

Mr Phillip Brown
Environment & Community Superintendent
Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited
PO Box 699
SINGLETON NSW 2330

16/11/2020

Dear Mr Brown

**Ashton Coal Project (DA309-11-2001-i)
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan**

I refer to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan* which was submitted in accordance with Condition 34 of Schedule 3 of the consent for the Ashton Coal Project (DA309-11-2001-i).

The Department has carefully reviewed the document and is satisfied that it meets the requirements of the consent conditions and has also addressed the Department's issues raised on 18 September 2020.

I also refer to your letter of 09 October 2020 seeking the Secretary's agreement to waive the consultation requirements for this management plan due to the minor nature of the update following the recommendations of the Independent Environmental Audit completed on 05 March 2020 and the findings of the 2019 Annual Review submitted on 06 March 2020. The Department has reviewed your request and considers it acceptable. Consequently, in accordance with condition 5 of Schedule 5 of DA309-11-2001-i, the Secretary agrees the consultation requirements for the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan* is not required for this update.

Accordingly, the Secretary has approved the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (dated September 2020). Please ensure that the approved plan is placed on your website as soon as possible.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Nagindar Singh on 8289 6873.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Sprott
Director
Resource Assessments (Coal & Quarries)

as nominee of the Secretary