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Stephen O'Donoghue A/ Director Resource Assessments NSW Department of Planning and Environment GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

3 November 2015

Dear Stephen,

RE: BYLONG COAL PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT - LANDHOLDER SUBMISSION

FCNSW has reviewed the tendered EIS documents and make the following comment:

- The project will likely raise public awareness of Bylong State Forest. It is expected that significant community attention will be drawn to the limited opportunities for public access to the forest;
- 2. FCNSW requires unfettered access to Bylong State Forest for forest management purposes (fire suppression etc.);
- 3. FCNSW acknowledges that Bylong State Forest will be subject to subsidence impacts from underground longwall operations. FCNSW expects that the proponents will repair or replace all FCNSW infrastructure affected by the subsidence (roads, fences etc.);
- 4. FCNSW is concerned that the influence of subsidence will immediately decrease forest stand value and reduce future site productivity as a result of:
 - a. damage to snigging tracks and haul roads;
 - b. surface and subsurface water ponding;
 - c. subsurface cracking and soil moisture decline;
 - d. tree fall and/or damage from cliff collapse;
 - e. stem malformation; and
 - f. root shear.
- 5. The proponent is to repair new sources of erosion caused by subsidence;
- 6. Surface cracks posing safety concerns for forest users are to be repaired by the proponent;
- FCNSW expects access restrictions will apply to the State forest during and immediately following mining, due to the risks caused by subsidence. Any delay in access will commercially impact FCNSW; and
- 8. *Project Approval* conditioning of similar resource projects on State forests have used *Forestry Offset* mechanisms to limit the commercial impacts to FCNSW. FCNSW encourages such strategies negotiated between FCNSW and the proponent.

FCNSW expects that the proponent would address many of the listed concerns through the proponent's proposed *Property Subsidence Management Plan*.

Compensable rights are to be prescribed through the Landholder Access Arrangement (*Mining Act 1992*).

If you have any further queries on this matter, please contact myself on (02) 6841 4205.

Yours faithfully,

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Jarod Dashwood Forest Occupancy Supervisor FCNSW WESTERN REGION