

Department of Planning and Environment

Mr Sebastien Moreno
Environment and Community Manager
Mt Owen Pty Ltd

23/03/2023

Dear Mr Moreno

Mount Owen Continued Operations Project (SSD-5850) Extension of Time to Secure Rehabilitation Offset Area

I refer to your letter dated 16 January 2023 seeking an extension in time to finalise and secure the Rehabilitation Woodland Offset required for the Mount Owen Continued Operations Project (SSD-5850).

The Department has reviewed your request and notes that Condition 31(d) of the development consent requires the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) to include a final location for the Rehabilitation Woodland Offset area within 5 years of the commencement of development. The Department understands that the final location of the Rehabilitation Woodland Offset has not yet been identified, however 493 ha (of the 518 ha required by the consent) has been established.

The Department understands that the location of the offset area cannot be 'finalised' (and subsequently secured) until rehabilitation of the full 518 ha is complete.

Accordingly, the Planning Secretary agrees to an extension of time to enable Mt Owen to finalise the Rehabilitation Woodland Offset until 31 March 2024.

Notwithstanding, the Department requests that the BMP be updated to identify the indicative location of the offset area, noting that it would be finalised within the above timeframe.

The Department also requests that Mt Owen commence consultation with Forestry Corporation NSW and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust/Credit Supply Taskforce to confirm:

1. that Forestry Corporation NSW agrees to transfer the required State Forest estate to biodiversity conservation area, including whether any compensation would be required; and

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2. what information Mt Owen would need to provide the Biodiversity Conservation Trust/Credit Supply Taskforce in support of an application for a Biodiversity Stewardship Area or Conservation Agreement over rehabilitated land.

The Department requests that this consultation commence immediately, and Mt Owen provide the Department with an update on the status of this consultation, and proposed security mechanism, by 30 June 2023.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Joe Fittell on 02 4908 6896.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SO", written in a cursive style.

Stephen O'Donoghue

Director

Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary