



## Department of Primary Industries

OUT14/6696

Carl Dumbleton  
Senior Planner, Mining Projects  
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

21 MAR 2014

Dear Mr Dumbleton

Thank you for your email of 26 February 2014 concerning the review of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Coalpac Expansion Modifications (DA-200-5-2003 MOD 2 and PA 07\_0127 MOD 4) Production Modification

The Office of Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security (OAS&FS) has reviewed the draft EA provided by Hansen Bailey dated February 2014. The only agricultural related issue is the high visual impact for road users and some of the rural residents in the Cullen Valley.

Attachment 1 outlines the issue and recommended response.

This advice from the Office of Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security is forwarded direct to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure in accordance with agreed arrangements for mining applications that affect agricultural land. It includes comments provided by Officers in Agriculture NSW and NSW Trade & Investment. Additional advice from the other divisions within the Department of Primary Industries may be forwarded by separate letter.

If you wish to discuss the issue further please call Rob Williamson on telephone 02 6391 3166 or by email [robert.williamson@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robert.williamson@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

**Dr Regina Fogarty**  
**Director Office of Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security**

Encl

**Exhibition of Coalpac Expansion Modifications (DA-200-5-2003 MOD 2 and 07\_0127 MOD 4) Production Modification - Response to Draft EA.**

**Socio-economic assessment of the Coalpac Expansion Modifications (Invincible Colliery and Cullen Valley Mine Modifications)  
Draft Environmental Assessment**

The Coalpac Expansion Modifications propose to modify current planning approvals for Invincible Colliery and Cullen Valley Mine. The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is adequate for public exhibition and for assessing the socio-economic impacts of the proposed modifications on agricultural resources and the agricultural community. However, it is recommended that the Draft EA be revised prior to going on public exhibition to address the concerns below regarding the mitigation and management of high visual impacts.

In Section 6.14.3 of the Draft EA, the proponent indicates that the proposed modifications would result in high visual impacts for road users travelling on limited sections of the Castlereagh Highway (see page 113) and for some rural residences in the Cullen Valley (see page 115). The proponent has committed to implementing visual impact treatments as described in Section 6.14.4 (see Section 7, Statement of Commitments). These mitigation and management measures include the implementation of bunding and tree screening. There would be a time lag before these measures would effectively reduce the identified high visual impacts.

It is recommended that the Draft EA be revised to provide evidence that this time lag is acceptable to the agricultural community, including rural residential landholders and nearby agricultural businesses.

***Recommended response to this issue:***

It is recommended that the Statement of Commitments (Section 7) be revised for both modifications to require the proponent to consult with the agricultural community to ensure that the visual impact treatments described in Section 6.14.4 are implemented in a way that would effectively reduce the identified high visual impacts within an acceptable time frame.