



Mr David Mooney
Senior Planner
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Mooney

**Blakefield North Underground Modification
DA 376-8-2003 MOD 5
Environmental Assessment Review**

I refer to your email of 23 November 2012 regarding the Bulga Coal Management Pty Ltd application to modify the development approval for the Blakefield North Underground Mine with respect to the realignment of the approved longwall layout, associated gas drainage and mine ventilation infrastructure, and development of a 32 MW gas fired power plant.

NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services, Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) has reviewed the *Proposed Modification to DA 376-8-2003 under Section 75W of Part 3A of the EP&A Act 1979 Blakefield North Underground Mine Project Environmental Assessment* (EA) dated November 2012 and provides the following comments which are directed at specific areas of DRE responsibility for this proposal.

MINING TITLES

DRE requires that all mining activities are contained within mining leases held by the proponent for this project.

DRE understands that the proposed realignment of the approved longwall layout is within Mining Lease (ML) 1547 held by the Proponent. Further petroleum rights are also included within ML 1547.

SUBSIDENCE

DRE has not undertaken a detailed subsidence assessment of this proposed modification.

It is a condition of ML 1547 that a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) be prepared prior to commencing any underground mining operations which will potentially lead to subsidence of the land surface.

The SMP must be submitted and approved by the Director General of NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services prior to the commencement of mining.

REHABILITATION

DRE recommends that the following conditions be incorporated into the planning approval, if granted:

Rehabilitation Plan

The Proponent should prepare and implement a Rehabilitation Plan to the satisfaction of the Director General of NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services. The Rehabilitation Plan should:

- be prepared in accordance with DRE NSW guidelines and in consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders;
- be submitted and approved by the Director General of NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services prior to the commencement of mining;
- address all aspects of rehabilitation and mine closure, including final land use assessment, rehabilitation objectives, domain objectives, completion criteria and rehabilitation monitoring.

DRE would be pleased to meet with the Proponent to assist in developing the above documents for their operation.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Julie Moloney, Principal Adviser, Industry Coordination on (02) 4931 6549.

Yours sincerely


William Hughes
Acting Director
Minerals Operations 17/12/12