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MP06_0308 MOD 3

Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Resource and Energy Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
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Dear Ms Hawkeswood

Sunnyside Coal Mine MOD 3 invitation to comment

Thank you for your invitation for the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to comment on the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed modification (MOD 3) to the approved final landform for the Whitehaven Sunnyside Coal Mine.

OEH understands that the proposed modification will not involve additional surface disturbance beyond the current approved development footprint. However, a portion of the areas designated as *'proposed new vegetation to create Koala corridors using Koala feed trees'* and *'proposed enrichment planting adjacent to existing vegetation corridors'* in the 2008 project approval (depicted in Figure 9 of the MOD 3 EA) would be affected by the proposed final landform changes.

The MOD 3 EA does not state the area of the previously approved Koala habitat plantings that will be affected, nor does the EA present a proposal for replacing these. The proponent states that this impact will be addressed in a revision to the Koala Management Plan which formed part of the EA for the original project.

We note that the current Sunnyside Coal Mine project approval does not include a specific approval condition requiring a Koala Management Plan; however, it does require the proponent to implement the koala habitat management and enhancement actions described in the original EA and as set out in Appendix 4 of the approval.

The modification should ensure that the final area of Koala habitat, habitat enhancements and width of movement corridors established and protected are not less than those set out in the original project EA as required under the existing project approval.

Should you require further information regarding issues that are the responsibility of the OEH please contact Erica Baigent on 02 68835335 or erica.baigent@environment.nsw.gov.au .

Yours sincerely

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

Peter Christie
Director, North West
Conservation and Regional Delivery

25 September 2018

Contact officer: Erica Baigent
02 68835311