



WELLINGTON VALLEY WIRADJURI
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
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15th April 2015

Ulan Coal Mines Limited
Attn: Ben Anderson
Private Mail Bag 3006
Mudgee NSW 2850

Re: Ulan West Mine Plan s75W Modification Environmental Assessment and Public Exhibition – Appendix 6: Ulan West Modification Aboriginal Heritage Report Text Final February 2015.

Dear Ben,

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. In regards to this **Draft Ulan West Mine Plan s75W Modification Environmental Assessment and Public Exhibition – Appendix 6: Ulan West Modification Aboriginal Heritage Report Text Final February 2015.**

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation and the Fourteen Traditional Families this Native Title Body represents **have been consulted** by Ulan Coal on the 25th November 2014 and also conducted a site tour of the Rock Shelters that will be affected where some of our Elders were also present whom have given feedback. WVWAC have a good ongoing relationship with Glencore – Ulan Coal and are supportive of the open dialog between WVWAC as the Native Title Applicant Body and Ulan Coal in relation to Protection of the Environment, Establishment of Regeneration Areas and Conservation zones of Highly Significant Cultural Areas within the Project Precinct.

In response to the **Draft Ulan West Mine Plan s75W Modification Environmental Assessment and Public Exhibition – Appendix 6: Ulan West Modification Aboriginal Heritage Report Text Final February 2015**, WVWAC agree with the **Potential Mitigation and Management Strategies** on page 98 to page 104 of the report.

Draft Ulan West Mine Plan s75W Modification Environmental Assessment and Public Exhibition – Appendix 6: Ulan West Modification Aboriginal Heritage Report Text Final February 2015, WWAC agree with the **Recommendations** on page 105 to page 107 of the report. WWAC 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.

WWAC 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.

WWAC does not object to our details being given to OEH, however WWAC do not wish you to advise any other organization of our interest and knowledge relating to this project. WWAC 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 WWAC Directors should you require our assistance to address any Aboriginal issues to support your future plans.

Yours sincerely,



Maj.Gen.(Ret.), Sir Bradley R. Bliss GCOJ., GCMHG., KGOMHG., OStPC., J.P.
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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Field Specialist
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