

For Public Notice via Internet

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2020-R19)**

Proponent

Huntly Common Pty Ltd

Project

Bendigo Creek Reclamation and Rehabilitation Project

Description

Huntly Common Pty Ltd (Huntly Common) proposes to develop the Bendigo Creek Reclamation and Rehabilitation Project on 168 ha, approximately 1.2 km west of Huntly. The project aims to excavate 4 million tonnes of mine tailings over a proposed 4.5-year project life. Huntly Common proposes to process the tailings to recover gold, mercury and industrial sand. The proposal includes the development of a reclamation area and a processing area. The reclamation area is located within the Huntly Streamside Reserve and Crown Land between Leans Road and Millwood Road. The project includes the progressive rehabilitation of the Huntly Streamside Reserve. The location of the processing area has not yet been finalised but is proposed to be located within 2 km of the reclamation area.

Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is required for the Bendigo Creek Reclamation and Rehabilitation Project, as described in the referral accepted on 14 December 2020.

Reasons

The project has the potential for a range of significant environmental effects. In particular, the project as proposed is likely to have significant effects on:

- native vegetation and associated biodiversity values, including listed threatened species and communities;
- surface water and groundwater (i.e. hydrology, quality, availability) and protected beneficial uses;
- existing land uses, traffic, amenity (i.e. air quality, noise and visual) and landscape values of the project area and those associated with the broader area; and
- Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

An integrated assessment is necessary to ensure the range of likely adverse effects and related uncertainties are sufficiently investigated, in terms of both their extent and significance, and how significant effects can be avoided and minimised to acceptable levels.

An EES would enable a transparent and rigorous process for consideration of potentially significant adverse effects of the project, prior to statutory decision-making.

Date: 18/03/2021