



Mr Thomas Watt
Senior Planning Officer
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Watt

Mount Owen Continued Operations Project – Response to PAC Review

Thank you for providing the Department of the Environment (the Department) with the opportunity to comment on Mount Owen Pty Limited's Response to PAC Review Report for the above project.

The Department notes that the proponent has included the Mitchell Hills Offset Site, comprising 83.1 ha of woodland dominated or co-dominated by key foraging tree species for the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), in a revised Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS). With the inclusion of the Mitchell Hills Offset Site, the Department considers that the revised BOS meets the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) Biodiversity Offset Policy*.

In addition to comments provided on 14 September 2015 and 7 October 2015, if the project is approved the Department suggests incorporation of development consent conditions to provide for the long-term protection and habitat condition improvement of the proposed offset sites.

If you have any questions in relation to the Department's comments, please contact the project officer, Anu Datta by email to anu.datta@environment.gov.au, or telephone 02 6274 1898 and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Dane Roberts
Director
NSW Assessments North
Environment Standards Division

14 June 2016