



29 July 2015

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Hamish Aiken PhD
Team Leader
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
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Dear Hamish

Reference: Mannering Colliery Modification Application (06_0311 MOD3).

Thank you for the opportunity to formally respond to the modification application as noted above.

Darkinjung LALC has now reviewed the relevant documents and provides the following cultural values and recommendations that we wish Department of Planning & Environment to consider.

- The area of Lake Macquarie is part of a significant Aboriginal Cultural Landscape.
- Aboriginal sites are connected to each other within the landscape.
- This connection forms part of a complex Aboriginal cultural landscape; they hold spiritual and cultural importance to the local Aboriginal community through their physical link to our creator Baiame, the ancestors and the past.
- This enables us to continue to practice our land based faith and religion, to keep our culture strong which gives us a sense of place and identity.
- This connection attaches the community to land and traditions and allows us to carry out our responsibly and obligation to it. This strengthens bonds within our Aboriginal community and the living spirits of our ancestors which are imbued within the land.
- Darkinjung would like to be involved with any assessments of the vegetation clearing of the main MC pit top area to establish an assets protection zone and other areas proposed for clearing within the Mannering Colliery area.
- Continued protection of any Aboriginal sites within or within the vicinity of the project area.
- Please keep Darkinjung LALC informed of any further information in relation to the above consultation and assessment.

Overall Darkinjung LALC is satisfied with the recommendations within Mannering Colliery's project approval.

If you wish to discuss these recommendations please do not hesitate to contact me on the number listed above.

Kind regards

Sharon Hodgetts
Senor Project Officer Culture and Heritage.