



Rob Beckett
Environmental Assessment Officer
Resource Assessments - Planning Services Division
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Rob.beckett@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Rob

**Dartbrook Underground Coal Mine – Modification 7
Environmental Assessment Review**

I refer to your email dated 26 June 2018 inviting the Division of Resources & Geoscience (the Division) to provide comments on the Dartbrook Underground Coal Mine – Modification 7 (the Project or Modification) Environmental Assessment (EA) review submitted by Hansen Bailey Environmental Consultants on behalf of Australian Pacific Coal Limited (the Proponent).

The Division has reviewed the information supplied in relation to the abovementioned Project and given the constraints outlined in the Proponent's EA, the Division considers the Modification an efficient development and utilisation of coal resources which will provide an appropriate return to the State. A Resource & Economic Assessment undertaken by the Division detailing the resource utilisation and economic benefits is appended as Attachment 1.

The Division has determined that identified risks or opportunities can be effectively regulated through the conditions of mining authorities issued under the *Mining Act 1992*.

While it is noted that the Project does not present an unreasonable risk of resource sterilisation, the Division requests that it be consulted in relation to the proposed location of any biodiversity offset areas (both on and off the site of the Colliery holding), should they be considered. Additionally, it is requested that the Division be consulted on any supplementary biodiversity measures to ensure there is no consequent reduction in access to prospective land for mineral exploration or potential for sterilisation of mineral or extractive resources.

The Division requests it be included to review draft conditions of consent prior to finalisation and determination of the Modification.

For further enquiries regarding this matter please contact Mr Adam W. Banister, A/Senior Advisor Assessment Coordination on (02) 4063 6601 or assessment.coordination@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

David Humphris
A/Director Titles Assessment
20 July 2018