



BN16/7210

Ms Melanie Hollis
Planning Officer
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
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Dear Ms Hollis

Thank you for your email of 12 August 2016 requesting input on the Amended Rocky Hill Coal Project and Stratford Extension Project Mod 1 Exhibition.

The *Stratford Mining Complex Statement of Environmental Effects* (SEE) was reviewed in conjunction with the mines conditions of consent (SSD-4966) and current Mining Operations Plan (2015-2016) to ascertain whether the proposal had any bearing on rehabilitation success.

Assessment was carried out in accordance with the rehabilitation criteria described in the *Indicative Environmental Assessment Requirements* (SEARs).

The following issues were noted through the course of assessment:

- the proposal seeks to construct an additional sealed haul road to allow for ROM coal from the proposed Rocky Hill Coal Project (RHCP) to be received at the Stratford Mine Complex for processing and rail transport to the Port of Newcastle
- handling and processing RHCP coal would require an increase in footprint for ROM stockpiling and truck parking, however these facilities would be constructed on previously disturbed areas within the existing mine infrastructure area envelope
- the additional coal processing wastes (rejects) produced by processing RHCP coal can be accommodated within the existing approved emplacement areas (voids)
- the proposal would result in an extension of mine life for SMC coal processing and handling infrastructure till 2036 to coincide with the anticipated mine life for RHCP
- the application does not propose any changes to rehabilitation objectives, the final landform or final land use.

The key features of this proposal (including construction of additional private haul road, increased haul truck movements and increased stockpiling/processing of coal) are considered to be adequately addressed in the SEE.

The assessment has considered the potential impacts of the proposal on the achievement of the mine's rehabilitation objectives and considers the proposal is unlikely to adversely impact rehabilitation outcomes.

The assessment considers that the current development consent conditions regarding rehabilitation adequately reflect the Division's standards and does not recommend any amendments to the consent conditions or additional conditions.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Steve Cozens, Senior Project Officer, Royalty & Advisory Services on (02) 9842 8573.

Yours sincerely

K Hargreaves
20.9.16

Kylie Hargreaves
Deputy Secretary
Resources & Energy