



**Office of
Environment
& Heritage**

Your reference: SSD 7142
Our reference: DOC15/245858-2
Contact: Robert Gibson, 4927 3154

Dr Hamish Aiken
Team Leader, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Dr Aiken

RE: MINOR CHANGE TO OEH INPUT INTO SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE UNITED AND WAMBO OPEN CUT COAL MINE PROJECT, WARKWORTH (SSD 7142)

Following recent meetings with Glencore in relation to the proposed United and Wambo Open Cut Coal Mine Project it has come to my attention that there is a minor error in the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) input to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) provided to the Department on 24 July 2015. The section in the SEARs on 'Water and Soils' (pages 6 and 7 of the OEH letter), relates to projects that are likely to affect acid sulphate soils. Acid sulphate soils are typically located on coastal floodplains and are not considered to be a concern for this project. Thus, OEH considers that this section of the SEARS is no longer required for consideration in any resulting Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.

Impacts of the proposed coal mine project on water and soils will still need some consideration in the EIS, particularly in relation to indirect impacts. The required assessment is part of the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment requirements, which forms part of the 'Standard Environmental Assessment Requirements' provided in Attachment A of OEH's letter.

If you have any further questions in relation to this matter, please contact Robert Gibson, Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer, on 4927 3154.

Yours sincerely



5 NOV 2015

RICHARD BATH
Senior Team Leader Planning, Hunter Central Coast Region
Regional Operations