

All communications to be addressed to:

Headquarters
NSW Rural Fire Service
Locked Mail Bag 17
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Telephone: (02) 6655 7002
e-mail: csc@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Customer Service Centre
NSW Rural Fire Service
PO Box 203
URUNGA NSW 2455

Facsimile: (02) 6655 7008



Mining Projects
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Ref: SSD-4966
Our Ref: S12/0023
DA12110985429 PC

18 December 2012

ATTENTION: Paul Freeman

Dear Mr Freeman,

Stratford Extension Project (SSD-4966)

I refer to your e-mail dated 1 November 2012 seeking comments and/or recommended conditions from the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for the above project.

The RFS has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and associated documents for the Stratford Extension Project, prepared by Resource Strategies Pty Ltd, and provides the following comments and recommended conditions in relation to bushfire protection for the proposed development.

It is noted that the RFS was not listed for specific consultation in the Director General's Environmental Assessment Requirements and that a specific bushfire assessment report was not included in the EIS. No consultation with the RFS is documented in the EIS or associated reports. Notwithstanding this, the RFS raises no specific objection to the proposed development subject to the following recommended conditions:

1. A Bushfire Management Plan that details measures to prevent fire igniting and spreading during construction and operation of the development be prepared prior to the commencement of construction and be implemented over the life of the development. The Bushfire Management Plan shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - contact person / details for emergency management;
 - schedule and description of works for the establishment and maintenance of a defendable space around infrastructure buildings;
 - strategy for hazard reduction for undeveloped or rehabilitated areas where vegetation may regenerate across the site

- communication strategy for coordinated response to bushfires with the RFS;
 - work involving risk of ignition should not be carried out during total fire bans;
 - availability of fire suppression equipment; and
 - storage of fuels and other flammable materials.
2. The Biodiversity Management Plan to be prepared in relation to revegetation of the biodiversity offset areas is to include:
- an asset protection zone for existing dwellings within the revegetation areas or within 100 metres of the boundary of the revegetation areas. Asset protection zone dimensions are to be determined having regard to the assessment methodology outlined in 'Planning for Bushfire Protection Addendum – Appendix 3 (2010)', with the required asset protection zone corresponding to the level of building construction for the respective dwellings (e.g. a dwelling constructed without any bushfire protection measures should have a separation distance (maintained as an asset protection zone) equivalent to BAL LOW);
 - a regime for the asset protection zones within the biodiversity offset areas to be managed as an inner protection area (IPA) as outlined in section 4.1.3 and Appendix 5 of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006' and the NSW Rural Fire Service's document 'Standards for asset protection zones'; and
 - provision for fire fighting access to the biodiversity offset area and any asset protection zones established within the area.

The Biodiversity Management Plan is to be prepared in consultation with the Rural Fire Service Gloucester / Great Lakes District Office.

3. Access to the mine infrastructure buildings and facilities shall provide access for fire fighting appliances in accordance with the requirements of section 4.1.3(2) of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006'.
4. Realignment of public roads shall comply with the design standards of section 4.1.3(1) of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006'.
5. Realignment of the fire trail shall be carried out in consultation with the Rural Fire Service Gloucester / Great Lakes District Office and shall comply with section 4.1.3(3) of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006'.
6. An emergency and evacuation plan addressing section 4.2.7 of 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006' shall be prepared for the proposed development, or the existing mine plan is to be amended to include the proposed new development, prior to the commencement of construction.
7. Electricity and gas services are to comply with section 4.1.3 of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006'.
8. Landscaping of the site is to comply with the principles of Appendix 5 of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006'.

For any enquiries regarding this correspondence please contact Paul Creenaune on 6655 7002.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan Bawden', with a stylized, flowing script.

Alan Bawden

Team Leader – Development Assessment and Planning

The RFS has made getting additional information easier. For general information on *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006*, visit the RFS web page at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au and search under *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006*.