



**Education &
Communities**



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
CORPORATE SERVICES**

Paul Freeman
Senior Development Assessment Officer
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

RML 13/3

CC – Philippe Porigneaux, Department of Health

Dear Mr Freeman

I am writing regarding the proposed Stratford Mine extension located in the Gloucester Shire Council and its potential impacts on Stratford Public School.

The Department of Education and Communities is concerned about proposed mining activities like that of the Stratford Mine being extended close to a school. Given the level of potential impacts mines can have on a school's environment, we would request that mining activities be located away from schools as far as is practicable.

Whilst the Department of Education and Communities cannot scientifically state setback distances between mines and schools, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure can, as part of the environmental assessment process, and enforce setbacks if recommending an approval.

I request that the Department of Planning and Infrastructure investigate appropriate setback controls between the Stratford Mine extension area and Stratford Public School. Should the well-being of students and staff at Stratford Public School be at risk due to the proposed Stratford Mine extension, the Department asks that the extension be curtailed or reduced in size to ensure a safe environment for the students and staff at the school.

Yours sincerely

Peter Riordan
**Deputy Director-General
Corporate Services**
18 February 2013

