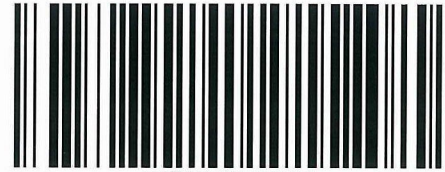




**Catchment Management
Authority**
Hawkesbury-Nepean

Mr Colin Phillips
Senior Planner
Mining and Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Our Reference: HN01584
Contact: Adam Hook



30th October 2012

Dear Mr Phillips,

Subject: Response to correspondence from GSS Environmental dated the 8th of October 2012. Re: Springvale Colliery - Bore 8 Dewatering Facility Section 75W Modification to Development Consent S91/06569/001.

Thank you for referring the above modification to development consent for the Springvale Colliery to Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA). Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) are approval authorities for clearing of native vegetation under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* (NV Act), and are responsible for implementing the objectives of this Act. These include:

- To provide for, encourage and promote the management of native vegetation on a regional basis in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State
- to prevent broad scale clearing unless it improves or maintains environmental outcomes, and
- to protect native vegetation of high conservation value having regard to its contribution to such matters as water quality, biodiversity, or the prevention of salinity or land degradation
- to improve the condition of existing native vegetation, particularly where it has high conservation value, and
- to encourage the revegetation of land, and the rehabilitation of land, with appropriate native vegetation.

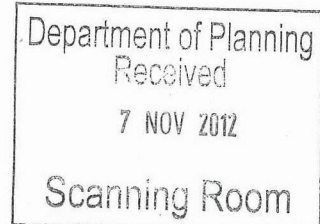
CMAs support activities that achieve the objectives of the NV Act, and consider proposed developments should be located and designed to minimise impacts on native vegetation, with any clearing required mitigated by establishing offset areas.

Land within State Forest is excluded from the NV Act and therefore CMAs have no approval role for any clearing of native vegetation within the area of the development. This is set out in Part 1 Section 5 of the NV act: *Land excluded from operation of Act*.

However, it is considered the objectives of the NV Act represent NSW government policy on native vegetation and we recommend that these objectives be applied within the context of the development.

The HNCMA acknowledges the investigative work that has been undertaken in the report supplied titled 'Environmental Assessment Bore 8 Dewatering Facility Springvale Colliery' prepared by GSS Environmental.

All Correspondence To: The General Manager
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In particular I wish to highlight some recommendations, some of which the above report lists, for the minimisation of impacts on the environment surrounding the development which the HNCMA consider important:

- Ensuring clearing is carried out to the minimum extent necessary for the endangered plant *Persoonia hindii* and to minimise impacts on environmentally sensitive areas close to the development for example: Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamp and Newnes Plateau Hanging Swamp
- Providing for adequate sediment and nutrient control on site to ensure off site impacts are minimised
- Rehabilitation of the area with locally occurring native species
- Avoiding clearing hollow bearing trees where possible.

I have asked Adam Hook to assist you should you require further information on this matter. Adam may be contacted by telephone on 0427 203 919.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B. Bugden'.

Bernie Bugden
General Manager