## TO: Planning Services, Department of Planning & Environment Attn: Director Resource Assessments GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

## MINING IN THE MANNING RIVER CATCHMENT IS A THREAT TO OUR UNIQUE TURTLE.

Purvis' turtle is found only in the clear waters of the Gloucester River and other Manning tributaries - nowhere else on the planet.

DNA tests by the University of New England have shown that Purvis' turtle is extremely ancient and may hold clues to the evolution of all turtles.

It has appeared on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (ICUN) Red List of Threatened Species since 1996 but is data deficient. Mine expansion before this species has been studied means that risks to its population health haven't been identified and cannot be managed.

Risks to surface water have been identified and set out in Appendix 6 (pages 7 & 8) of the 2016 Environmental Impact Statement [EIS] for the Amended Rocky Hill Coal Project, and mitigation measures detailed in Section 4.7.4 of the EIS, however the impact of mining on this unique and beautiful animal has not been considered in the EIS.

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