

Smith, Nancy (DEM)

From: Thompson, Paul (DEM)
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 4:05 PM
To: Ian Dixon; Suzanne Kambuts
Cc: Marshall, Greg (DEM); Richard Taylor; Tom Mehrstens
Subject: Update on status of BIH Gold Project Applications

Hi Ian,

I would appreciate it if you could please forward the following advice to the WCCC.

The status of the applications received by DEM from Terramin on 21 June 2019 has not significantly changed since my advice of 25 June 2019. Consistent with my presentations to the WCCC, DEM is currently undertaking a review of Terramin's applications to ensure all requirements are met ahead of the commencement of statutory consultation. DEM's intent is to commence public consultation as soon as practicable after the resolution of any outstanding matters.

As explained in the attached letter from Terramin to DEM, DEM was made aware of a change in Terramin's approach to managing its proposed requirements under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2004* upon receiving the BIH project applications on 21 June 2019. This change has implications for the content of the applications, and today DEM – in consultation with the Department for Environment and Water and Environment Protection Authority - has written to Terramin to advise that the Mining Proposal is valid, but that Terramin must provide additional information clarifying the company's approach to NRM Act matters before statutory consultation will proceed.

Once Terramin has responded, DEM will ensure the response is adequate and move promptly to formal public consultation.

There are two principle effects of Terramin's revised approach:

- 1) There will be some changes made shortly to the applications to clarify Terramin's approach to the requirements of the NRM Act. I note that the applications have been published on the Terramin website as they currently stand, and are available for download. WCCC members should note that there will be changes (albeit minor) made to these applications, with the final versions to be published by DEM at the commencement of statutory consultation once the outstanding matters have been resolved.
- 2) The applications to be assessed in the first instance have been made under the *Mining Act 1971*, rather than both the Mining Act and NRM Act.

Practically, the consideration of technical hydrogeology and water licencing matters remain an important part of the consideration of the Mining Act applications. Given the significance of groundwater management to the viability of the mining proposal, the updated advice from Terramin will form part of the applications published for public comment during the statutory consultation process, and the Department for Environment and Water and Environment Protection Authority will retain their role as fundamental contributors to the Government assessment of the mining applications, as well as decision-makers for applications made under their respective Acts.

As I have flagged in previous meetings, government has a right to request further information from Terramin to support the assessment of the applications, both through the upcoming statutory consultation process and at any other time during the assessment. As we have done in this instance, DEM will publish relevant requests on the DEM website, and I would be pleased to circulate any such advice directly to all WCCC participants given their longstanding interest in Terramin's project.



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ADDENDUM to ...

Regards,

Paul Thompson

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