to suspect a non-compliance with noise criteria, therefore this is considered an administrative non-compliance only. All noise monitoring results complied with the criteria.</p>	<p>No recommendation was made in the 2021 IEA report.</p>	<p>Closed</p>

Condition	2021 IEA Finding / Recommendations	2023 Assessment	Status
Schedule 3 Condition 2 Traffic Noise Impact Assessment Criteria	<p>Road traffic noise measurements indicated measured levels (from all noise sources) above the criteria in the last 6 quarters of the period. The consultant's reports noted other sources were primary contributors and therefore project-related traffic noise complied with the criteria, although no evidence is provided to justify this assertion.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Modify the traffic noise survey procedure (possibly including the monitoring location) to reliably obtain representative project-related traffic noise measurement data.</p>	The Noise Management Plan outlines the sensitive receptors as well as a prescribed traffic noise monitoring program at 600 Majors Creek Road.	Closed
Schedule 3 Condition 5 Noise Management Plan	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Amend Figure 1 in the NMP to include symbols at all noise monitoring locations (missing symbols at R20, R27, R29). 2) Amend Table 8.1 to include the unattended traffic monitoring location. 3) Amend Section 8.2.3 to include tonal and low frequency noise assessments. 4) Either remove requirements in Section 8.2.3 to report operator's name, temperature, humidity, cloud cover, or require consultants to include these details in the monitoring reports. 5) Either remove references to plant and equipment operating logs and mining locations for inclusion in the monitoring reports, or require consultants reports to include these data. 	The Noise Management Plan has been amended.	Closed
Schedule 3 Condition 14 Air Quality Criteria	<p>Individual month dust exceedances were reported throughout the audit period, however remained on average below the monthly assessment criteria. Aurelia concluded that the elevated concentrations were the result of regional events including bushfire over this period and unlikely to be significantly site derived.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Include detail in future Annual Review reports to justify the conclusion that elevated results are due to regional events and not site-derived</p>	No dust exceedances were recorded during the audit period.	Closed

Condition	2021 IEA Finding / Recommendations	2023 Assessment	Status
	or refer to monitoring reports where this is detailed.		
Schedule 3 Condition 22 Baseflow Offsets	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Compliance with the Majors Creek flow trigger level should be reported in Annual Reviews.</p>	The Annual reviews do not include reference to Compliance with the Majors Creek flow trigger level	Open
Schedule 3 Condition 26 Water Management Plan	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Update the WMP with the findings of the updated groundwater model (AGE 2021). For example, Section 7.9 includes trigger levels for baseflow in Majors Creek, but not Spring Creek. This is inconsistent with the groundwater model conclusions which identified baseflow impact predominantly localised to Spring Creek.</p>	This has not been addressed in the latest version of the Water Management Plan.	Open
Schedule 3 Condition 28A Water Management Plan EPBC Approval 2015 7539 2. Project Area	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Update the CEMP to include staged construction of the TSF prior to commencement of TSF Stage 3 works.</p>	The CEMP applied to the project prior to the commencement of operations. The project now operates under the approved operational Water Management Plan, which includes the size and management of sediment dams. The TSF Stage 3 works will be managed with existing sediment dams.	Closed
Schedule 3 Condition 35 Biodiversity Management Plan	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Review phreatophytic vegetation monitoring data to develop trigger values and mitigation measures in the next version of the BioMP.</p> <p>Append the Wombat, Weed and Grazing Management Plans to the BioMP.</p>	<p>Dargues' original groundwater consultant that was engaged to look at and interpret data regarding groundwater dependent trees, (phreatophytic vegetation) and provide a response to DPE's RFI, (relating to Dargues' MOD 5 Biodiversity Management Plan). Dargues stated that they have had to go to another consultant, Astron Environmental, (WA based) who are currently looking at the data.</p> <p>The Wombat, Weed and Grazing Management Plans have been appended to the current version of the</p>	Open

Condition	2021 IEA Finding / Recommendations	2023 Assessment	Status
		BioMP.	
<p>Schedule 3 Condition 41 Transport Operating Conditions</p>	<p>Operations generally complied with this condition, with the exception of a truck which was reported to have passed through the site gate at 8:20am on 29/6/2020. The incident was reported to the EPA, Resources Regulator and DPIE on 11/5/2021 following an environmental compliance review associated with company acquisition. A notification letter was provided to these agencies on 12/5/2021.</p> <p>The site Drivers Code of Conduct was reiterated to site and contract drivers.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Append the Drivers Code of Conduct to the next revision of the TMP and provide to all transport contractors.</p>	<p>The Drivers Code of Conduct is now appended to the Traffic Management Plan.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>Schedule 3 Condition 47A Waste Performance Measures – Paste Fill Statement of Commitments 6.13: Paste Fill</p>	<p>There is currently insufficient data to assess if paste fill used to fill mine voids complied with the general solid waste criteria.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>The paste fill monitoring program outlined in the approved WasteMP must be adhered to and reported in Annual Review reports.</p> <p>The next version of the WasteMP should consider reassessing the method of paste fill testing to also include Australian Standard Leaching Procedure (ASLP) analysis. Consider also assessing leachate against the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines (ANZG)9 criteria.</p>	<p>The Waste Management Plan specifies that paste fill will be sampled weekly, and leachate (TCLP) testing undertaken.</p> <p>The Dargues Annual Reviews include two tables that provide the trigger values for paste fill. In addition, Dargues provided the Auditor with a spreadsheet containing chemical test results for paste fill from June 2022 to June 2023.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>Schedule 3 Condition 47B Waste Paste Fill Trials and Testing</p>	<p>Trial results reported in the WasteMP Rev 5 indicate the paste fill meets the performance measures in Condition 47A. The WasteMP outlines a program for ongoing testing.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include paste fill ongoing testing results detailed in Section 5.2.3 of the WasteMP in Annual Review reports. • Include the paste fill general monitoring results detailed in 	<p>The Annual Reviews include a high level summary of the paste fill monitoring results.</p>	<p>Closed</p>

Condition	2021 IEA Finding / Recommendations	2023 Assessment	Status
	<p>Section 5.4 of the WasteMP in Annual Review reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of the paste fill trial are included in the WasteMP. Details of the assessment (e.g., Trial Report including calculation of the 95% upper confidence level) should be appended to the next revision of the WasteMP. Compare the testing results against those presented in Dargues Reef Paste Fill Test Work and Design (Revell, 2010) in the next version of the WasteMP. 		
<p>Schedule 3 Condition 47 Waste Operating Conditions Statement of Commitments 6.5: Minimisation of Groundwater Contaminatio n</p>	<p>During the site inspection, 200 L drums and intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) were observed adjacent to the mechanical workshop without appropriate bunding. Construction of a concrete bund was noted next to the workshop and Aurelia advised this will be utilised for raw material and waste storage and handling.</p> <p>Recommendation: All chemicals and wastes should be stored within a bunded and ideally roofed area; waste should be disposed of appropriately.</p>	<p>During the site inspection all hazardous liquid storage observed was in accordance with EPA requirements for provision of bunding.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>Schedule 5 Condition 4 Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs EPBC 2015 7539 8. Project Area</p>	<p>Recommendation: Clarify document control sections for each management plan to differentiate between document reviews, revisions and submissions to stakeholders. A number of management plans are Non-Compliant for approval from the Department/Secretary following the latest revisions.</p>	<p>Refer to Section 7.5 above.</p>	<p>Open</p>

Condition	2021 IEA Finding / Recommendations	2023 Assessment	Status
<p>Schedule 5 Condition 10 Access to Information</p> <p>EPBC 2015 7539 8. Project Area</p>	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Provide the following documents on the website: EPBC approvals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Confirmation of Cover. Ecology monitoring data. • Incident investigation reports. Environmental Management Strategy. • Construction Environmental Management Plan. Cardno (2011) Aquatic Ecological Assessment. 	<p>Required documents were available on the web site</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>Statement of Commitments 2: Area of Activities</p>	<p>Soil stockpile area used as a laydown area for construction material and equipment following relocation of soil material to the Waste Rock Emplacement area. Aurelia notified the DPIE by letter on 22 April 2021. Project Approval modification application to be submitted.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Apply to modify the Project Approval.</p>	<p>Modification 5 to Project Approval 10_0054 (Mod 5) has been approved.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>Statement of Commitments 13.1 to 13.5: Maintenance of Soil Value</p>	<p>Aurelia advised that a site disturbance permit is required for all soil works on site, which limits soil stripping to 120 millimetres (mm). This is less than specified in Table 2.2 of the EA and therefore considered in compliance.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Amend the Site Disturbance Permit to align with the soil stripping advice in the EA Table 2.2 i.e., 300 mm, and to include the additional requirements in this commitment.</p>	<p>Has the Site Disturbance Permit has been modified.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>Statement of Commitments 15.7: Ongoing Monitoring Environment Protection</p>	<p>This condition is in contradiction to the environmental monitoring described in the EPL. Laboratory analysis of groundwater was undertaken quarterly, as per condition M2.3 of the EPL.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Consult with the relevant authorities to revise this commitment.</p>	<p>The monitoring is undertaken in accordance with the EPL requirements.</p>	<p>Closed</p>

Condition	2021 IEA Finding / Recommendations	2023 Assessment	Status
Licence: M2.3			
Statement of Commitments 15.12A: Ongoing Monitoring	Aurelia advised that real-time pH and EC monitors have not yet been installed as part of the Surface Water Monitoring Program. However, quotes have been received and works have been delayed by access constraints and personnel shortages. Recommendation: Clarify this commitment in the WMP, including listing the locations to be monitored. Monitoring results to be included on the website in the Annual Review reports.	The WMP has been revised and the changes implemented.	Closed
Environment Protection Licence: L2.3-4	Recommendation: Noise monitoring reports should include parameters measured at 10 metres (m) above the ground as reported by the on-site weather station, not as observed by the operator at perhaps 1.5 m above the ground.	The noise monitoring reports reference weather conditions at 10m.	Closed
Environment Protection Licence: L2.5	Recommendation: Noise monitoring reports should justify the selected monitoring locations.	The noise monitoring undertaken by Muller Acoustics meets the EPA requirements.	Closed
Environment Protection Licence: L2.6	Recommendation: Noise monitoring reports should include modifying factors (particularly tonal and low frequency noise) as required by the NSW Industrial Noise Policy (and its successor the Noise Policy for Industry)	Noise monitoring reports do not include modifying factors	Open
Environment Protection Licence: M5.2	Recommendation: In the complaints control system, include the action taken by the licensee in relation to the complaint, including any follow-up contact with the complainant. If no action was taken by the licensee, the reasons why no action was taken.	The complaints register (Dargues Internal) does not include this information.	Open
Environment Protection Licence: R1.7	Recommendation: Ensure completed Annual Return Forms are retained and signed.	Annual Returns are retained.	Closed

7.7 Specialist Auditor Reports

No specialist auditor reports were prepared as part of this audit. Specialist inputs are integrated in this report.

7.8 Operational Environmental Impacts

The assessment of actual impacts against those predicted in the EA, prepared by RW Corkery, titled “*Environmental Assessment Dargues Gold Mining Project – Report Number 752/04*”, are provided in Table 10. The actual impacts of the operations are taken from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Annual Reviews.

Table 10 - Predicted vs Actual Impacts

Category	Predicted Impact	Actual Impact
Fauna and Flora	The Project would not have a significant impact such that viable local populations of these, or any other listed fauna species are likely to be placed at risk of extinction	No unapproved clearing has occurred. No significant impacts on flora or fauna have been reported.
Groundwater	Reductions in groundwater discharges to Spring Creek and Majors Creek and reduced groundwater discharge to the Shoalhaven catchment. There would be no impacts on the water supplies to Araluen or Majors Creek.	No impacts inconsistent with the EA predictions have been detected.
Surface Water	The Project would not have any significant adverse impact on local water quality or quantity.	No significant impacts on surface water have been identified.
Noise	The noise assessment determined that noise levels would comply with the nominated site establishment, operational, sleep disturbance and road traffic noise criteria at all residences under calm conditions and temperature inversions	During the audit period 145 noise complaints were received. Noise monitoring undertaken demonstrated compliance with the relevant noise criteria, however due to the nature of the area (rural / low background noise levels) some residents experienced disturbance attributable to the mining operations.
Blasting	No exceedances of air overpressure or peak ground vibration criteria were predicted at the closest residence	Five blasting vibration complaints (from underground blasting) were received during the audit period. No exceedances in air overpressure or peak ground vibration criteria were detected.
Aboriginal Heritage	Five Aboriginal heritage sites were identified within the Project Site. One site was identified in the vicinity of the embankment of the tailings storage facility. As a result, the facility was redesigned slightly to ensure a minimum 20m buffer. In addition, another site was identified in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line.	No unapproved impacts on Aboriginal Heritage have been identified.
European Heritage	The proposed activities would not disturb any identified historic artefacts	No unapproved impacts on European Heritage have been identified.
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas	The potential impact on air quality at surrounding residences would be minor and would not exceed the recommended air quality goals.	No air quality exceedances were identified during this audit period.
Traffic and Transport	Heavy vehicle traffic will increase on roads leading to the mine site.	Traffic impacts were quantified during this IEA. However no traffic volume related complaints were received during the audit period.

Category	Predicted Impact	Actual Impact
Soils	The use of appropriate soil stripping, handling and stockpiling procedures, together with appropriate erosion controls would result in a minimal impact to soils within the Project Site.	Some on-site soil erosion has been identified during this audit period. There is, however no evidence of off-site impacts.
Visual Amenity	The visual amenity assessment determined that those sections of the Project Site that would be disturbed by the Project would only be visible from the south and southeast of the Project Site and that only distant views would be possible. As a result, there would be no significant visual amenity-related impacts associated with the Project.	Visual amenity impacts are consistent with predictions.
Bushfire	The operations would have no significant impact on bush fire frequency.	No bushfires have been experienced at the site.

7.9 Other Matters

As part of the preparation of the scope for this audit, DPE approved the audit team in their letter to Dargues titled "Dargues Gold Mine - MP10_0054 Independent Environmental Audit 2023 Team approval", dated 16 June 2023. In that letter DPE did not identify any specific environmental or compliance issues to be addressed.

The Department of Planning DPE, in their response to consultation, requested that a range of issues be included in the scope of this IEA. All of those issues are addressed in Appendix A except:

- Compliance with project footprint - The original Environmental Assessment and subsequent modification described the approved project boundaries. The Auditor reviewed recent aerial photographs and compared the location of the site boundaries to those described in the EA. The Auditor concluded that the project footprint is consistent with that described in the environmental assessments. This assessment was supported by the Auditor's observations during the site inspection.
- REA management (height compliance) – On 14 March 2002 Dargues reported that the waste rock emplacement height exceedance. The Auditor has reviewed the ICAM exceedance report. Following the incident, Dargues management team investigated the incident, identified and implemented a range of corrective actions. Dargues reports that no future height exceedances have been identified. The Auditor inspected the waste rock emplacement during this IEA and observed that the stockpiles were under the height limit.

The Auditor did not identify any further issues in relation to the environmental compliance or the management and mitigation of environmental hazards.

Compliance Register

Appendix A1

Planning Approval

Project Approval 10_0054 Dargues Gold Mine								
Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S2 C1	Obligation to Minimise Harm to the Environment	The Applicant must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to prevent and/or minimise any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation or rehabilitation of the project.				The measures to prevent or minimise harm to the environment are detailed in the various management plans (as required by this Approval). The assessment of the adequacy of those plans and effectiveness of the implementation of the plans is presented in Section 7.5 above and the compliance assessment below.	Noted	
S2 C2	Terms of Consent	The Applicant must carry out the Project:	Show Cause Notice from DPE titled "Show Cause – Alleged breach of Section 4.2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Dargues Gold Mine Harvestable Rights Assessment Big Island Mining Pty Ltd, prepared by GHD, dated 14 September 2022. Email from DPE (K O'Reilly) to Dargues (A Wylie) titled "Dargues Gold Mine – HRD issue", dated 6 March 2023. Warning Notice from DPE titled "Breach of Section 4.2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, dated 19 April 2022.			During February and March 2022 Dargues temporarily stockpiled waste rock at a height greater than the indicative layout in the EA (up to 7 metres higher than the indicative level in the EA).	Non-Compliance	Ensure that waste rock is not stockpiled at heights greater than the indicative heights set in the EA.
		a. generally, in accordance with the EA, Statement of Commitments; and						
S2 C3	Terms of Consent	If there is any inconsistency between the above documents, the most recent document must prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. However, the conditions of this approval must prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.					Noted	
S2 C4	Terms of Consent	The Applicant must comply with any reasonable requirement/s of the Secretary arising from:		Environment and Community Superintendent – No directions were issued by the Secretary in relation to any reports, strategies, plans, programs, or audits during this audit period.		No directions were issued by the Secretary in relation to any reports, strategies, plans, programs or audits during this audit period.	Not Triggered	
		a) any reports, strategies, plans, programs, reviews, audits or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this consent;						
		b) any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance that are submitted in accordance with this consent;		Environment and Community Superintendent – No reports, strategies, plans, programs, or audits were commissioned by DPE during this audit period.		No reports, strategies, plans, programs, or audits were commissioned by DPE during this audit period.	Not Triggered	
		c) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.		Environment and Community Superintendent – No directions were issued by the Secretary in relation to any reports, strategies, plans, programs or audits during this audit period.		No directions were issued by the Secretary in relation to any reports, strategies, plans, programs or audits during this audit period.	Not Triggered	

Project Approval 10_0054 Dargues Gold Mine

Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S2 C5	Limits on Consent Mining Operations	The Applicant may carry out mining operations on the site until 30 June 2025.					Noted	
S2 C6	Limits on Consent Mining Operations	The Applicant must not: (a) process more than 415 000 tonnes of ore at the site in a calendar year; (b) process more than 1.6 million tonnes of ore at the site over the life of the project; (c) use any cyanide or mercury on site to process or extract gold from the project; or (d) process or smelt any ore other than that extracted from the site.	Dargues Operation Report (prepared monthly and submitted to Aurelia senior management): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan 2023 Feb 2023 March 2023 April 2023 May 2023 June 2023 Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			Ore Processed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-22 Financial Year: 342,258 tonnes 2021-22 Financial Year: 370,298 tonnes 2022-23 Financial Year to date: 384353 tonnes 	Complies	
S2 C6A	Limits on Consent Mining Operations	The Applicant must only store ore concentrate on the site within a covered, concreted-sealed and bunded area within the processing plant.	Incident Register		The Auditor did not observe any Concentrate stored outside of the Concentrate Shed (Photograph 1).	No evidence of storage of concentrate outside of the concentrate shed was found during this IEA.	Complies	
S2 C7	Structure Adequacy	The Applicant must ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA and SA NSW.	Letter from Knight Piesold Consulting (T Rowles) to Dam Safety NSW (H Middleton) titled "Dargues Gold Mine TSF", dated 6 September 2022. Certification by the supervising consultants that the TSF lift complied with the (resource Regulator) approved plans. Certificate of Practical Completion (provided by BK Civil Group), certifying compliance with approved plans, dated 8 August 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – Stage 3 lift on the TSF was completed in 2022. No other structures were constructed during the audit period.	No evidence of recent construction was observed during this IEA.	The Stage 3 lift (of the TSF dam wall) was completed in 2022. The Auditor has sighted documentation certifying that the construction was completed in compliance with the RR approved plans. Dargues reported that no other structures were constructed during the audit period.	Complies	
S2 C8	Demolition	a) The applicant must ensure that all demolition work on site is carried out in accordance with AS 2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures, or its latest version.		Environment and Community Superintendent – no demolition works were undertaken during the audit period.	No evidence of recent demolition works was observed during this IEA.	No demolition works were undertaken during this audit period.	Not Triggered	
S2 C9	Operation of Plant and Equipment	The Applicant must ensure that all the plant and equipment used on site, or to transport concentrate from the site, is: (a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and (b) operated in a proper and efficient manner.	AMT – Eventscope Planned Maintenance Event records.	Maintenance Supervisor (mobile plant) – explained the maintenance processes and management tools used for maintaining mobile plant. Processing Plant Maintenance Coordinator / Planner – explained the maintenance processes and management tools used for maintaining fixed plant and equipment.	All plant and equipment observed during this IEA appeared to be appropriately maintained.	Dargues Gold mine maintenance departments operate comprehensive maintenance management systems (these are consistent with best practice maintenance management systems in operation across the industry).	Complies	
S2 C10	Updating & Staging of Strategies, Plans and Programs	With the approval of the Secretary, the Applicant may submit any strategy, plan or program required by this approval on a progressive basis.		Environment and Community Superintendent – Hasn't been triggered to-date.			Not Triggered	
		To ensure these strategies, plans or programs are updated on a regular basis, the Applicant may at any time submit revised strategies, plans or programs to the Secretary for approval.		Environment and Community Superintendent – All of Dargues' environmental management plans have been updated during this Audit Period, Including Aboriginal Heritage; Air Quality and GHG; Biodiversity; Blast; Bushfire; Noise; Pollution Incident Response; Traffic; Waste; Water; Rehabilitation.			Noted	

Project Approval 10_0054 Dargues Gold Mine

Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested			Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations							
S2 C11	Planning Agreement	<p>Within 12 months of the date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Applicant must enter into a planning agreement with Council in accordance with Division 6 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act, that provide for contributions to Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> upgrades of Council's road infrastructure affected by the project; and general community enhancement to address social amenity and community infrastructure requirements arising from the project. The contributions must be consistent with the terms of the offer made in the Applicant's letter dated 24 September 2010, and summarised in Appendix 6. 	<p>Deed of Amendment to Planning Agreement, dated 23/4/2021. QPRC Statement dated July 2022.</p>			<p>Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues has fulfilled its deed with the Queanbeyan-Palerang Council, regarding annual maintenance of the Majors Creek Road - \$101,452.26 was paid to the Council on the 24 June 2022.</p> <p>Further, in 2022 Dargues made available to potentially impacted community members 'Visual Amenity Assistance' to create a visual screen through the planting of fast-growing vegetation and/ or landscaping to minimise the visibility of the Dargues' mining operations.</p>		<p>The planning agreement was executed in April 2021. The Auditor sighted correspondence verifying that the required contributions were made in 2022.</p>	Complies								
S3 C1	Noise Criteria	The Applicant must ensure that the noise generated by the project does not exceed the criteria in Table 1 at any residence on privately-owned land or on more than 25 percent of any privately-owned land.	<p>Quarterly Noise Monitoring Assessment Reports, prepared by Muller Acoustical Consulting covering the Audit Period. Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)</p>					<p>Attended noise monitoring was undertaken by Muller Acoustical Consulting quarterly throughout the audit period. All attended monitoring (at both Majors Creek and the road traffic monitoring location) identified no exceedances in the relevant noise criteria. Dargues also maintains a continuous noise monitoring site in Majors Creek. No noise criteria exceedances were identified during the audit period.</p>	Complies								
	Table 1	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Day (LAeq (15min))</th> <th>Evening (LAeq (15min))</th> <th>Night (LAeq (15min))</th> <th>Night (LA1(1min))</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>All Privately Owned Land</td> <td>35</td> <td>35</td> <td>35</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Day (LAeq (15min))	Evening (LAeq (15min))	Night (LAeq (15min))	Night (LA1(1min))	All Privately Owned Land	35	35	35	45					
Location	Day (LAeq (15min))	Evening (LAeq (15min))	Night (LAeq (15min))	Night (LA1(1min))													
All Privately Owned Land	35	35	35	45													
S3 C2	Noise and Traffic Assessment Criteria	The Applicant must take all reasonable and feasible measures to ensure that the traffic noise generated by the project does not exceed the traffic noise impact assessment criteria in Table 2.	<p>Noise Management Plan for the Dargues Gold Mine, Revision 7, dated 11 June 2020 Complaints Register</p>					<p>Attended noise monitoring was undertaken by Muller Acoustical Consulting quarterly throughout the audit period. All attended monitoring (at both Majors Creek and the road traffic monitoring location) identified no exceedances in the relevant noise criteria. Of the one hundred and forty-five noise complaints received, there were no complaints related to traffic noise.</p>	Complies								
	Table 2	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Road</th> <th>Day (LAeq 1 Hr)</th> <th>Evening (LAeq 1 Hour)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Majors Creek Road, Araluen Road, Captains Flat Road, Coghill Street and Wallace Street</td> <td>55</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Road	Day (LAeq 1 Hr)	Evening (LAeq 1 Hour)	Majors Creek Road, Araluen Road, Captains Flat Road, Coghill Street and Wallace Street	55	50									
Road	Day (LAeq 1 Hr)	Evening (LAeq 1 Hour)															
Majors Creek Road, Araluen Road, Captains Flat Road, Coghill Street and Wallace Street	55	50															
S3 C3	Operating Hours	The Applicant must comply with the operating hours in Table 3.	<p>Complaints Register Incident Register Transport Code of Conduct – Revision 4, dated 9 August 2022.</p>			<p>Environment and Community Superintendent – operating hours are communicated during site inductions and during conversations between management and teams.</p>		<p>No evidence was found during this IEA that Dargues had operated outside of the hours approved in Table 3.</p>	Complies								
	Table 3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Operating Hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Vegetation clearing, topsoil stripping, construction of the box cut and rehabilitation</td> <td>Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Remainder of construction operations Mining, paste filling, maintenance, and processing operations Crushing operations (including operation of front-end-loader) Transportation</td> <td>Day / evening / night Day / evening / night 7am-7pm, 7 days per week Day / evening</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Operating Hours	Vegetation clearing, topsoil stripping, construction of the box cut and rehabilitation	Day	Remainder of construction operations Mining, paste filling, maintenance, and processing operations Crushing operations (including operation of front-end-loader) Transportation	Day / evening / night Day / evening / night 7am-7pm, 7 days per week Day / evening									
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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C4	Operating Conditions	The Applicant must: a) implement best practice noise management, including all reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures to minimise the operational and road traffic noise generated by the project;	Noise Management Plan, Revision 5, dated 10 January 2023 (note that this plan supersedes the older Revision 7 and is awaiting DPE Approval. Complaints Register INX complaint record extract – 22August 2023. Letter Report prepared by Muller Acoustical Consultants titled “Plant Noise Audit – Dargues Gold Mine, Majors Creek, NSW”, dated 27 September 2022. Letter Report prepared by Muller Acoustical Consultants titled “Ventilation Fan Noise Audit – Dargues Gold Mine, Majors Creek, NSW”, dated 13 March 2023. Training Noise Monitoring Fundamentals and Basics – Dargues Gold Mine – MAC201092-08 (noise monitoring training record)	Environment and Community Superintendent - Dargues Noise Complaint management and response procedure is as follows: Dargues does when it receives a noise complaint: 1.The noise consultant downloads the data from the unattended noise monitor, which is located on George Street. The data is analysed for any fluctuations or ‘spikes’ around the time of the complaint and assessed Dargues’ approval. 2.A Dargues’ representative conducts attended noise monitoring, (using the hand-held noise monitor) within Majors Creek and proximity of the complainant’s residence. This data is analysed against Dargues’ licence conditions/ approval. 3.Coinciding with the above, an area inspection is conducted around Dargues’ MIA to identify if there is any equipment/ machinery that may be creating excessive noise. 4. The complaint is reviewed and any actions to address the complaint agreed. 5. The complaint is entered into Aurelia’s INX system.	The Auditor has sighted the recent noise attenuation works including the ventilation fan noise attenuator (Photograph 2) and the noise attenuation cladding on the TSF pump (Photograph 3).	While the noise monitoring undertaken during the audit period demonstrated compliance with the relevant noise criteria, one hundred and forty-five (145) noise complaints were received during the that period. The Auditor has therefore undertaken a detailed review of the complaints, Dargues’ response to those complaints and actions taken to reduce the noise impact of the operation. The conclusions of this review are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dargues operates in an area that has very low background noise levels.• Dargues operates an appropriate complaints management process and maintains adequate records.• While the mine has not exceeded the relevant noise criteria, Dargues recognise the importance of further minimising the impacts on residents and has:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Commissioned independent consultant audits focused on identifying noise sources within the mine infrastructure and recommending noise mitigation options; and○ Implemented appropriate noise controls based on the recommendations of their consultants.○ Noise mitigation works implemented, for example the installation of the ventilation fan silencer has been successful. .	Complies	
		b) investigate ways to minimise the noise generated by the project, including any reversing alarms on machinery or vehicles;	Letter Report prepared by Muller Acoustical Consultants titled “Plant Noise Audit – Dargues Gold Mine, Majors Creek, NSW”, dated 27 September 2022. Letter Report prepared by Muller Acoustical Consultants titled “Ventilation Fan Noise Audit – Dargues Gold Mine, Majors Creek, NSW”, dated 13 March 2023.	Environment and Community Superintendent – The purchase and establishment of noise partitions around the TSF pumps.	Photographs 2 and 3 show the ventilation fan silencers and tailings pump acoustical covers installed during this audit period.	Dargues commissioned Muller Acoustical Consultants to undertake noise investigations in 2022 and 2023. Those investigations resulted in the installation of fan silencers. Further investigation of complaints in 2023 resulted in the installation of an acoustical for the tailings dam pump.	Complies	
		c) minimise the noise impacts during temperature inversions and	Noise Management Plan for the Dargues Gold Mine, Revision 7, dated 11 June 2020 Noise Management Plan, Revision 5, dated 10 January 2023 (note that this plan supersedes the older Revision 7 and is awaiting DPE Approval. Environmental Induction Training Package			Section 15 of the Noise Management Plan states that Dargues site induction training provides: “Awareness of the noise enhancing effects of temperature inversions and the times of day and meteorological conditions under which they may occur”. The site induction training materials did not cover noise impacts during temperature inversions.	Non-Compliance	Update the site induction training program to include a section on noise impacts and mitigation. The training should also include information on temperature inversions and the precautions that personnel should take to minimise noise impacts on residents.
		d) report on these investigations and the implementation and effectiveness of these measures in the Annual Review.	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			Section 6.3.3 of the Annual Reviews prepared during the audit period reference the investigations undertaken and key mitigation measures introduced during the respective reporting periods, however they do not report on the effectiveness of those measures.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that future Annual Reviews provide commentary on the effectiveness of any future noise mitigation initiatives.

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations																			
S3 C5	Noise Management Plan	The Applicant must prepare a Noise Management Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Secretary	Noise Management Plan, Revision 5, dated 10 January 2023 (note that this plan supersedes the older Revision 7 and is awaiting DPE Approval. 2021 Dargues Gold Mine Independent Environmental Audit.	Environment and Community Superintendent – The Noise Management Plan was reviewed and updated during the audit period.		Version 7 of the Noise Management Plan has been prepared for the Dargues Gold Mine and approved by DPE. During this audit period the Noise Management Plan has been reviewed and revised (as Revision 5).	Complies																				
		The plan must: a) be prepared in consultation with the EPA, Council and submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to the commencement of construction.	Noise Management Plan, Revision 5, dated 10 January 2023 (note that this plan supersedes the older Revision 7 and is awaiting DPE Approval. Letter from the EPA (M Rizzuto) to Aurelia Metals Pty Ltd titled “Proponent Request for Advice – Dargues Gold Mine – Air Blasting and Noise Management Plans”, dated 7 February 2023.			Compliance with this condition was assessed during previous IEAs. Note that both the EPA and Council were consulted during preparation of the latest version of the plan.	Not Triggered																				
		b) describe the noise mitigation measures that would be implemented to ensure compliance with conditions 1-4 of this schedule; and	Noise Management Plan, Revision 5, dated 10 January 2023 (note that this plan supersedes the older Revision 7 and is awaiting DPE Approval.			Section 7 of the Noise Management Plan describes the noise mitigation measures to be implemented during the operational phase of the mine.	Complies																				
		c) include a noise monitoring program that: • uses a combination of unattended and attended monitoring to evaluate the performance of the project; and • includes a protocol for determining exceedances of the relevant conditions of this approval.	Noise Management Plan, Revision 5, dated 10 January 2023 (note that this plan supersedes the older Revision 7 and is awaiting DPE Approval.			Section 8 of the Noise Management Plan describes the noise monitoring program and includes both attended and continuous noise monitoring. Section 9 of the plan describes the protocol for determining exceedances.	Complies																				
S3 CSA	Noise Management Plan	The Applicant must implement the approved Noise Management Plan.	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)		The Auditor has sighted the recent noise attenuation works	The Auditor sighted modified infrastructure, records of monitoring, and noise monitoring stations and verified that the NMP is being actively implemented.	Complies																				
S3 C6	Blasting Criteria	The Applicant must ensure that the blasting on the site does not cause exceedances of the criteria in Table 4.	Blast records covering the audit period. Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			No blast exceedances were recorded during the audit period. Note that all blasting undertaken during the audit period was underground.	Complies																				
	Table 4	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Time of Blast</th> <th>Airblast overpressure dB (LinPeak)</th> <th>Ground Vibration (mm/s)</th> <th>Allowable Exceedance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="4">Residence on Privately owned land</td> <td>Any Time</td> <td>120</td> <td>10</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Day</td> <td>115</td> <td>5</td> <td rowspan="3">5% of the total number of blasts over a period of 12 months.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evening</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Night, and all day on Sundays and public holidays</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Time of Blast	Airblast overpressure dB (LinPeak)	Ground Vibration (mm/s)	Allowable Exceedance	Residence on Privately owned land	Any Time	120	10	0%	Day	115	5	5% of the total number of blasts over a period of 12 months.	Evening	-	2	Night, and all day on Sundays and public holidays	-	1	0				
Location	Time of Blast	Airblast overpressure dB (LinPeak)	Ground Vibration (mm/s)	Allowable Exceedance																							
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	Night, and all day on Sundays and public holidays	-	1		0																						
S3 C7	Blasting Hours	The Applicant must comply with the blasting hours in Table 5.	Blast records covering the audit period. Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			Blasting records reviewed indicated that all blasts occurred during approved times.	Complies																				
	Table 5	Activity	Blasting Hours																								
		Surface Blasting	9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.																								
		Underground Blasting	Anytime																								

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C8	Property Inspections	If the Applicant receives a written request from the owner of any privately-owned land within 2 kilometres of blasting operations for a property inspection to establish the baseline condition of any buildings and/or structures on his/her land, or to have a previous property inspection report updated, then within 2 months of receiving this request the Applicant must:		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for property inspections were received during the audit period.		No requests for property inspections were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		a) Commission a suitably qualified, experienced and independent person, whose appointment is acceptable to both parties to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish the baseline condition of any buildings and other structures on the land, or update the previous property inspection report; and • identify measures that should be implemented to minimise the potential blasting impacts of the project on these buildings and/or structures; and 		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for property inspections were received during the audit period.		No requests for property inspections were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		b) give the landowner a copy of the new or updated property inspection report.		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for property inspections were received during the audit period.		No requests for property inspections were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
S3 C9	Property investigations	If the owner of any privately-owned land claims that buildings and/or structures on his/her land have been damaged as a result of blasting on the site, then within 2 months of receiving this claim the Applicant must:	Complaints Register	Environment and Community Superintendent – no claims for property damage were received during the audit period.		No claims for property damage were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		a) commission a suitably qualified, experienced and independent person, whose appointment is acceptable to both parties to investigate the claim; and		Environment and Community Superintendent – no claims for property damage were received during the audit period.		No claims for property damage were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		b) give the landowner a copy of the property investigation report.		Environment and Community Superintendent – no claims for property damage were received during the audit period.		No claims for property damage were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C10	Operating Conditions Blasting	During mining operations on site, the Applicant must implement best blasting practice to:					Complies	
		a) protect the safety of people and livestock in the surrounding area; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect public or private infrastructure/property in the surrounding area from any damage; and minimise the dust and fume emissions of any blasting; 	Blast Management Plan Version 7, dated 18 October 2022 Incident Register Complaints Register	Environment and Community Superintendent – no damage or other impacts from blasting have occurred during the audit period.	No damage or other impacts from blasting have occurred during the audit period.			
		b) protect items of Aboriginal and non-indigenous cultural heritage significance;	Incident Register Complaints Register	Environment and Community Superintendent – no heritage sites have been impacted by blasting during the audit period.	No heritage sites have been impacted by blasting during the audit period.			
		c) minimise the dust and fume emissions from blasting at the project; and	Blast records covering the audit period. Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)	Environment and Community Superintendent – no surface blasting was undertaken during the audit period.	No surface blasting was undertaken during the audit period,			
		d) operate a suitable system (including a hotline and website updates) to enable the public to get up-to-date information on the proposed blasting schedule on site.	Dargues Gold Mine Web Site		During the site inspection the blast notification signage at the site entrance was sighted.	Dargues continues to maintain its 24 hrs/ 7 days a week community information hotline, (1800 732 002), where up-to-date information on the blasting schedule is available. Additionally, Dargues has a blast notice board located at the site's entrance, which advises both the public and site personnel of Dargues' upcoming blasts.	Complies	
S3 C11	Blast Management Plan	The Applicant must prepare a Blast Management Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:					Complies	
		a) be prepared in consultation with EPA and Council, and submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to undertaking any blasting on-site;	Blast Management Plan Version 7, dated 18 August 2022 Letter from the EPA (M Rizzuto) to Aurelia Metals Pty Ltd titled "Proponent Request for Advice – Dargues Gold Mine – Air Blasting and Noise Management Plans", dated 7 February 2023.			The Blast Management Plan (Version 7) has been submitted to DPE for review and approval. DPE is yet to provide approval for that version of the plan. Both the EPA and Council were consulted during the preparation of the latest version of this Plan. Note that the previous (2021) IEA verified that the superseded (Version 5) of the Blast Management Plan had been approved by DPE.		
		b) describe the blast mitigation measures that would be implemented to ensure compliance conditions 6-10 of this schedule;	Blast Management Plan Version 7, dated 18 August 2022			Section 6.2 of the Blast Management Plan describes the blasting mitigation measures to be implemented.		
		c) describe the measures that would be implemented to ensure the public can get up-to-date information on the proposed blasting schedule on site; and	Blast Management Plan Version 7, dated 18 August 2022			Section 6.3 of the Blast Management Plan describes the processes for public notification of the blasting schedule.		
		d) include a monitoring program for evaluating the performance of the Project.	Blast Management Plan Version 7, dated 18 August 2022			Section 7 of the Blast Management Plan describes the blast monitoring processes and locations.	Complies	
S3 C12	Odour	The Applicant must ensure that no offensive odours are emitted from the site, as defined under the POEO Act.	Incident Register Complaints Register Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)	Environment and Community Superintendent – no odour complaints have been received during this audit period.	No odours for the site were detected during the site inspection.	No odour impacts from the Dargues operations were identified for this audit period.	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C13	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	The Applicant must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the release of greenhouse gas emissions from the site to the satisfaction of the Secretary.	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (AQGGMP) (Rev 5, 22/8/2019). 2020 NGERS Report 2021 NGERS Report 2022 NGERS Report	Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues produces negligible greenhouse gases.		No greenhouse gas minimisation objectives or strategies are provided in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan. The Auditor did not identify any greenhouse gas minimisation initiatives during this IEA.	Non-Compliance	Review the options for minimisation of greenhouse gases generated as a result of this project (for example purchasing policies / solar power generation to supply office power etc) and update the AQGGMP to reflect the initiatives to be implemented.
S3 C14	Air Quality Impact Assessment Criteria	The Applicant must ensure that all reasonable and feasible avoidance and mitigation measures are employed so that the particulate emissions generated by the project do not exceed the criteria listed in Tables 6, 7 and 8 at any residence on privately-owned land or on more than 25 percent of any privately- owned land.	Air quality monitoring reports covering the audit period. Complaints Register Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)	Environment and Community Superintendent – Nil complaints regarding dust have been received during the audit period. .		No air quality (dust) criteria exceedances were reported during the audit period.	Complies	
	Table 6	Pollutant	Averaging Period	Criterion				
		Total Suspended Solids (TSP) matter	Annual	90 ug/m ³				
		Particulate matter < 10um (PM ₁₀)	Annual	25 ug/m ³				
	Table 7	Pollutant	Averaging Period	Criterion				
Particulate matter < 10um (PM ₁₀)		24 Hour	50 ug/m ³					
Particulate matter < 2.5um (PM _{2.5})		24 Hour	25 ug/m ³					
Table 8	Pollutant	Averaging Period	Max Increase	Max Total Dust Deposited				
	Deposited Dust	Annual	2 g/m ² /month	4 g/m ² /month				
S3 C15	Air Quality Impact Assessment Criteria	The Applicant must ensure compliance with any pollutant limits in the EPL set after further assessment of the potential air quality impacts associated with the gold smelting process (refer to Condition 17 below).				Gold Smelting is not undertaken at the Dargues Gold Mine. Ore is processed to concentrate stage only.	Not Triggered	
S3 C16	Operating Conditions	The Applicant must:	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (AQGGMP) (Rev 5, 22/8/2019). Complaints Register Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)	Environment and Community Superintendent – Nil complaints regarding dust have been received during the audit period. .		No air quality (dust) criteria exceedances were reported during the audit period. No air quality complaints were reported during this audit period. Section 6.1 of the AQGGMP describes the dust management procedures implemented at the mine.	Complies	
		a) implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the: • odour, fume and dust emissions of the Project; and • release of greenhouse gas emissions from the Project;						
		b) minimise any visible air pollution generated by the project;			No dust emissions were observed during the site audit.	No visible dust was observed during the site inspection. No dust complaints were received during the audit period.	Complies	
		c) regularly assess the air quality monitoring and meteorological forecasting data, and relocate, modify and/or stop operations on site to ensure compliance with the relevant conditions of this approval; and	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (AQGGMP) (Rev 5, 22/8/2019). Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)		Air quality monitoring stations were sighted during the site inspection.	An air quality monitoring program has been established and implemented.	Complies	
d) take all practical measures to minimise dust emissions from the tailings dam to the satisfaction of the Secretary.	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (AQGGMP) (Rev 5, 22/8/2019). Complaints Register Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)	Environment and Community Superintendent – Nil complaints regarding dust have been received during the audit period. .	No dust emissions were observed during the site audit.	No air quality (dust) criteria exceedances were reported during the audit period. No air quality complaints were reported during this audit period. Section 6.1 of the AQGGMP describes the dust management procedures implemented at the mine.	Complies			

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C17	Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Management Plan	The Applicant must prepare a detailed Air Quality Management Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (AQGGMP) (Rev 5, 22/8/2019). Email from DPE (J Turner) to Dargues (C Johnston) titled "Request to receive copies of DPE's acknowledgement of Dargues' MOD 5 Management Plans", dated 22 August 2023. Letter from the EPA (M Rizzuto) to Aurelia Metals Pty Ltd titled "Proponent Request for Advice – Dargues Gold Mine – Air Blasting and Noise Management Plans", dated 7 February 2023.			The 2019 EIA verified that the current version of the AQGGMP (Revision 5) was approved by DPE. Dargues has revised this plan (Revision 6, dated 13 April 2023) and consulted with the EPA and Council during the preparation of the updated plan. DPE were in the process of reviewing and approving the plan at the time of this IEA.	Complies	
		a) be prepared in consultation with EPA and Council, and submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to construction;				No gold smelting is undertaken at the Dargues gold mine.	Not Triggered	
		b) include an assessment of the potential air quality impacts of the project associated with the gold smelting process;	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan Revision 6, 13 April 2023.			Section 5 of the AQGGMP describes the air quality management measures	Complies	
		c) describe the measures that would need to be implemented to ensure compliance with conditions 12- 16 of this schedule;	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan Revision 6, 13 April 2023.			Section 5 of the AQGGMP describes the air quality management measures	Complies	
		d) include a program for the implementation of the measures referred to in (c) above; and	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan Revision 6, 13 April 2023.			Section 6 of the AQGGMP describes the air quality monitoring program.	Complies	
		e) include an air quality monitoring program, that uses a combination of suitable set of monitoring equipment to evaluate the performance of the project and includes a protocol for determining exceedances with the the conditions of this approval.	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan Revision 6, 13 April 2023.					
S3 C18	Meteorological Monitoring	During the life of the project, the Applicant must ensure that there is a suitable meteorological station operating in the vicinity of the site that complies with the requirements in the Approved Methods for Sampling of Air Pollutants in New South Wales guideline	Letter from ALS Environmental to Corona Resources titled "Quotation MA212150", dated 4 October 2011. The quotation provides the specifications for the weather station installed at Dargues. Weather Station Data (Spreadsheet provided by Dargues) providing weather monitoring data covering the Audit Period.		Meteorological Monitoring Station (Photograph 4).	An appropriate Meteorological Monitoring Station has been installed at Dargues and has provided reliable weather monitoring during the audit period.	Complies	
S3 C19	Water Licences	The Applicant must obtain all necessary water licences for the project under the Water Act 1912 or the Water Management Act 2000.	Water Access Licence 39281 Water Access Licence 39282 Water Access Licence 39287 Water Access Licence 39292			Dargues has obtained the Water Licences required for the operation.	Complies	
S3 C20	Water Supply	The Applicant must ensure that it has sufficient water for all stages of the project, and if necessary, adjust the scale of mining operations to match supply of water, to the satisfaction of the Secretary.	Water Management Plan Revision 10 dated 4 June 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – all water requirements for the operation were sourced from on-site (approved) sources.		The Water Management Plan includes a water balance for the site. No water was required to be imported onto the site during the audit period as sufficient water was available from approved on-site sources.	Complies	

Project Approval 10_0054 Dargues Gold Mine

Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C21	Water Discharges	The Applicant must ensure that all surface water discharges from the site comply with section 120 of the POEO Act, unless an EPL authorises otherwise.	Letter from Aurelia Metals Ltd (A Wylie) to the NSW EPA (M Rizzuto) titled "SR-1150. Dargues Gold Mine's response to Cleanup Notice (3506190) – Environment Protection Licence (20095), Condition R2.2", dated 27 July 2023. EPA Cleanup Notice 3502090, dated 17 March 2022 EPA Cleanup Notice 3506109, dated 26 July 2023			On 24 July 2023 Dargues reported a spike in Electrical Conductivity and water flow in Spring Creek (between 18 and 19 July 2023) to the EPA. The report also stated that mine water had inadvertently drained from a mine dust suppression tank into a sedimentation basin that subsequently overflowed into Spring Creek. The EPA subsequently issued a cleanup notice requiring Dargues to pump and dispose of any liquids in the sediment basin and provide a further report to the EPA.	Non-Compliance	Investigate the feasibility of installing a lock out mechanism that prevents drain valves on dust suppression water tanks from being inadvertently left open.
S3 C22	Baseflow Offsets	The Applicant must offset the combined loss of any baseflow to Majors and Spring Creeks caused by the project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This condition does not apply if the Secretary subsequently determines that the loss of baseflow is negligible.		Environment and Community Superintendent – No baseflow offsets have been required during this audit period.		Majors Creek average flows during the audit period were above the trigger level. Therefore, no compensatory flow was discharged to Majors Creek.	Not Triggered	
S3 C23	Compensatory Water Supply	The Applicant must provide a compensatory water supply to any owner of privately-owned land whose water entitlements are adversely impacted (other than an impact that is negligible) as a result of the project, in consultation with DPE Water, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The compensatory water supply measures must provide an alternative long-term supply of water that is equivalent to the loss attributed to the project. Equivalent water supply must be provided (at least on an interim basis) within 24 hours of the loss being identified. If the Applicant and the landowner cannot agree on whether the loss of water is attributed to the project or the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Secretary for resolution. If the Applicant is unable to provide an alternative long-term supply of water, then the Applicant must provide alternative compensation to the satisfaction of the Secretary. <i>Notes:</i> •The Water Management Plan (see condition 26) is required to include trigger levels for investigating potentially adverse impacts on water supplies. •The burden of proof that any loss of surface water or groundwater access is not due to mining impacts rests with the Applicant.		Environment and Community Superintendent – No requirements of compensatory water supplies have been triggered during this audit period.		No requirements of compensatory water supplies have been triggered during this audit period.	Not Triggered	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C24	Tailings Storage Facility	The Applicant must ensure that: (a) the permeability of the tailings storage facility is designed to meet the requirements of the Environmental Guidelines – Management of Tailings Storage Facilities (VIC DPI, 2004) and that the permeability of the walls, floor and final capping of the tailings storage facility is designed to be equivalent to 600mm clay of permeability 1 x 10-8m/s;	Letter from Knight Piesold Consulting (T Rowles) to Dam Safety NSW (H Middleton) titled "Dargues Gold Mine TSF", dated 6 September 2022. Certification by the supervising consultants that the TSF lift complied with the (resource Regulator) approved plans. Certificate of Practical Completion (provided by BK Civil Group), certifying compliance with approved plans, dated 8 August 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – Stage 3 lift on the TSF was completed in 2022.		The Stage 3 lift (of the TSF dam wall) was completed in 2022. The Auditor has sighted documentation certifying that the construction was completed in compliance with the RR approved plans.	Complies	
		(b) the design of the tailings storage facility conforms to: • DSC3A – Consequence Categories for Dams (Dams Safety Committee of New South Wales); and • DSC3F – Tailings Dams (Dams Safety Committee of New South Wales); and					Complies	
		(c) the latest meteorological data from both the Majors Creek and Braidwood weather stations is used during the design of the tailings storage facility and that the design is adjusted, as required to meet the requirements of the Dams Safety Committee of New South Wales, based on whichever dataset provides the worst case scenario.					Complies	
S3 C25	Tailings Storage Facility	The Applicant must ensure that the Mine Water Settlement Dam and Tailings Storage Facility Seepage Collection Pond are suitably lined to be equivalent to 1000mm clay of permeability 1 x 10-9 m/s.	Letter from Knight Piesold Consulting (T Rowles) to Dam Safety NSW (H Middleton) titled "Dargues Gold Mine TSF", dated 6 September 2022. Certification by the supervising consultants that the TSF lift complied with the (resource Regulator) approved plans. Certificate of Practical Completion (provided by BK Civil Group), certifying compliance with approved plans, dated 8 August 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – Stage 3 lift on the TSF was completed in 2022.		The Stage 3 lift (of the TSF dam wall) was completed in 2022. The Auditor has sighted documentation certifying that the construction was completed in compliance with the RR approved plans.	Complies	
S3 C25A	Tailings Storage Facility	The clean water diversion around the northern side of the tailings storage facility must be designed, constructed and maintained to prevent the probable maximum flood from the catchment upstream of the facility from entering the facility.	Letter from Knight Piesold Consulting (T Rowles) to Dam Safety NSW (H Middleton) titled "Dargues Gold Mine TSF", dated 6 September 2022. Certification by the supervising consultants that the TSF lift complied with the (resource Regulator) approved plans. Certificate of Practical Completion (provided by BK Civil Group), certifying compliance with approved plans, dated 8 August 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – Stage 3 lift on the TSF was completed in 2022.		The Stage 3 lift (of the TSF dam wall) was completed in 2022. The Auditor has sighted documentation certifying that the construction was completed in compliance with the RR approved plans.	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations	
S3 C26	Water Management Plan	The Applicant must prepare a Water Management Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The plan must:				Revision 10 of the Water Management Plan was available on the Dargues website. The revision table of that plan indicated that the DPE approval was pending. Section 2 of the states that the organisations specified in this Condition have been consulted, however no documentation was available to verify that the consultation had been completed. Compliance with this condition could not be verified.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that the required consultation has been undertaken and the documents evidencing that consultation is maintained.	
		a) be prepared in consultation with ESC, Council, EPA, DPE Water, WaterNSW and DPI Fisheries by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been approved by the Secretary;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022						
		b) be submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to the commencement of construction; and					Compliance with this Condition was assessed in previous audits	Not Triggered	
		c) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Site Water Balance; an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan; a Surface Water Monitoring Program; a Groundwater Monitoring Program; and a Surface and Ground Water Response Plan; 	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022				Section 5 of the Water Management Plan presents the site water balance. Section 6 of the Plan described erosion and sediment control. Section 7 of the Plan provides details of the surface water monitoring program. Section 7.9 describes the groundwater triggers, actions and response plan. Section 9 of the Plan provides details of the groundwater monitoring program. Section 9.7 describes the groundwater triggers, actions and response plan.	Complies	
		d) include detailed design of the Spring Creek heavy vehicle crossing;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022				Table 3.2 of the Water Management Plan provides a reference to the Spring Creek heavy vehicle detailed design. Thae is presented in the Statement of Environmental Effects for the Dargues Gold Mine, Modification 4, dated November 2018.	Complies	
		e) be targeted to deal with the particular stages of the project that are being implemented; and	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022				Revision 10 of the plan is applicable to the current operations of the site.	Complies	
		f) remain in place for the life of the project, from the commencement of construction until the rehabilitation of the site is complete.	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022				Noted		
S3 C26A	Water Management Plan	The Applicant must revise and submit to the Secretary for approval the Water Management Plan, prior to constructing any of the following project components: eastern waste rock emplacement, tailings dam, waste rock haulage roads or the Spring Creek heavy vehicle crossing.		Environment and Community Superintendent - Each of these works were completed in previous audit periods.		Compliance with this Condition was assessed in previous audits	Not Triggered		

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C26B	Water Management Plan	The Applicant must implement the approved Water Management Plan.			<p>Significant soil erosion was observed in the clean water diversion channel above the TSF. That channel drains into Spring Creek (Photograph 5). Drainage channels have been cut into the upstream edge of the heavy vehicle crossing of Spring Creek. No sediment controls are in place and sediment laden water can drain into the creek (Photographs 6 and 7). Some on-site access tracks are showing signs of soil erosion.</p>	<p>The Auditor's observations and review of water related monitoring data indicates that the Water Management Plan is generally being implemented, however three of the mine site, inspected by the Auditor, indicate that improvements in erosion and sediment control is required. The areas where ERSED works are required include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clean water diversion channel above the TSF. Significant erosion of the channel has occurred. Eroding soils in this channel will impact the quality of water collected in this channel, which drain into Spring Creek. Heavy Vehicle Crossing of Spring Creek. Sediment laden rainwater that flows onto the crossing can drain directly into Spring Creek. No ERSED controls were in place to prevent the discharge of sediment contaminated water into the creek. Soil erosion was observed on some on-site access tracks. <p>Please refer also to the compliance assessment of Sch 3 C 28c below relating to the implementation of an ERSED Audit Program.</p>	Non-Compliance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stabilise the clean water diversion channel above the TSF. Install sedimentation controls on the heavy vehicle crossing of Spring Creek. Inspect all on-site access tracks to identify areas requiring stabilisation to prevent potential soil erosion.
S3 C27	Site Water Balance	<p>The Site Water Balance must:</p> <p>(a) include details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sources and security of water supply; water use on site; water management on site, including transfers between all water storage infrastructure (including clean water dams, sediment dams, mine process water storages, underground workings and the tailings storage facility) and relevant design criteria; off-site water discharges (including uncontrolled discharges from sediment dams), including volume, timing and release point infrastructure requirements; reporting procedures; 	<p>Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022 Draft updated Water Balance 30 June 2023, prepared by GHD.</p>			<p>The site water balance is presented in Section 5 of the Water Management Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.2.2 describes the water sources and storages; and Section 5.8 describes water security; Section 5.2.3 describes water uses; Section 5.3 of the plan describes water storage and management of water; Section 5.4 describes water disposal methodologies; and Section 10 of the plan describes reporting. 	Complies	
		<p>(b) use the latest meteorological data from both the Majors Creek and Braidwood weather stations; and</p>	<p>Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022 Draft updated Water Balance 30 June 2023, prepared by GHD.</p>			<p>Section 1 of the draft updated Water Balance references the use of current site data in the preparation of the revised water balance model.</p>	Complies	
		<p>(c) describe what measures would be implemented to minimise potable water use on site.</p>	<p>Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022 Draft updated Water Balance 30 June 2023, prepared by GHD.</p>			<p>Section 5.6 of the Water Management Plan discusses potable water and minimisation of potable water use.</p>	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C28	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan must: (a) be consistent with the requirements of the Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Manual (Landcom 2004), or its latest version);	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 6.4 of the Water Management Plan describes erosion and sediment control. The requirements of Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Manual (Landcom 2004) are referenced in that section of the plan.	Complies	
		(b) identify the size and management of sediment dams for construction and operational stages to satisfy the requirements of Condition 21 of Schedule 3, including an assessment of discharges against NSW water quality objectives for the receiving waters;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 6.4.4 describes the design basis for the sizing of sediment basins. Section 6.4.3 of the Plan describes the inspection and maintenance of sediment dams. As non-discharge site, a sediment basin spill would be considered level 4 under the Operational Sediment Basin TARP (Table 5.12). Section 7.8 outlines the use of ANZECC 2000 default guideline triggers.	Complies	
		(c) include a program for undertaking regular auditing of the performance of the erosion and sediment control measures on the site (including audits following major construction milestones and/or rainfall events);	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			This condition relates to construction works. No construction activities were undertaken during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		(d) identify activities that could cause soil erosion and generate sediment;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 6.3 of the Water Management Plan describes the activities undertaken on site that have the potential to cause erosion.	Complies	
		(e) describe measures to minimise soil erosion and the potential for the transport of sediment to downstream waters;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 6.4 of the Water Management Plan describes the erosion and sediment control measures to be implemented.	Complies	
		(f) describe the location, function, and capacity of erosion and sediment control structures; and	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 6.4 of the Water Management Plan describes the erosion and sediment control measures to be implemented.	Complies	
S3 C28	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	(g) describe what measures would be implemented to maintain the structures over time.	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 6.4.3 of the Water Management Plan briefly describes the maintenance of erosion and sediment controls.	Complies	
S3 C28A	Water Auditing Program	The auditing program referred to in 28(c) above must: (a) be prepared and undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced independent expert in surface water management approved by the Secretary; (b) assess the performance of the erosion and sediment control system, including whether it is complying with the Water Management Plan, the EPL or Mining Lease; and (c) include provisions for reporting the outcomes of the audit findings to the Department, EPA and DPI and implementing any recommendations made by the independent expert.				This condition relates to construction works. No construction activities were undertaken during the audit period.	Not Triggered	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C29	The Surface Water Monitoring Program	The Surface Water Monitoring Program must include: (a) detailed baseline data on surface water flows and quality in creeks and other waterbodies that could be affected by the project (including Majors and Spring Creeks);	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			The Surface Water Monitoring Program is presented in Section 7 of the Water Management Plan. A description of the existing surface water environment is provided in Section 7.3 of the plan.	Complies	
		(b) stream health assessment criteria that includes representative baseline survey of aquatic life in Majors Creek, upstream and downstream (to the confluence with Araluen Creek) of the mine site prior to commencement of construction and annually thereafter until all mining and rehabilitation activities are completed (Note: The design of the survey must be in consultation with Fisheries NSW and the results must be included in the Annual Review. The frequency of future annual surveys may be amended by the Secretary);	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 8 of the Water Management Plan describes the Aquatic Ecology Monitoring Program.	Complies	
		(c) surface water quality criteria for a range of parameters, including salinity, heavy metals, suspended sediment, pH, hardness and biological oxygen demand	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 7.8 of the Water Management Plan describes the surface water quality parameters and TARPs.	Complies	
		(d) a program to undertake monthly monitoring of: •surface water flows, quality, and impacts on water users; •potential acid rock drainage, including suitable monitoring both within and downstream of the tailings storage facility; •potential leakage or spillage from tailings, mineral concentrate, or effluent pipelines; •potential seepage / leachate from waste rock material on the surface, including the monitoring of pH levels;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			The surface water monitoring program is described in Sections 7.4, 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7 of the Water Management Plan	Complies	
S3 C29	The Surface Water Monitoring Program	(e) a program to undertake bi-annual monitoring of stream health and channel stability in Spring and Majors Creeks using replicated AUSRIVAS or equivalent methodology;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 8.6 of the Water Management Plan describes the stream health Tarp. Section 8.5 of the Water Management Plan states that the stream monitoring will be undertaken annually.	Complies	
		(f) a program for the ongoing verification and refinement of the surface water model; and	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 5.2 of the Water Management Plan describes the program for the ongoing verification and refinement of the surface water model.	Complies	
		(g) reporting procedures for the results of the monitoring program and model verification.	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 5.2 of the Water Management Plan describes the program for the ongoing verification and refinement of the surface water model.	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C30	The Groundwater Monitoring Program	The Groundwater Monitoring Program must include: (a) detailed baseline data of groundwater levels, yield and quality in the region, and particularly any groundwater bores, springs and seeps that may be affected by the project;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 9 of the Water Management Plan describes the Groundwater Monitoring Program. Section 9.2 of the plan describes the baseline environment.	Complies	
		(b) test bores downstream of the site, including test bores located down-gradient of the tailings storage facility to monitor seepage;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 9.3 of the Water Management Plan details the locations of the groundwater monitoring sites.	Complies	
		(c) groundwater assessment criteria for both groundwater levels and quality including privately-owned bores;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 9.7 of the Water Management Plan describes the assessment criteria for groundwater levels and quality.	Complies	
		(d) a program to monitor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •impacts on the groundwater supply of potentially affected landowners; •impacts on springs or groundwater dependent ecosystems (including stygofauna); •the volume of groundwater inflow into the underground mine workings; •regional groundwater levels and quality in all potentially affected aquifers; •potential groundwater quality impacts from paste fill operations; •potential acid rock drainage; •the seepage/leachate from tailings dams; 	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Sections 9.5 and 9.6 describes the groundwater monitoring program.	Complies	
		(e) a program for the ongoing verification and refinement of the groundwater model; and	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 9.6 of the Water Management Plan describes the program for the ongoing verification and refinement of the groundwater model.	Complies	
		(f) reporting procedures for the results of the monitoring program and model verification.	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 9.6 of the Water Management Plan states that the results of the verification and refinement of the groundwater model would be presented in the Annual Review.	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C31	Water Management Plan	The Surface and Ground Water Response Plan must include:					Complies	
		(a) trigger levels for investigating any potential adverse surface water, stream health and groundwater impacts of the project, and taking action to avoid exceedances of the relevant criteria in the surface water and groundwater monitoring program;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			The surface water TARP is provided in Sections 7.8, 7.9 and 8.6 of the Water Management Plan. The groundwater TARP is provided in Sections 9.7 of the Water Management Plan.		
		(b) a protocol for the investigation, notification and mitigation of any exceedances of the surface water, stream health, and groundwater assessment criteria;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Sections 7,8, 8.6 and 9.7 of the Water Management Plan describes the processes for the evaluation of compliance and subsequent reporting.		
		(c) a protocol for investigating, evaluating and providing the baseflow offsets required under condition 22 above;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 5.5 and Section 10 of the Water Management Plan describes the processes for investigating, evaluating, and providing the baseflow offsets.		
		(d) measures to mitigate and/or compensate potentially affected landowners in accordance with the compensatory water supply requirements in condition 23 above;	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 9.7.2.1 of the Water Management Plan describes the processes to mitigate and/or compensate potentially affected landowners in accordance with the compensatory water supply requirements in condition 23 above;		
		(e) a protocol for providing advance warning and water supply measures for landowners of privately- owned land that are predicted to exceed the surface and groundwater impact assessment criteria at some stage during the project life; and	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 9.7.2.1 of the Water Management Plan describes the processes providing advance warning and water supply measures for landowners of privately- owned land that are predicted to exceed the surface and groundwater impact assessment criteria at some stage during the project life.		
(f) the procedures that would be followed to determine any appropriate action to be taken to mitigate or offset any surface or groundwater impacts caused by the project that constitute material harm to the environment.	Water Management Plan Revision 10, dated 4 May 2022			Section 9.7 of the Water Management Plan describes the procedures that would be followed to determine any appropriate action to be taken to mitigate or offset any surface or groundwater impacts caused by the project that constitute material harm to the environment.				

