

Ms Chloe Annandale
Senior Environmental Advisor
Mount Pleasant Operation
MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd
1100 Wybong Road
Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Via email: Chloe.Annandale@machenergy.com.au

17/06/2021

Dear Ms Annandale

**Mt Pleasant Operations (DA 92/97)
Mining Operations Plan/Rehabilitation Management Plan**

I refer to your recent request seeking the Department's comments on the Mining Operations Plan and Rehabilitation Management Plan (MOP/RMP) for Mt Pleasant Operations for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023.

The Department notes that the MOP incorporates the RMP, required under condition 56 of Schedule 3 of DA 92/97. I also note that the RMP is required to be prepared to the satisfaction of the Resources Regulator, in consultation with the Department and various agencies.

The Department has carefully reviewed the draft plan and provides the following comments:

- 1) In Table 7.2 of the MOP/RMP, the Department recommends consideration of alternative native species that could be utilised in cases of limited seed supply.
- 2) The following commitment was removed from section 8.2 of the MOP/RMP:
"Investigations will also be undertaken to assess the characteristics of replaced soil and assess its suitability for rehabilitation of Class 4, 5 and 6 Land Capability agricultural lands, in consultation with a Certified Professional Soil Scientist".

The Department recommends that this commitment is reinstated, to meet the requirements of condition 56 (e) of Schedule 3 of DA 92/97.

- 3) The Department notes that the size of the final void in Plan 4A of the MOP appears to be inconsistent with the final void in Figure 3 and Figure 4 of the Rehabilitation Strategy. The Department requests clarification as to the reason for this discrepancy and requests that Plan 4A of the MOP is revised to maintain consistency with the approved Rehabilitation Strategy.

The Department also notes that there are further inconsistencies between the draft MOP/RMP and the approved Rehabilitation Strategy. For example, the revised species listed in Table 7.2 of the MOP/RMP varies from the species listed in Table 4 and Table 5 of the Rehabilitation Strategy. To ensure there is consistency between the Rehabilitation Strategy and the MOP/RMP, the Department requests that MACH Energy:

- (i) updates and submits a revised Rehabilitation Strategy to the Department for approval by no later than **30 September 2021**; and
- (ii) provides a letter in the revised Rehabilitation Strategy demonstrating that the revised species list (see Table 7.2 of the MOP/RMP) contains the appropriate level of diversity and mix of functional groups within each target community for the purposes of native woodland ecosystem establishment (refer to conditions 53 and 54 of Schedule 3 of DA 92/97). This letter should be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist.

Subject to MACH Energy submitting a revised Rehabilitation Strategy, I wish to advise that the Department is satisfied with the documentation provided and considers that the MOP/RMP meets the criteria outlined in condition 56 of Schedule 3 of the development consent.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Tegan Cole on 02 9895 6457 or via email at Tegan.Cole@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Spratt', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Spratt
Director
Resource Assessments (Coal & Quarries)