BENGALLA
NEW HOPE GROUP

Bengalla Mining Company Pty Ltd
Bengalla Road (Locked Mailbag 5)
Muswellbrook NSW 2333 Australia

ABN 32 053 909 470

T: +61 2 6542 9500
F: +61 2 6542 9599

bengalla.com.au

31 March 2022

Mr Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments (Coal & Quarries)
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Stephen O'Donoghue (C/O Mr. Joe Fittell)

SSD-5170 Long Term Security of Offsets – SSD-5170-PA-7

1 Background

Bengalla Mining Company Pty Limited (**BMC**) operates Bengalla Mine (**Bengalla**) generally in accordance with development consent SSD-5170.

Schedule 3, Condition 28 of SSD-5170 states:

> *"28. Within 2 years of the commencement of development under this consent, unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary, the Applicant must make suitable arrangements to provide appropriate long term security for the land within the Biodiversity Offset Strategy identified in Table 13 through a Biobanking Agreement under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (or an alternative mechanism agreed with OEH), to the satisfaction of the Secretary".*

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (**DPIE**) has provided extensions of time to BMC to make suitable arrangements for long term security of the offset land to 30 June 2022.

2 Progress

COVID-19

The years 2020, 2021 and 2022 have not been typical. The impact of COVID-19 on the operation of many business's including BMC required a different approach, for example, working from home, temperature screening and Rapid Antigen Testing on entry to Bengalla. COVID-19 has continued to alter the business operating environment for BMC its suppliers, contractors and consultants and requires ongoing assessment and adjustment.

The circumstances regarding progression of securement of the long term security have not altered relative to COVID-19.

La Nina

On 23 November 2021 the Bureau of Meteorology declared that a La Nina has developed in the Pacific Ocean. This complex weather pattern is expected to cause above average rainfall across eastern, northern and central parts of Australia. Higher than average rainfall, severe storms and flash flooding are likely to be common from now through to February 2022. Bengalla has experienced these La Nina conditions and that has resulted in a continued heavy focus on water management over the last quarter.

BMC advisors have completed draft Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) Total Fund Deposit calculations and the Biodiveristy Assessment Method credits calculations. These are currently being assessed by BMC.

3 The Way Forward

When that assessment is complete on the appropriate pathway forward, for example the BSA, then BMC will commence consultation and then preparation of the BSA Applications.

The BOMP will be further reviewed in this context regarding separation into individual sites relative to each BSA. If separation of the BOMP is appropriate incorporation of the DAWE feedback into the separated management plans will be undertaken and then the plans will be returned to DAWE for review and approval and then to DPIE for approval.

4 Conclusion

BMC intends to meet its obligations regarding establishment of the long term security according to Schedule 3, Condition 28 of SSD-5170 where reasonable and feasible.

If you have queries, please let me know.

Yours faithfully

Craig White
Environment Superintendent
Bengalla Mining Company Pty Limited