



Professor Mary O’Kane AC
Chair - Independent Planning Commission
Via email: mary.okane@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

21 February 2022

Dear Professor O’Kane

Glendell Continued Operations Project (SSD 9349) and Mount Owen Continued Operations (SSD 5850) Modification

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the Glendell Continued operations Project (SSD 9349) and associated modification to the Mount Owen Continued Operations development consent (SSD 5850).

The applications are referred to the Independent Planning Commission (the Commission) for determination as the Minister has requested the Commission to hold a public hearing into the carrying out of the project and to determine the applications. The Commission is the consent authority for the project (SSD 9349), as more than 50 unique submissions in the form of objections were made, and the Commission is the delegated consent authority for the associated modification to SSD 5850.

The project involves extending the life of the existing operations by establishing a new mining area (the Glendell Pit Extension) to the north of the current Glendell Pit. Development of the Glendell Pit Extension would enable the extraction of an additional 135 million tonnes (Mt) of run of mine (ROM) coal over 21 years, at an increased production rate of up to 10 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa).

The Department publicly exhibited the application for an extended period, from 11 December 2019 until 14 February 2020. The Department received 340 public submissions on the Project during the exhibition period, comprising 60 percent (%) in support (205 submissions), 37% opposed (125 submissions) and 3% in the form of a comment (10 submissions).

Submissions in support commented on the economic benefits of the Project, including employment generation and the payment of royalties to the NSW Government, as well as the positive social impacts of the Project, noting Glencore’s support for local businesses and community organisations. Those opposed to the Project were primarily concerned with the potential impacts on air quality, water resources and amenity impacts along with broader commentary about the mining industry’s impact on climate change.

The Department’s detailed assessment of the project has been informed by expert advice from Government agencies, the Commonwealth Independent Expert Scientific Committee and independent experts in the field of mine planning, economics and heritage.



Based on this assessment, the Department considers that Glencore has designed the project in a manner that achieves a good balance between maximising the recovery of a coal resource of State significance and minimising the potential environmental impacts.

Overall, the Department considers that the major economic and social benefits for the local area and to NSW outweigh the potential impacts, and that the project is approvable subject to the recommended conditions.

I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report and recommended conditions of consent for the Commission's consideration. The project has also been referred to the Commission through the major projects portal.

If you have any questions or wish to arrange a briefing, please contact me on 0477 345 626 by email at stephen.odonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S O'Donoghue".

Steve O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments