

OUT11/20417

Mr Howard Reed
Manager Mining Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Paul Freeman

Dear Mr Reed

**Austar Coal Project – Mine Plan Modification (08_0111 MOD 2)
Environmental Assessment Review**

I refer to your letter dated 8 August 2011 regarding the Austar Coal Mine Pty Limited application to modify the Austar Coal Mine Stage 3 mining area to remove longwall panel A6 and reorient longwall panels A7-A17. NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services, Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) has reviewed the *Austar Coal Mine Environmental Assessment Stage 3 Modification* dated September 2011 (EA) and provides the following comments which are directed at specific areas of DRE responsibility for this proposal.

Based on the information provided in the EA, DRE considers that the removal of longwall panel A6 and the reorientation of longwall panels A7-A17 does not substantially change the overall subsidence risks of the Stage 3 Project.

DRE has no objections to the granting of development consent for this proposed modification and supports approval of the proposed modification with the inclusion of the conditional requirements for a Mining Operations Plan, a Subsidence Management Plan and an Annual Environmental Management Report to the satisfaction of the Director General of NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Julie Moloney, Principal Adviser, Industry Coordination on (02) 4931 6549.

Yours sincerely



David Agnew
A/Director Minerals Operation