

Ms Kylie Fitzpatrick
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
GPO Box 3675
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Ms Fitzpatrick

Re: Notice of Significant Variation - Rustlers Roost and Quest 29 Open-cut Mine Redevelopment

The Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) has assessed the information submitted for the above Notice of Significant Variation and provides the following comments:

Flora and Fauna Division

Previous comments on the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) are still applicable.

The Flora and Fauna Division supports the extension of requirements of the previous ToR to the full extent of the new development envelope.

Water Resources Division

Comments provided by the Water Resources Division on the original submission are still relevant to the varied proposal. It is noted that the proponent accepts that the variation has the potential for significant impact on hydrological processes and, accordingly, it is assumed that the environmental assessment submitted by the proponent will address the additional impacts.

The Rustlers Roost and Q29 Significant Variation report states that overall site water demand will increase from 3.3GL/yr to 6.5GL/yr. The report says that a large volume of this water will be sourced from onsite water sources, including pit water and decant water from the tailings storage facility, which will be re-used for the processing plant. The report further stated that a portion of the additional water requirement may be sourced from a bore field, which will supply potable and raw water as required. However, the proportion of the additional water requirement sourced from groundwater is not defined.

Construction or alteration of a water crossing, such as the proposed Bunday Creek Bridge, has the potential to interfere with a waterway.

If works related to constructing Bunday Creek Bridge constitute interference with a waterway, an interference with a waterway permit will be required to ensure compliance with the *Water Act 1992*. Information relating to the definition of interference with a waterway and how to apply for a permit is available on the DEPWS website.

Should you have any further queries regarding these comments, please contact Maria Wauchope by email maria.wauchope@nt.gov.au or phone (08) 8999 3692.

Yours sincerely



Luis Da Rocha
Executive Director, Rangelands

24 September 2021