

**Hunter New England Local Health District  
Hunter New England Population Health**

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**Health**  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

16 October 2018

Mr Greg Davies

Department of Planning & Environment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Davies

**VICKERY COAL MINE – Vickery Extension Project SSD 7480**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed extension of the approved Vickery Coal Mine (SSD-5000), including a coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP), train load-out facility and rail spur line (SSD 7480, Gunnedah).

Hunter New England Local Health District has reviewed the EIS concentrating on the human health, air quality and noise assessments, and makes the following submission for your consideration.

The comments provided in this letter are contingent on confirmation by the NSW EPA that the methods employed to assess ground and surface water, air quality and noise impacts are appropriate, and should be considered in light of any methodological issues identified by the NSW EPA.

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## **Water quality**

Potential acid forming and sodic material discharges were assessed as medium risk and will be managed by a suitably sized water management system and regular monitoring as recommended in the Geochemistry Assessment and Geoenvironmental Management Plan 2018 (Appendix M to the EIS). A Water Management Plan should be prepared, implemented and regularly reviewed. The Plan should contain a complete water management risk assessment. The risk assessment should inform control strategies that can protect groundwater, surface water (on and off-site), potable water, process water and wastewater associated with this project and its ongoing operation.

## **Noise**

A Noise Management Plan (NMP) should be prepared to include control and avoidance measures and specifically note details of noise level 'triggers' that would result in operational noise controls being invoked. The NMP should include a register of noise complaints and response should be maintained.

## **Air Quality**

The Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) should include measures to monitor and reduce the generation and emission of particulate matter. The AQMP should describe how the emissions will be managed in relation to the proposed extension to the mining operations, haulage of the coal, spontaneous combustion of coal stockpiles, adverse weather conditions and community complaints. The plan should also include condition/s for comprehensive ongoing and continuous monitoring for the PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> particulates and TSP.

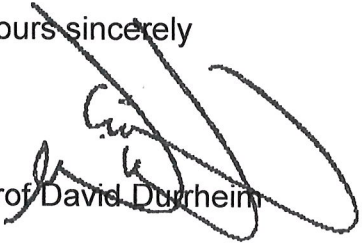
## **Community consultation**

It is important that the community is effectively and continually engaged throughout the approval process and if approved, during the ongoing operation of the development as suggested in the EIS.

Given the regulatory authority of the NSW Environment Protection Authority, it is essential that there is full compliance with all EPA requirements.

If you require any further information, please contact Fidelis Jaravani, Environmental Health Officer on 6764 8020.

Yours sincerely

  
Prof David Durrheim

**Director - Health Protection**

**Hunter New England Population Health**