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations																					
S3 C32	Biodiversity Offset	The Applicant must implement the offset strategy outlined in Table 9, described in the EA, and shown in Appendix 4 to the satisfaction of the Secretary.		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues is currently finalising an off-site Biodiversity Offset on a nearby landholder’s property. This is to offset Dargues’ requirements for Ribbon Gum, Eucalyptus viminalis. The Rehabilitation Management Plan is under review in preparation for site closure next year.		Dargues is currently finalising the rehabilitation strategy I preparation for site closure in 2024.	Not Triggered																						
	Table 9		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Community Type</th> <th>Area (Ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ribbon Gum Forest*</td> <td>8.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fragmented Ribbon Gum Forest*</td> <td>7.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regenerating wattles</td> <td>7.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exotic vegetation</td> <td>5.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natural Temperate Grassland**</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native – dominated pasture</td> <td>265.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exotic pasture</td> <td>2.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Largely disturbed land</td> <td>3.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>River Peppermint Open Forest</td> <td>1.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>302.1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Community Type	Area (Ha)	Ribbon Gum Forest*	8.7	Fragmented Ribbon Gum Forest*	7.1	Regenerating wattles	7.6	Exotic vegetation	5.1	Natural Temperate Grassland**	0.2	Native – dominated pasture	265.7	Exotic pasture	2.5	Largely disturbed land	3.9	River Peppermint Open Forest	1.3	TOTAL	302.1				
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S3 C33		The Applicant must ensure that the offset area is managed in a manner that would ensure the regeneration of native grassland, which is consistent with the Natural Temperate Grassland EEC.	<p>Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review</p> <p>Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)</p> <p>Dargues Gold Mine Flora and Fauna Monitoring 2021, prepared by Ecological Australia, dated 25 February 2022.</p> <p>Dargues Gold Mine Aquatic Ecology Monitoring Spring 2022, prepared by University of Canberra.</p> <p>Dargues Environmental Monitoring Survey Report 2023, prepared by SG Ecology, dated 28 June 2023.</p> <p>Grazing Management Plan Version 1 dated 15 November 2022 (Appendix B to the Biodiversity Management Plan).</p> <p>Deed Licensed for Agistment Purposes between Dargues Gold Mine Pty Ltd and Westwood Holdings (NSW) Pty Ltd,</p>		Gates segregating the on-site off set area and grazing unlicensed areas south of the former core shed were not closed, allowing cattle to potentially access those areas (Photo 8). Cattle were observed grazing outside of the area licensed by the agistment agreement and within the riparian zone of Majors Creek (Photograph 9).	Cattle agistment within the site is not being managed in accordance with the Agistment Agreement (referenced in the Biodiversity Management Plan). Cattle were observed grazing outside of the area licensed by the agistment agreement and for example within the riparian zone of Majors Creek as shown on the agistment plan in Annexure A to the Agreement.	Non-Compliance	Enforce the requirements of the Agistment Agreement, in particular the no-grazing areas.																					
S3 C34		The Applicant must make suitable arrangements to provide appropriate long-term security for the offset area in the strategy to the satisfaction of the Secretary.		Senior Rehabilitation Specialist – The conservation agreements have not yet been finalised.		The conservation agreements have not yet been finalised. As this condition does not specify a timing for finalising appropriate biodiversity securities, this condition is not auditable.	Noted																						

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C35	Biodiversity Management Plan	The Applicant must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the Project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The Plan must: (a) be prepared in consultation with BCS, and submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to construction;	Biodiversity Management Plan Revision 6, dated 15 November 2022.			The 2021 IEA verified that Rev 4 of the BMP had been approved by DPE and that the required consultation completed. Rev 6 of the Biodiversity Management Plan was under review by DPE at the time of this IEA. Dargues was in the process of replying to a request for further information relating to the draft plan. For additional comments on Revision 6, please refer to Section 7.5 above.	Complies	
		(b) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an assessment of the potential impacts of groundwater drawdown on dependent (phreatophytic) vegetation, including the Tableland Basalt Forest EEC and Araluen Scarp Grassy Forest EEC in the Majors Creek State Conservation Area using suitable methodology; 	Biodiversity Management Plan Revision 6, dated 15 November 2022.			Section 5.3 of the Biodiversity Management Plan provides an assessment of impacts on groundwater dependent phreatophyte vegetation.	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> detailed baseline data on the health status of the Tableland Basalt Forest EEC within the project site; 	Biodiversity Management Plan Revision 6, dated 15 November 2022.			Section 5.3.1.1 of the Plan provides a description of the baseline health of the Tableland Basalt Forest EEC.	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation and/or offsetting measures if adverse impacts on phreatophytic vegetation predicted; 	Biodiversity Management Plan Revision 6, dated 15 November 2022.			Section 5.5 presents the off-site biodiversity strategy relating to the Tableland Basalt Forest EEC.	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> timing for the implementation of mitigation and/or offsetting measures; 	Biodiversity Management Plan Revision 6, dated 15 November 2022.			Section 7.3 of the Biodiversity Management Plan presents the timing for implementation of mitigation and offsetting measures.	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> scheduling for the implementation of the biodiversity offset; 	Biodiversity Management Plan Revision 6, dated 15 November 2022.			Section 7.3 of the Plan presents the mitigation and offsetting schedule.	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> detailed performance and completion criteria for the implementation of the offset; 	Biodiversity Management Plan Revision 6, dated 15 November 2022.			Section 7.2 of the Plan presents the performance and completion criteria for the implementation of the offset.	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a detailed description of the measures to manage the remnant vegetation and habitat within the offset area, and ensure the biodiversity offset is suitably implemented, including the procedures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -revegetating or regenerating parts of the offset area, if required; -managing or improving the quality of existing vegetation in the offset area; -controlling weeds, feral pests and access; -managing bushfires; -fencing around the water storage dam approved under Modification 5 to restrict native animals from accessing the proposed water storage dam; and 	Biodiversity Management Plan Revision 6, dated 15 November 2022.			Section 6.4 of the Biodiversity Management Plan presents biodiversity management measures.	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> details of who would be responsible for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the plan. 	Biodiversity Management Plan Revision 6, dated 15 November 2022.			Section 14 of the Plan presents details of monitoring and other responsibilities.	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C36	Conservation Bond	<p>Within 3 months of the approval of the Biodiversity Management Plan, the Applicant must lodge a conservation bond with the Department to ensure that the biodiversity offset is implemented in accordance with the performance and completion criteria of the Biodiversity Management Plan. The sum of the bond must cover the full cost of implementing the Biodiversity Offset Strategy and be verified by a suitably qualified rehabilitation expert or quantity surveyor.</p> <p>If the biodiversity offset is implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretary, the Secretary will release the conservation bond.</p> <p>If the offset strategy is not implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretary, the Secretary will call in all or part of the conservation bond, and arrange for the implementation of the biodiversity offset.</p>	<p>Email from RW Corkery (M Bland) to DPE (S Wilson) titled "Dargues Gold Project – Conservation Bond Estimate", dated 4 December 2012.</p> <p>Bank Guarantee issued by Investec Bank, plc to DPIE for the amount of \$446,675, dated 21 December 2020.</p>			<p>The Auditor sighted the required bank guarantee.</p>	Complies	
S3 C37	Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan	<p>The Applicant must prepare an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary and carry out the Project in accordance with this plan. The plan must:</p> <p>a) be prepared in consultation with Heritage NSW - ACH and the Aboriginal community;</p>	<p>Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan Revision 6 dated 22 August 2019.</p> <p>Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023.</p> <p>Email from DPE (J Turner) to Dargues (C Johnston) titled "Request to receive copies of DPE's acknowledgement of Dargues' MOD 5 Management Plans", dated 22 August 2023.</p>			<p>The 2021 IEA assessed compliance of Revision 6 of the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan against this condition.</p> <p>Revision 7 has been issued to DPE and consultation undertaken with Heritage NSW. No evidence of Aboriginal Group consultation during the preparation of the current version of the plan was available. Therefore, compliance with this Condition could not be verified.</p>	Non-Compliance	Ensure that the required consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Groups is undertaken.
		<p>b) be submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to construction;</p>				<p>Compliance with this condition was verified during the 2021 IEA.</p>	Complies	
		<p>c) include a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> program for fencing identified Aboriginal sites; 				<p>Fencing of the heritage sites was completed in a previous audit period. Compliance with this condition was verified during the 2021 IEA.</p>	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> program for the recording, salvage and surface collection of any Aboriginal objects/sites that may be encountered within the project area, (including sites GT OS1 and GT OS2) and undertaking test excavations for any archaeological deposits located within the water storage dam approved under Modification 5, prior to disturbance; 				<p>Section 3.4 of the AHMP describes the program for management of known Aboriginal objects and sites.</p> <p>Recording, salvage and surface collection of any Aboriginal objects/sites was completed in a previous audit period. Compliance with this condition was verified during the 2021 IEA.</p>	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> description of the measures that would be implemented if any Aboriginal skeletal remains are discovered during the project; and 				<p>Section 3.4 of the AHMP describes procedures for the management of unanticipated Aboriginal objects.</p>	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protocol for the ongoing consultation and involvement of the Aboriginal community in the management of the Aboriginal heritage of the objects/sites.. 				<p>Section 3.3 of the AHMP describes the process for continued consultation with the relevant registered Aboriginal parties.</p>	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C38	Access Road Construction	The Applicant must construct the site access road and the intersection of the access road and Majors Creek Road prior to the commencement of construction of the mine-related infrastructure.		Environment and Community Superintendent – These works were completed in previous audit periods.		Compliance with Condition S3 C38 was verified during the 2019 IEA.	Complies	
S3 C39	Access Road Construction	The intersection of the site access road and Majors Creek Road must be constructed to a BAR/BAL treatment for rural turn lanes in accordance with the RTA Road Design Guide and to the satisfaction of Council.		Environment and Community Superintendent – These works were completed in previous audit periods.		Compliance with Condition S3 C39 was verified during the 2019 IEA.	Complies	
S3 C39A	Access Road Construction	Prior to the commencement of transportation of ore from the site, the left hand road shoulder on Majors Creek Road between the entrance of the mine site and the top of the hill must be strengthened to the satisfaction of Council		Environment and Community Superintendent – These works were completed in previous audit periods.		Compliance with Condition S3 C39A was verified during the 2019 IEA.	Complies	
S3 C40	Monitoring of Concentrate Transport	The Applicant must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Keep accurate records of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the amount of concentrate transported from the on a monthly basis; and • The date and time of loaded truck movements from the site 	DGM Concentrate Truck Dispatch Database.			The Auditor reviewed the Concentrate Truck Dispatch Database and verified the that required information has been recorded and maintained.	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) provide the Secretary with a summary of these truck movements on a quarterly basis. 		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues reports truck movements via the Dargues Annual Review.		Dargues reports truck movements yearly via the Dargues Annual Review.	Non-Compliance	Provide DPE with quarterly truck movement reports.
S3 C41	Transport Operating Conditions	The Applicant must ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a maximum of 4 concentrate or water trucks exit the site per hour; 	DGM Concentrate Truck Dispatch Database.			A review of the concentrate truck movement register identified no instances were more than four concentrate trucks were dispatched within a period of 1 hour.	Complies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) the dispatch of concentrate from the site is limited to between the hours of 7am to 10pm Monday to Saturday and 8am-10pm Sundays and Public Holidays; 				A review of the concentrate truck records identified two concentrate truck movements prior to 07:00am: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 June 2022 (Concentrate Truck) • 1 August 2022 (Concentrate Truck) No departure times were recorded for the following concentrate truck movements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 September 2021 • 21 October 2021 	Non-Compliance	Ensure that all concentrate movements occur within the approved hours.

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C41	Transport Operating Conditions	c) all heavy vehicle movements to or from the site are prohibited between the hours of 7am - 8.30am and 3pm-5pm on school days;	<p>Letter from Aurelia Metals Limited (E Guarino to DPE (K O'Reilly) titled Dargues Gold Mine – Notification – Non-compliance with Consent 10_0054 Condition 41, dated 5 August 2022.</p> <p>Warning Letter from DPE (K O'Reilly) to Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (A Wylie) titled “Warning Letter Breach of Section 4.2(1)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act”, dated 12 August 2022.</p> <p>Letter from Aurelia Metals Limited (E Guarino to DPE (K O'Reilly) titled Dargues Gold Mine – Notification – Non-compliance with Consent 10_0054 Condition 41, dated 5 August 2022.</p> <p>Email From G Williams (Dargues) to A Wylie (Dargues) titled “Boral Truck”, dated 2 May 2023. The email reported that a Boral truck exited the site at 15:44 on 28 April 2023.</p>			<p>During the audit period heavy vehicles exited the site during the heavy vehicle curfew hours on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28 April 2023 (Boral Cement Truck) 26 June 2023 (Boral Cement Truck) 	Non-Compliance	Ensure that all concentrate movements occur within the approved hours.
		d) a bus is operated from Braidwood to offer mine workers transport to and from the site each day; and	Traffic Management Plan Revision 6 dated 2 August 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent - The bus service from Braidwood to site has been maintained throughout the audit period.		The bus service from Braidwood to site has been maintained throughout the audit period.	Complies	
		e) all reasonable and feasible measures are implemented to minimise the project’s contribution to the traffic on Majors Creek Road, Araluen Flat Road, Captains Flat Road, Coghill Street and Wallace Street.					Noted	
S3 C42	Transport Route	Once the site access road and its intersection with Majors Creek Road are complete, the Applicant must ensure that, except in emergency situations, no project-related heavy vehicles access the site from the south or via Monga Lane.	<p>Traffic Management Plan Revision 6 dated 2 August 2022.</p> <p>Driver code of conduct</p> <p>Complaints Register</p> <p>Training Records.</p>			<p>No complaints were received during the audit period regarding truck routing.</p> <p>The Traffic Management Plan and Driver Code of Conduct clearly specify the mandatory truck routes.</p> <p>The Auditor has sighted training records related to transport drivers</p>	Complies	
S3 C43	Traffic Management Plan	<p>The Applicant must prepare a Traffic Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary.</p> <p>The plan must focus on traffic management along Majors Creek Road to minimise potential conflicts between road users and to ensure that the intersection of the site access road and Majors Creek Road is operating effectively.</p> <p>The plan must be developed in consultation with the Council and the CCC and must be submitted for the approval of the Secretary prior to the commencement of construction of any mine-related infrastructure.</p>	<p>Traffic Management Plan Revision 6 dated 2 August 2022.</p> <p>Email from DPE (J Turner) to Dargues (C Johnston) titled “Request to receive copies of DPE’s acknowledgement of Dargues’ MOD 5 Management Plans”, dated 22 August 2023.</p> <p>Dargues Gold Mine 2014 Independent Environmental Audit.</p>	Environment and Community Superintendent - Traffic Management Plan was sent to QPRC and the CCC, these were not uploaded to the Portal, with the revised Plan for DPE’s assessment (post the audit period).		<p>A Traffic Management Plan was prepared in February 2012 and submitted to the DP&I and approved on 20 February 2012.</p> <p>The TMP Rev 4 was approved by DPE on 7/11/2016.</p> <p>A draft copy of revision 6 of this document was provided to Queanbeyan-Palerang Council and the CCC on 7 September 2022 for review and comment. The revised plan has been issued to DPE for review and approval.</p> <p>Section 5 of the TMP presents the traffic and transport management controls designed to minimise the impacts on Majors Creek Road and local road users.</p>	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C43A	Transport Management Plan	The Applicant must implement the approved Traffic Management Plan.	Traffic Management Plan Revision 6 dated 2 August 2022.			Section 5.3 of the TMP specifies the heavy vehicle transport times and routes. During the audit period four incidents involving heavy vehicles leaving the site during curfew times were recorded. Section 5.3 of TMP also specifies the records to be maintained and reporting to be undertaken. That reporting includes quarterly concentrate truck movement reports to be provided to DPE and Council. The Auditor understands that Dargues provides this data in the Annual Reviews, but not in quarterly reports are specified in the TMP.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that quarterly Concentrate transport reports are provided to Council and DPE. Training is provided to all personnel regarding heavy vehicle transport restrictions.
S3 C44	Visual Operating Conditions	The Applicant must: a) (a) minimise the visual impacts, and particularly the off-site lighting impacts, of the project;	Complaints Register Visual Amenity Assistance (application form). Site Lighting Plan		The process plant, maintenance and office areas are not visible from Majors Creek residential areas.	One complaint was received during the audit period relating to sunlight reflecting off the TSF liner and visible glow from the site at nighttime. Dargues has offered landowners, with a direct view of the mine, the planting of screening vegetation. Site lighting is not directly visible from the village of Majors Creek.	Complies	
		b) take all practicable measures to further mitigate off-site lighting impacts from the project; and	Complaints Register Visual Amenity Assistance (application form). Site Lighting Plan		The process plant, maintenance and office areas are not visible from Majors Creek residential areas.	One complaint was received during the audit period relating to sunlight reflecting off the TSF liner and visible glow from the site at nighttime. Dargues has offered landowners, with a direct view of the mine, the planting of screening vegetation. Site lighting is not directly visible from the village of Majors Creek.	Complies	
		c) ensure that all external lighting associated with the Project complies with Australian Standard AS4282 (NT) 1997 - Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting, or its latest version; and	Complaints Register Visual Amenity Assistance (application form). Site Lighting Plan		The process plant, maintenance and office areas are not visible from Majors Creek residential areas.	One complaint was received during the audit period relating to a visible glow from the site at night-time. Dargues has offered landowners, with a direct view of the mine, the planting of screening vegetation. Site lighting is not directly visible from the village of Majors Creek.	Complies	
S3 C45	Additional Visual Impact Mitigation	The Applicant must construct an amenity bund on the southern and western crest of the ROM pad as described in the EA and rehabilitate the bund in accordance with Condition 51 below.	Dargues 2014 Independent Environmental Audit		The visual amenity berm was sighted by the Auditor.	Installation of the visual amenity berm was verified during the 2014 IEA. The Auditor sighted the berm during this IEA.	Complies	
S3 C46	Additional Visual Impact Mitigation	Upon receiving a written request from the owner of any residence on privately-owned land which has, or would have, significant direct views of the mining operations on site, the Applicant must implement visual mitigation measures (such as landscaping treatments or vegetation screens) on the land in consultation with the landowner. These measures must be reasonable and feasible, and directed toward minimising the visibility of the mining operations from the residence.	Visual Amenity Assistance (application form).	Environment and Community Superintendent - no landowners have taken up the offer of visual screening.		No landowners have taken up the offer of visual screening.	Not Triggered	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C46	Additional Visual Impact Mitigation	If within 3 months of receiving this request from the owner, the Applicant and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Secretary for resolution.	Visual Amenity Assistance (application form).	Environment and Community Superintendent - no landowners have taken up the offer of visual screening.		No landowners have taken up the offer of visual screening.	Not Triggered	
S3 C47A	Waste – Performance Measures Paste Fill	The Applicant must ensure that any paste fill used to fill mine voids on site: (a) complies with the leachable concentration (TCLP) criteria and specific contaminant concentration (SCC) criteria for general solid waste (non-putrescible); and (b) is not classified as a liquid waste, under the Waste Classification Guidelines (EPA, 2009), or its latest version.	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft) Spreadsheet titled “Paste_fill_June 2022- June 2023”	Environmental and Social Responsibility Advisor - Weekly testing commenced 4 October 2022. From June 22 – Oct 2022 testing was more sporadic.		The Waste Management Plan specifies that paste fill will be sampled weekly for analysis. In accordance with the EPA’s guidelines, TCLP testing is triggered by a SCC (CT1) trigger exceedance. No exceedances have occurred of this SCC threshold during the audit period, and therefore the TCLP criteria, for all paste fill analysis since June 2022. Weekly sampling and testing of paste fill commenced in October 2022, prior to that time sampling and testing was more sporadic. Therefore, the Auditor has not been able to verify compliance, for the period of June 2021 to June 2022, with this Condition. The Dargues Annual Reviews included two tables that provide the trigger values for paste fill. In addition, Dargues provided the Auditor with a spreadsheet containing chemical test results for paste fill from June 2022 to June 2023. The test results were twice-monthly chemical testing of the paste film and did not include leachate testing.	Non-Compliance	Since October 2022 paste fill sampling and testing frequency has met the requirements of the Waste Management Plan, therefore no recommendations are required in that regard. However, it is recommended that in accordance with Schedule 5 Condition 5 of the Approval that this monitoring data be uploaded (monthly) to the project website.
S3 C47B	Waste –Paste Fill Trials and Testing	Prior to the commencement of paste fill operations on site, the Applicant must commission a suitably qualified expert, whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary, to:	Letter from DPE (D Kitto) to Cortona Resources (P van der Borgh) titled “Dargues Reef Gold Mine Approval of Paste Fill Expert”, dated 1 August 2012.			DPE has approved the appointment of the paste fill expert.	Complies	
		a) carry out further trials and testing to clarify the physical characteristics of the paste fill;	Report – Dargues Hydraulic Fill Review and Assessment, prepared by Backfill Geotechnical Mining Consultants Pty Ltd, dated 11 October 2011.			Further trial and testing were undertaken during the preparation of the BGC Consultants Paste Fill Report.	Complies	
		b) undertake further bench tests of the paste fill to determine the leaching characteristics	Waste Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023.			Section 5.2.2 of the Waste Management Plan summarises the testing undertaken on the paste fill, including during the initial and subsequent trials.	Complies	
		c) prepare a program for the ongoing testing of the paste fill to ensure it meets the performance measures in condition 47B; and	Waste Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023.			Section 5.2.3 of the Waste Management Plan describes the paste fill monitoring program. The program consists of daily physical testing and weekly chemical / waste classification testing.	Complies	
		d) compare the results of the additional trials and testing against the results presented in Dargues Reef Paste Fill Test Work and Design (Revell, 2010), to the satisfaction of the Secretary.	Waste Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023.			Section 5.2.2 of the Waste Management Plan summarises the testing undertaken on the paste fill, including during the initial and subsequent trials.	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C47	Waste Management Operating Conditions	The Applicant must: a) minimise the waste generated by the Project;	Waste Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023. Waste management (Big Picture) monthly reports prepared by Cleanaway	Environment and Community Superintendent - Waste management requirements are communicated to Dargues' workforce via prestarts and/ or toolbox talks.	Waste collection, segregation and storage facilities were inspected. Appropriate waste segregation was being undertaken at the mine. Refer to Photo	Dargues uses the services of Cleanaway to manage all waste (other than paste fill) on site. Cleanaway provides monthly reports to Dargues on waste collection, recycling and disposal. The Auditor inspected the waste collection and storage areas during the site inspection. The facilities provided are consistent with mining industry waste management practices	Complies	
		b) ensure that the waste generated by the Project is appropriately stored, handled and disposed of; and	Waste Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023. Waste management (Big Picture) monthly reports prepared by Cleanaway	Environment and Community Superintendent - Waste management requirements are communicated to Dargues' workforce via prestarts and/ or toolbox talks.	Waste collection, segregation and storage facilities were inspected. Appropriate waste segregation was being undertaken at the mine. Refer to Photo	Dargues uses the services of Cleanaway to manage all waste (other than paste fill) on site. Cleanaway provides monthly reports to Dargues on waste collection, recycling and disposal. The Auditor inspected the waste collection and storage areas during the site inspection. The facilities provided are consistent with mining industry waste management practices	Complies	
		c) manage on-site sewage treatment and disposal in accordance with the requirements of Council, to the satisfaction of the Secretary.	Email from BluenGrey (contractor) to Big Island Mining (C Johnston) titled "BluenGrey Service Form for your AWTS", dated 21 April 2023			A contractor (BluenGrey) services the site septic systems quarterly and provides Dargues with quarterly reports.	Complies	
S3 C48	Waste Management Operating Conditions	The Applicant must prepare a Waste Management Plan for the project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must be submitted to the Secretary prior to construction.	Waste Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023. Letter from DPE			The initial Waste Management Plan was prepared in February 2012 and submitted to DP&I. DP&I approved the Plan on 20 February 2012. The Waste Management Plan has been revised several times since 2012. The current version of the plan has been reviewed and approved by DPE.	Complies	
S3 C48A	Waste Management Operating Conditions	The Applicant must implement the approved Waste Management Plan.	Waste Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023. Waste management (Big Picture) monthly reports prepared by Cleanaway		Waste collection, segregation and storage facilities were inspected. Appropriate waste segregation was being undertaken at the mine. Refer to Photo 8.	Dargues uses the services of Cleanaway to manage all waste (other than paste fill) on site. Cleanaway provides monthly reports to Dargues on waste collection, recycling and disposal. The Auditor inspected the waste collection and storage areas during the site inspection. The facilities provided are consistent with mining industry waste management practices. The Waste Management Plan specifies that paste fill will be sampled weekly, and leachate (TCLP) testing undertaken. The Dargues Annual Reviews include two tables that provide the trigger values for paste fill. In addition, Dargues provided the Auditor with a spreadsheet containing chemical test results for paste fill from June 2022 to June 2023. The test results were twice-monthly chemical testing of the paste film and did not include leachate testing.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that, in accordance with the DPE approved Waste Management Plan that paste fill is sampled weekly and sent to a NATA Registered laboratory for TCLP testing. It is also recommended that in accordance with Schedule 5 Condition 5 of the Approval that this monitoring data be uploaded (monthly) to the project website.

