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TSF3 EA Amendment: Information Request Response and Change Request

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Cover Letter: DETSI – CCPL TSF3 EA Amendment Information Request (IR) Response and Change Request.

Capricorn Copper Pty Ltd (**CCPL**) submitted an Environmental Authority (EA) amendment for a proposed new Tailings Storage Facility (**TSF3**) on 31 July 2025.

TSF3 is critical infrastructure required to restart the Capricorn Copper Mine (**CCM**) which went into suspension in April 2024 following a series of extreme weather events combined with a lack of tailings storage capacity. The heavy rainfall resulted in the inundation of one underground mine, the workshop and the water treatment plant (**WTP**), as well as an accumulation of mine affected water.

The EA amendment was based on the Preliminary Design of TSF3 and associated studies. The application was deemed properly made, determined to be major amendment and an Information Request (**IR**) was issued to CCPL on 21 October 2025. This cover letter, letter of response and associated appendices address the 20 items issued in the IR and discussed during the various IR response technical meetings held between December 2025 and June 2026.

Since the submission of the TSF3 EA amendment, CCPL has commissioned and progressed studies and design work associated with TSF3 and other inter-dependent infrastructure required to restart CCM. Consequently, CCPL is seeking a change request in accordance with section 236 of the EP Act.

These studies and design work have proposed improvements in environmental management and controls compared to the preliminary TSF3 design and associated restart infrastructure. These improvements are included in the IR response documentation and summarised as follows:

1. Relocation of TSF3 decant pond
2. Modelling of Northern Embankment drainage controls
3. Confirmation of borrow materials for TSF3 construction
4. Upgrade of the WTP maximum design throughput to 30ML/day
5. Additional groundwater bores and geotechnical investigations
6. Confirmation of new workshop and power line locations

TSF3 Decant Pond – Appendix 04 Preliminary Design Report

The preliminary design of TSF3 proposed that the decant pond be located adjacent to the Northern Embankment. This embankment constructed from the Esperanza Waste Rock Dump (**EWRD**) is comprised of largely potentially acid forming (**PAF**) materials. An independent review of the preliminary design proposed that the decant pond be moved to a central deposition location to reduce groundwater flux through the base of TSF3 and minimise seepage through the EWRD. The 3D groundwater model was rerun with this new scenario and demonstrated that the groundwater flows were significantly reduced by changing to a central deposition location.

Northern Embankment – Appendix 04 Preliminary Design Report

During the independent review of the TSF3 preliminary design, it was also suggested that the groundwater model consider modelling the removal of the grout curtain and HPDE plastic liner proposed for the shaped and clay-lined Northern Embankment. The reasoning for these suggestions was to enable appropriate drainage, settling and stability of tailings during both the operational and closure phases. Following additional groundwater modelling it was determined that the grout curtain be removed to facilitate safe and stable deposition and drainage of tailings slurry towards Esperanza Pit but that the HDPE plastic lining of the EWRD be retained to minimise any seepage through the PAF materials of the Northern Embankment.

Borrow Materials – Appendix 04 Preliminary Design Report

In accordance with a minor EA amendment (granted - 9 May 2025), areas approved for disturbance were investigated during the 2025 dry season as potential suitable borrow materials. Based on the results of these investigations, it was determined that all the borrow materials required for the construction of TSF3 could be sourced within existing Mining Leases including within the footprint of TSF3. These proposed borrow areas have been included in disturbance areas of the updated Preliminary Design Report, incorporated into the detailed design of TSF3 and updated in the IR response.

New Water Treatment Plant (WTP) – Appendix 11 Water Treatment Plant Design

Following the P95 2025/26 wet season and successful release of 1.3GL of treated water, the design of the proposed new WTP was reviewed. Based on this review it was determined that the new WTP be upgraded from 20ML/day to 30ML/day capacity and located adjacent to Mill Creek Dam (**MCD**). This would enable production of 10ML/day to meet the mining and processing requirements as well as a release capacity of 20ML/day to be realised during extreme weather events.

These changes have been incorporated into the disturbance footprint, design storage allowance (DSA) calculations and memo, the revision of the water balance model and the surface water impact assessment which are included in the IR response.

For additional context, the previous WTP (prior to suspension) had a capacity of 8ML/day, and the repurposed Processing Plant WTP which is currently used to treat and release mine affected water during suspension of operations has a capacity of 15-20ML/day.

Groundwater Bores and Geotechnical Investigation – Appendix 04G Groundwater Impact Assessment

3D groundwater and EPit water quality models have been completed for both the operational and closure phases of TSF3 as a component of the IR response. The groundwater impact assessment incorporated the findings of these models, and the groundwater monitoring and management plan proposed two new additional groundwater bores on the southern and eastern boundaries of the proposed TSF3.

No additional amendments to the EA were required for the land disturbance associated with the installation of these groundwater bores and additional geotechnical investigations for the proposed new WTP, as they were considered appropriately covered by the minor amendment granted on 9 May 2025. These activities are planned for completion during the 2026 dry season.

New Workshop and Power Line Locations – Appendix 04 Preliminary Design Report

The previous CCM workshop and water treatment plant adjacent to the MCD were inundated during the extreme weather events that occurred prior to the suspension of operations in 2024. A temporary workshop was established at the location of the former mining contractor facilities, and a new workshop is required for restart of operations. To avoid the risk of wet season inundation, it has been proposed that the new workshop is located on top of a hill adjacent to the MCD.

This proposed disturbance area and associated upgrades to the high-voltage power lines have been included in the revision of the disturbance areas in the EA amendment IR response. The borrow material that will be produced from this area is expected to be non-acid forming (**NAF**) and studies have commenced to determine how to ensure that this material is conserved for rehabilitation purposes. The details of these studies will be incorporated into the Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (**PRCP**).

The details of these changes have been incorporated into the supporting documents associated with the IR response and a roadmap provided to enable DETSI to efficiently locate the corresponding studies and reports for each IR item.

Please do not hesitate to contact the CCPL team to discuss any aspects of the IR response or set up another technical meeting if this is required to assess the information provided.

Yours sincerely

29Metals Limited



Ed Cooney

Chief Operating Officer

Appendices

Appendix 01 – IRR Summary (Roadmap)

Appendix 02 – draft EA conditions

Appendix 03 – GDE Report (WaterMarkEco)

Appendix 04 – TSF3 Preliminary Design (Engeny)

Appendix 05 – MNES (KG Environmental)

Appendix 06 – MSES (KG Environmental)

Appendix 07 – Independent GW Reviews (HydroGeoLogic)

Appendix 08 - EPit Water Quality Reports (EGi)

Appendix 09 – Receiving Environment Monitoring Program 2026 (Hydrobiology)

Appendix 10 – Evaporator Spray Drift Management Plan (Engeny)

Appendix 11 – Water Treatment Plant Design (Ausenco)