



Jack Murphy
Environmental Assessment Officer
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Planning Services
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Via email: jack.murphy@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Murphy

RE: Heritage comments on Revised Preferred Project Report for Russell Vale Colliery Underground Expansion Project.

I refer to your email dated 30 July 2019 requesting any comment that the Heritage Council may have on the Revised Preferred Project Report (PPR) for the Russell Vale Colliery Underground Expansion Project. I note the original Application for the Underground Expansion Project was issued with Director General Requirements in August 2009. The Heritage Council of NSW has provided comments on numerous occasions during this assessment process including February 2011, February 2013, October 2013 and 14 July 2014.

The project has been significantly modified from the original proposal following two referrals to the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) in 2015 and in 2016. The current application has reduced the proposed longwall mining activity to eight longwalls in the Wonga East area only. The revised mine design proposed has been prepared to address environmental concerns linked to subsidence and ground water impacts as raised by the PAC.

A review of the following documentation has been undertaken:

- Revised Preferred Project Report and Response to Second PAC Review (Final): *Russell Vale Revised Underground Expansion Project*, dated July 2019, prepared by Umwelt; and
- *NRE No.1 Colliery - Historical Heritage Assessment (HHA)*, dated November 2013, prepared by ERM.

Based upon this review, the following comments are provided:

- It is not clear from the submitted documentation if the project would affect the State Heritage Register (SHR) listed item Cataract Dam (SHR 01359). It is noted that the HHA dates to 2013, before the proposal was revised in 2014. Therefore, the HHA report should be revised and the heritage impact assessment updated.
- The HHA does not include a site plan showing the proposed mining location in relation to the Cataract Dam SHR curtilage. It is recommended that this is incorporated into the HHA.
- It is further recommended that all project works should be located outside the Cataract Dam SHR curtilage with no extraction beneath or within 1km of the SHR curtilage.

- The SHR item must be monitored for vibration and subsidence during mining operations. If vibration and subsidence is detected, the area must be rehabilitated, and a report submitted to Heritage outlining the actions taken.
- It is noted that 'NRE No 1 Colliery' was previously known as the South Bulli Colliery, which is an 'archaeological site' currently listed on the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009. This site and its management have previously been the subject of a Conservation Management Plan prepared by GML Heritage in 2004. The Umwelt 2019 document has not identified how the amended proposal will or will not affect this locally listed item. It is recommended the HHA be revised to address the changes now proposed that is not clearly addressed in the Umwelt submission. This is relevant given the previous advice from the Heritage Council of NSW which sought to ensure the statement of commitments were adopted to manage this locally significant site (former South Bulli Colliery).

Relevant local councils and state agencies should be invited to comment where heritage items on the LEP and the s.170 Register are being affected. Early collaboration with local councils and relevant state agencies on mitigation impacts to heritage items and heritage landscapes associated with the project is recommended.

We understand that the request for comments on Aboriginal Archaeology would be separately referred to the Greater Sydney Planning Team within the Climate Change & Sustainability Division.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Veerle Norbury, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer at the Heritage, Community Engagement, Department of Premier and Cabinet, on 9873 8616 or veerle.norbury@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Steven Meredith
Regional Manager, Southern
Heritage, Community Engagement
Department of Premier and Cabinet

As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

5 September 2019