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S3 C49	BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT	The Applicant must: a) ensure that the Project is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site; and	Bushfire Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023.	Environment and Community Superintendent – The key firefighting equipment held on-site includes fire extinguishers and the water cart. Health, Safety & Training Superintendent - We have the local emergency services that will attend site in case of emergencies, this in our Emergency Response Plan. We have our watercart for first response that is equipped with a fire cannon and two 35mm fire hose attachments. Our hoses and nozzles are stored in our ERT shed and are inspected by the ERT team members.		The Bushfire Management Plan requires that the following equipment is maintained on-site at all times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a fire tender with suitable storage capacity pump(s), hoses and nozzles capable of fog spray and jet streams. The required equipment is maintained on site.	Complies	
		b) assist the emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site.		Environment and Community Superintendent – No bushfires have occurred on site during this audit period.			Noted	
S3 C50	Bushfire Management Plan	Prior to construction, the Applicant must prepare a Bushfire Management Plan for the site to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The plan must be prepared in consultation with the local Rural Fire Service.	Bushfire Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023. Letter from DPE (S O'Donoghue) to Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (E Guarino) titled "Dargues Gold Mine Project (MP10_0054) – Bushfire Management Plan", dated 2 February 2023.			A Bushfire Management Plan has been prepared. The Local Rural Fire Service has been consulted and the plan reviewed and approved by DPE.	Complies	
S3 C50A	Bushfire Management Plan	The Applicant must implement the approved Bushfire Management Plan.	Bushfire Management Plan Revision 7 dated 11 January 2023.	Environment and Community Superintendent – No bushfires have occurred on site during this audit period.		The Bushfire Management Plan requires that the following equipment is maintained on-site at all times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a fire tender with suitable storage capacity pump(s), hoses and nozzles capable of fog spray and jet streams. The required equipment is maintained on site.	Complies	
S3 C51	Rehabilitation Objectives	The Applicant must rehabilitate the site in accordance with the conditions imposed on the mining lease(s) associated with the project under the Mining Act 1992. This rehabilitation must be generally consistent with the proposed rehabilitation strategy described in the EA, however the:	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023. Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – six former exploration sites have been rehabilitated. Senior Rehabilitation Specialist – Closure and site rehabilitation are currently being planned.		Closure and site rehabilitation planning has commenced. Some progressive rehabilitation works have been undertaken.	Not Triggered	
		a) area to be returned to native woodland vegetation must be increased further to the west of the existing Spring Creek vegetation corridor as shown in Appendix 4;	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			The Rehabilitation Management Plan includes the obligation to return the additional area west of Spring Creek to native woodland vegetation.	Not Triggered	
		b) box cut must be rehabilitated to result in an outcome that is consistent with the final landform (Appendix 3); and	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			The box cut was still in operation at the time of this IEA.	Not Triggered	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
		c) upper surface of the tailings storage facility must be capped with a suitable material to prevent surface water infiltration into the post-mining landform.	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			The TSF was still operational at the time of this IEA.	Not Triggered	
S3 C52	Progressive Rehabilitation	The Applicant must carry out the rehabilitation of the site progressively, that is, as soon as reasonably practicable following disturbance.	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023. Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – six former exploration sites have been rehabilitated. Senior Rehabilitation Specialist – Closure and site rehabilitation are currently being planned.	The footprint of the mine is relatively small, and the mine is still in operation. An example of a rehabilitated exploration bore site was inspected.	As the mine was operating at the time of this IEA, and the disturbed areas confined to waste rock stockpile, the TSF, the surface infrastructure required for mining, there is limited opportunity for progressive rehabilitation. It is noted that six former exploration sites have been rehabilitated.	Complies	
S3 C53	Rehabilitation Management Plan	Deleted						
S4 C1	Notifications of Landowners/tenants	At least 2 months prior to carrying out any blasting on site, the Applicant must notify in writing the owners of any privately-owned land within 2 kilometres of the approved blasting on site that they are entitled to ask for an inspection to establish the baseline condition of any buildings or structures on their land, or to have a previous property inspection report updated.	Dargues 2014 Independent Environmental Audit			Compliance with this Condition was verified in the 2014 IEA. A letter was sent to all landowners within 2km of blasting operations on 21 September 2011.	Complies	
S4 C2	Notifications of Landowners/tenants	As soon as practicable after obtaining monitoring results showing: a) Exceedances of the relevant criteria in Schedule 3, the Applicant must notify the affected landowners and/or tenants in writing of the exceedance, and provide regular monitoring results to each of these parties until the project is complying with the relevant criteria again; and		Environment and Community Superintendent – No exceedances requiring notifications occurred during the audit period.		No exceedances requiring notifications occurred during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
S4 C2	Notifications of Landowners/tenants	b) exceedances of the relevant air quality criteria in Schedule 3, the Applicant must send the affected landowners and tenants (including the tenants of any mine-owned land) a copy of the NSW Health fact sheet entitled "Mine Dust and You" (as may be updated from time to time).		Environment and Community Superintendent – No exceedances requiring notifications occurred during the audit period.		No exceedances requiring notifications occurred during the audit period.	Not Triggered	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S4 C3	Independent Reviews	If an owner of privately-owned land considers the Project to be exceeding the criteria in schedule 3 at his/her land, then he/she may ask the Secretary in writing for an independent review of the impacts of the Project on his/her land.		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.		No requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		If the Secretary is satisfied that an independent review is warranted, then the Applicant must: a) commission a suitably qualified, experienced and independent expert, whose appointment has been approved by the Secretary, to: • consult with the landowner to determine his/her concerns; • conduct monitoring to determine whether the Project is complying with the relevant impact assessment criteria in schedule 3; and • if the Project is not complying with these criteria then: o determine if the more than one mine is responsible for the exceedance, and if so the relative share of each mine regarding the impact on the land; o identify the measures that could be implemented to ensure compliance with the criteria; and		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.		No requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		b) give the Secretary and landowner a copy of the independent review within 2 months of the Secretary's decision, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.		No requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
S4 C4	Independent Reviews	If the independent review determines that the project is complying with the relevant criteria in Schedule 3, then the Applicant may discontinue the independent review with the approval of the Secretary.		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.		No requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		If the independent review determines that the project is not complying with the relevant impact assessment criteria in Schedule 3, then the Applicant must:		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.		No requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		(a) implement all reasonable and feasible mitigation measures, in consultation with the landowner and appointed independent person, and conduct further monitoring until the project complies with the relevant criteria; or		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.		No requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		(b) secure a written agreement with the landowner to allow exceedances of the relevant criteria, to the satisfaction of the Secretary.		Environment and Community Superintendent – no requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.		No requests for independent reviews were received during the audit period.	Not Triggered	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S5 C1	Environmental Management Strategy	The Applicant must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the Project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The strategy must:	Environmental Management Strategy Revision 6 dated 16 January 2023 Dargues 2014 Independent Environmental Audit Letter from DPE (S O'Donoghue) to Big Island Mining (E Guarino) titled "Dargues Gold Mine Project (MO_0054) – Environmental Management Strategy", dated 2 February 2023.			Compliance with this condition was verified during the 2014 IEA - The original Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) was prepared to satisfy this condition and was approved by the DP&I on 16 May 2012. The current version, Revision 6 has been approved by DPE.	Complies	
		a) be submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to carrying out any Project under this consent;						
		b) provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the Project;	Environmental Management Strategy Revision 6 dated 16 January 2023			The Auditor has reviewed the EMS and considers that the plan provides an appropriate environmental management framework for the project.	Complies	
		c) identify the statutory approvals that apply to the Project;	Environmental Management Strategy Revision 6 dated 16 January 2023			Section 3 of the Environmental Management Strategy discusses the project statutory approvals.	Complies	
		d) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the Project;	Environmental Management Strategy Revision 6 dated 16 January 2023			Section 12 of the EMS describes roles and responsibilities. However, the Roles and Responsibilities presented in Table 12 do not cover the roles of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Community Superintendent, Senior Rehabilitation Specialist key corporate environment support positions; or Key operational management positions that have direct control over environmental and compliance outcomes. 	Non-Compliance	Revise the EMS to include all of the current environmental and other management positions that have direct control over environmental and compliance outcomes.
		e) describe the procedures that would be implemented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the mine Project; receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints; resolve any disputes that may arise; respond to any non-compliance; respond to emergencies; and 	Environmental Management Strategy Revision 6 dated 16 January 2023			Section 8 Describes incident investigation and reporting. Section 9 describes complaints handling and dispute resolution. Section 11 of the EMS describes community and stakeholder consultation.	Complies	
f) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> copies of any strategies, plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent; and a clear plan depicting all the monitoring required to be carried out under the conditions of this consent. 	Environmental Management Strategy Revision 6 dated 16 January 2023			Copies of all relevant plans are referenced in the EMS and are available on the Dargues Website.	Complies			

Commented [CJ1]: Site accountabilities sit with site personnel. Therefore, the EMS will be updated to reflect current key site personnel.

Project Approval 10_0054 Dargues Gold Mine

Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S5 C1A	Environmental Management Strategy	The Applicant must implement the approved Environmental Management Strategy.	Environmental Management Strategy Revision 6 dated 16 January 2023			During this IEA, the Auditor has found sufficient evidence to confirm that the operation is implementing the requirements of the EMS.	Complies	
S5 C2	Management Plan Requirements	The Applicant must ensure that the management plans required under this consent are prepared in accordance with any relevant guidelines, and include: a) detailed baseline data;	Blast Management Plan Noise Management Plan Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan Biodiversity Management Plan Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan Traffic Management Plan Bushfire Management Plan Water Management Plan Rehabilitation Management Plan			All plans where baseline data is relevant (for example background data is not relevant in the Bushfire Management Plan) contain background data with the exception of the Noise Management Plan.	Non-Compliance	Revise the Noise Management Plan to include background noise data.
		b) a description of: • the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions); • any relevant limits or performance measures/criteria; • the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the Project or any management measures;				All management plans contain the information required by this condition with the exception of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Waste Management – the plan makes no reference to the Protection of the Environment Act or the requirement to operate under an Environment Protection Licence that are particularly relevant to waste management and to the management of paste backfill this disposed of on-site.Noise Management Plan and Blasting Management Plan – these plans do not reference the Protection of the Environment Act that is particularly relevant to noise and vibration or the requirement to operate under an Environment Protection Licence.Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan – the plan does not reference the relevant Aboriginal heritage protection legislation, including for example, the National Parks and Wildlife Act.Biodiversity Management Plan – the plan does not reference the relevant NSW and Federal Biodiversity Legislation and the obligations under that legislation.		Review all plans to identify deficiencies in the identification of relevant legislation, approvals and operational permits and licences.
		c) a description of the measures that would be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures/criteria;				All management plans provide appropriate information on the measures to be implemented to ensure compliance and meet performance objectives.	Complies	
		d) a program to monitor and report on the: • impacts and environmental performance of the Project; • effectiveness of any management measures (see c above);				All relevant management plans provide appropriate information on monitoring and reporting.	Complies	

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Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S5 C2	Management Plan Requirements	e) a contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences;	Blast Management Plan Noise Management Plan Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan Biodiversity Management Plan Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan Traffic Management Plan Bushfire Management Plan Water Management Plan Rehabilitation Management Plan			All relevant plans contain appropriate contingency management.	Complies	
		f) a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the Project over time;				All plans contain appropriate information of the investigation and improvement of environmental performance.	Complies	
		g) protocol for managing and reporting any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incidents; complaints; non-compliances with statutory requirements; and exceedances of the impact assessment criteria and/or performance criteria; and 				The EMS and all relevant plans include a protocol for managing and reporting on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incidents; complaints; Non-compliances with statutory requirements; And exceedances of the impact assessment and criteria and/or performance criteria. 	Complies	
		h) a protocol for periodic review of the plan.				All management plans have been regularly reviewed.	Complies	
S5 C3	Annual Review	By the end of March each year, the Applicant must review the environmental performance of the Project for the previous calendar year to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This review must:	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			Two Annual Reviews have been prepared for during this audit period.	Complies	
		a) describe the Project (including any rehabilitation) that was carried out in the past calendar year, and the Project that is proposed to be carried out over the current calendar year;	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			Section 4 of the Annual Reviews provide information on the operations over the reporting period. Section 6 of the Annual Review reports rehabilitation progress over the reporting period. Section 12 of the Annual Reviews present an overview of the activities to be undertaken during the next reporting period.	Complies	
		b) include a comprehensive review of the monitoring results and complaints records of the Project over the past year, which includes a comparison of these results against the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures/criteria; monitoring results of previous years; and relevant predictions in the EIS; 	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			The Annual Reviews provide an overview of the monitoring and testing undertaken during the reporting period. The overviews in an assessment of compliance against the relevant performance measures.	Complies	
		c) identify any non-compliance over the last year, and describe what actions were (or are being) taken to ensure compliance;	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			Section 1 of the Annual Reviews report on known no-compliances during the reporting period.	Complies	
		d) identify any trends in the monitoring data over the life of the Project;	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			The Annual Reviews report on trends in monitoring data as part of the assessment against the relevant performance measures.	Complies	

Project Approval 10_0054 Dargues Gold Mine

Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S5 C3	Annual Review	e) identify any discrepancies between the predicted and actual impacts of the Project, and analyse the potential cause of any significant discrepancies; and	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			The Annual Reviews report on predicted and actual impacts as part of the assessment against the relevant performance measures.	Complies	
		f) describe what measures will be implemented over the next year to improve the environmental performance of the Project.	Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)			Section 12 of the Annual Reviews present an overview of the activities to be undertaken during the next reporting period.	Complies	
S5 C5	Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs	Within 3 months of:	Environmental Management Strategy Blast Management Plan Noise Management Plan Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan Biodiversity Management Plan Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan Traffic Management Plan Bushfire Management Plan Water Management Plan Rehabilitation Management Plan			All management plans were reviewed and revised during this audit period.	Complies	
		a) the submission of an annual review under condition 3 above;				All management plans were reviewed and revised during this audit period.	Complies	
		b) the submission of an incident report under condition 7 below				All management plans were reviewed and revised during this audit period.	Complies	
		c) the submission of an audit report under condition 9 below; or				All management plans were reviewed and revised during this audit period.	Complies	
		d) any modification to the conditions of this approval, (unless the conditions require otherwise), the Applicant must review, and if necessary revise, the strategies, plans, and programs required under this approval to the satisfaction of the Secretary.				All management plans were reviewed and revised during this audit period.	Complies	
	Where this review leads to revisions in any such document, then within 4 weeks of the review, the revised document must be submitted to the Secretary for approval.				All Management Plans were provided to DPE for review and Approval.	Complies		
S5 C5	Community Consultative Committee	The Applicant must operate a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the Project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This CCC must be operated in accordance with the Guidelines for Establishing and Operating Community Consultative Committees for Mining Projects (Department of Planning, 2007, or its latest version).	CCC minutes (Dargues Project Website)	CCC Independent Chair – The CCC has been operating throughout the audit period.		The CCC has been established and has meet regularly throughout the audit period.	Complies	
		Notes: •The CCC is an advisory committee. The Department and other relevant agencies are responsible for ensuring that the Applicant complies with this consent. •In accordance with the guideline, the Committee should be comprised of an independent chair and appropriate representation from the Applicant, Council, recognised environmental groups and the local community.	CCC minutes (Dargues Project Website)	CCC Independent Chair – The CCC has been operating throughout the audit period.		An Independent Chair-person has been appointed.	Complies	

