

14 November 2025

THE DIRECTOR
Industry Assessments, Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject Northern Coal Services Project (Mod 4) - Cooranbong Coal Stockpile Extension

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application.

Council staff have reviewed the application and provide the following comments:

Ecology

Council notes the project has been amended, resulting in a small reduction in area impacted by the proposed clearing.

The impact of the amended area proposed to be cleared remains significant due to the presence of threatened species, mainly through the proposed removal of key habitat including 29 hollows.

Although the proposed high biodiversity offset credit requirement is considered appropriate, the preferred course of action in terms of biodiversity best practice remains to avoid the loss of important existing habitat for threatened species. These impacts should be considered unacceptable considering rates of habitat loss and extinction in NSW.

The response provided regarding rescue and translocation of threatened species is acknowledged and further emphasises the importance of meaningful avoidance.

Loss of hollow bearing trees has been specifically assessed but no detailed mitigation has been proposed. Repurposing of salvaged hollows and creation of hollows using tools such as a hollow-hog should be prioritised over nest boxes if further avoidance of impacts is not possible.

Overall, a more detailed appraisal of the alternative sites considered for the stockpile, including disturbed areas close to the CES, could provide better motivation for the high biodiversity losses at the current proposed site. The appraisal should include maps of the alternatives and detailed discussion of the impact and reasons for rejection.

Council welcomes further engagement on this matter/these matters.

Should you require further information, please contact the undersigned on 4921 0025 or by e-mail on gkeech@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Keech', written in a cursive style.

Geoffrey Keech
Senior Development Planner
Development Assessment and Certification