



Department of Primary Industries

OUT15/20634

10 AUG 2015

Stephen O'Donoghue
Planning Officer
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr O'Donoghue

Thank you for your email of 27 July concerning the review of the Response to Submissions (RTS) for the proposed Drayton South Coal Project.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has reviewed the RTS provided by Hansen Bailey (July 2015) and advises that the majority of issues have been addressed.

With regard to mitigation of agricultural impacts, the proponent indicates that most of their efforts towards mitigation will be in the creation of an Agricultural Land Reserve on 2700 ha of Anglo owned land (the properties Plashett and Bowfield) outside the mine area. Although the associated land use strategy includes an objective to increase agricultural productivity, this objective is not directly associated with the loss of productivity on the mine area and so cannot yet be considered as mitigation.

It is recommended that the Agricultural Land Reserve be maintained at current levels of production as a matter of course and that any increases be documented as proof of mitigating lost agricultural productivity on the project site. It is also recommended that a consent condition is applied such that an increase in production of the Agricultural Land Reserve is equal to or greater to the loss of production of the Drayton South Coal Mine footprint.

To ensure that effective communication is undertaken with the adjacent horse studs, it is also recommended that a condition of consent be applied to ensure that a formal process is developed to implement management and communication protocols for engagement with adjacent horse studs.

This advice is forwarded direct to the Department of Planning & Environment in accordance with agreed arrangements for mining applications that affect agricultural land. This response includes comments provided by officers in Agriculture NSW and Strategy & Policy groups within DPI. 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 landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Rebekah Gomez-Fort
A/Director, Strategy & Policy