Project Approval 10_0054 Dargues Gold Mine

Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S5 C6	Incident Reporting	The Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website immediately after the Applicant becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the project (including the application number and the name of the project if it has one) and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements in Appendix 8.	Letter from Aurelia Metals (A Wylie) to DPE (K O'Reilly) titled "Dargues Gold Mine – Notification – Non-Compliance with Consent 10_0054, Condition 41", dated 5 August 2022			One reportable incident occurred during this audit period. This incident was reported to the EPA and DPE.	Complies	
S5 CĀ	Non-Compliance Reporting	The Secretary must be notified in writing via the Department's Major Projects Website within 7 days after the Applicant becomes aware of any non-compliance with the conditions of this approval. The notification must identify the project and the application number for it, set out the condition of approval that the project is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been done, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.	<p>Letter from Aurelia Metals (A Wylie) to DPE (K O'Reilly) titled "Dargues Gold Mine – Notification – Non-Compliance with Consent 10_0054, Condition 41", dated 5 August 2022.</p> <p>Email from DPE (K O'Reilly) to Dargues (A Wylie) titled "Dargues Gold Mine – HRD issue", dated 6 March 2023.</p> <p>Letter from Aurelia Metals (A Wylie) to DPE (K O'Reilly) titled "Dargues Gold Mine – Notification – Non-Compliance with Consent 10_0054, Condition 41", dated 5 May 2023</p> <p>Letter from Aurelia Metals (A Wylie) to DPE (K O'Reilly) titled "Dargues Gold Mine – Notification – Non-Compliance with Consent 10_0054, Condition 41", dated 27 June 2023</p> <p>Letter from Aurelia Metals (A Wylie) to DPE (K O'Reilly) titled "Dargues Gold Mine Incident Notification with Consent 10_0054, Schedule 5, Condition 6", dated 28 July 2023</p>			<p>During the audit period Dargues identified the following non-compliances and reported those to DPE within the timelines required by this Condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2002 – waste rock emplacement height exceedance • Transport breach of heavy vehicle curfew 30 June 2022 • Transport breach of heavy vehicle curfew 1 August 2022 • Transport breach of heavy vehicle curfew 28 April 2023 • Transport breach of heavy vehicle curfew 26 June 2023 	Complies	
S5 C7	Regular Reporting	The Applicant must provide regular reporting on the environmental performance of the project on its website, in accordance with the reporting arrangements in any plans or programs approved under the conditions of this approval.	<p>Dargues Project website</p> <p>Dargues 2021-22 Annual Review</p> <p>Dargues 2022-23 Annual Review (draft)</p>			Dargues provides access to monitoring reports and Annual Reviews on their project website.	Complies	

Project Approval 10_0054 Dargues Gold Mine

Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S5 C8	Independent Environmental Audit	Within 3 months of re-commencing construction on the site, and every 2 years thereafter, unless the Secretary directs otherwise, the Applicant must commission and pay the full cost of an Independent Environmental Audit of the project. This audit must:	Dargues 2021 Independent Environmental Audit.			The 2021 and this IEA were commissioned to comply with this condition.	Complies	
		a) be prepared in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (NSW Government 2020); and	Dargues 2021 Independent Environmental Audit.			The 2021 IEA was undertaken in general accordance with the DPE's Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (NSW Government 2020).	Complies	
		b) be submitted, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, within two months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary.	Dargues 2021 Independent Environmental Audit.			The site inspection for the 2021 IEA was undertaken between 23 and 23 February. The report was issued to DPE on or after 27 May 2021.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that, for future IEAs that an extension of time is sought from DPE for any delays in submission of the final report.
S5 C9	Independent Environmental Audit	In accordance with the specific requirements of the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (NSW Government 2020), the Applicant must:	Dargues 2021 Independent Environmental Audit.			Dargues response to the findings of the 2021 were contained within the 2021 IEA Report	Complies	
		(a) review and respond to each Independent Audit Report prepared under Condition 8 of Schedule 5 of this approval;						
		(b) submit a response to the Secretary and any other NSW agency that requests it, together with a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Audit Report;	Dargues 2021 Independent Environmental Audit.			Dargues response to the findings of the 2021 were contained within the 2021 IEA Report	Complies	
		(c) implement the recommendations to the satisfaction of the Secretary; and	Dargues 2021 Independent Environmental Audit.			Refer to Section 7.6 above	Non-Compliance	Ensure that all recommendation contained in IEA reports are implemented or the justification to not implement a decision is documented and where necessary reported to DPE.
		(d) make each Independent Audit Report and response to it publicly available no later than 60 days after submission to the Secretary.	Dargues Project Website			Past IEA reports are available on the Dargues Website.	Complies	

Project Approval 10_0054 Dargues Gold Mine

Cond.	Title	Condition	Evidence Requested	Interviews	Site Inspection	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
S5 C10	ACCESS TO INFORMATION	<p>From the commencement of Project under this consent, the Applicant must:</p> <p>(a) make copies of the following publicly available on its website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the documents referred to in Condition 2 of Schedule 2; all current statutory approvals for the project; all approved strategies, plans and programs required under the conditions of this approval; the monitoring results of the project, reported in accordance with the specifications in any conditions of this approval, or any approved plans and programs; a complaints register, updated on a monthly basis; minutes of CCC meetings; the annual reviews of the project; any independent environmental audit of the project, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit; any other matter required by the Secretary; any incident report referred to in Condition 6 of Schedule 5; a certificate of currency of public liability insurance held by the Applicant as in force from time to time; and <p>(b) keep this information up-to-date, within a reasonable period, and in any event no later than 28 days after the above information becomes available,</p>	Dargues Project Website			<p>All information required to be published on the Dargues Website has been uploaded except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paste Backfill Sampling and Testing Results Certificate of currency of public liability insurance 	Non-Compliance	Ensure that all documentation required is uploaded to the project website.

Compliance Register

Standard Conditions of Mining Lease

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Standard Mining Lease Conditions									
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations	
Conditions 1 to 4 are administrative only.									
IMPORTANT NOTE: In accordance with Schedule 1 Amendment of Mining Regulation 2016 Clause 31A(2)a of the Mining Amendment (Standard Conditions of Mining Leases—Rehabilitation) Regulation 2021 - the standard conditions are applicable to the mine one year after commencement of the Act, ie 2 July 2022.									
D1-C4	Protection of the environment and rehabilitation Must prevent or minimise harm to environment	(1) The holder of a mining lease must take all reasonable measures to prevent, or if that is not reasonably practicable, to minimise, harm to the environment caused by activities under the mining lease.	Letter from Aurelia Metals Ltd (A Wylie) to the NSW EPA (M Rizzuto) titled "SR-1150. Dargues Gold Mine's response to Cleanup Notice (3506190) – Environment Protection Licence (20095), Condition R2.2", dated 27 July 2023. EPA Cleanup Notice 3502090, dated 17 March 2022 EPA Cleanup Notice 3506109, dated 26 July 2023				On 24 July 2023 Dargues reported a spike in Electrical Conductivity and water flow in Spring Creek (between 18 and 19 July 2023) to the EPA. The report also stated that mine water had inadvertently drained from a mine dust suppression tank into a sedimentation basin that subsequently overflowed into Spring Creek. The EPA subsequently issued a cleanup notice requiring Dargues to pump and dispose of any liquids in the sediment basin and provide a further report to the EPA.	Non-Compliance	Investigate the feasibility of installing a lock out mechanism that prevents drain valves on dust suppression water tanks from being inadvertently left open.
		(2) In this clause—harm to the environment has the same meaning as in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> .					Explanatory Clause Only.	Noted	
D1-C5	Protection of the environment and rehabilitation Rehabilitation to occur as soon as reasonably practicable after disturbance	The holder of a mining lease must rehabilitate land and water in the mining area that is disturbed by activities under the mining lease as soon as reasonably practicable after the disturbance occurs.	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023. Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – six former exploration sites have been rehabilitated. Senior Rehabilitation Specialist – Closure and site rehabilitation are currently being planned.	The footprint of the mine is relatively small, and the mine is still in operation. An example of a rehabilitated exploration bore site was inspected.		As the mine was operating at the time of this IEA, and the disturbed areas confined to waste rock stockpile, the TSF, the surface infrastructure required for mining, there is limited opportunity for progressive rehabilitation. It is noted that six former exploration sites have been rehabilitated.	Complies	
D1-C6	Protection of the environment and rehabilitation Rehabilitation must achieve final land use	(1) The holder of a mining lease must ensure that rehabilitation of the mining area achieves the final land use for the mining area.	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023. Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – six former exploration sites have been rehabilitated. Senior Rehabilitation Specialist – Closure and site rehabilitation are currently being planned.			Closure and site rehabilitation planning has commenced. Some progressive rehabilitation works have been undertaken.	Not Triggered	
		(2) The holder of the mining lease must ensure any planning approval has been obtained that is necessary to enable the holder to comply with subclause (1).	Planning Approval MP10_0054				The required Planning Approval is in place.	Complies	

Standard Mining Lease Conditions

Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
		<p>(3) The holder of the mining lease must identify and record any reasonably foreseeable hazard that presents a risk to the holder's ability to comply with subclause (1)</p> <p>Note— Clause 7 requires a rehabilitation risk assessment to be conducted whenever a hazard is identified under this subclause.</p>	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			Section 3 of the Rehabilitation Management Plan contains the Rehabilitation Risk Assessment. Section 10 identifies the proposed contingency strategies to be implemented in the event of the identification of hazards that may impact rehabilitation outcomes.	Complies	
D1-C6	<p>Protection of the environment and rehabilitation</p> <p>Rehabilitation must achieve final land use</p>	<p>(4) In this clause—final land use for the mining area means the final landform and land uses to be achieved for the mining area—</p> <p>a. as set out in the rehabilitation objectives statement and rehabilitation completion criteria statement, and</p>				Explanatory Clause Only.	Noted	
		<p>b. for a large mine—as spatially depicted in the final landform and rehabilitation plan, and</p>				Explanatory Clause Only.	Noted	
		<p>c. if the final land use for the mining area is required by a condition of development consent for activities under the mining lease—as stated in the condition.</p>				Explanatory Clause Only.	Noted	
		<p>Planning Approval Means</p> <p>a) a development consent within the meaning of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>, or</p>				Explanatory Clause Only.	Noted	
		<p>b) an approval under that Act, Division 5.1.</p>				Explanatory Clause Only.	Noted	

Standard Mining Lease Conditions								
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
D2-7	Risk Assessment Rehabilitation risk assessment	(1) The holder of a mining lease must conduct a risk assessment (a rehabilitation risk assessment) that— a) identifies, assesses, and evaluates the risks that need to be addressed to achieve the following in relation to the mining lease— (i) the rehabilitation objectives, (ii) the rehabilitation completion criteria (iii) for large mines—the final land use as spatially depicted in the final landform and rehabilitation plan, and	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.				Complies	
		b) identifies the measures that need to be implemented to eliminate, minimise or mitigate the risks.	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.					
D2-7	Risk Assessment Rehabilitation risk assessment	(2) The holder of the mining lease must implement the measures identified.	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023. Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – six former exploration sites have been rehabilitated. Senior Rehabilitation Specialist – Closure and site rehabilitation are currently being planned.			Complies	
		(3) The holder of a mining lease must conduct a rehabilitation risk assessment— (a) for a large mine—before preparing a rehabilitation management plan, and (b) for a small mine—before preparing the rehabilitation outcome documents for the mine, and (c) whenever a hazard is identified under clause 6(3)—as soon as reasonably practicable after it is identified, and (d) whenever given a written direction to do so by the Secretary	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent - The Secretary has not requested that a further risk assessment be conducted.			A Rehabilitation Risk Assessment was completed in 2022 during preparation of the current version of the Rehabilitation Management Plan. Section 3 of the Rehabilitation Management Plan contains the Rehabilitation Risk Assessment. Section 10 identifies the proposed contingency strategies to be implemented in the event of the identification of hazards that may impact rehabilitation outcomes. The Secretary has not requested that a further risk assessment be conducted.	Complies

Standard Mining Lease Conditions								
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
D3-8	Records, Reporting and Notification Application of Division 3	(1) This Division does not apply to a mining lease unless— a) the security deposit required under the mining lease is greater than the minimum deposit prescribed under the Act, section 261BF in relation to that type of mining lease, or b) the Secretary gives a written direction to the holder of the mining lease that this Division, or a provision of this Division, applies to the mining lease.	Email from RW Corkery (M Bland) to DPE (S Wilson) titled “Dargues Gold Project – Conservation Bond Estimate”, dated 4 December 2012. Bank Guarantee issued by Investec Bank, plc to DPIE for the amount of \$446,675, dated 21 December 2020.			This condition is administrative only. Lodgement of the security deposits required for each of the mining leases was verified in the 2021 IEA. The value of those deposits is greater than the minimum-security deposit set under the Mining Act Regulations. Therefore, this division applies.	Noted	
D3-9	Rehabilitation Documents General requirements for documents	A document required to be prepared under this Division must— (a) be in a form approved by the Secretary, and	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			The Rehabilitation Management Plan was updated to the current Form and Way Template issued by the Resource Regulator.	Complies	
		(b) include any matter required to be included by the form, and	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			The Rehabilitation Management Plan was updated to the current Form and Way Template issued by the Resource Regulator.	Complies	
		(c) if required to be given to the Secretary—be given in a way approved by the Secretary.		Environment and Community Superintendent – all documents that are required to be submitted to the Resource Regulator are sent via the Planning Portal.		Any documents that are required to be submitted to the Resource Regulator are sent via the Planning Portal.	Complies	
D3 C10	Rehabilitation Documents Rehabilitation management plans for large mines	(1) The holder of a mining lease relating to a large mine must prepare a plan (a rehabilitation management plan) for the mining lease that includes the following— (a) a description of how the holder proposes to manage all aspects of the rehabilitation of the mining area	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			Section 6 of the Rehabilitation Management Plan describes the implementation of the rehabilitation to achieve the outcomes specified in Section 4.	Complies	
		(b) a description of the steps and actions the holder proposes to take to comply with the conditions of the mining lease that relate to rehabilitation,	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			Section 6 of the Rehabilitation Management Plan describes the implementation of the rehabilitation to achieve the outcomes specified in Section 4.	Complies	
		(c) a summary of rehabilitation risk assessments conducted by the holder,	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			Section 3 of the Rehabilitation Management Plan contains the Rehabilitation Risk Assessment. Section 10 identifies the proposed contingency strategies to be implemented in the event of the identification of hazards that may impact rehabilitation outcomes.	Complies	
		(d) the risk control measures identified in the rehabilitation risk assessments,	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			Section 10 identifies the proposed contingency strategies to be implemented in the event of the identification of hazards that may impact rehabilitation outcomes.	Complies	
		(e) the rehabilitation outcome documents for the mining lease	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			Section 4 of the Rehabilitation Management Plan describes the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria.	Complies	

Standard Mining Lease Conditions									
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations	
D3 C10	Rehabilitation Documents Rehabilitation management plans for large mines	(f) a statement of the performance outcomes for the matters addressed by the rehabilitation outcome documents and the ways in which those outcomes are to be measured and monitored.	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			Section 8 of the Rehabilitation Management Plan describes the rehabilitation monitoring program.	Complies		
		(2) If a rehabilitation outcome document has not been approved by the Secretary, the holder of the mining lease must include a proposed version of the document.	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			The requirements of the Rehabilitation Outcomes document are provided in Section 6 of the Rehabilitation Management Plan.	Complies		
		(3) A rehabilitation management plan is not required to be given to the Secretary for approval.	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – The current version of the rehabilitation management plan has not been provided to the Resource Regulator for approval.			Administrative Condition only	Noted	
		(4) The holder of the mining lease— (a) must implement the matters set out in the rehabilitation management plan, and (b) if the forward program specifies timeframes for the implementation of the matters— must implement the matters within those timeframes	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023. Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – six former exploration sites have been rehabilitated. Senior Rehabilitation Specialist – Closure and site rehabilitation are currently being planned.			Closure and site rehabilitation planning has commenced. Some progressive rehabilitation works have been undertaken.	Complies	
D3 C11	Rehabilitation Documents Amendment of Rehabilitation Plans	The holder of a mining lease must amend the rehabilitation management plan for the mining lease as follows— a) to substitute the proposed version of a rehabilitation outcome document with the version approved by the Secretary—within 30 days after the document is approved		Environment and Community Superintendent – The rehabilitation outcome documents have been prepared and were submitted to the Resource Regulator in July 2022. Those documents have not yet been approved.		The rehabilitation outcome documents have been prepared and were submitted to the Resource Regulator in July 2022. Those documents have not yet been approved.	Not Triggered		
		b) as a consequence of an amendment made under clause 14 to a rehabilitation outcome document— within 30 days after the amendment is made,		Environment and Community Superintendent – No changes in rehabilitation risk have been identified during this audit period.		No changes in rehabilitation risk have been identified during this audit period.	Not Triggered		
		c) to reflect any changes to the risk control measures in the prepared plan that are identified in a rehabilitation risk assessment—as soon as practicable after the rehabilitation risk assessment is conducted,		Environment and Community Superintendent – No changes in rehabilitation risk have been identified during this audit period.		No changes in rehabilitation risk have been identified during this audit period.	Not Triggered		
		d) whenever given a written direction to do so by the Secretary—in accordance with the direction.		Environment and Community Superintendent – no directions have been received from the Secretary in relation to the Rehabilitation Documents.		No directions have been received from the Secretary in relation to the Rehabilitation Documents.	Not Triggered		

Standard Mining Lease Conditions								
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
D3 C12	Rehabilitation Documents Rehabilitation outcome documents	(1) The holder of a mining lease must prepare the following documents (the rehabilitation outcome documents) for the mining lease and give them to the Secretary for approval— (a) the rehabilitation objectives statement , which sets out the rehabilitation objectives required to achieve the final land use for the mining area	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022. Spreadsheet titled “ROBJ0001039 Dargues Gold Mine 2003524”. The spreadsheet is Dargues Rehabilitation Objectives Statement.	Environment and Community Superintendent – The Rehabilitation Objectives Statement has been prepared and the initial version was submitted to the Resource Regulator in July 2022. The RR has provided comments on the objectives statement. Dargues has updated the statement and resubmitted it on 2024 May 2023. The RR is yet to approve the statement.		The Rehabilitation objectives statement has been prepared and was issued to the RR on 20 July 2022 (screenshot from the Regulator Portal provided by Dargues confirming date of submission). The RR subsequently provided feedback on the submission. Dargues revises the rehabilitation objectives statement and reissued that statement to the RR on 24 May 2023 (screenshot from the Regulator Portal provided by Dargues confirming date of submission). The RR has yet to approve the statement.	Complies	
		(b) the rehabilitation completion criteria statement , which sets out criteria, the completion of which will demonstrate the achievement of the rehabilitation objectives,		Environment and Community Superintendent – Still waiting on RR response regarding the submitted ROBJ, prior to submitting ‘Rehab Completion Criteria Statement’.		The rehabilitation objectives statement has not yet been approved.	Not Triggered	
		(c) for a large mine, the final landform and rehabilitation plan , showing aspatial depiction of the final land use.	Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan Final Landform Features PLAN 1, dated 15 May 2023.	Environment and Community Superintendent – The final landform and rehabilitation plan has been prepared and the initial version was submitted to the Resource Regulator in July 2022. The RR has provided comments on the objectives statement. Dargues has updated the statement and resubmitted it on 2024 May 2023. The RR is yet to approve the plan.		The final landform and rehabilitation plan has been prepared and was issued to the RR on 20 July 2022 The RR subsequently provided feedback on the submission. Dargues revises the plan and reissued that statement to the RR on 24 May 2023 (screenshot from the Regulator Portal provided by Dargues confirming date of submission).. The RR has yet to approve the plan.	Complies	
		(d) If the final land use for the mining area is required by a condition of development consent for activities under the mining lease, the holder of the mining lease must ensure the rehabilitation outcome documents are consistent with that condition.	Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan Final Landform Features PLAN 1, dated 15 May 2023.			The Rehabilitation Management Plan is consistent with the rehabilitation requirements specified in the Planning Approval.	Complies	
D3 C13	Rehabilitation Documents Forward program and annual rehabilitation report	(1) The holder of a mining lease must prepare a program (a forward program) for the mining lease that includes the following— a) a schedule of mining activities for the mining area for the next 3 years,	Dargues Gold Mine Forward Program Tuesday April 2022 to Friday 11 April 2025, dated 27 July 2022.	Environment and Community Superintendent – The date of upload of forward program that to the Planning Portal was 20 July 2022.		Dargues has prepared the Forward Program using the guidance document provided on the Resource Regulator’s website. A high-level mining schedule is provided in the Forward Program.	Complies	
		b) a summary of the spatial progression of rehabilitation through its various phases for the next 3 years,	Dargues Gold Mine Forward Program Tuesday April 2022 to Friday 11 April 2025, dated 27 July 2022.			Dargues has prepared the Forward Program using the guidance document provided on the Resource Regulator’s website. A summary of rehabilitation proposed for the three years covered by the program is provided.	Complies	

