

Rio Tinto Coal Australia Pty Limited  
GPO Box 391  
Brisbane Queensland 4001  
Australia  
T +61 (0) 7 3625 3000  
F +61 (0) 7 3625 3001

16 December 2014

Mr Mike Young  
Manager Mining Projects  
Department of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Young

### **Warkworth Continuation Project (SSD 6464) - Satisfaction of the recommendation made by Chief Executive of OEH**

The biodiversity offset strategy (BOS) for the Warkworth Continuation 2014 proposal was certified by the Chief Executive of Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on 4 November 2014. The recommendation stated:

*Certify under clause 14 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 that the measures to mitigate or offset the biodiversity impact of the Warkworth Continuation Project, described and evaluated at Parts 4 and 5 of this report, including the additional land based offset of equal or greater biodiversity value to the 72ha of Warkworth Sands Woodland EEC impacted by the Warkworth Continuation Project, are adequate;*

**AND**

*Recommend to the consent authority that an additional land based offset of equal or greater biodiversity value to the 72ha of Warkworth Sands Woodland EEC impacted by the Warkworth Continuation Project should be required.*

This letter has been prepared to inform the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) that subsequent to its preliminary review of the merits of the application, Rio Tinto Coal Australia has reached agreement on acquiring a land based offset that satisfies the recommendation to the consent authority given in the BOS certification.

The land based offset is known as Hanwood Estate located near North Rothbury as shown in Appendix A. The OEH have confirmed that the Hanwood Estate's inclusion in the BOS fully satisfies the recommendation to the consent authority for the additional land based offset.

The biodiversity values of Hanwood Estate include:

- Hunter Lowland Redgum Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion;
- Central Hunter Ironbark ,Spotted Gum, Grey Box Forest in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions; and
- the largest subpopulations of the critically endangered plant *Persoonia pauciflora*.

By securing the site for conservation it will make a significant contribution to the protection and recovery of the critically endangered *Persoonia pauciflora*.

The land will be secured in perpetuity under a conservation mechanism such as entering into a biobanking agreement, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and condition 30 of the current draft development consent.

Should you wish to further discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Nicola Proctor on 02 6575 5925 or the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Russo  
Manager – Project Approvals  
HSEC, Coal Australia

