



# NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



The Secretary  
NSW Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Your Ref: SSD 7480  
Our Ref: D16/1055  
DA18091215048 AB

**ATTENTION: Philip Nevill**

**22 October 2019**

Dear Mr Nevill

**Agency Comment:- Response to submissions - Vickery Extension Project Gunnedah Coal Field; Narrabri LGA**

I refer to correspondence dated 3 September 2019 seeking comment from the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) for the above State Significant Development Proposal.

The NSW RFS understands the extension project proposal includes:

- *developing and operating an open-cut coal mine, to produce up to 10 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal a year for up to 25 years;*
- *construction and operation of an on-site Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP), to process all ROM coal;*
- *construction and operation of an Rail Load-out Facility, including a rail loop and overhead loading bins;*
- *other associated mine infrastructure and services; and*
- *rehabilitating the site.*

The NSW RFS noted that parts of the subject land are mapped Bush Fire Prone Land. Other parts may contain grassland vegetation formations. Further the NSW RFS is the primary response agency for structural fires within the site.

The NSW RFS provided the proponent the following comments (dated 15 April 2016) for preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS), in accordance with NSW Planning's Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), which required the proponent to consult with relevant government agencies.

- The statement shall identify if the land is mapped bush fire prone by Narrabri and/or Gunnedah Shire Council's. Where the land is mapped bush fire prone the EIS shall include the following:
  - › *identification of bush fire prone land within 140 metres of the proposed development;*
  - › *the aims and objectives of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006';*
  - › *identification of potential ignition sources during construction and operation of the development;*

**Postal address**

Records  
NSW Rural Fire Service  
Locked Bag 17  
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

**Street address**

NSW Rural Fire Service  
Planning and Environment Services (North)  
Suite 1, 129 West High Street  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

T (02) 6691 0400  
F (02) 6691 0499  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: [pes@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pes@rfs.nsw.gov.au)

- › storage of fuels and other hazardous materials including any explosives for blasting;
- › stockpiling of mulched vegetation;
- › proposed bushfire protection measures for the development, including vegetation management and fire suppression capabilities;
- › operational access for fire fighting appliances to the site; and
- › emergency and evacuation planning.

The NSW RFS reviewed the submitted EIS and could not find any reference to bush fire or the information that addresses the above mention NSW RFS requirements. The NSW RFS provided the following comment dated 25 October 2018, with respect to the EIS:

'as the EIS did not address bush fire.....the NSW RFS is not in a position to provide comment on the development proposal.'

The NSW RFS notes that the 'Response to Submission' document does not include NSW RFS submission and does not address bush fire concerns.

However, given that the mining extension area is not mapped bush fire prone land but may contain unmanaged grasslands, and that part of the total mining area does contain mapped bush fire prone land, the NSW RFS provides the following condition for any consent granted:

1. A Fire Management Plan be prepared (FMP) in consultation with the Namoi Gwydir Fire Control Centre (FCC).

The FMP shall include

- A site plan including roads, bulk water supplies, buildings and hazardous material storage;
- A fire minimisation strategy;
- A fire response plan; and
- Other matters as deemed necessary by the FCC.

The FMP shall be keep on-site at all times and copy forward to the FCC.

For any enquiries regarding this correspondence, please contact Alan Bawden on 6691 0400.

Yours sincerely



Alan Bawden

**Team leader – Development Assessment and Planning**

*The RFS has made getting information easier. For general information on 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006', visit the RFS web page at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) and search under 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006'.*