

File No: NTH11/00158/12

Your Ref: SSD-7480

The Director
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Phillipa Duncan

Dear Madam,

RE: Proposed Vickery Mine Extension – Response to Submissions - Blue Vale Road, Gunnedah

I refer to your email dated 3 September 2019 requesting comment from Roads and Maritime Services in relation to the abovementioned development proposal.

Roles and Responsibilities

The key interests for Roads and Maritime are the safety and efficiency of the road network, traffic management, the integrity of infrastructure and the integration of land use and transport.

A number of roads are impacted by the proposed development, including the Kamilaroi Highway (HW29) which is a classified (State) road, Rangari Road (MR357) which is a classified (Regional) road and Blue Vale Road which is a local road. Gunnedah Shire Council and Narrabri Shire Council are the roads authorities for all public roads (other than freeways or Crown roads) in the local government areas pursuant to Section 7 of the Roads Act.

Roads and Maritime is the roads authority for freeways and can exercise roads authority functions for classified roads in accordance with the Roads Act. Any proposed works on a classified (State) road will require the consent of Roads and Maritime. Consent is provided under the terms of a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD).

Roads and Maritime is given the opportunity to review and provide comment on the subject development under Clause 16 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007*.

Roads and Maritime Response

Roads and Maritime has reviewed the referred information and provides the following comments to assist the consent authority in making a determination:

1. Reference is made to our letter dated 29 October 2018. Matters raised in that letter are still relevant; however, we note that they appear to have been satisfactorily addressed by the applicant in the Response to Submissions.
2. It is understood that Whitehaven Limited currently has road maintenance agreements with Gunnedah Shire Council and Narrabri Shire Council and that similar agreements will continue over the life of this Project, based on levels of traffic generated. This requirement is supported by Roads and Maritime.
3. It is also understood that Whitehaven Limited's Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be revised for the mine extension project. We note that the TMP is intended to address (among other things) the proposed construction traffic at the intersections of Kamilaroi Highway/ Blue Vale Road and Kamilaroi Highway/Rangari Road; and it will include Traffic Control Plans (TCPs) and a Driver

Code of Conduct as required by this Agency. These requirements are also supported by Roads and Maritime.

4. We note that Whitehaven Limited indicated that they would accept a condition requiring the cessation of road haulage of project coal once the train-load facility and rail spur have been fully commissioned. The applicant advised in their Response to Submissions that the train load-out facility and rail spur would be completed approximately 12 months following Project commencement. Roads and Maritime supports this position and requests that an appropriate condition be included into any approval granted. It is understood that, in the meantime, the approved haulage route will continue to be used.
5. The previous advice from Roads and Maritime noted that a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) will be required for any works on the classified road intersections and for rail-over-road overpass. Detailed design plans, including a Road Safety Audit will be required as part of the WAD process. Whitehaven Limited has advised that they will enter into a WAD as required, and we note the agreement that any works are to be designed and constructed in accordance with the Austroads Guidelines.

It is pointed out that the WAD process takes a significant period of time from design and execution of the Deed to the practical completion of works. It is requested that the Department of Planning request the proponent to identify appropriate hold points for execution of the Deed and commencement of works, so that the road haulage of coal can cease in the timeframe proposed.

6. We note that Appendix 1 of the EIS considers the potential impacts to the safety and efficiency of the road network as a result of the Project and concludes that no upgrades are recommended due to project-related traffic. Roads and Maritime recommends that a clear commitment be made by the mine to bus their staff to and from site, and/or provision be made for carpooling. It is also recommended that in-car/truck technology could be considered for use as a tool to monitor unsafe driving behaviour of employees, to improve the safety of the workforce and all road users through identifying unfavourable road safety behaviours. This may be included into the TMP and Driver Code of Conduct.

Advice to the Consent Authority

Upon determination of the application it would be appreciated if Council could forward a copy of the approval for our records. If you have any further enquiries regarding the above comments please do not hesitate to contact Cheryl Sisson, Development Assessment Officer on (02) 6640 1362 or via email at: development.northern@rms.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully,



For Matt Adams
Manager Land Use Assessment, Northern
16 September 2019