

Our ref: SSD-11826681 and SSD-11826621

Andrew Mills
Chair
Independent Planning Commission of NSW
Suite 15.02
135 King Street
Sydney NSW 2000

12 June 2026

Subject: Hunter Valley Operations Continuation Project (SSD-11826681 and SSD-11826621) – Referral to the NSW Independent Planning Commission

Dear Mr Mills,

The Department has completed its assessment of the state significant development (SSD) applications for the Hunter Valley Operations North Continuation Project (SSD-11826681) and Hunter Valley Operations South Continuation Project (SSD-11826621) (the project). The applications are being referred to the NSW Independent Planning Commission (the Commission) for determination, as there were more than 50 unique public submissions objecting to the project.

Hunter Valley Operations (the HVO complex) is an established multi-pit open cut coal mining operation comprising two mine sites, HVO North and HVO South, which is approved under separate development consents and operates as a single complex. The HVO complex is located approximately 24 kilometres (km) north-west of Singleton, across the Singleton and Muswellbrook Shire local government areas (LGA).

HV Operations Pty Ltd (the Applicant) propose to continue mining at the complex until the end of 2045 for HVO North and the end of 2042 for HVO South, including an extension of approved mining areas and mining of deeper coal seams.

On 21 May 2026, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces issued terms of reference requesting that the Commission conduct a public hearing on the project in accordance with Section 2.9(1) (d) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The terms of reference are enclosed to this letter.

The Department has carefully considered the likely environmental, social, and economic impacts of the project in accordance with the requirements of section 4.15 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Department has not provided an overall recommendation but rather has undertaken a comprehensive assessment and evaluation of the project to inform the IPC as the consent authority and assist it in its need to conclude if the project is in the public interest. Should the IPC determine to approve the project, the Department has provided recommended conditions.

I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report and recommended conditions of consent for the Commissions consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact me on 0477 345 626 or via email at stephen.odonoghue@dphi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S O'Donoghue".

Steve O'Donoghue

Director Resource Assessments