



Your ref: IRF18/3133

Prof Mary O'Kane  
Chairperson  
Independent Planning Commission of NSW  
GPO Box 3415  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Prof O'Kane

**Mount Pleasant Coal Mine - MOD 3 Extension of Mine Life (DA 92/97)**

The Department has assessed a modification application from MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd to extend the approved life of its Mount Pleasant Coal Mine, located in the Muswellbrook Shire local government area, by a period of six years. Please find attached the Department's assessment of the proposed modification and draft conditions of consent.

Over the course of the exhibition period, the Department received a total of 250 objections. A substantial majority of these were from employees, contractors and related community members associated with the neighbouring Bengalla Coal Mine, as well as the joint venture owners of Bengalla. These submissions expressed concern over potential deleterious impacts of the Mount Pleasant mine on future mining operations at Bengalla, including the flow-on effects on employment. However, a significant minority of the objections (>30%) addressed the broader impacts of the Mount Pleasant mine and its proposed life extension.


MACH Energy and Bengalla Mining Company (BMC) recently signed a Deed of Agreement which fully addresses Bengalla's concerns over future interactions between the neighbouring mines. BMC and its joint venture partners then withdrew their objections to the proposed modification. Nonetheless, the remaining objections against the proposed modification greatly exceed the statutory threshold of 25.

Therefore, in accordance with section 4.5 of the EP&A Act and clause 8A(i) of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (State and Regional Development) 2011*, the Independent Planning Commission of NSW is the consent authority for this application.

The key assessment issues relate to the mitigation of potential noise, air quality and surface water impacts associated with the proposed life extension, as well as rehabilitation and final landform. The Department considers the application to be approvable, subject to conditions.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Howard Reed, Director Resource Assessments on 9274 6308.

Yours sincerely

 8/6/18  
**Oliver Holm**  
Executive Director  
Resource Assessments and Compliance