

4 August 2014

Mark Nolan
8 Wanaruah Close
Singleton NSW 2330
Minister for Planning

Dear Minister

Mount Thorley Coal Mine operates an existing open cut coal mine a few kilometres north east of Bulga Village in the Hunter Valley. Mount Thorley is one of several mines in the area, others being Warkworth, Bulga, Wambo and Hunter Valley Operations South. Mining at Mount Thorley began in 1981. The current development consent permits coal mining in a specified area until 2017.

The proposal "Mount Thorley Operations 2014" seeks to:

- continue for a further 21 years the existing and approved development onsite including the mining in Loders Pit and Abbey Green Pit
- transfer of overburden between MTO and Warkworth Mine to assist in rehabilitation of the final landform including the filling of Loders Pit Void
- maintain existing extraction rates
- maintain and upgrade the integrated Water management system
- maintain and upgrade the tailings management system the final landform

Development consent for the proposal is required to prevent the sterilisation of coal that cannot be mined during the existing consent period. The proposal will enable the ongoing provision of services to the adjacent Warkworth Mine and would result in an improved final landform at Mount Thorley amongst other benefits.

The proposal meets all government legislation, policies and guidelines and therefore the impacts either remain unchanged or with acceptable limits. Many of the impacts will be for a relatively short duration i.e. mining impact only till 2022 followed by rehabilitation.

The ongoing benefits provided by the synergies with Warkworth Mine combined with the environmental benefits provided by the proposal are significant. These benefits are a major determinant for any preferred decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Nolan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mark Nolan