



Chief Scientist & Engineer

OUT12/18080

Professor Fred Watson AM
Astronomer in Charge
Australian Astronomical Observatory
PO Box 296
EPPING NSW 1710

Fred

Dear Professor Watson

I enclose correspondence received from the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW in relation to potential impacts of dust and light disturbances from the planned Cobbora coal mine on the operation of telescopes at the Siding Springs Observatory.

The Minister has asked me to thank you for your comprehensive briefing on the issue and has forwarded a copy of your letter to the Cobbora Holding Company and to Santos to ensure your concerns are addressed during the planning process.

In addition, Ms Christina Newman, Associate Director Strategy, in my office has spoken directly with the Cobbora Holding Company about your concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Ms Newman on 9338 6772 should you require further assistance or information.

Yours sincerely

Mary

Mary O'Kane
NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer

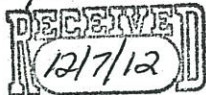
30/7/12



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

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Professor Mary O'Kane
NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer
GPO Box 5477
Sydney NSW 2001

12/10222

Dear Professor O' Kane

I refer to your recent letter raising concerns about the potential impacts of mining projects on the Siding Springs Observatory.

I am advised by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure it is aware of the concerns you have raised, and commonly requires mining companies to assess and mitigate the lighting and dust impacts of their projects.

Nevertheless, I have asked the Department to forward a copy of your letter to both the Cobbora Holding Company and Santos, and ensure the Observatory's concerns are comprehensively dealt with during any ensuing merit assessment process.

Thank you for bringing the Observatory's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

HON BRAD HAZZARD MP
Minister

11 JUL 2012

Please thank Professor
Watson for his very
comprehensive brief
on the issues!

Nolan

12/7/12