

15 March 2013

Ms Sophie Butcher  
Planner – Mining Projects  
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
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Dear Ms Butcher

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – ABEL COAL PROJECT MODIFICATION**

I refer to the Environmental Assessment from Donaldson Coal Pty Ltd to modify its project approval for the Abel Coal Project, located at Black Hill, NSW.

The application for the Abel Coal Project Modification has been reviewed by Hunter New England (HNE) Population Health with particular attention being paid to the management of issues such as air quality, noise and vibration, water and other issues which may have an impact on public health.

The following issues are discussed and should be considered in the approval process for this project:

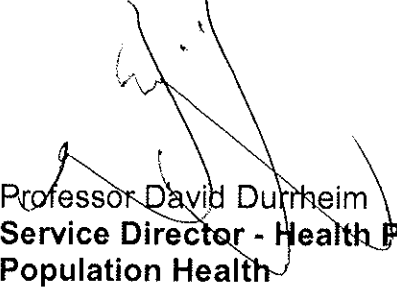
### **Air Quality**

Currently the media's attention is on the cumulative impacts of particulate matter from coal dust, in particular from coal trains and stockpiles and the potential impacts it may have on human health. So it should be noted that the increased rail movements from three to six rail movements per day to a peak of 12 rail movements per day may heighten the concerns of the Hunter residents living along the coal corridor.

Road dust also contributes to the generation and release of particulate matter into the atmosphere. Therefore, the 4km of sealed internal roads used to transport the coal from the ROM stockpile to the Bloomfield CHPP will need to be maintained to the standards required. This will aid in controlling the dust from the increased movements of the haulage vehicles.

Should you require any additional information in relation to the above, please telephone Ms Nichole Ansell, Environmental Health Officer on 4924 6477.

Yours sincerely



Professor David Durheim  
**Service Director - Health Protection**  
**Population Health**  
**Hunter New England Local Health District**