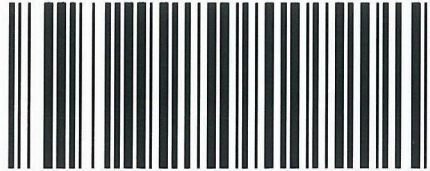




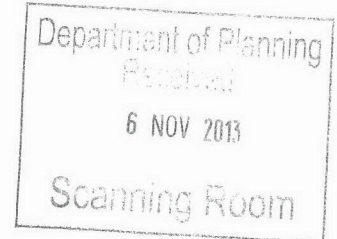
Transport
for NSW



PCU049190

CD13/16485

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



Attention: Paul Freeman

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT (SSD 5156)**

Dear Mr. Freeman,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 August 2013 regarding your request for Transport for NSW to provide comment on the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above proposal.

Transport for NSW has reviewed the EIS and associated Transport Assessment report, prepared by Constructive Solutions Pty Ltd and notes that the Transport Assessment report states that the proponent has consulted with the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) with regard to adopting industry best practice safeguards and operating procedures for the proposal to achieve acceptable outcomes for the dispatch of product coal to the Port of Newcastle. This includes the construction of the rail loop and installation of appropriate rail signals and modification of existing signals in accordance with the ARTC's standards and requirements.

The Transport Assessment report also states that trains would operate to timetabled paths as dictated by the ARTC and that there are sufficient train path availabilities to adequately cater for the proposed additions. However, acknowledgement of this from the ARTC is not evident.

As such, it is recommended that confirmation from the ARTC is sought that demonstrates that the Interstate (North Coast) and Hunter Valley rail networks have the capacity to meet the forecast demand associated with this project.

With regard to section **4.2.7.5** - '*Rail Traffic Noise Assessment*' of the EIS it is noted that the proposed curve radii for the balloon loop loading facility are not able to be determined from the schematics. Whilst it is proposed that much of the loop will be in cutting, which should help to moderate any operational rail noise, other mitigation measures may be required to manage 'wheel squeal'.

Dust mitigation measures, particularly the proposed use of polymer veneering for loaded wagons, which is outlined in section **4.4.8.15** - '*Air Impacts from Coal Transportation*', is supported.

Transport for NSW understands that Roads and Maritime Services will be providing a separate response that will address all road issues.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Aleks Tancevski on 8202 2811 or Aleks.Tancevski@transport.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Ozinga', enclosed within a circular scribble.

4/11/13

Mark Ozinga
Manager, Land Use and Transport Planning
Planning and Programs