

20th September 2018

Ellen Jones
Environmental Assessment officer
Resource and Energy Assessments | Planning Services
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Emailed: ellen.jones@planning.nsw.gov.au

Your Reference: MP 07_2284
Our Reference: DOC18/699363

Dear Ms Jones

**Re: Eraring Power Station Ash Dam Expansion MOD 1
(MP 07_2284) Modification Request Exhibition**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the above matter. This is a response from the NSW Department of Planning & Environment – Division of Resources & Geoscience (the Division).

Origin Eraring Energy (the proponent) has submitted a modification application (MP 07_2284 MOD 1) for the Eraring Power Station Ash Dam within Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. The modification involves the expansion of the Ash Dam to increase storage capacity by an additional 5,000,000 m³. An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to support the application under Section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

General Information

Coal titles

The subject site is covered by Consolidated Coal Lease (CCL) 746 held by Centennial Newstan Pty Ltd. The Division notes that the proponent has engaged in project briefings with Centennial Coal held on 19/6/2018 referenced within the EA - *Section 6.0 - Stakeholder Consultation – Table 4*.

The Division understands that the intention of the *project briefings* with stakeholders (listed within *Table 4* of the EA) was to inform the environmental impact assessment through providing an overview of the project, key design elements, potential environmental impacts and where relevant identify potential areas of focus or concern.

Mine Subsidence

The subject site is located within the West Lake Mine Subsidence District. The Division note that *Appendix D* of the EA includes a comprehensive Mine Subsidence Impact Assessment and that Consultation with Subsidence Advisory NSW occurred on 20/4/2018, referenced within *Table 4 - Stakeholder Consultation* & also within *Section 5.2.7* of the EA.

Biodiversity

The Division has reviewed *Appendix C - Biodiversity Development Assessment Report* of the EA and acknowledge the combination of offset strategies proposed including:

- In-perpetuity conservation through the establishment of a Stewardship site achieved and the retirement of credits.
- Securing required credits through the open credit market and/or; Payments to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

The Division understands that *in-perpetuity conservation* would form the preferred method of offsetting where practicable and that the proponent has undertaken preliminary investigations of offset opportunities, included within *Appendix C* and displayed within *Figure 8.1* of the EA.

Furthermore, the Division understands that the “*identification and selection of suitable stewardship site or sites would be informed by further detailed field based assessments*” (ref: page 35 of the EA). The Division has no concerns to raise regarding the locations currently identified at this time. The Division requests to be consulted in relation to the location of any changes (should they occur) to the proposed biodiversity offset areas as displayed within *Figure 8.1* of the EA, or any supplementary biodiversity offset measures to ensure there is no consequent reduction in access to prospective land for mineral exploration, or potential for sterilisation of mineral resources

Geoscience Information Services

The GSNSW has a range of online data related to mineral exploration, land use and general geoscience topics:

<http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/geological/online-services>

The location of current exploration and mining titles in NSW, explanations of mining and production titles and the roles of community and government in the decision making process for mining/resource projects may be accessed by the general public using the following online utilities:

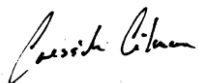
<http://commonground.nsw.gov.au>

<https://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/geoscience-information/services/online-services/minview>

Queries regarding the above information, and future requests for advice in relation to this matter, should be directed to the GSNSW Land Use team at landuse.minerals@geoscience.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Cressida Gilmore
Manager – Land Use



for Paul Dale

Director – Land Use & Titles Advice