ULAN
COAL

GLENCORE

1 July 2020

Seq No: 39/20

Mr Steve O'Donoghue
Director Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

Re: Ulan West Longwall 8 Infrastructure First Workings Request

I am writing to request approval for a change to the approved first workings within Ulan West Operations (UWO) Longwall (LW) 8. Minor changes to the configuration of underground workings are permissible under Project Approval PA08_0184, Schedule 3, condition 25 as follows:
25. The Proponent shall not carry out any first workings on site that are inconsistent with the approved mine plan without the written approval of the Secretary.

The changes are identified in three groups on the attached figure as follows:

- Group 1: The existing approved step around in LW8 protects the portion of Brokenback Conservation Area (BBCA) that overlies LW8 from subsidence related impacts. The step around requires the longwall to be recovered from LW8 "A" block to the north and reinstalled to start LW8 "B' block to the south (Figure 1, Attachment A). Detailed design work has identified that additional first workings are needed to provide ventilation and safe access during recovery of the longwall supports from LW8 "A", these are known as "recovery headings" which will require Secretary approval. The purpose of the recovery heading is to:
  - Provide a second ventilation path and access way for equipment recovery; and
  - Provide the second means of egress to persons required under the *Work Health and Safety (Mine and Petroleum) Regulation 2014* (the Regulation). Clause 96 of the Regulation prohibits the formation of a roadway greater than 250m in length without a second means of egress.

- Group 2: The detailed design work identified further workings required to allow for installation of underground mine infrastructure, extension of the companion road to allow for connection of the LW 8B installation road to the south and ensure compliance with Clause 96 of the Regulation. These require Secretary approval.

- Group 3: Several other minor amendments to the underground workings located in and adjacent to LW8 that are not considered to require approval of the Secretary, being consistent with the conceptual mine plan. These amendments are shown on Figure 1 for completeness. These include a slight move in the installation road for LW8B to the south and various cut-throughs and stubs required for completion of pillar formation and longwall installation/recovery requirements.

The proposed amendments to underground workings do not involve the addition of or change to the approved location of surface infrastructure.

Development workings underground are supported. They are designed not to collapse in the way that the longwall mining does and therefore do not cause ground subsidence. Specialist subsidence engineers, Strata Control Technologies (SCT Pty Ltd) were engaged to assess the potential subsidence impacts associated with the proposed first workings amendments. SCT's assessment confirmed that the proposed first workings do not have potential to cause any surface subsidence effects of practical significance or result in subsidence related impacts to surface features (refer Attachment 2).

South East Archaeological Pty Ltd and Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) were also engaged to confirm that the proposed first workings amendments will have no potential to impact ecological or heritage values in the locality or within the BBCA.

The assessment undertaken by South East Archaeological (refer Attachment 3) concluded that the proposed amendments to the first workings will have no impact on Aboriginal heritage values, including those associated with the BBCA. The assessment undertaken by ELA (refer Attachment 4) concluded that the proposed amendments to the first workings will have no impact upon ecological values or biodiversity, including native vegetation, clifflines and associated cliffline habitat in the locality of the proposed LW8 first workings amendments.

