



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

DOC16/587110-3
DA 49/94 (MOD 8)

Ms Lauren Evans
Planning Officer, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
lauren.evans@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Evans

Rixs Creek Coal Mine - Modification 8 (DA 49/94)

I refer to your e-mail dated 6 December 2016 seeking clarification from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) in relation to a suggested change to our recommended condition of consent for the Rixs Creek Coal Mine (letter dated 28 November 2016, DOC16/587110-1). OEH acknowledges that the proponent will have operational issues with the recommended timeframe for woody revegetation of at least half of the new run-of-mine (ROM) pad area due to future likely use of those pads once the new coal handling and processing plant for Rixs Creek North is operational. OEH is therefore in agreement that woody revegetation of any of that land is not feasible in the timeframe suggested in our previous advice.

Removal of the timeframe for revegetation of the two ROM pads could therefore extend the need to revegetate these areas until the end of the current mining consent (in 21 years' time). While OEH agrees with the need to keep these new ROM pads available for use during this time, the expected level and nature of revegetation may have changed by then. Therefore, OEH agrees with the removal of the timeframe in the recommended condition, as per your e-mail, but suggests that the final condition provides scope for the quality of revegetation to be at the standard required of the mine site at that time.

If you require any further information regarding this matter please contact Robert Gibson, Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer, on 4927 3154.

Yours sincerely



7 DEC 2016

RICHARD BATH
Senior Team Leader Planning, Hunter Central Coast Region
Regional Operations