



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

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DA 92/97 MOD2

Mr Matthew Sprott
Team Leader, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
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Dear Mr Sprott

Modification Proposal - Mount Pleasant Coal Mine (DA 92/97 MOD2)

I refer to your e-mail dated 7 February 2017 seeking advice from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on the proposed modification to the consent for the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine. I also refer to correspondence from the Director Resource Assessments (letter dated 13 February 2017) seeking advice on the Department's intention to recommend to the consent authority a variation of the application of the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment (FBA) for this modification.

OEH has reviewed the modification and notes that an FBA assessment has not been undertaken. The modification proposes realigning the approved haul road. Under the current development consent the approved haul road permits impact to six hectares of threatened vegetation communities. The modified haul road route reduces this impact to 1.3 hectares. OEH agrees with the Department's assessment that the modification is a minor matter, that there is an existing large offset package required for the previous modification, and that the proposed change will result in a net reduction in the clearance of threatened vegetation communities.

OEH has considered the proposed modification and the Department's advice and agrees that the application of the FBA to the current modification is not appropriate.

OEH has reviewed the proposal in relation to the existing Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit for the mine and advises that a variation of the permit is not required if the proposed modification is approved.

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

Yours sincerely

SHARON MOLLOY
A/Regional Director, Hunter Central Coast
Regional Operations