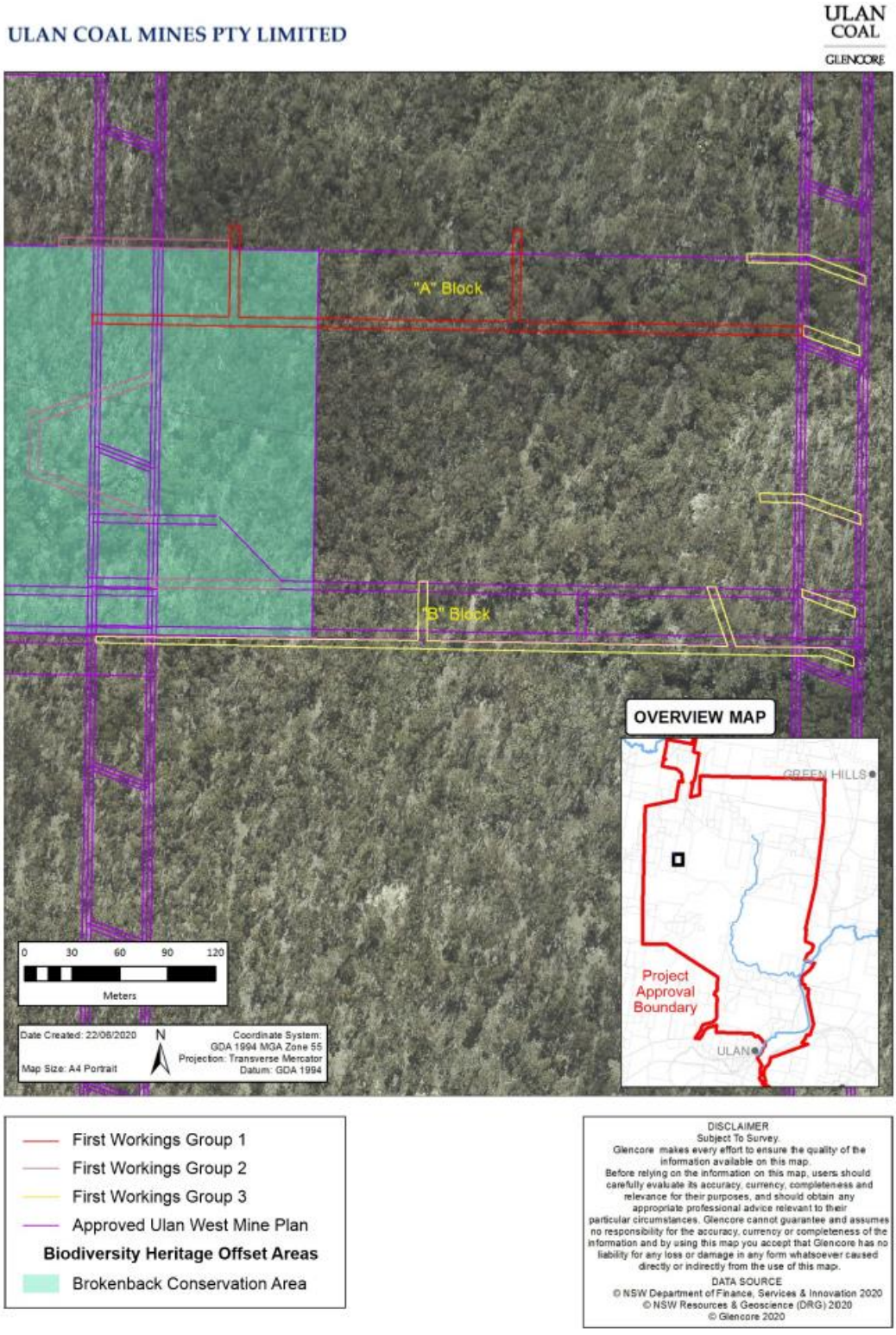
The findings of assessments completed by SCT Pty Ltd, Southeast Archaeological and ELA Pty Ltd confirm that the proposed first workings amendments can be undertaken in a manner that will ensure Ulan Coal Mines Pty Ltd remain compliant with Schedule 3, Condition 24 of PA 08_0184.

Could you please provide the written approval of the Secretary for the proposed first workings. If you have any questions, please contact Brad Tanswell on 0429 598 542 or Bradley.Tanswell @glencore.com.au.

Yours Sincerely,

Charlie Allan
General Manager
Ulan Coal Mines Pty Limited

Attachment 1- Figure depicting proposed first workings amendments



Attachment 2- SCT Pty Ltd Subsidence Review

Attachment 3- South East Archaeological Heritage Review

Attachment 4- Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd Ecological Review