



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



The Secretary
NSW Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Your Ref: SSD 7480
Our Ref: D16/1055
DA18091215048 AB

ATTENTION: Rose-Anne Hawkeswood

24 October 2018

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

Agency Comment: Vickery Extension Project Gunnedah Coal Field - Proposed Environmental Impact Assessment

I refer to correspondence dated 11 September 2018 seeking comment from the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) for the above State Significant Development Proposal.

The NSW RFS understands the extension project proposal includes:

- *developing and operating an open-cut coal mine, to produce up to 10 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal a year for up to 25 years;*
- *construction and operation of an on-site Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP), to process all ROM coal;*
- *construction and operation of an Rail Load-out Facility, including a rail loop and overhead loading bins;*
- *other associated mine infrastructure and services; and*
- *rehabilitating the site.*

The NSW RFS noted that parts of the subject land are mapped Bush Fire Prone Land. Other parts may contain grassland vegetation formations. Further the NSW RFS is the primary response agency for structural fires within the site.

The NSW RFS provided the proponent the following comments (dated 15 April 2016) for preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS), in accordance with NSW Planning's Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), which required the proponent to consult with relevant government agencies.

- The statement shall identify if the land is mapped bush fire prone by Narrabri and/or Gunnedah Shire Council's. Where the land is mapped bush fire prone the EIS shall include the following:
- › *identification of bush fire prone land within 140 metres of the proposed development;*
 - › *the aims and objectives of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006';*
 - › *identification of potential ignition sources during construction and operation of the development;*

Postal address

Records
NSW Rural Fire Service
Locked Bag 17
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Street address

NSW Rural Fire Service
Planning and Environment Services (North)
Suite 1, 129 West High Street
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

T (02) 6691 0400
F (02) 6691 0499
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
Email: pes@rfs.nsw.gov.au

- › storage of fuels and other hazardous materials including any explosives for blasting;
- › stockpiling of mulched vegetation;
- › proposed bushfire protection measures for the development, including vegetation management and fire suppression capabilities;
- › operational access for fire fighting appliances to the site; and
- › emergency and evacuation planning.

The NSW RFS has reviewed the EIS documentation and cannot find any reference to bush fire or the information that addresses the above mention NSW RFS requirements.

As such the NSW RFS is not in a position to provide comment on the development proposal.

For any enquiries regarding this correspondence, please contact Alan Bawden on 6691 0400.

Yours sincerely



John Ball

Manager – Planning and Environment Services North

The RFS has made getting information easier. For general information on 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006', visit the RFS web page at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au and search under 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006'.