

Ms Sophie Butcher  
Planner  
Mining Projects  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Butcher

**Mandalong Sothern Extension Project (SSD 5144)  
Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your email of 28 October 2013 regarding the Centennial Mandalong Pty Limited application to extend the Mandalong Colliery's existing underground longwall mining operations to the southwest.

NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services, Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) has reviewed the *Mandalong Southern Extension Project Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) dated September 2013 and provides the following comments which are directed at specific areas of DRE responsibility for this proposal.

**MINING TITLE**

As coal is a prescribed mineral under the *Mining Act 1992*, the proponent is required to hold appropriate mining titles from DRE in order to mine this mineral. DRE understand the proposed mining activities for the Mandalong Southern Extension project are within Exploration Licence 6317 held by the proponent and that Centennial will submit a mining lease application the exploration license area.

The proponent should note that a Mining Lease cannot be granted without a relevant approval under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1997*.

Under the *Mining Act 1992*, mining and rehabilitation are regulated by conditions included in the mining lease, including requirements for the submission of a Mining Operations Plan (MOP) and a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) prior to the commencement of operations, and subsequent Annual Environmental Management Reports (AEMR).

The proponent should be aware that ESG3: Mining Operations Plan (MOP) Guidelines dated September 2013 are available on the DRE website at:  
<http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/environment/pgf>

## **REHABILITATION AND MINE CLOSURE**

DRE notes that the EIS has identified general rehabilitation strategies and objectives, referencing approved monitoring and biodiversity management plans. DRE considers the EIS adequately describes the functional domains of this project. The specific performance objectives and standards of each domain have not been satisfactorily described, but this can be addressed in the MOP.

DRE notes the proponent proposes to re-develop the existing Mandalong Mine Access Site for industrial-based land uses post mining (EIS Section 10.19.2). However DRE understands that industrial development is prohibited under the Draft Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP) for the site.

## **SUBSIDENCE**

DRE will provide a response on matters associated with subsidence in a separate letter.

## **RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

DRE recommends that the following conditions be incorporated into the Development Consent, if granted:

### **Rehabilitation Objectives and Commitments**

The Proponent must rehabilitate the site to the satisfaction of the Director General of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services.

Rehabilitation must be substantially consistent with the Rehabilitation Objectives described in the EIS, the Statement of Commitments in Section 11 and the following objectives in Table 1.

Table 1: Objectives for rehabilitation features for mine area.

<b>Rehabilitation Feature</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Mine site (as a whole of the disturbed land and water)	Safe, stable and non-polluting, fit for the purpose of the intended post-mining land use(s).
Rehabilitation materials	Materials (including topsoils, substrates and seeds of the disturbed areas) are recovered, appropriately managed and used effectively as resources in the rehabilitation.
Landforms	<p>Final landforms sustain the intended land use for the post-mining domain(s).</p> <p>Final landforms are consistent with and complement the topography of the surrounding region to minimise the visual prominence of the final landforms in the post mining landscape.</p> <p>Final landforms incorporate design relief patterns and principles for consistent with natural drainage.</p>
Water Quality	<p>Water retained on site is fit for the intended land use(s) for the post-mining domain(s).</p> <p>Water discharged from site is consistent with the baseline</p>

	<p>ecological, hydrological and geomorphic conditions of the creeks prior to mining disturbance.</p> <p>Water management is consistent with the regional catchment management strategy.</p>
Native flora and fauna habitat and corridors	<p>Size, locations and species of native tree lots and corridors are established to sustain biodiversity habitats.</p> <p>Species are selected that re-establishes and complements regional and local biodiversity.</p>
Post-mining agricultural pursuits	<p>The land capability classification for the relevant nominated agricultural pursuit for each domain is established and self-sustaining within 5 years of land use establishment (first planting of vegetation.)</p>
Final land use rehabilitation objectives	<p>The Rehabilitation Plan must demonstrate that the proposed final land use is permissible under the relevant Planning Instruments.</p>

### **Progressive Rehabilitation**

The proponent shall minimise potential for dust emissions and shall carry out rehabilitation of disturbed areas progressively, as soon as reasonably practicable, to the satisfaction of the Director General of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services.

### **Rehabilitation Plan**

1. The Proponent must prepare and implement a Rehabilitation Plan to the satisfaction of the Director General of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services.
2. Rehabilitation Plan must:
  - a. be submitted and approved by the Director General of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services prior to carrying out any surface disturbing activities of the development, unless otherwise agreed by the Director General;
  - b. be prepared in accordance with DRE guidelines and in consultation with the Department, Office of Environment and Heritage, Environmental Protection Authority, Office of Water, Council and the mine Community Consultative Committee;
  - c. incorporate and be consistent with the rehabilitation objectives in the EIS, the statement of commitments and Table 1;
  - d. integrate and build on, to the maximum extent practicable, the other management plans required under this approval; and,
  - e. address all aspects of mine closure and rehabilitation, including post mining land use domains, rehabilitation objectives, completion criteria and rehabilitation monitoring and management.

*Note: The approved Mining Operation Plan (which will become the REMP once the Mining Act Amendments have commenced), required as a condition of the Mining Lease(s) issued in relation to this project, will satisfy the requirements of this condition for a Rehabilitation Plan.*

### **Mine Closure**

The proponent must demonstrate that the proposed post mining land use(s) is permissible under the relevant Planning Instruments or provide an alternative proposed final land use for the approval of the Director General of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services. Completion criteria to satisfy the alternate final land use is to be reflected within a revised Rehabilitation Plan

DRE does not object to the approval of the Mandalong Southern Extension Project provided the above recommendations are taken into account and implemented.

DRE is available to meet with the Proponent to assist in developing the above documents for their proposed operation.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Julie Moloney, Principal Adviser, Industry Coordination on (02) 4931 6549.

Yours sincerely



**ADRIAN DELANY  
ACTING DIRECTOR  
INDUSTRY COORDINATION**

12.12.13