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NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Mr Carl Dumpleton

Dear Mr Dumpleton

**BENGALLA MINING COMPANY PTY LIMITED
CONTINUATION PROJECT – SSD -5170 MODIFICATION 1**

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) dated 14 August 2015 inviting the EPA to make a submission regarding the Bengalla Continuation Project - Modification 1 (SSD-5170 Mod 1). Thankyou for extending the date for submission of the EPA's response to 14 September 2015.

The EPA understands that the project involves:

- Alterations to various water management infrastructure items;
- A larger footprint of the approved explosives storage facility;
- Emplacement of fill from excavation of the clean water (CW1) dam to occur adjacent to the dam;
- An increase of approximately 9.1 hectares to the previously identified disturbance boundary to construct the northern clean water diversion levee. This represents a 0.1% increase in total disturbance; and
- Relocation of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme (HRSTS) discharge and monitoring point.

The EPA has reviewed the project as detailed in the report titled '*Bengalla Mine Development Consent Modification Statement of Environmental Effects*' (the SEE) dated August 2015 and provides the following comments.

Air Quality

The EPA has reviewed the air quality impact assessment provided with the SEE and concludes that any additional air quality impacts can be managed under existing conditions of the Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 6538.

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Noise Impacts

The EPA has reviewed the noise impact assessment provided with the SEE and concludes that any additional noise quality impacts can be managed under existing conditions of EPL 6538.

Water Quality Impacts

The EPA has reviewed the proposed modification to various water management infrastructure items as detailed in the SEE. The results of the site water balance modelling show that the mine water management system can be operated in accordance with the existing conditions of EPL 6538.

Environment Protection Licence

The SEE details the proposed relocation of the HRSTS discharge and monitoring point. The licensee will be required to submit a licence variation application for EPL 6538 under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) to authorise the relocation of the HRSTS discharge and monitoring point.

The EPA considers impacts of the modification to generally be consistent with environmental outcomes compared to those currently approved.

The EPA has no objection to the project proceeding as described in the SEE. The EPA is satisfied that the current conditions on EPL 6538 can accommodate the modification.

Please contact Kurt Sorensen on (02) 4908 6827 if you require any further information regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely



11.9.15

KAREN MARLER
Head Regional Operations Unit – Hunter
Environment Protection Authority