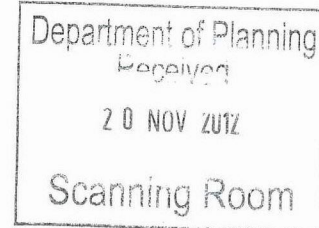




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File No: 11/20762
Job ID: A1197256 & A1217407
Your Ref: SSD-4966

Paul Freeman
Senior Planner – Mining Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Mr Freeman

Heritage Council Review of Environmental Impact Statement for Stratford Extension Project (SSD-4966).

I refer to your letter referring the Environmental Impacts Statement (EIS) for the Stratford Extension Project (SSD-4966) to the Heritage Council for comment. It is noted that a hard copy and a digital copy of the EIS were sent to the Heritage Council by the Applicant under separate cover.

It is noted that the Stratford Extension Project involves:

- expanding the existing open cut mining operations at the Stratford Mining Complex to extract up to 2.6 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal a year for 11 years;
- processing a combined total of up to 4.8 million tonnes of ROM coal a year from the Stratford and Duralie coal mines;
- transporting all product coal from the Stratford Mining Complex to the Port of Newcastle by rail;
- developing associated infrastructure, realigning local roads and realigning a powerline;
- and rehabilitating the site.

Accordingly, at the behest of the Heritage Council, the Heritage Branch has reviewed these documents, which includes a Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment by Michael Pearson Heritage Management Consultants (dated March 2012) and the following comments are provided for your information.

The Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment indicates that there is no historic heritage within the project boundaries. It is noted that while there are several historic heritage sites outside the project boundaries, they are located approximately 500-1000m away and would not be impacted by the project works, even through blasting vibrations.


However, to ensure that no heritage is impacted, the report by Pearson recommends several mitigation measures. Several of these do not relate to the immediate project works, however it is considered that the following mitigation measure which appears on page 36 of the Pearson report should be adopted and form part of the EIS:

- Alignment of the 132kv electricity transmission line and road alignments to avoid any impact on the Stratford and Glen Railways.

It is further recommended that an additional mitigation measure be included which requires that if any historic heritage not identified within the Pearson report is discovered during works, including archaeological relics, works must stop in that area and an appropriately qualified heritage consultant must attend site to assess the finds. Additional recording may be required before works recommence.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please feel free to contact Katrina Stankowski at Katrina.Stankowski@heritage.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



16/11/2012

Vincent Sicari

Manager – Conservation Team

Heritage Branch

Regional Operations

Office of Environment & Heritage

As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council