

28 June 2016

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

Dear Mr Watt

SSD 5850 - MOUNT OWEN CONTINUED OPERATIONS PROJECT (SSD 5850): GLENCORE RESPONSE TO COMMISSION REVIEW REPORT

I refer to your email of 1 June 2016 inviting Hunter New England Health (HNEH) to review and provide comment on the response by Glencore to the Planning Assessment Commission's Review Report for the Mount Owen Continued Operations Project.

The above documents and the April 2016 Air Quality peer review document have been reviewed with particular attention being paid to issues HNEH raised in relation to air quality, which may have an impact on public health.

Air Quality

In our previous correspondence we expressed our concern that the environmental assessment used the current annual PM₁₀ goal of 30 µg/m³ given the national air standards that would prevail during the operation of the mine were under review. The proponent's response to this concern was that air quality was assessed against current standards and not against the future standards to be implemented during the lifetime of the mine.

Since then, on 15 December 2015, the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) agreed to vary the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (NEPM). The amending instrument took effect on 4 February 2016. The new standards are as follows:

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Maximum concentration standard	Maximum allowable exceedances
Particles as PM ₁₀	1 day	50 µg/m ³	None
	1 year	25 µg/m ³	None
Particles as PM _{2.5}	1 day	25 µg/m ³	None
	1 year	8 µg/m ³	None

Reference: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00215>

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It is clear within the Air Quality peer review document and the prior environmental impact statement that many private residences will be exposed to particulate levels that exceed the levels in the current air quality standards for particulates.

Should you require any additional information in relation to the above, please telephone Ms Carolyn Herlihy, Environmental Health Officer on (02) 4924 6477.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Craig Dalton
Acting Service Director - Health Protection