



Mr Howard Reed
Manager Mining Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Carl Dumpleton

Dear Mr Reed

**Manning Colliery
Extension of Mining Modification (06_0311 MOD 1)
Environmental Assessment Review**

I refer to your letter dated 16 January 2012 regarding the Centennial Manning Pty Limited application to extend underground mining at Manning Colliery. NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services, Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) has reviewed the *Manning Colliery – Extension of Mine Project Environmental Assessment* (EA) dated January 2012 and provides the following comments which are directed at specific areas of DRE responsibility for this proposal.

REHABILITATION

The proposed modification should result in no change to the existing Manning Colliery operations and environmental management. DRE recommends approval with the inclusion of the conditional requirements for a Mining Operations Plan and an Annual Environmental Management Report to the satisfaction of the Director General of the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services.

The granting of any development consent modification should be subject to the following provisions:

- The proponent should amend the Mining Operation Plan, to include the proposed project, to the satisfaction of the DRE.
- The proponent should review the proposed activities in the Annual Environmental Management Report to the satisfaction of the DRE.

- Integrated rehabilitation and environmental management reporting is to be captured in the existing Mining Operation Plan and Annual Environmental Management Report to the satisfaction of the DRE's Director Environmental Sustainability.
- The proponent should commence discussions with DRE on the requirements for the preparation and submission of a Mining Operations Plan and the Annual Environmental Management Report.

SUBSIDENCE

The proposed mining includes additional bord and pillar operations within and beyond the current Project Approval boundary in the Wyee Point, Mannering Park, and Mannering Bay areas. Surface features in the modification areas include:

- Residential areas;
- Foreshore of Lake Macquarie;
- Low-lying areas including wetland;
- High voltage power lines (including angle towers);
- Mannering Creek Ash Dam.

The EA states that the proposed mining will comprise bord and pillar first workings which are designed to be long-term stable, using the same layout as currently used at the site in the Fassifern Seam.

The EA contains insufficient detail to undertake an independent evaluation of the stability of the proposed mine workings.

DRE considers that there is a potential for subsidence at the site due to the proposed mining, albeit of limited magnitude, based on:

- Geotechnical complexities at the site, such as weak roof and/or floor conditions in both seams;
- Multi-seam mining;
- Subsidence history at the site.

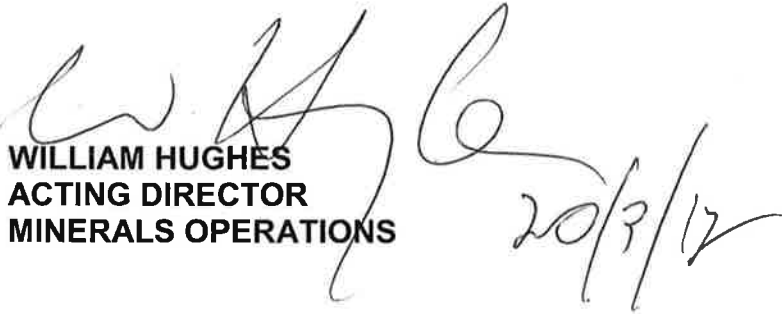
To manage subsidence impacts at the Mannering Colliery to date the proponent has implemented measures, primarily ongoing monitoring and leaving coal barriers beneath particular sensitive surface features (e.g. angled electricity transmission towers, low-lying foreshore) as needed.

It is important that subsidence management measures continue at the site, particularly in relation to sensitive surface features.

DRE considers that the conditions of the current Mannering Colliery Project Approval are adequate and important to ensure the continuation of the management system that has been previously required by DRE to successfully manage subsidence risks at the site in recent years. DRE recommends that the same conditions be included in any new approval.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Julie Moloney, Principal Adviser, Industry Coordination on (02) 4931 6549.

Yours sincerely



**WILLIAM HUGHES
ACTING DIRECTOR
MINERALS OPERATIONS**

20/3/12