



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Your reference: SSD-6465
Our reference: DOC14/109001-01;
Contact: Robert Gibson, 4908 6851

Ms Elle Donnelly
Planner, Mining Projects
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Donnelly

RE: MT THORLEY CONTINUATION PROJECT (SSD-6465) COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

I refer to your email dated 24 June 2014 seeking comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mt Thorley Continuation Project (SSD-6465) and any recommended conditions of consent.

OEH understands that this is a State Significant Development project under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and that the project includes:

- continuing existing and approved development on site
- maintaining maximum coal extraction rates at 10 million tonnes of run of mine coal a year
- increasing throughput of run of mine coal at Mt Thorley coal processing plant from 10 million tonnes a year to 18 million tonnes a year
- receiving coal, tailings and overburden from the Warkworth mine
- receiving overburden from the Bulga mine
- water sharing with other mines
- minor infrastructure upgrades
- progressively rehabilitating the site.

OEH has reviewed the EIS for the proposed Mt Thorley Continuation Project and notes that the project is primarily to upgrade existing operations and facilities. The footprint for this development comprises land that has been previously disturbed or is covered by existing development activities. As such there are no additional impacts to biodiversity, flooding or Aboriginal cultural heritage. Therefore, OEH has no further comments to make or recommended conditions of approval to provide.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Robert Gibson, Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer, on 4908 6851.

Yours sincerely

6 AUG 2014

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