



F20012/00141
18 November 2013

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



Dear Sir

COMMENTS MANDALONG SOUTH EXTENSION PROJECT

Submissions have been invited in relation to the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mandalong South Extension Project (Coal Mine). The following submission is made by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the Gosford / Wyong Joint Water Supply. The TAG provides advice to the Gosford and Wyong Councils in relation to issues affecting the Central Coast water supply.

The Central Coast water supply scheme serves a combined population in excess of 300,000 in the Gosford City and Wyong Shires. The Central Coast is a growth centre with the population predicted to increase to 400,000 by the year 2030.

The water resources on the Central Coast are extremely limited and are fully committed to meeting the water demands of a rapidly growing area. It is essential that these limited resources are protected.

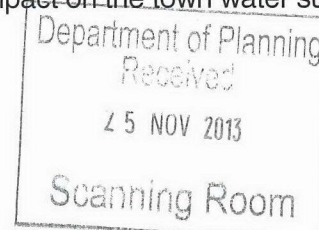
The Central Coast water supply is highly dependent on the stream flows in Jilliby Jilliby Creek. Any activity which puts at risk the quantity or quality of this source will have significant consequences for the community.

Appendix H of the EIS states that *"For the Gosford-Wyong Water Supply Scheme relevant water supply catchments were determined and comparison made with the waterways and catchments for the four surface facilities sites. Results from the Water and Salt Balance Assessment, the geomorphological assessment and the water quality assessment were also considered and used to assess potential impacts on the regional water supply scheme."*

The focus of the impact assessment is on the potential impacts of the surface facilities on the water supply and does not specifically consider the potential loss of streamflow in Jilliby Jilliby Creek affecting the water available for the regional water supply scheme.

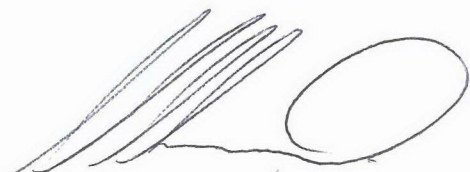
As a consequence the EIS prematurely concludes that *"While part of the Wyong River catchment supplying the Gosford-Wyong Water Supply Scheme lies within the Project Application Area, the existing surface sites and the proposed Mandalong South Surface Site lie within the Lake Macquarie catchment. None of the proposed water transfers, including underground transfers, will be within the Wyong River catchment. GHD (2013b) concludes that the Project will not have an impact on the Wyong River catchment and the associated town water supply"*

Without a rigorous assessment of the impact of the proposed mine extension on the streamflows in Jilliby Jilliby Creek it is premature to conclude the proposal does not impact on the town water supply.



Should further information or clarifications be required, please note that our contact officer is Garry Casement, Manager Headworks, 2 Hely Street, Wyong, NSW, 2259. Mr Casement can be contacted by phone 4350 5158 or by email garry.casement@wyong.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several parallel diagonal strokes followed by a large, rounded loop.

Greg McDonald

Chairman

Technical Advisory Group

Gosford/Wyong Joint Water Supply