



EnergyAustralia

7 November 2016

Mr. Paul Freeman
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Dear Mr. Freeman,

07_0127 MOD 5: Invincible Coal Mine – Southern Extension Modification

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the Invincible coal mine modification application proposed by Castlereagh Coal.

We wish to confirm our strong support for the project.

EnergyAustralia owns and operates the nearby Mt Piper power station, which provides up to 15% of NSW's electricity. Invincible was one of four local mines that supplied coal to Mt Piper prior 2013. Currently Mt Piper relies on a single source of coal, being the Springvale mine.

Mt Piper power station will directly benefit from the project by receiving relatively small volumes of coal from Invincible to supplement supplies from the Springvale mine. Diversity of coal supply remains a significant challenge for EnergyAustralia and a risk to Mt Piper contributing to secure and affordable electricity in NSW.

We also support efforts to maintain a strong and viable coal mining industry in the Lithgow region. A capable and functioning coal industry in the Lithgow region is integral to a robust local economy and provides mining and electricity generation jobs.

We have carefully reviewed the EIS and believe the project demonstrates beneficial environmental outcomes by avoiding areas of threatened ecological communities, minimizing impacts on significant landscape features and the extensive rehabilitation program proposed to address legacy mining impacts. We further recognize the thorough consultation that has been undertaken by Castlereagh Coal with local stakeholders and community groups.

We note that this project has been the subject of very robust and thorough assessment by the relevant agencies and Department of Planning and Environment in the past. The current assessment provides evidence of the strong beneficial environmental and social outcomes it will provide. On this basis EnergyAustralia supports the timely provision of development approval for the Invincible mine's modification.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Collette
Energy Executive