

17 June 2016

Mr Thomas Watt
Resource Assessments
NSW Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001
Australia

Dear Mr Watt

Mt Owen Continued Operations Project (SSD5850)

I refer to your letter dated 31/05/2016 requesting further feedback on the Planning Assessment Commission Review for the above project. Thiess has reviewed the information and welcomes the opportunity to provide further feedback on several areas.

Final Landform Design

The final landform design at Mt Owen proposed by Glencore in the *Mount Owen Continued Operations Project – Response to PAC Review Report* represents leading practice for rehabilitation across the Hunter Valley. Thiess has worked closely with Glencore Mt Owen to develop and implement a rehabilitation program which is today recognised as industry best practice. To date, more than 450 hectares of mined land has been rehabilitated to a standard that supports a mix of native forest, open woodland and pasture. Thiess supports the proposed ongoing rehabilitation programme with the incorporation of micro relief features in the landform.

Air Quality

Thiess has actively worked on the implementation of the Mt Owen Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan over several years, which has contributed to positive outcomes for air quality in the Hunter Valley. Thiess supports the additional controls proposed in the *Mount Owen Continued Operations Project – Response to PAC Review Report*. These measures will further expand on the active level of air quality management currently being undertaken at the operation.

Economic

Thiess has reviewed the revised economic assessment for the project, and is in agreement with the findings. The continuing operation of Mt Owen will result in positive economic impacts on local communities. Mt Owen continues to provide long term benefits to the local communities in

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the Hunter Region. The site is a major source of employment in the Hunter Valley, providing direct and indirect job opportunities. The site relies heavily on local business for the provision of goods and services to the mine. Thiess currently employ a total workforce of 320 and utilise over 100 local and regional suppliers.

Thiess has been operating since 2004 at the Mt Owen Complex, and has worked closely with Glencore to ensure a leading practice mining operation, with uncompromising environmental and safety standards, and community relations. Thiess is in full support of the project, and looks forward to contributing to the ongoing success of Glencore's Mt Owen operation.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Thompson', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Douglas G. Thompson
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