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

Dear Sir

Boggabri Coal Project (09_0182); Exhibition of Environmental Assessment

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2010 referring the Environmental Assessment for the Boggabri Coal Project to the Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales (RTA) for submissions.

Following review of the Environmental Assessment the RTA notes that:

- There was no information provided regarding the volume and nature of construction traffic.
- The Traffic Impact Assessment indicates the iron-bridge on Manilla Road (MR357), which is an RTA asset, would be appropriate for use as a potential construction vehicle route.
- The Traffic Impact Assessment indicates that the bridge on Harparary Road would be appropriate for use as a potential construction vehicle route.
- The Environmental Assessment states "Boggabri Coal has included as part of its Voluntary Planning Agreement with the Narrabri Shire Council to upgrade the Harparary Road including installing a bridge over the Namoi River so as the community has access to the Kamilaroi Highway from Maules Creek during flood events".
- Neither the Traffic Impact Study nor the Environmental Assessment includes an assessment of the proposed usage of Harparary Road by project-related traffic.

As the project will require works over, and may require works on, the Kamilaroi Highway, which is a State road, RTA concurrence is required pursuant to Section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993*. There is insufficient information in the Environmental Assessment for the RTA to give concurrence at this time. So that the RTA may comprehensively assess the traffic impact the RTA requires the applicant to provide the following information:

Heavy, over size and over mass vehicles

- Volumes and nature of any heavy, over size and/or over mass vehicles required for each stage of the project detailing origin and destination, travel routes and peak hours.
- That the shortest and least trafficked route has been given priority for the movement of construction materials and machinery to minimise the risk and impact to other motorists so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Procedure for the unloading and loading of transport and service vehicles particularly addressing the issue of oversize and over mass vehicles.
- Impact of generated traffic on the adjacent road network and any other nearby major developments.
- Mitigating measures to address expected interruptions to public road users.

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- Improvements to the road network to cater for the number and/or size of heavy, over size and/or over mass vehicles.
- Local climate conditions that may affect road safety for vehicles used during construction and operation of the project (e.g. flooding).

Site access

- Any proposed use of accesses to the project site, other than via the main access off Leard Forest Road, by project-related traffic including access to the North of the project site via Harparary Road.

Kamilaroi Highway and Manilla Road intersection

- Details of the existing intersection layout including lane widths, shoulder widths, median widths and lengths of auxiliary lanes.
- Details of any proposed intersection improvements.

Kamilaroi Highway and Harparary Road intersection

- Details of the existing intersection layout including lane widths, shoulder widths, median widths and lengths of auxiliary lanes.
- Sight Distance for all legs of the intersection.
- Possible use of the intersection by project-related traffic including use: by construction traffic; during every-day operations; and, in the event of road closures due to wet weather.
- Analysis of the use of the intersection by project-related traffic being an analysis of the 'worst case scenario' including degree of saturation, delay, queue length and level of service.
- Details of any proposed intersection improvements.

Rail loop

- Concept plans identifying the proposed location of the grade-separated rail crossing over the Kamilaroi Highway.
- Details of the proposed method of construction of the grade-separated rail crossing over the Kamilaroi.
- A commitment to enter a Traffic Management Plan as will be required by the RTA for the construction of the grade-separated rail crossing.

Private haul road

- Concept plans identifying the proposed nature of the widening of the grade-separated private haul road over the Kamilaroi Highway.
- Details of the proposed method of construction of the widening.
- Details of the proposed use of the private haul road following construction of the rail bridge.
- A commitment to enter a Traffic Management Plan as will be required by the RTA for construction of the widening.

RTA concurrence pursuant to Section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993* is contingent on the applicant providing the RTA with the above requested information and satisfying the RTA that all road safety and traffic management issues will be suitably addressed.

The RTA does not object to the proposed project subject to the following recommended conditions of approval:

- The applicant is not to commence construction and/or operation of the project, including the transport of plant, machinery or materials to or from the project site, until the Roads and Traffic Authority has provided concurrence pursuant to Section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993*.
- The Therrebri Road grade separated overpass over the private haul road is to be constructed prior to any increase in the transport of product coal from 1.5Mtpa on the private haul road. The construction of the overpass is necessary to safely and efficiently cater for the staged but significant increase in over-mass vehicles on the haul road.
- The applicant is to prepare and supply a Code of Conduct to all drivers of heavy vehicles (including contractors) transporting plant, product or other goods or materials to or from the project site.
- The Code of Conduct is to include:
 - o Details of the transportation hours pursuant to the Project Approval or concurrence.
 - o That no transportation of plant, product or other goods or materials is to occur outside of the transportation hours.
 - o Details of the transportation routes to be followed.
 - o Use of the private haul road and operation of the boom gates over Therrebri Road.
 - o Details of the local school bus route, operating hours and pick-up and drop-off points along the transportation routes.
 - o That drivers are to be conscious of the school bus and school children particularly during the operating hours of the local school bus.
 - o That drivers are to operate their vehicles in a safe, professional and courteous manner.
- All works associated with the development are to be at no cost to the RTA.

Please keep the RTA informed of the progress of the Project Application.

If you require any further information please contact Susie Mackay (02) 6861 1688.

Yours faithfully,



8 FEB 2011

Tony Hendry
Road Safety & Traffic Manager
Western Region