

18 March 2024

Mr Stephen O'Donoghue  
Director Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney, NSW 2001

Lodged via the Major Projects Portal

**RE: MOUNT PLEASANT OPTIMISATION PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CONSENT SSD 10418 – COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Dear Steve,

As you would be aware, MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd (MACH Energy) commenced development under Development Consent SSD 10418 for the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project on Monday 12 February 2024.

Condition A20, Schedule 2 of Development Consent SSD 10418 requires the following:

*Within six months of the commencement of development under this consent, a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) must be established for the development in accordance with the Department's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines: State Significant Projects (2019). The CCC must continue to operate during the life of the development, or other timeframe agreed by the Planning Secretary.*

*Notes:*

- *The CCC is an advisory committee only.*
- *In accordance with the Guidelines, the Committee should comprise an independent chair and appropriate representation from the Applicant, Council, affected stakeholder groups and the local community.*

Additionally, Condition A21, Schedule 2 of Development Consent SSD 10418 allows for the following:

*With the approval of the Planning Secretary, the Applicant may combine the CCC required by this consent with any similar CCC required by a consent or approval for any adjoining mine subject to common, shared or related ownership or management.*

**MACH Energy seeks the approval of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) to combine the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) under Development Consent SSD 10418 with the CCC already established under Condition 6, Schedule 5 of Development Consent DA 92/97 as allowed for under Condition A21, Schedule 2 of Development Consent SSD 10418.**

MACH Energy considers this would allow for effective, clear and meaningful community engagement regarding the Mount Pleasant Operation and would avoid unnecessary regulatory duplication. It is noted that the CCC established under Development Consent DA 92/97:

- meets the composition requirements of the Development Consent SSD 10418 conditions, with an independent Chair in the Department's pool (William Edward John [WEJ] Paradise AM) and representation of a cross-section of community members and Muswellbrook Shire Council;

- recently accepted new members on to the CCC in 2022; and
- has recently updated the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct in recognition of the *Community consultative committee guideline – State significant projects* (June 2023).

MACH Energy raised the above approach with the CCC at its most recent meeting on 14 March 2024. The CCC members present were supportive of proceeding on this basis.

Additionally, Condition A35, Part A of Development Consent SSD 10418 provides:

*Notwithstanding condition A34, consistent with the conditions of this consent and without altering any limits or criteria in this consent, the Planning Secretary may, in respect of ongoing monitoring and management obligations, agree to or require compliance with an updated or revised version of such a guideline, protocol, Standard or policy, or a replacement of them.*

**MACH Energy would appreciate written confirmation from the Department that MACH Energy and the CCC should comply with the *Community consultative committee guideline – State significant projects* (June 2023) (rather than the 2019 Guidelines) pursuant to Condition A35 of Development Consent SSD 10418.**

MACH Energy kindly request the Department to contact the undersigned if further information is required.

Yours sincerely,



**Chris Lauritzen**

General Manager – Resources Development

MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd