

Paul Freeman
Team Leader
Resource Assessments - Planning Services Division
Department of Planning & Environment
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Dear Paul

**Moolarben Coal 1 - MOD 14 / Coal 2 - MOD 3
Review of Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your email dated 6 November 2017, received 22 November 2017, inviting the Division of Resources & Geoscience (the Division) to provide comments on the Moolarben Coal 1 - MOD 14 / Coal 2 - MOD 3 (Part3AMod) (the Project) Environmental Assessment (EA) submitted by MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS Pty Ltd (the Proponent).

The Division has reviewed the EA and has assessed the project with regard economic benefits, resource recovery and utilisation (Addendum A) and provides the following advice:

The Division has determined that sustainable rehabilitation outcomes can be achieved as a result of the project and that any identified risks or opportunities can be effectively regulated through the conditions of mining authorities issued under the *Mining Act 1992*.

The Division notes that the Environmental Assessment for the Project includes the proposed Gilgal Property biodiversity offset area to the south of the current active mining area. The subject area is located within Exploration Licence 8159 (EL 8159) held by Bowdens Silver Pty Limited (due expiry 29 August 2020), and Petroleum Exploration Licence 456 (PEL 456) held by Hunter Gas Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Santos NSW Pty Ltd, (due expiry 5 March 2018).

The Gilgal Property is owned by the Proponent, however the Division requests that consultation with the above titleholders be undertaken to establish if the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on current or future extraction of mineral or energy resources (including by limiting access to, or impeding assessment of, those resources), and any way the proposed development may be incompatible with current or future exploration. Evidence of the above consultation is requested by the Geological Survey of NSW. To assist the proponent, the Division provides the following contact details:

Santos NSW Pty Ltd

Annie Moody
Team Leader Community & Land
T: (02) 6792 9031
M: 0407 759 264
Email: annie.moody@santos.com

Bowdens Silver Pty Limited

Scott Munro
Senior Geologist
PO Box 1115
Mudgee NSW 2850
Email: scottmunro@bowdenssilver.com.au

Agent for Bowdens Silver Pty Limited

Hetherington Exploration & Mining Title Services
PO Box 765
Willoughby NSW 2068

Current mining and exploration titles and applications can be viewed at:

[http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/geoscience information/services/online-services/minview](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/geoscience%20information/services/online-services/minview)

The Division requests a review of the draft development consent conditions prior to finalisation and any granting of development consent.

Further enquiries regarding this matter please contact: Adam Banister, Senior Advisory Officer
(02) 4931 6439 or industry.coordination@industry.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M Gagan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Gagan
A/Manager Royalties & Advisory Services
18 December 2017