



Energy and Resources  
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### **Major Project 08-0149 - Metropolitan Coal Mine Modification 4 – Response to Submissions**

Thank you for your referral of the Metropolitan Coal Mine Major Project 08-0149 MOD 4 – Submissions Report via the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal. The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) appreciates the opportunity to respond.

NPWS advises that the modification to the major project approval under s.4.55 (2) of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) affects lands reserved under the *National Park and Wildlife Act 1974* as Heathcote National Park, Garawarra State Conservation Area and Royal National Park. As the park authority, NPWS retains a vested interest in the mine's operation.

On review of the *Metropolitan Coal Mine Longwalls 317 & 318 Modification Submissions Report*, NPWS advises on the outstanding matters raised in our initial correspondence dated 12 August 2015 (DOC25/671244).

1. The landowners consent request to the NSW Minister for the Environment, administering the NPW Act, is to be submitted via the NPWS Manager, Royal Area - [npws.royal@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.royal@environment.nsw.gov.au). Noting that the request cannot be processed until 2026.
2. The Metropolitan Coal Surface Facilities Area, as it operates adjacent to the Royal National Park, should be supported by a revised and updated water management plan. The revised plan should update and improve the current onsite management and release protocols to heighten the protections afforded to the national park. Improve the monitoring framework with enhanced environmental performance, accountability and broadened real-time data availability. Adverse water quality issues for the Royal National Park remain an ongoing concern.
3. The Metropolitan Coal Surface Facilities Area, as it affects the Royal National Park, remains detrimental to its National Heritage place values.

Overall, the proposed modification and extension of the Metropolitan Coal Mine longwall activities under one of Sydney's southern water supply catchments remains of significant concern. The broader long-term impacts on groundwater, habitat and biodiversity cannot be understated, nor can the extension of mining activities adjacent to Australia's oldest National Park.

If you have any further questions, please contact Brendon Neilly, NPWS Manager, Royal Area on 02 9585 6197 or via [Brendon.Neilly@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Brendon.Neilly@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Kirby', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Kirby  
**Acting Director, Greater Sydney Branch**  
**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service**

24 November 2025