

18 March 2015

SF2015/006050
CR2015/000328
MJ

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

Attention: Mr Matthew Sprott

**NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY (A15): MOUNT OWEN CONTINUED OPERATIONS PROJECT,
RAVENSWORTH – EXHIBITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT– SSD 5850**

Dear Mr Sprott

I refer to your email dated 21 January 2015 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Mount Owen Continued Operation Project, forwarded to Roads and Maritime Services for comment.

Roads and Maritime understands that the subject project seeks approval to expand the existing open cut mine to extract additional coal reserves, extend the life of the open cut mine by approximately twelve (12) years (to 2030), duplicate the existing rail spur line and construct a northern rail entry / exit, use the existing overland conveyor to transfer gravel and coal to the Liddell coal mine and upgrade Hebden Road and ancillary site infrastructure.

The upgraded Hebden Road is proposed to connect to the New England Highway at the existing intersection and would include construction of a road overpass over the Main Northern Railway to replace an existing at grade rail crossing and construction of a new dual lane bridge over Bowmans Creek.

Roads and Maritime Responsibilities

Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime's primary interests are in the road network, traffic and broader transport issues. In particular, the efficiency and safety of the classified road network, the security of property assets and the integration of land use and transport.

In accordance with the *Roads Act 1993*, Roads and Maritime has powers in relation to road works, traffic control facilities, connections to roads and other works on the classified road network. The New England Highway is a classified (State) road and part of the National Land Transport Network. Roads and Maritime concurrence is required for connections to this road with Council consent, under Section 138 of the Act. Council is the roads authority for this road and all other public roads in the area.

Roads and Maritime Response and Requirements

Roads and Maritime has reviewed the information provided and advises that additional information is required to enable Roads and Maritime to undertake a review in accordance with current legislation and relevant guidelines.

Roads and Maritime requires the applicant to provide a concept design of the road works proposed in Hebden Road, including the vertical alignment (long section) from the existing New England Highway intersection to the proposed new bridge over Bowmans Creek, to Roads and Maritime for review.

Roads and Maritime will provide further advice and / or requirements on receipt and review of the additional information outlined above.

Should you require further advice please contact Hunter Land Use on (02) 4924 0688

Yours sincerely



18/3/15

Kevin Webster
Network and Safety Manager
Hunter Region

Cc General Manager
Singleton Council