T: +61 (0) 7 3625 4823

M: +61 (0)429 480 163

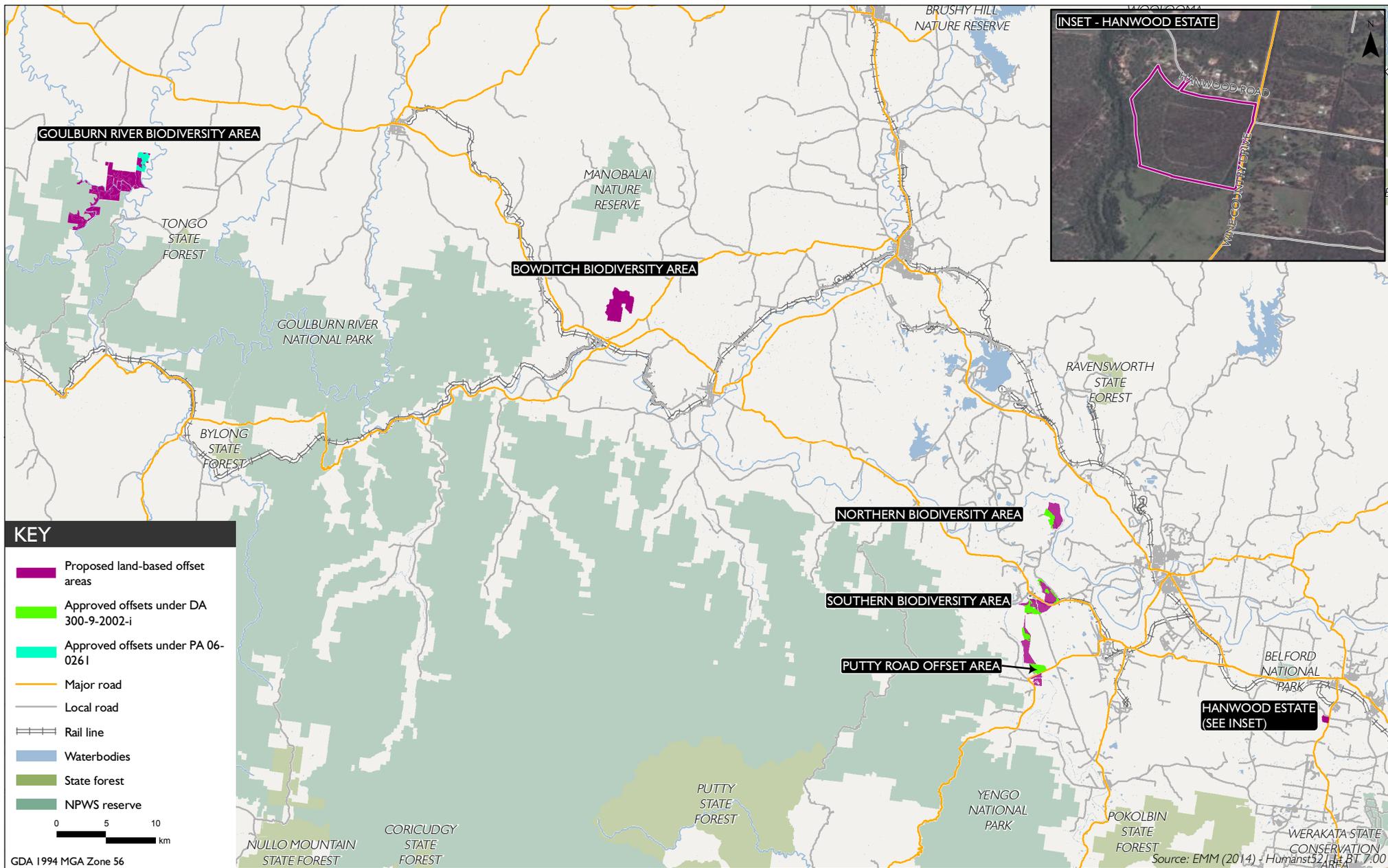
E: [anthony.russo@riotinto.com](mailto:anthony.russo@riotinto.com)

Enc.

Appendix A      Land-based offset areas, including the Hanwood Estate

## **Appendix A**

### **Land-based offset areas, including the Hanwood Estate**



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**Russo, Anthony (RTCA)**

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**Subject:** assessment of the Hanwood estate

**From:** Andrew McIntyre [<mailto:Andrew.McIntyre@environment.nsw.gov.au>]

**Sent:** Friday, 5 December 2014 5:25 PM

**To:** Maresh, Sam (RTS)

**Cc:** Monica Collins

**Subject:** assessment of the Hanwood estate

Sam

I wish to confirm that OEH accepts securing the Hanwood Estate as meeting the Chief Executive's recommendation to the consent authority of "an additional land based offset of equal or greater biodiversity value to the 72 hectares of Warkworth Sands Woodland EEC".

This is based on the fact that the site supports two EECs: the Hunter Lowland Redgum Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion and the Central Hunter Ironbark, Spotted Gum, Grey Box Forest in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions.

The Central Hunter Ironbark, Spotted Gum, Grey Box Forest EEC is one of the EECs that will be impacted by the Warkworth Continuation project.

The site also supports one of the largest subpopulations of critical endangered plant *Persoonia pauciflora* (OEH 2012) and securing the site for conservation will make a significant contribution to the protection and recovery of the species.

I hope this advice is of assistance and if you require and further information please contact me.

References

OEH (2012) **Recovery Plan for the North Rothbury *Persoonia pauciflora***

Andrew McIntyre  
Regional Manager, Hunter Central Coast  
Regional Operations Group, Office of Environment and Heritage  
Level 4, 26 Honeysuckle Drives, Newcastle

telephone (02) 4904 2600

mobile 0402 149 304

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