Standard Mining Lease Conditions								
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
		c) a requirement that the rehabilitation of land and water disturbed by mining activities under the mining lease must occur as soon as reasonably practicable after the disturbance occurs.	Dargues Gold Mine Forward Program Tuesday April 2022 to Friday 11 April 2025, dated 27 July 2022.			Dargues has prepared the Forward Program using the guidance document provided on the Resource Regulator's website. This requirement has been stipulated in the program.	Complies	
		(2) The holder of a mining lease must prepare a report (an annual rehabilitation report) for the mining lease that includes—	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023.			Dargues has prepared the Annual Rehabilitation Report using the guidance document provided on the Resource Regulator's website.	Complies	
		(a) a description of the rehabilitation undertaken over the annual reporting period,	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023.			Current performance and Rehabilitation progression has been reported in the Annual Rehabilitation Report.	Complies	
		(b) a report demonstrating the progress made through the phases of rehabilitation provided for in the forward program applying to the reporting period,	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023.			Other than an annotation of "Not Applicable" under the heading of "Variation to the Rehabilitation Schedule – Identify the components of the most recent forward program that were not achieved". No further information relating to progress is provided.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that future Annual Rehabilitation Reports include a report demonstrating the progress made through the phases of rehabilitation provided for in the forward program.
		(c) a report demonstrating progress made towards the achievement of the following— (i) the objectives set out in the rehabilitation objectives statement, (ii) the criteria set out in the rehabilitation completion criteria statement, (iii) for large mines—the final land use as spatially depicted in the final landform and rehabilitation plan.	Dargues Gold Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report Tuesday 12 April 2022 to 11 April 2023.			Other than a table summarising current disturbance and rehabilitation highlights no clear reference is made to the objectives in the rehabilitation objectives statement or the rehabilitation completion criteria.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that future Annual Rehabilitation Reports include a report demonstrating the progress made towards meeting the objectives of the Rehabilitation Documents.
D3 C13	Rehabilitation Documents Forward program and annual rehabilitation report	(3) If a rehabilitation outcome document has not been approved by the Secretary, the holder of the mining lease must rely on a proposed version of the document.				Administrative Condition only	Noted	
		(4) The holder of the mining lease must give the forward program and annual rehabilitation report to the Secretary.	Email from Dargues (C Johnston) to the Resources Regulator (G Kininmouth) titled "re Dargues Gold Mine Amend Reporting Period Submissions Date Approval ARD0001159", dated 4 August 2023. The email confirms the reporting period to be October to October with submission in December.			The first Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program have been provided to the RR. It is noted that the second versions of those reports were due June 2023, however those reports were not prepared. Subsequently the RR has approved a change in reporting date. Dargues next Annual Rehabilitation Report will cover the period 17 October 2022 to 18 October 2023 and	Complies	

Standard Mining Lease Conditions								
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
						is due for submission on 13 December 2023.		
		(5) In this clause—annual reporting period means each period of 12 months commencing on— (a) the date on which the mining lease is granted, or (b) if the Secretary approves another date in relation to the mining lease— the other date.	Email from the Resources Regulator (G Kininmouth) to Dargues (C Johnston) titled “Dargues Gold Mine Amend Reporting Period Submissions Date Approval ARD0001159”, dated 4 August 2023. Email from Dargues (C Johnston) to the Resources Regulator (G Kininmouth) titled “re Dargues Gold Mine Amend Reporting Period Submissions Date Approval ARD0001159”, dated 4 August 23.			Administrative Condition Only The Dargues annual reporting period has been changed to be October to October with submission in December. Dargues next Annual Rehabilitation Report will cover the period 17 October 2022 to 18 October 2023 and is due for submission on 13 December 2023.	Noted	
D3 C14	Rehabilitation Documents Amendment of rehabilitation outcome documents and forward program	(1) This clause applies to— (a) a rehabilitation outcome document if the Secretary has approved it, and (b) a forward program if it has been given to the Secretary.				Administrative Condition Only	Noted	
		(2) The holder of a mining lease must not amend a document to which this clause applies that relates to the mining lease unless— (a) the Secretary gives the holder a written direction to do so, or		Environment and Community Superintendent – no directions have been received from the Resource Regulator requesting changes to either the rehabilitation outcome document or the forward program during the audit period.		No directions have been received from the Resource Regulator requesting changes to either the rehabilitation outcome document or the forward program.	Not Triggered	
		(b) the Secretary, on written application by the holder, gives a written approval of the amendment		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues has not applied to modify either the rehabilitation outcome document or the forward program during the audit period.		Dargues has not applied to modify either the rehabilitation outcome document or the forward program during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		(3) The holder of the mining lease must amend the document in accordance with the Secretary’s direction or approval.		Environment and Community Superintendent – no directions have been received from the Resource Regulator requesting changes to either the rehabilitation outcome document or the forward program during the audit period.		No directions have been received from the Resource Regulator requesting changes to either the rehabilitation outcome document or the forward program.	Not Triggered	
		(4) Nothing in this clause prevents the holder of a mining lease preparing a draft amendment for submission to the Secretary for approval				Administrative Condition Only	Noted	

Standard Mining Lease Conditions								
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
D3-15	Rehabilitation Documents Times at which documents must be prepared and given	(1) The holder of a mining lease must do the following before the end of the initial period— a) prepare a rehabilitation management plan, and	Rehabilitation Management Plan Version 1 dated 27 July 2022.			The Rehabilitation Management Plan was prepared prior to the completion of the initial period.	Complies	
		b) prepare rehabilitation outcome documents and give them, other than the rehabilitation completion criteria statement, to the Secretary for approval, and	Spreadsheet titled “ROBJ0001039 Dargues Gold Mine 2003524”. The spreadsheet is Dargues Rehabilitation Objectives Statement. Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan Final Landform Features PLAN 1, dated 15 May 2023.			The Rehabilitation objectives statement and final landform plan were prepared and issued to the RR on 20 July 2022 (screenshot from the Regulator Portal provided by Dargues confirming date of submission).	Complies	
		c) prepare a forward program and give it to the Secretary.	Dargues Gold Mine Forward Program Tuesday April 2022 to Friday 11 April 2025, dated 27 July 2022.			The first Forward Program was prepared and issued prior to the end of the Initial Period.	Complies	
		(2) The holder of the mining lease must prepare a forward program and annual rehabilitation report and give them to the Secretary before— a) 60 days after the last day of each annual reporting period, commencing with the annual reporting period in which the forward program was given to Secretary under subclause (1)(c), or b) a later date approved by the Secretary.				The first Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program have been provided to the RR. It is noted that the second versions of those reports were due in July 2023, however those reports were not prepared. Subsequently the RR has approved a change in reporting date. Dargues next Annual Rehabilitation Report will cover the period 17 October 2022 to 18 October 2023 and is due for submission on 13 December 2023.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that the Annual Rehabilitation Reports and Forward Plans are prepared and issued to the RR with the approved timeframes.
		(3) A rehabilitation completion criteria statement relating to completion of rehabilitation during a period covered by a forward program must be given to the Secretary for approval when the forward program is required to be given to the Secretary.				The first Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program have been provided to the RR. The second versions of those reports were due in July 2023; however, those reports were not prepared. Likewise, a rehabilitation completion criteria statement relating to the last reporting period was not prepared.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that the next Rehabilitation completion statement is prepared and issued to the RR with the next version of the Forward Plan.
		(4) The holder of the mining lease must prepare updated rehabilitation outcome documents for the mining lease and give them to the Secretary for approval before— a) 60 days after a development consent is modified following an application referred to in clause 20(1)(b), or b) a later date approved by the Secretary		Environment and Community Superintendent - No new development consents have been sort for this mining lease.		No new development consents have been sort for this mining lease.	Not Triggered	

Standard Mining Lease Conditions

Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
D3-15	Rehabilitation Documents Times at which documents must be prepared and given	(5) A rehabilitation completion criteria statement is not required to be given to the Secretary under subclause (4) unless a rehabilitation completion criteria statement has already been given to the Secretary under subclause (3).				Administrative Statement only	Noted	
		(6) The Secretary may, by written notice, direct the holder of a mining lease to prepare, or give to the Secretary, a document required to be prepared under this Division at a time other than that specified in this clause.		Environment and Community Superintendent – No directions have been received from the Resource Regulator prepare any documents required under this division during the audit period.		No directions have been received from the Resource Regulator prepare any documents required under this division during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		(7) The holder of the mining lease must comply with the direction.		Environment and Community Superintendent – No directions have been received from the Resource Regulator prepare any documents required under this division during the audit period.		No directions have been received from the Resource Regulator prepare any documents required under this division during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		(8) In this clause—initial period means the period commencing when the mining lease is granted and ending— (a) 30 days, or other period approved by the Secretary, after this Division first applies to the mining lease, or				Administrative Condition Only	Noted	
		(b) if this Division applies to the mining lease because of an increase in the required security deposit— (i) when the surface of the mining area is disturbed by activities under the mining lease, or (ii) at a later date approved by the Secretary.				Administrative Condition Only	Noted	

Standard Mining Lease Conditions								
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
D3-16	Rehabilitation Documents Certain documents to be publicly available	(1) This clause applies to the following documents— a) a rehabilitation management plan, b) a forward program, c) an annual rehabilitation report				Administrative Condition Only	Noted	
		(2) The holder of a mining lease must make a document to which this clause applies publicly available by— (a) publishing it on its website in a prominent position, or	Dargues Project Website			The Annual Rehabilitation Report was not available on the project website.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that each annual rehabilitation report is uploaded to the website
		(b) if the holder does not have a website— providing a copy of it to a person— (i) on the written request of a person, and (ii) without charge, and (iii) within 14 days after the request is received.	Dargues Project Website			Dargues has a project website.	Not Triggered	
		(3) If a document is published on the website of the holder of the mining lease, the holder must ensure that it is published— (a) for a rehabilitation management plan—within 14 days after it is prepared or amended, or	Dargues Project Website			The RMP was available on the Dargues project website.	Complies	
		(b) for a forward program or an annual rehabilitation report— within 14 days after it is given to the Secretary or amended,	Dargues Project Website			The Forward Program was available on the Dargues project website.	Complies	
		(4) Personal information within the meaning of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 is not required to be included in a document made available to a person under this clause.				Administrative Condition Only	Noted	
D4-17	Records, Reporting and Notification Records demonstrating compliance	The holder of a mining lease must create and maintain records of all actions taken that demonstrate compliance with each of the conditions set out in this Part. Note— The Act, sections 163D and 163E provide for the form in which records must be kept and the period for which they must be retained.				Sufficient records were not available to the Auditor to verify compliance with all conditions of the Mining Lease Standard Conditions.	Non-Compliance	Ensure that all relevant records are maintained to demonstrate compliance with these mining lease conditions.

Standard Mining Lease Conditions								
Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
D4-C18	Records, Reporting and Notification Report on non-compliance	(1) The holder of a mining lease must provide the Minister with a written report detailing any non-compliance with- (a) a condition of the mining lease, or		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions during the audit period.		Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		(b) a requirement of the Act or this Regulation relating to activities under the mining lease.		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining act or regulations during the audit period.		Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining act or regulations during the audit period.	Not Triggered	
		(2) The holder of the mining lease must provide the report within 7 days after becoming aware of the non-compliance		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the relevant mining legislation during the audit period.		Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the mining legislation during the audit period.	Note Triggered	
		(3) The holder of the mining lease must ensure the report— a) identifies the condition of the mining lease, or the requirement of the Act or this Regulation, to which the non-compliance relates, and		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the relevant mining legislation during the audit period.		Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the mining legislation during the audit period.	Note Triggered	
		b) describes the non-compliance and specifies the date or dates on which, or the period during which, the non-compliance occurred, and		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the relevant mining legislation during the audit period.		Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the mining legislation during the audit period.	Note Triggered	
		c) describes the causes or likely causes of the non-compliance, and		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the relevant mining legislation during the audit period.		Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the mining legislation during the audit period.	Note Triggered	
		d) describes the action that has been taken, or will be taken, to mitigate the effects, and to prevent any recurrence, of the non-compliance.		Environment and Community Superintendent – Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the relevant mining legislation during the audit period.		Dargues was not aware of any non-compliance against the mining lease conditions or the mining legislation during the audit period.	Note Triggered	

Standard Mining Lease Conditions

Cond.	Title	Condition	Documents Reviewed	Interviews	Audit Inspections	Assessment	Finding	Recommendations
D4-C19	Records, Reporting and Notification Nominated contact person	<p>(1) The holder of a mining lease must nominate a natural person to be the contact person with whom the Secretary can communicate in relation to the mining lease for the purposes of the Act.</p> <p>(2) The holder of the mining lease must give written notice to the Secretary of—</p> <p>(a) the full name and contact details of the nominated person—within 28 days after the date on which the standard conditions apply to the mining lease under clause 31A of this Regulation, and</p> <p>(b) any change in nomination or in the nominated person’s contact details—within 28 days after the change occurs.</p> <p>(3) The holder of the mining lease must ensure that the contact details for the nominated person include the person’s phone number and postal and email addresses.</p>	Email from the RR to Dargues (A Wylie) titled “Confirmation of Nominated Contact Person”, dated 10 January 2013.			Correspondence was provided to the auditor to verify compliance with this condition.	Complies	
D5-20	Applications relating to development consent Additional requirements—application for or to modify development consent	<p>(1) The holder of a mining lease must give written notice to the Secretary within 10 days after—</p> <p>(a) making an application for development consent that relates to the mining area, or</p>		Environment and Community Superintendent - No new development consents have been sort for this mining lease.		No new development consents have been sort for this mining lease.	Not Triggered	
		<p>(b) making an application for modification of a development consent—</p> <p>(i) under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>, section 4.55(2), and</p> <p>(ii) that proposes to modify a condition of the consent that relates to rehabilitation of the mining area in a way that may affect an obligation under the mining lease relating to rehabilitation of the mining area.</p>		Environment and Community Superintendent - No modifications to the consent relating to rehabilitation have been sort for this mining lease.		No modifications to the consent relating to rehabilitation have been sort for this mining lease.	Not Triggered	
		<p>(2) This clause does not apply if the development is State significant development.</p>				Administrative Condition Only.	Noted	

Compliance Registers Mining Lease 1675

Cond.	Detail	Evidence Reference	ML 1751
1	Land holder notices	Previous IEA Reports	Complies
2	Rehabilitate to the Satisfaction of the Minister	Mining Lease Standard Conditions	Noted
3	MOP and Annual Rehab Report	Mining Lease Standard Conditions	Complies
4	Compliance Report	Mining Lease Standard Conditions	Not Triggered
5	Incident Reporting	Incident Register	Not Triggered
7	Resource Recovery - optimise	Planning Approval	Complies
8	Security	Planning Approval	Noted
9	Cooperation Agreement with overlapping leases		Noted

Audit Photographs

Appendix B



Photograph 1 - Concentrate Shed



Photograph 2 - Ventilation Fan Silencer



Photograph 3 - TSF Pump Noise Attenuation



Photograph 4 - Meteorological Station



Photograph 5 - Erosion of the TSF Clean Water Diversion



Photograph 6 - Spring Creek Crossing



Photograph 7 - Drainage from Spring Creek Crossing



Photograph 8 - Waste Storage Area

Audit Team Approval

Appendix C

Stakeholder Consultation

Appendix D

From: [Katrina O'Reilly](#)
To: [Ken Holmes](#)
Subject: RE: Dargues Gold Mine - 2023 Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request DPE
Date: Tuesday, 8 August 2023 9:52:42 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning Ken,

The department would like areas to be focused on to include:

Erosion and sediment management and maintenance;
Management and monitoring of the tailings dam/releases/water reuse etc
Water management – surface and groundwater monitoring and management/reuse management
Compliance with all commitments/actions/monitoring in all management plans.
Evidence of mgt plans being review and revised
Compliance with project footprint
REA management (height compliance)
Traffic management/Truck movements
Management/actions/measures of Dust and noise to ensure compliance with criteria/condition/management plans.
Complaints register and management of.

Regards

Katrina

Katrina O'Reilly

Team Leader Compliance

Planning & Assessment | Department of Planning and Environment

T 02 6229 7909 | M 0429 400261 | E katrina.oreilly@planning.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 5475 | Level 1 11 Farrer Place Queanbeyan NSW 2620

www.dpie.nsw.gov.au



The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically

From: Ken Holmes <Ken@baeckea.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, 20 July 2023 5:04 PM

To: Katrina O'Reilly <Katrina.OReilly@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Dargues Gold Mine - 2023 Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request

DPE

Good Afternoon Katrina,

Barnett and May has been commissioned to undertake the 2023 Independent Environmental Audit (**IEA**) of Dargues Gold Mine (PA 10_0054). The audit will commence in mid-August 2023. The IEA will be undertaken accordance with Project Approval Conditions that requires:

Within 3 months of re-commencing construction on the site, and every 2 years thereafter, unless the Secretary directs otherwise, the Applicant must commission and pay the full cost of an Independent Environmental Audit of the project. This audit must:

- a. *be prepared in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (NSW Government 2020); and*
- b. *be submitted, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, within two months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary.*

The DPE Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements requires that the Auditor consults with relevant agencies. I have been provided me with your contact details as a relevant regulator. I would therefore appreciate if you could provide me with any information, comments or concerns that the DPE may have regarding the environmental performance of the operation (over the past two years – the audit period) and details of any specific issues you suggest that the Auditor considers during the audit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Thanks and Regards,

Ken Holmes
Lead Auditor

Principal Environmental Consultant
Director

Barnett & May

P +61 [0]438 046 261

E ken@baecka.com.au

A **PO Box 365 Belrose NSW 2085**

Our ref: OUT23/13828

Ken Holmes

Ken@baeckea.com.au

24 August 2023

Subject: Dargues Gold Mine - 2023 Independent Environmental Audit

Dear Ken Holmes

I refer to your request seeking advice from the Department of Planning and Environment – Water (the department) on an upcoming audit for the above matter. It is understood this consultation is in accordance with conditions of approval for the project.

The department understands that the scope of the audit as outlined under the development consent and the reference guideline, “*Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020)*” extends to at least the following:

- Identification of compliance requirements and documentation of any non-compliances.
- Assessment of the adequacy and implementation of management plans and sub plans.
- Assessment of compliance against relevant regulatory requirements and legislation.
- Assessment of compliance between actual and predicted impacts in the environmental assessment.
- Reporting requirements for management plans.
- Identification of strengths of the project in environmental management and opportunities for improvement.

The department requests that the audit address compliance with the following specific elements of the consent conditions and related legislative requirements in a manner consistent with the above audit scope:

- The requirement to prepare and implement management plans that relate to water sources and their dependent ecosystems and users, and associated impact management and mitigation. These plans may include:
 - Water Management Plans and related sub-plans eg. Site Water Balance, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Stormwater Management Plan, Surface and Groundwater Management Plan.
 - Extraction Plans and related sub-plans eg. Water Management Plan, Subsidence Management Plan.
- The requirement to prepare and implement trigger action response plans for water source impacts which set clearly defined limits and actions. This is to be reported on within annual and exceedance based reporting.
- Water supply availability is clearly defined for the project.
- Water take at the site via storage, diversion, interception or extraction is clearly documented and is authorised by a relevant Water Access Licence or exemption under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

- Water metering at the site is in accordance with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Framework where relevant.
- Water Access Licence/s used to account for water take by the project nominates the work where the water is being taken from.
- Annual reporting clearly documents; 1) water take, use and water source impacts, 2) compares results with previous year's, and 3) identifies exceedances and how these are managed/mitigated.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact DPE Water Assessments at water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,



Tim Baker
Senior Project Officer
Water Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment – Water
T 0428162097 | E tim.baker@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Mr Ken Holmes

Barnett and May Consultants.

Dear Mr Holmes,

I prefer to your recent request for comment from the Dargues Gold Mine (DGM) Community Consultative Committee (CCC) as part of your Environmental Audit of the mine's operation for the past two years.

INTRODUCTION:

The DGM CCC comprises representatives from the community, the two affected Councils and the Proponent, with myself appointed as the Independent Chairperson.

All sectors of the CCC have worked cooperatively and constructively towards understanding, and if possible, finding mutually acceptable solutions to the environmental challenges at the mine site.

The CCC meetings, which are held quarterly, over the last two years have continued to be heavily focused on environmental issues.

There have been four major issues on which the CCC Members have focussed.

DATA:

The first issue was the need for the Proponent to present top quality, accurate and easily interpreted environmental data in a prompt and transparent manner so as to give confidence to the Community Members that acceptable policies and practices were being undertaken in accordance with the conditions of project approval.

The change in mine ownership in December 2020 hindered this objective being achieved easily and quickly due to the need to transfer, integrate and/ or compile the requisite reports and to then make them available to the CCC.

However, the creation of a dashboard portal mechanism during 2022 to facilitate the access to and evaluation of the data has proven to be to the satisfaction of the community representatives in monitoring and evaluating environmental performance. This dashboard has enabled data to be analysed and variations/ "spikes" to be observed, identified and queried.

During this consultation process I have received a comment from one Member criticising the Proponent in regards to being "tardy" in publicising some environmental monitoring results on its website, e, g, aquatic ecology survey results, during the review period.

The CCC Members have all worked constructively to identify, suggest and agree on improvements in data compilation/evaluation /presentation.

WATER QUALITY:

The second issue was water quality.

The Community and Local Government Members took great interest in the use, treatment and control of water on site as well as the study of water runoff, and its quality, from the site.

The importance of the water runoff quality for downstream users including the large number within the expansive Eurobodalla Shire catchment area, especially during periods of heavy rainfall, cannot be overstated – nor can the importance of the timeliness of reporting or non-reporting to downstream users.

The proponent's initiatives in this regard - such as with the Tailings Storage Facility works- received considerable attention and was the subject of several specific onsite inspections.

NOISE:

The third major issue was with respect to noise including its source, timing and severity.

Noise affected nearby residents to varying degrees and distances depending on the weather considerations, wind direction etc. The principal sources were mine blasting and the crushing plant operations.

