



Enquiries

Please ask for Steve McDonald

Direct

02 6549 3700

Our reference

Your reference

21 February 2017

**Mr Matthew Sprott
Team Leader, Resource Assessments
Dept of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001**

Dear Matt,

Mt Pleasant Coal Mine South Pit Haul Road Modification Comment

I refer to an application from MACH Energy ("the Proponent") for a modification of the Bengalla approval DA 92/97 to change the location of the haul road linking the South Pit to the mine infrastructure area. We make the following submission on behalf of Muswellbrook Shire Council ("Council") with respect to the Proponent's submission dated 30 January 2017. Council appreciates the opportunity to comment.

The proposal includes moving the location of the proposed haul road to the north of the approved location. MACH Energy claims that the proposal has the following benefits:

- Move the haul road north away from the water supply dam and the Bengalla Dry Creek dam. This simplifies the management of storm water off the haul road.
- It enable a more efficient (shorter) access to the South pit
- The revised road effects less threatened species community
- The revised road is less visible from North Muswellbrook, particularly at night from lights.
- There will be slightly less light spillage.

Council has reviewed the proposal and can advise that it supports the proposal as it is described. Whilst the benefits of the proposal to the environment are minor, they will be beneficial to some offsite areas within North Muswellbrook with no predicted detrimental effects in any other areas.

Council appreciates the opportunity to comment and would be pleased to provide additional information if requested.

Yours faithfully

Steve McDonald
General Manager