



WELLINGTON VALLEY WIRADJURI
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
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5th January 2015

Ulan Coal Mines Ltd.
Private Mail Bag 3006
Mudgee NSW 2850

Re: Ulan West Mod 2014_DRAFT_Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WVWAC) would like to thank you for your invitation to provide a response for This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage issue relevant to obligations to protect our Heritage within our Traditional Lands. Wellington Valley Wiradjuri represents fourteen traditional families with identified apical ancestry pre European occupation with our known Traditional Lands. We know our culture, country and continue with our association with our traditional lands.

WVWAC objects to any other non-traditional aboriginal organizations or people taking part in site surveys, consultation and assessments within our defined Traditional Lands. These non-traditional people and groups are outsiders under Traditional Lore and have no right to advise on or to be present during consultation or site visits as they do not possess the specific traditional knowledge in relation to these lands or sites. These participants may be indigenous and may live locally within the region however, this still does not give them the right to disregard Traditional Lore and values.

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation is supportive of any efforts to provide facilities and business for the community at large within our Traditional Lands, provided Proponents have consulted with WVWAC and negotiated an agreed outcome in relation to our cultural, heritage and environmental concerns. WVWAC would like to acknowledge and thank Glencore – Ulan Coal Mines for meeting with the our Elders/WVWAC Directors to discuss the current projects and keeping our representatives up to date for the various project sites and in the process have listened to our Cultural Heritage and environmental concerns.

In response to the Ulan West Mod 2014_DRAFT_Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report, **WVWAC agree** with the **Potential Mitigation and Management Strategies** on page 98 to page 104 of the report.

In response to the Ulan West Mod 2014_DRAFT_Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report, **WVWAC agree** with the **Recommendations** on page 105 to page 107 of the report. WVWAC would also like to recommend the following:

- Trial of mitigation techniques in regards to digging around rock shelters with Moderate to High Cultural Heritage Significance in a location where there is very low cultural heritage or significance to test this strategy and minimise environmental disturbance around the heritage sites and evaluate the outcome.

- Looking at the cost benefit of the mitigation techniques which may or may not be successful and offsetting this by investing in various RAP projects such as Cultural Heritage Centres or Cultural Heritage Education Programs.
- WVVAC would prefer that no disturbance to Cultural Heritage sites of the environment within the mining lease however we know that is unavoidable and ask that where possible new technology and salvage methods be used to protect significant Cultural Heritage sites such as Ochre Quarries, Rock Art and Shelters.

WVVAC does not object to our details being given to OEH, however WVVAC do not wish you to advise any other organization of our interest to this project. WVVAC look forward to further participating in the above project, sharing our knowledge of county and to ensure our Heritage is protected.

We trust our response meets your requirements. Please contact WVVAC Directors should you require our assistance to address any Aboriginal issues to support your future plans.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'BRJ', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bradley R. Bliss J.P.
WVVAC Director
0427321016