



Professor Mary O’Kane AC  
Chair  
Independent Planning Commission  
GPO BOX 3415  
Sydney NSW 2001

### **Mangoola Coal Continued Operations Project (SSD 8642)**

Dear Professor O’Kane

The Department has completed its merit assessment of the Mangoola Coal Continued Operations Project (SSD 8642) and refers the application to the Independent Planning Commission for determination.

Mangoola Coal Operations Pty Limited, a subsidiary of Glencore Coal Pty Limited (Glencore) is seeking an extension to its existing Mangoola open cut coal mine (the Mangoola Mine), located 20 kilometres (km) west of Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW.

Glencore proposes to establish a new mining area to the north of the existing Mangoola Mine to produce an additional 52 million tonnes of run of mine coal, using the Mangoola Mine’s existing coal processing and rail facilities. Glencore has identified that recovery of this additional coal would occur over an 8 year period, and would require an additional 13 month extension to the currently approved project life for the Mangoola Mine.

The Department exhibited the application from Thursday 18 July 2019 until Wednesday 28 August 2019 and received 320 public submissions during the exhibition period, comprising 72 percent in support and 28 percent opposed.

The Department received detailed technical advice from 17 NSW Government agencies, infrastructure providers, Muswellbrook Shire Council and the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development.

All State Government agencies were satisfied that the Project could be appropriately managed and regulated through the Department’s recommended conditions of consent and other applicable regulatory instruments. While Muswellbrook Shire Council provided a detailed submission, it did not object to the Project.

The Department has completed a rigorous and thorough assessment of the impacts of the Project in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act) and applicable government policies and guidelines, having regard to the issues raised in submissions.

Under section 4.5(a) of the Act and clause 8A of the *State and Regional Development SEPP*, the Commission is the consent authority for the application as more than 50 unique public objections were made in respect of the Project.

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has requested the Commission hold a public hearing into the carrying out of the Project and determine the development application within 12 weeks of receiving the Department’s assessment report, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.

On balance, the Department considers that the impacts of the Project are manageable and that the Project is approvable, subject to the imposition of the recommended conditions.

I have enclosed a copy of the Department's assessment report and recommended conditions of consent for the Commissions consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Young, Executive Director – Energy, Industry and Compliance on 8217 2091 or by email at [mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gainsford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

29/01/2021

David Gainsford

**Deputy Secretary**

**Assessment & System Performance**