

10 May 2018

NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Tertius Greyling,
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer, Resource Assessments

Dear Tertius,

RE: MOUNT PLEASANT OPERATION MODIFICATION 3 – LATE OBJECTION

Further to the email from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) on 27 April 2018 providing a late objection from the O'Connell's of Aberdeen (undated) on the Mine Optimisation Modification (Modification 3), please find below MACH Energy Australia's (MACH Energy) responses.

In the first Instance, MACH Energy notes that the introduction to the letter raises a number of concerns. MACH Energy acknowledges these concerns as expressed in the O'Connell's letter and confirms that these issues have previously been raised by a number of other submitters in similar forms. MACH Energy would direct the O'Connell's and the Department to the Modification 3 Response to Submissions (MACH Energy, October 2017), and the supplementary response to Agency Comments on the RTS (MACH Energy, November 2017) for the detail of these responses.

MACH Energy also notes that the remainder of the O'Connell's letter sets out a number of philosophical criticisms of mining generally, of the Mount Pleasant Operation community engagement and financial contributions specifically, and provides a number of recommendations to the Department, the Independent Planning Commission, the NSW Government and the mining industry.

While MACH Energy may disagree with the O'Connell's on a number of the points raised, the O'Connell's recommendations are primarily for the NSW Government to consider.

MACH Energy would, however, like to bring to the O'Connell's attention particularly to the terms of the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Council contained in Appendix 4 of the Mount Pleasant Operation Development Consent.

The key direct financial contribution elements of the VPA comprise:

- \$500,000 per annum (CPI indexed from 2011) in the form of community contributions; and
- Up to \$220,000 per annum (CPI indexed from 2011) in the form of apportioned road maintenance costs to Council.

Further, the O'Connell's may also note that MACH Energy is maintaining the Aboriginal Community Development Fund initially established for the project by Coal & Allied as part of the Native Title Agreement with the Wonnarua People. This involves both establishment funds and also indexed annual contributions in the same order as the VPA community contributions described above. Therefore MACH Energy is at a base-case contributing well above \$1M per annum under the *current arrangements* to various community infrastructure and community development projects. Further, MACH Energy is currently preparing a Mount Pleasant Operation community development funding framework, to provide an avenue to support other community development projects throughout the life of the operation.

MACH Energy is also directly investing in biodiversity research and conservation consistent with the negotiated Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act offset measures for the Mount Pleasant Operation. These include management of biodiversity offset properties comprising some 13,500 ha and contribution of some \$3M towards recovery of the threatened Swift Parrot, Regent Honeyeater and Box-Gum Grassy Woodland.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if the Department requires further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Lauritzen', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Chris Lauritzen

General Manager, Resource Development
Mount Pleasant Operation