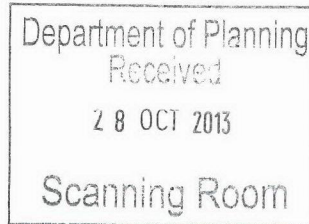
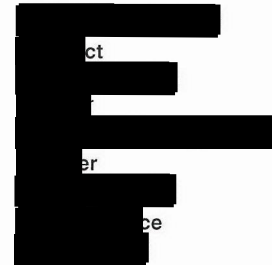


PCU048958

24 October 2013

Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Sir/Madam

Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4

Confidential Submission

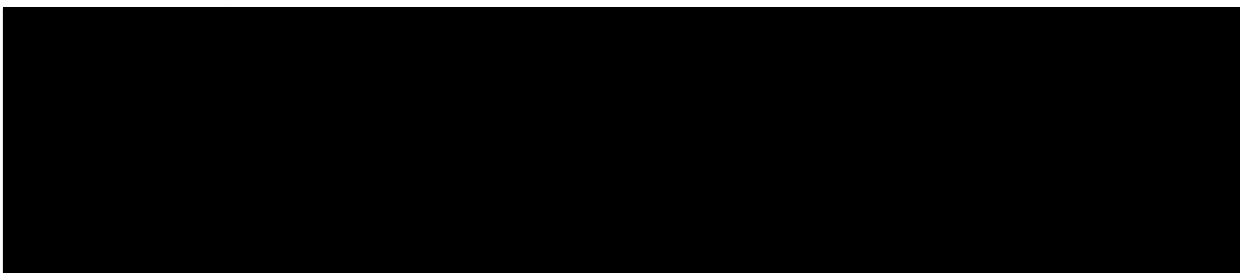
We refer to the environmental assessment application submitted to you by Port Waratah Coal Services Ltd ('PWCS') for the Terminal 4 project at Kooragang Island, Newcastle currently open to public submissions.

We support PWCS in its endeavours to obtain planning approval for Terminal 4. We have worked with PWCS for more than a decade and over that time we have been impressed with the professional and conservative approach of PWCS to its business. This includes the way in which it undertakes each expansion project at the existing terminals. Each expansion has been undertaken in a thoroughly researched and considered manner including consultation with the public, environmental consultants and a range of engineering experts.

We are aware of the mechanisms in the long term commercial framework developed between PWCS, the New South Wales State Government and the coal producers to ensure capacity constraints did not arise in the port infrastructure for the coal industry. This framework requires PWCS to be prepared to build for the next expansion of coal export capacity when the industry requires that additional capacity. Under the framework, PWCS must expand its coal handling facilities to meet that demand.

Large projects like Terminal 4 take many years to develop. Planning for T4 has been ongoing since the inception of the long term framework and its implementation in early 2010. The grant of approval for the 70 million tonne preferred project will give some certainty to both the industry and PWCS on the next stages of growth in terminal capacity.

The aim of achieving project approval now even though demand for port facilities is currently satisfied is to ensure PWCS will be able to meet that demand when it begins to rise. This is prudent pre-planning given the expectations of the New South Wales State Government for the coal export facilities to be expanded in a timely matter to meet the rising demand of coal producers. There will clearly be significant time savings if approval has already been granted at the time demand increases for coal export facilities.



The coal industry as a whole provides employment opportunities for many people throughout the Hunter Valley, not just directly in mining but through the many different services and manufacturing companies that supply a wide variety of goods and services to that industry. The health of the coal industry underpins the financial viability of many businesses. This is a direct benefit to the people of the region in employment and financial security. Any rejection of the environmental assessment application will act as a constraint on the local economy.

PWCS is an active and committed member of the Newcastle and Hunter community. We note over time PWCS has continually invested in improving the outcomes for the environment and the local community in the way it provides its coal handling services. We have every reason to believe that that commitment to continual improvement will continue into the future.

We are also aware that PWCS has taken its environmental responsibilities seriously and, as part of its commitment to the environment, it has purchased three ecological offset areas located at Tomago, Ellalong and Brundee Swamp to compensate for the proposed terminal 4 footprint on Kooragang Island. These sites will provide over 850 hectares of protected habitat for endangered species if the project is approved.

In summary, we support the granting of the environmental assessment approval.

