

Joe Fittell
Team Leader
DPI Planning

c/o Major Project Portal

HVO North and South Continuation Project (SSD-11826681 & SSD-11826621) – Response to Submissions – DPI Agriculture Advice

Dear Mr Fittell

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the response to submissions (RTS) for the Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) Continuation Project.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

DPI Agriculture previously provided advice for the proponent to the effect that the impacts described in the application for continuation and alteration of the project are acceptable given the context of the site, locality and proposal, pending clarification on the overall loss or gain of agricultural land (see DPI Agriculture correspondence dated 1 March 2023, our ref OUT/3102). The area requiring clarification concerned an apparent inconsistency between calculation and tabling of impacts to agricultural land across the original development package.

As part of the RTS package (specifically Section 4.7.1 of the Submissions Report by EMM, November 2023), the proponent has clarified this matter and confirmed that there will be a net gain of 138 ha of agricultural land at the site following rehabilitation (as compared to both the current approval area following rehabilitation requirements, and the additional disturbance area).

DPI Agriculture has no further comment to make on this application.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Milo Kelly', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Milo Kelly
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Soil and Water
Hunter Region

27 November 2023