



Department of Primary Industries

OUT14/38455

20 NOV 2014

Elle Donnelly
Planning Officer
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Donnelly

Thank you for your letter of 6 November 2014 concerning the review of the Response to Submissions (RTS) for the proposed Warkworth and Mt Thorley Continuation Projects (SSD6464 & SS6465).

The Office of Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security (O AS&FS) has reviewed the RTS provided by EMM Mitchell McLennan, November 2014.

The following agricultural related issues remain:

- *DPI notes that the applicant considers the recommended condition supplied by the Department of Resources and Energy for post mining agricultural pursuits "The land capability classification for the relevant nominated agricultural pursuit for each domain is established and self-sustaining within 5 years of land use establishment (first planting of vegetation" is appropriate. The area's relevant land capabilities and agricultural pursuits need to be clearly articulated in the rehabilitation plan.*
- *DPI notes that the proponent has stated that there will be no significant adverse groundwater impacts on surrounding agricultural enterprises.*
- *DPI notes that the nearest mapped biophysical strategic agricultural land is approximately 1.6km from the biodiversity offset area and the nearest viticulture critical industry cluster land approximately 800m from the biodiversity offset area.*

It should be noted that the O AS&FS originally recommended that an Agricultural Impact Statement be included in the EIS. This recommendation was not adopted.

This advice from the Office of Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security is forwarded direct to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure in accordance with agreed arrangements for mining applications that affect agricultural land. It includes comments provided by officers in Agriculture NSW and NSW Trade & Investment. Additional advice from the other divisions within the Department of Primary Industries may be forwarded by separate letter.

If you wish to discuss the issue further please call Rob Williamson on telephone 02 6391 3166 or by email robert.williamson@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Dr Regina Fogarty
Director Office of Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security