



SF2014/008950; WST14/00011/02

The Manager
Mining Projects
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Stephen O'Donoghue

Dear Mr O'Donoghue

SSD14_6367: Bylong Coal Project; Bylong

Thank you for your email on 21 September 2015 inviting Roads and Maritime Services to comment on the proposed Bylong Coal Project.

The Environmental Impact Statement prepared in support of the project has been reviewed and it is noted the proposal includes the following:

- Construction and operation of a coal mine extracting up to 6.5 million tonnes per annum.
- Operation of the mine for up to 25 years.
- Long wall and open cut mining adjacent to and beneath Bylong Valley Way (MR215).
- Employment of 800 personnel during construction and then decreasing to 470 during operation.
- Construction of a 650 bed accommodation facility to accommodate construction staff and later, a small portion of operational staff.
- Transportation of coal by rail to Port of Newcastle.

The information submitted in support of the proposed mine is inadequate for Roads and Maritime to assess the road safety and traffic amenity impacts of the proposal. To enable Roads and Maritime to complete an assessment of the proposal, the following additional information is required:

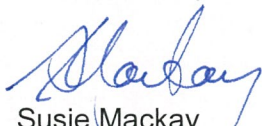
- Further analysis of the impacts of mine commuter traffic, in particular, on Wollar (MR208) and Ulan (MR214) Roads. The long commuter distance required between Mudgee and the Bylong Coal Project site cannot be relied upon to guarantee Bylong Coal traffic will not coincide with traffic generated by three other coal mines on Ulan and Wollar Roads. These three mines have scheduled shift changeovers to not coincide with the other mines' shift changeovers and to avoid local school bus pickup/drop off activities. In this regard, the applicant should consult with the three mines to understand their peak traffic generating operations and to quantify the cumulative impacts once construction and operation of the Bylong Coal Project commences.

- Details of how the applicant intends to ensure construction staff use the provided shuttle bus between the accommodation facility and the mine site.
- Details of how commuter traffic will be minimised and the interaction of commuter traffic with other road users (e.g. school bus route pick up/drop off activities) will be eliminated or reduced.
- The traffic analysis needs to extend to the intersections of Bylong Valley Way and the Golden Highway (HW27) and Bylong Valley Way and the Castlereagh Highway (HW18). In particular, Bylong Valley Way is a regional classified road which carries regional traffic. Based upon experiences with coal mines in the Mudgee and Gunnedah-Narrabri coal fields, it can be assumed that many employees and service contractors will have bases/links to the Hunter area and in this regard, the project will significantly increase traffic volumes and change the types of traffic using this road. The project is likely to also change travel patterns on this road (e.g. driving outside of daylight hours). The traffic analysis needs to address these issues and potential road safety risks for the full length of Bylong Valley Way and discuss measures to mitigate these risks.
- Additional traffic data in relation to the accommodation facility. Projected traffic data provided for the accommodation facility appears low and does not consider service traffic generation volumes such as cleaning, food, linen and maintenance services.
- Clarification of the types and volumes of heavy vehicles and the routes used by these vehicles transporting to and from the mine site. Where appropriate, details of the transport routes required for these vehicles should extend to the Golden and Castlereagh Highways.
- An agreement between Mid Western Regional Council and the applicant needs to be in place for the monitoring, maintenance and continued access for all road users on Bylong Valley Way in the event of subsidence or damage to the roadway caused by mining activities.

Please confirm with Roads and Maritime that the development application will not be determined until such time as Roads and Maritime has had an opportunity to comprehensively assess the development application following provision of the additional information.

Should you require further information please contact the Development Assessment Officer, Andrew McIntyre, on 02 6861 1453.

Yours faithfully



Susie Mackay
Network & Safety Manager
Western

06 NOV 2015