



Aislinn Farnon
Environment & Community Manager
United Wambo Joint Venture
Private Mail Bag 13
Singleton NSW 2330

22/10/2020

Dear Ms Farnon

**United Wambo Open Cut Coal Project (SSD 7142)
Extension of Time to Retire Stage 1 Biodiversity Credits**

I refer to your request dated 13 October 2020, for a 12 month extension of time to retire stage 1 biodiversity credits as required under the conditions of consent for the United Wambo Open Cut Coal (SSD 7142).

I note that the biodiversity credit requirements were calculated using the BioBanking Assessment Methodology, which can no longer be created following commencement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. I understand that the Biodiversity Conservation Trust has advised that the credits must be retired under the Biodiversity Assessment Method, and further surveys are required to collect additional data from the offset sites.

The Planning Secretary considers that your request for a 12 month extension would allow time for additional surveys to be completed and for an assessment of reasonable equivalence to be prepared and submitted to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

Accordingly, the Planning Secretary has granted an extension of time until 6 January 2022 for the retirement of stage 1 biodiversity credits.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Melanie Hollis name on 8217 2043.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Spratt'.

Matthew Spratt
Director
Resource Assessments (Coal & Quarries)

as nominee of the Planning Secretary