



Mr Gregory Newton
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**Energy and Resource Assessments
Planning and Assessment**
Contact: Melissa Anderson
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14/11/2019

Dear Mr Newton

**Bulga Coal Optimisation Project (SSD 4960 MOD 3)/
Bulga Underground Mine (DA 376-8-2003 MOD 7)
Request for Submissions Report**

The public exhibition of the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) for the Bulga Optimisation Project Modification 3 and Bulga Underground Mine Modification 7 (Project) concluded on 4th November 2019.

The Department received three submissions from community members and advice from 13 government agencies, including Singleton and Muswellbrook Councils. Three submissions were in the form of objections with the remaining submissions provided comments on the Project. The submissions can be viewed on the Department's website at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects

The Department is expecting further advice from the NSW Dams Safety Committee, the Rural Fire Service, the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and the Water Group within the Department.

The Department will make any further agency advice and supplementary comments available to you as soon as possible once they are received.

The Planning Secretary requests that you prepare and submit a Submissions Report in accordance with clause 85A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (EP&A Regulation). The Submissions Report should detail your responses to all issues raised in submissions and agency advice. In particular, the Department requests that you consider the matters outlined in Attachment A.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Melissa Anderson, on the details above.

Yours sincerely

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments (Coal & Quarries)

as delegate for the Planning Secretary

Enclosed: Attachment A

Attachment A

Bulga Coal Optimisation Project (SSD 4960 Mod 3) and Bulga Underground (DA 376-8-2003 MOD 7) Request for Response to Submissions

<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Scope	The Department notes that the proposal seeks to extract deeper coal seams down to the Bayswater seam, however the maximum extraction depth of 400 metres below ground level is only mentioned in the Appendix 5, and not clearly discussed in the SEE. Please provide further clarity on the proposed maximum extraction depth.
Air Quality	<p>You are referred to the EPA's submission, dated 4 November 2019, and specifically to its request for additional information contained in that submission's Attachment A.</p> <p>Two public submissions raised the issue of air quality impacts associated with the proposed modification and the cumulative effects of mining in the locality. Please consider these submissions and provide a detailed response to the concerns raised with particular reference as to the predicted cumulative impact of the proposed modification on local air quality.</p>
Biodiversity	You are referred to the Biodiversity Conservation Division's (BCD) submission, dated 11 November 2019, and specifically to its request for additional information contained in that submission's Attachment A and supported by detailed comments in its Attachment B. In particular, BCD has requested a full assessment of the approximately 200 hectares of rehabilitated proposed to be cleared. This data is required for the BCD to confirm the biodiversity credit calculations of the impacted vegetation and to clearly assess the proposed biodiversity offset package.
Final Landform/Landuse	<u>Consideration of approved land uses</u> - You are referred to Singleton Council's submission dated 7 November 2019. Please provide a detailed response to Council's concerns regarding post-mining land use, including further consideration regarding compatibility with surrounding land uses within the RU4 zone under Singleton Council's Local Environmental Plan.
Social Impacts	Singleton Council considers that the impacts on the community, particularly tourism, have not been adequately addressed. Please provide a detailed response to Council's submission, including further consideration of the how an extended period of mining and increase in disturbance footprint may impact upon the community. The Department notes that Council has met with Glencore regarding revising its existing Voluntary Planning Agreement. The Department requests to be kept informed of the progression of these discussions and to be advised of any revised terms prior to determination.
Figures	<p>Figure 3.6 provides depth of extraction cross-sections. In addition, the Department requests a figure representing a cross-section of the targeted coal seams and the proposed maximum depth of extraction including any interactions with underground workings and their depths.</p> <p>Visual Impacts - Section 6.8 of the SEE notes that infrastructure will be relocated to an area south of the noise and visual bund, and references Figure 3.8. However, the noise and visual bund is not shown on this figure. Please provide a figure representing the proposed placement area for the infrastructure in relation to the noise and visual bund.</p>