Possible solutions were discussed.

In late 2022 the installation of the crushing plant noise amelioration unit took place. Its effectiveness is currently being monitored.

The Committee is hopeful that this nuisance will be softened to a less intrusive level.

GROUND VIBRATION:

The fourth issue was ground vibration caused by blasting operations.

There were discussions regarding this issue and efforts made, where possible, to explain the reasons for a particular incident and, to consider whether any improvements or refinements could be undertaken to reduce this in the future.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, I would point out that the CCC Meeting Minutes have been displayed on the Proponent's website following each meeting. They provide an accurate record of the Committee's deliberations including its deliberations on the issues outlined above.

I thank you for consulting with me as the Independent Chairperson and I am happy to respond to any further enquiries you may make.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. Weir PSM

Independent Chairperson

Dargues Gold Mine Community Consultative Committee

25th August 2023.

From: [Nathaniel de Hoog](#)
To: [Ken Holmes](#)
Subject: RE: Dargues Gold Mine - 2023 Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request Palerang Council
Date: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 3:03:27 PM
Attachments: [Email-test_00bd0172-8f37-4e58-a3e6-5ce0cb6fcdcb.png](#)

Hi Ken,

Thanks for the email. I think there was a bit of confusion in an initial phone call that was made to get a contact at Council, but nevertheless I have passed this request on to the correct people at QPRC.

For your reference, I have passed this on to the Manager of Development Graeme Harlor and the Acting Manager of Environment and Compliance Mel Corey.

I expect they will be in touch with any information relevant to the environmental audit.

Thanks,

Nathaniel de Hoog (he/him/his)
Coordinator, Communications and Engagement

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Tel: [\(02\) 6285 6016](tel:0262856016) **Mob:** [+61 419 650 239](tel:+61419650239)
Web: www.qprc.nsw.gov.au
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From: Ken Holmes <Ken@baeckea.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 20 July 2023 5:10 PM
To: Nathaniel de Hoog <Nathaniel.DeHoog@qprc.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Dargues Gold Mine - 2023 Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request Palerang Council

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know that the content is safe.

Good Afternoon Nathaniel,

Barnett and May has been commissioned to undertake the 2023 Independent Environmental Audit (**IEA**) of Dargues Gold Mine (PA 10_0054). The audit will commence in mid-August 2023. The IEA will be undertaken accordance with Project Approval Conditions that requires:

Within 3 months of re-commencing construction on the site, and every 2 years thereafter, unless the Secretary directs otherwise, the Applicant must commission and pay the full cost of an Independent Environmental Audit of the project. This audit must:

- a. *be prepared in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (NSW Government 2020); and*
- b. *be submitted, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, within two months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary.*

The DPE Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements requires that the Auditor consults with relevant agencies. I have been provided me with your contact details as a relevant regulator. I would therefore appreciate if you could provide me with any information, comments or concerns that Council may have regarding the environmental performance of the operation (over the past two years – the audit period) and details of any specific issues you suggest that the Auditor considers during the audit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Thanks and Regards,

Ken Holmes
Lead Auditor

Principal Environmental Consultant
Director

Barnett & May

P +61 [0]438 046 261

E ken@baeckea.com.au

A PO Box 365 Belrose NSW 2085

This message has been scanned for malware by Websense. www.websense.com

Lead Auditor CV

Appendix E

KEN HOLMES

Senior Principal Environmental Consultant



Contact

Email ken@baeckea.com.au

Mobile +61 0438 046 261

Qualifications & professional affiliations

- Bachelor of Science (Industrial Chemistry)
- Master of Applied Science (Waste Management)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Accredited Lead Environmental Auditor (Exemplar Global #: 14065)

Ken Holmes is an acknowledged industry leader in environmental management, impact assessment and project approvals. His career spans over 30 years and includes experience across Australia, Africa, Europe and South-east Asia.

Ken's extensive Environmental Audit, Infrastructure Planning and Approvals experience includes that preparation of environmental impact statements for major projects, pre-construction approvals, and operations environmental management experience.

He has led large scale projects on major road, rail, renewable energy, mining and water infrastructure projects across Australia. The projects presented below are a sample of the range and complexity of projects that Ken has delivered.

Project experience

Environmental Auditing (Audits completed in the recent years)

Mt Thorley / Warkworth Mine IEA (2023)- Ken led the independent environmental audit of environmental compliance audit of the this large mining complex located in the Hunter Valley, NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Commonwealth Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licences;
- Mining Leases;

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in air quality and noise management.

Hunter Power Project (Construction Phase IEA 2022 - 2025)- Ken has been commissioned to undertake the construction phase independent environmental audits on the Hunter Power Project. The Hunter Power Project is the construction of a new gas fired power station located in the Hunter Valley in NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Commonwealth Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence;

The independent environmental audit are being undertaken undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

As auditor, Ken's role covers all technical areas including construction management, waste, greenhouse gas, surface water management, air quality and noise management.

Hera Gold Mine (2019 and 2023)- Ken led the independent environmental audits for the environmental compliance audit of the Hera Gold Mine in western NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Commonwealth Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licences;
- Mining Leases; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in surface water management, air quality and noise management.

Bingo Industries Eastern Creek Resource Recovery Facility and Landfill (2022) - Ken led the environmental compliance audit of Bingo's Resource Recovery Facility and Landfill located in western Sydney. The conditions of project's Planning Approval requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E (NSW) Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence.

The Audit also included an odour audit and surface water audits undertaken by specialists within the audit team.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines and the EPBC element of the audit against the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in air quality and noise management.

McArthur River Mine (Northern Territory) (2022) - Ken is currently leading the environmental compliance audit of McArthur River Mine in the Cape of Carpentaria, NT. EPBC Approval requires an annual independent environmental audit of compliance against that Approval.

The independent environmental audit is being undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

Moolarben Coal Mine (2022) - Ken led the environmental compliance audit of Moolarben Coal Mine located near Mudgee in Western NSW. The conditions of project's Planning Approval requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- EPBC Approval
- DP&E (NSW) Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence; and all
- Mining Leases.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines and the EPBC element of the audit against the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in surface water management, air quality and noise management.

Bingo Industries Mortdale Resource Recovery Facility (2022) - Ken undertook the environmental compliance audit of waste recycling plant and transfer station located in Mortdale, NSW. The conditions of project's Planning Approval requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E (NSW) Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines and the EPBC element of the audit against the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

Martin Place Over Station Development (2020 – ongoing series of annual independent audits to 2024) - Ken is currently undertaking the environmental compliance audits of this landmark construction project in the Sydney CBD. The conditions of project's Planning Approval requires annual independent environmental audit of compliance against the DP&E (NSW) Conditions of Approval. The project is part of the development of Sydney's commuter rail network expansion.

Client: Port Waratah Coal Loader (2018 and 2021)- Ken was the lead auditor for the last two independent environmental compliance audits of the Port Waratah Coal Loader located on Kooragang Island near Newcastle. The conditions of approval for the facility requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

These independent environmental audit were undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in surface water, air quality and noise management.

North Parkes Mine (2021)- Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the Tritton Gold Mine in western NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence;
- Mining Leases; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Metropolitan Coal Mine (2018 and 2021)

Ken was the independent environmental auditor for the last two independent environmental compliance audits of the Metropolitan Coal Mine south of Sydney, NSW. These conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Commonwealth Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licences;
- Mining Leases; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in surface water management (covering the mine infrastructure areas), air quality and noise management.

Stratford and Duralie Coal Mines – (2020) Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of Ashton Coal Mine in the Hunter Valley. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence;
- Mining Leases and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Ashton Coal Mine (2020) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of Ashton Coal Mine in the Hunter Valley. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- EPBC Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence;
- Mining Leases; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (2019 and 2022) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audits of the NCIG Coal Loader located on Kooragang Island near Newcastle. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- EPBC Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Kables Sand Quarry EPBC Audit (2019) – Ken was the auditor for the EPBC audit of Hansons Kables Sand Quarry located in the Blue Mountains in NSW. The audit was a requirement of the project EPBC approval and was undertaken in accordance with the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

Benedicts Recycling Mayfield) (2019)- Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the Benedicts waste facility in Newcastle. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Triton Copper Mine (2018) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the Triton Gold Mine in western NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence;
- Mining Leases; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Oberon Quarries (2019) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of this Gravel Quarry located in near Oberon in western NSW. The conditions of approval for the quarry requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Sibelco Dunes Sand Mine (2018 / 2019) – Ken was the auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the Sibelco Sand located near Nelson Bay in NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine required an independent environmental audit of against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- EIS predications against actual impacts.

The Approval required that the audit be conducted within 12 months of completion of mining and focussed on mine site rehabilitation.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines

Ardglen Quarry (Daracon) (2018) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the Ardglen Gravel Quarry located in the upper Hunter Valley. The conditions of approval for the quarry requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Holcim Hume Quarry (2017/8) - Ken was auditor for the environmental compliance audit of Holcim' hard rock quarry located near Queanbeyan in NSW. Ken undertook the compliance audits of the quarry's Conditions of Approval. The conditions of approval required a detailed assessment of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals
- Water Licences
- Environment Protection Licences.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

PGH Bricks (2017/8) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audits of PGH's NSW, QLD, Vic and SA quarries. Ken undertook the compliance audits of the quarries as required by the Conditions of Approval for each site. The conditions of approval required a detailed assessment of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals (for non-NSW sites)
- Mining (and Exploration) Leases
- Environment Protection Licences (or equivalent)

Enviroking (2017/8) - Ken was the lead auditor for an independent environmental audit undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 "Guidelines for auditing management systems" for the liquid waste facility. The audit reviewed Enviroking's compliance with conditions of approval, made recommendations to address non-compliances and identified opportunities for improvement in the project's environmental management and performance.

Ken has also undertaken compliance audits for a wide range of industries and projects including:

- Cowal Gold Mine
- Manildra Limited / Castlereagh Coal
- Bougainville Copper Limited (Bougainville, PNG)
- News Limited
- Fairfax News Papers
- Norske Skog
- Alcoa
- Ok Tedi Mining (PNG)
- Albright & Wilson
- Seafood Specialities
- Rio Tinto
- Hunter Water
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Sydney Water
- Transport for NSW
- Mount Isa Mines
- Scott Transport
- Roads and Traffic Authority (now Roads and Maritime Services)
- AbiGroup (now LendLease)
- Leighton Contractors (now CPB Contractors)
- John Holland Group
- Queensland Transport
- PMP (Printing)
- Straits Resources
- Mount Isa Mines
- Philips (electronics)
- Bonlac Foods
- BHP

Ken has also led a wide range of Acquisition / Due Diligence audits for private sector clients in Australia, PNG, Africa, South Pacific, New Zealand, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand.

Project Approvals

Central Station Re-development – Transport for NSW - Ken led the team responsible for gaining the environmental approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licences etc.) for the Sydney Central Station project. In this role, Ken was responsible for the interpretation of the Approval requirements (Minister's Conditions of Approval) and the provision of strategic advice on the approvals, licencing, construction environmental management and stakeholder management.

Sydney Metro – Transport for NSW - Transport for NSW (TfNSW) commissioned two demolition contractors to demolish a number of multistorey buildings within the Sydney CBD in preparation for the construction of the Sydney Metro project. Ken led the team responsible for the preparation of environmental management plans for these works (TfNSW was not comfortable that the demolition contractors had the appropriate skills to prepare the required plans and gain the required approvals for the works). Ken worked with the demolition contractors to streamline their internal management processes and to add the requisite environmental management functions within both their corporate and project management systems.

M2 Widening Project Approvals (Roads and Maritime Services) – Ken (Project Manager) led the environmental approvals team for the preparation of the Environmental

Impact Assessment and construction approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licence etc.) for the M2 widening project.

The management and minimisation of vegetation clearing on this project (along with the minimisation of impacts on residents a high priority. Ken oversaw all the specialist studies that supported the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment and subsequent Environmental Management Plans, including:

- o Ecological survey;
- o Tree reports;
- o Noise and vibration impact assessments;
- o Contamination assessments;
- o Traffic impact assessments; and
- o Ground and surface water impact assessments.

Sydney Light Rail – Acciona / Transport for NSW - Ken led the team responsible for leading the construction approvals program and setting up the environmental management system for this significant brown fields infrastructure construction project. His responsibilities included:

- o Establishing the project Environmental Management System;
- o Interpreting the Conditions of Approval and the Project Deed and advising the Acciona management team on all aspects of compliance with those key approval and contractual documents;
- o Gaining the construction environmental approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licences etc.) for the Sydney Light Rail project. In this role, Ken provided strategic advice on the approvals, licencing, construction environmental management and stakeholder management. He was also responsible for all internal (Acciona / KMH) document quality control.
- o Selecting, commissioning and supervising the wide range of specialist environment service providers including ecological survey, tree reports, and pre-construction vegetation clearance reports.
- o Advising the design and construction teams on tree clearing and management and integration of construction requirements into the flora and fauna management plans.

Ken also led the consultation with the NSW Government regulators and supported and mentored the Acciona Construction Environmental Manager. In addition, Ken personally led the community and business reference group consultation process on behalf of the design and construction joint venture, successfully gaining signoff from these consultation bodies on the environmental plans and strategies.

Environmental Management Representative (ER) - The role of Independent Environmental Representative on major infrastructure projects in NSW was established in 1998 and continues to be a requirement of the Conditions of Approval for all major infrastructure projects in NSW. The appointees are nominated by the project proponent or construction consortium but are approved by and report to the Director General of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

The scope of the ER's role is broad range and includes:

- o Interpreting and advising on requirements of the Project Approval.
- o Reviewing and assessing the performance of the project against the Conditions of Approval, Project Deed and other relevant project related approvals. In that role, the ER reviews and approves all environmental related plans (EMPs), audits the implementation of environmental management plans and strategies, verifies (through audit and surveillance) compliance with the relevant project approval and project deed requirements, monitors and reports on regulatory compliance and provides reports to the Department and the project proponent on these matters.
- o Reports on compliance related issues to the public and investigates environmental and compliance issues, complaints and incidents.
- o Review and approval of vegetation clearing and other high (environmentally) impact activities.

Ken has fulfilled the role of Independent Representative on seven major infrastructure projects:

- o Hunter Expressway (Motorway construction, Hunter Valley) - (2011 – 2013)
- o Integral Energy 9JA Project (Transmission Line Construction Western Sydney) - (2006-2007)
- o Westlink M7 (40km Motorway project, Western Sydney) - (2003-2005)
- o Towra Beach Nourishment Project (Wet land protection, dredging project, Botany Bay) - (2004)
- o Warragamba Dam Auxiliary Spillway Project- (1998 – 2013)
- o Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade – (1998 – 2000)
- o Liverpool Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade – (2000)

Upper Hunter Valley Alliance (UHVA) – Leighton Contractors /ARTC - Ken led the team responsible for the provision of the environmental approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licences etc.) on this major ARTC rail infrastructure program in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales. Ken's team on this project provided the entire environment and community and stakeholder team as a Sub-Alliance partner. In this role, Ken provides strategic advice on the approvals, licencing, construction environmental management and stakeholder management. His responsibilities included:

- o Establishing the project Environmental Management System;
- o Interpreting the Conditions of Approval and the Project Deed and advising the Leighton management team on all aspects of compliance with those key approval and contractual documents;
- o Gaining the construction environmental approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licences etc.) for range of projects delivered by the Alliance. In this role, Ken provided strategic advice on the approvals, licencing, construction environmental management and stakeholder management. He was also responsible for all internal document quality control.
- o Selecting, commissioning and supervising the wide range of specialist environment service providers

including ecological survey, tree reports, and pre-construction vegetation clearance reports.

- Advising the design and construction teams on tree clearing and management and integration of construction requirements into the flora and fauna management plans.

Other relevant Infrastructure Projects led by Ken include:

- Joint Defence Headquarter Construction Project (ACT) – Environment Approvals Manager
- Melbourne Desalination Plant Project – EMP preparation
- Ballina Bypass (Pacific Highway construction project) - Environment Approvals Manager
- Northern Hume Alliance (Hume Highway Duplication) - Environment Approvals and Community Manager
- Anvil Hill Coal Mine (Hunter Valley) - Environment Approvals Manager
- Shannon Creek Dam Construction Project - Environment Approvals and Community Manager
- Liverpool to Ashfield Pipeline Project (Sydney Water) - Environmental Approvals Manager
- Networks Alliance (Sydney Water –water and sewage mains renewals project) – KMH Management Representative
- Technical Reviewer and Economic Impact Analyst – DEC Construction Noise Management Guidelines (2006)
- Northwest Transit Way - Environment Approvals Manager
- Lane Cove Tunnel - Environment Advisor to Approvals and Construction Team
- North Connex – Environmental Management Plan preparation, consistency assessments and preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments to support variations to the project approvals
- Sydney Desal Plant -Internal QA Reviewer
- Keepit Dam Safety Upgrade – Project Director
- Cordeaux Water Treatment Plant – Lead Consultant and Project Manager

Investigative / Expert Roles

Minter Ellison – Expert Opinion / Report (2018/9) - Ken was commissioned by Minter Ellison on behalf of their client (a consortium of major construction contractors) to provide an expert opinion regarding the interpretation of impact of changes to the Conditions of Approval for a major Sydney linear infrastructure project on environmental investigation and reporting obligations and project cost impacts. This expert opinion was commissioned to support the resolution of a contractual dispute between the consortium and their client.

Environment Protection Authority — Investigation of Illegal Land Clearing and Waste Disposal Activities (April 2015 – July 2017) - Ken was the lead auditor for the investigations undertaken by the KMH team commissioned by Barnett & May

the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to investigate an alleged illegal vegetation clearing and waste disposal operations located in the Hunter Valley, Hawkesbury River Basin and Arcadia (north western Sydney). Ken developed and supervised the implementation site investigation strategies that included a series of investigative processes designed to identify the location and extent of vegetation clearing, and to determine the depth and volumes of buried construction and demolition wastes.

Environment Protection Authority — Expert Reports Illegal Land Clearing and Waste Disposal Activities (2018)

- Ken was commissioned by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to provide expert opinion regarding the alleged illegal vegetation clearing and waste disposal at a site in the Hawkesbury River Basin and Arcadia (north western Sydney).

Ken was subsequently briefed to provide expert opinion in the legal actions taken by the EPA in these matters.

Qenos Mandatory Environmental Audit - Ken was commissioned as the Expert Independent Environmental Auditor (Lead Auditor) for the Qenos Mandatory Audit. As a result of a series of environmental incidents, Qenos were required by the NSW EPA to commission an independent auditor to determine if the plant is capable of being operated and maintained and if the plant is being competently operated and maintained, in order to minimise the risk of environmental incidents and better protect the environment.

In doing this, the audit Assessed the:

- adequacy of Risk Assessment procedures and practices
- adequacy of maintenance and operational Systems
- physical condition and reliability of the Plant
- adequacy and suitability of environmental risk management
- adequacy and suitability of performance monitoring equipment
- processes and procedures for identifying and rectifying plant and equipment issues.

Incidents and assessed of the adequacy the investigations and responses to those incidents.

Orica Port Botany Ground Water Remediation Project – Expert Auditor - Ken was the lead auditor for the independent compliance audit of the Orica groundwater remediation project. These annual audits were a condition of licence established by the (then) Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Planning.

Other

Kelian Equatorial Mining (Kalimantan, Indonesia) - Ken led a specialist environmental and social impact audit team that was established by Rio Tinto (and approved by the Government) to investigate and report on the environmental and social impacts associated with alluvial mining operations (downstream) from the Rio Tinto (major owner) operated gold mine located in the remote, mountainous region of Kalimantan. The audit team included Government representatives and was undertaken to address the concerns of local village communities that were being impacted socially and economically.

Bougainville Copper Limited (Bougainville, PNG) - Ken led two specialist projects for Bougainville Copper Limited. Including Investigation of the Loloho Port Facility on Bougainville Island. Ken led the investigation team commissioned to identify and plan for the clean-up of hazardous chemicals left after BCL evacuated Bougainville at the commencement of the civil war in 1990. The investigation covered gases, PCBs, and minerals processing chemicals. The second project was clean up and destruction of chlorine and other compressed gases located at the Loloho Port facility on Bougainville Island.

Ken subsequently led a team dispatched to Bougainville to chemically destroy 1 tonne of chlorine and other toxic gases. The team built a treatment plant on site and successfully removed the toxic gas threat.

Waste Management

Review of Energy to Waste Technologies – Client Confidential (Australian Based Waste Management Company)

Ken participated (as technical reviewer) in the preparation of a technical review of energy to waste technologies for a major waste management group operating in Australia. The purpose of the review has to provide the client with a detailed assessment of all available and emerging energy to waste technologies available including determining the barriers to implementation within the Australian market, political and social framework.

Shredder Waste Disposal Assessment – Sims Metal

Metal shredders produce a complex waste stream consisting of a mixture of plastic, rubber, metal and other materials that is costly to dispose of. Ken led the KMH team that researched the options for management of this waste stream and prepared recommendations for the development of waste treatment and disposal options (including energy extraction) for Sims Metal.