

File No: NTH11/00158
Your Ref: SSD 7480

The Director
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Rose-Anne Hawkeswood

Dear Rose-Anne,

Kamilaroi Highway [HW29]: SSD 7480 - Notice of Exhibition - Vickery Coal Mine Extension Project - Blue Vale Road, Gunnedah

I refer to your email of 11 September 2018 requesting comment from Roads and Maritime Services in relation to the above-mentioned State Significant Development.

Roads and Maritime has consulted with Gunnedah Shire Council's (GSC) Wade Hudson and Narrabri Shire Council's (NSC) Daniel Boyce and can confirm:

GSC raised a few concerns, which they will address in their response to the Notice of Exhibition, namely;

- The EIS regularly refers to the previous approval for Vickery Coal Mine (SSD 5000) but without recognising that this is a new approval (SSD 7480) not a modification on the previous approval.
- ROM Coal Haulage along the Approved Road Transport Route (ARTR) from Whitehaven's Tarrawonga, Rocglen, and Vickery coal mines should be conditioned for haulage to both the existing Whitehaven Coal Handling Processing Plant (until its expiry in 2022) and to the proposed Project Coal Handling Processing Plant (CHPP).

NSC raised a few concerns, which they will address in their response to the Notice of Exhibition, namely;

- Although Whitehaven's assessment of the cost benefit analysis determines that there will be no impact on the local infrastructure, NSC believe that Rangari Road will be heavily impacted by the continued use of heavy vehicles and needs to be either sealed or upgraded. This is not in reference of the intersection of Kamilaroi Highway and Rangari Road.
- A review of the current Road Maintenance Agreement between NSC and Whitehaven should be undertaken and amended where necessary.

Roads and Maritime can confirm the following statements of fact relevant to our areas of expertise and regulatory powers:

- The key interests for Roads and Maritime are the safety and efficiency of the road network, traffic management, the integrity of infrastructure and the integration of land use and transport.
- The Kamilaroi Highway (HW29) is a classified (State) road (a Highway). Gunnedah Shire Council and Narrabri Shire Council are the Roads Authorities for all public roads in the respective local government areas in accordance with Section 7 of the *NSW Roads Act 1993* (Roads Act). Roads and Maritime is the Roads Authority for freeways and has responsibilities for classified roads in accordance with the Roads Act.

- Rangari Road (MR357) is a classified (Regional) road. Narrabri Shire Council is the Roads Authority and is responsible for setting standards, determining priorities and carrying out works on this road. Roads and Maritime's concurrence would be required, prior to Council approval, for works on this road in accordance with s138 of the Roads Act.
- The Developer would be required to enter into a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) with Roads and Maritime for any works deemed necessary on a classified (State) road (Kamilaroi Highway). The developer would be responsible for all costs associated with the works and administration for the WAD. The WAD and associated agreements will apply for the life of the mine project and will address construction, maintenance and any necessary decommissioning of road related assets such as the proposed Kamilaroi Highway rail-over-road overpass.
- Any Traffic Control Plans (TCPs) required to be included in the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) must be prepared and approved by suitably qualified persons in accordance with the RTA Traffic Control at Work Sites manual. Should traffic control be required on the classified (State) road (Kamilaroi Highway) then a Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) must be obtained from Roads and Maritime.

Roads and Maritime considers that in our technical assessment of the *EIS*, specifically the documents: *Section 2 – Project Description, Appendix I – Road Transport Assessment and Appendix L – Visual Assessment*, that the 'baseline' for impact assessment is generally reasonable and the predictions of impact are robust (and conservative) with suitable sensitivity testing and the proposal includes all reasonably feasible mitigation options. However it should be noted that:

- Details for the proposed rail loop and spur including the proposed Kamilaroi Highway rail-over-road overpass, shown in both the EIS, Section 2 - Figure 2.8 and Appendix L – Figure 17, are indicative conceptual drawings only and would need to be constructed under a WAD. Detailed design plans, including a Road Safety Audit, will be required as part of the WAD process.
- It is unclear if the proposed rail-over-road overpass goes ahead, that the previously approved road-over-road overpass near the Whitehaven Coal Handling Processing Plant will still be required. This needs to be clarified.

The assessed impact is considered acceptable within the policy context of Roads and Maritime for the following reasons:

- In accordance with Austroads guidelines the existing intersections appear adequate for the proposed use, noting that the proposed traffic using the two intersections of Kamilaroi Highway / Blue Vale Road and Kamilaroi Highway / Rangari Road will be addressed under an updated Construction Traffic Management Plan.
- Section 2 of the in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) advises the existing Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for Whitehaven operations is to be revised for the project. This revised TMP, including relevant Traffic Control Plans (TCPs) should include all construction and operational activities. Heavy vehicle drivers will be required to read and sign a Driver Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct should include but not be limited to:
 - a. A map of the primary transport route/s highlighting critical locations.
 - b. Safety initiatives for transport through residential areas and/or school zones.
 - c. An induction process for vehicle operators and regular toolbox meetings.
 - d. A complaints resolution and disciplinary procedure.
 - e. Any community consultation measures for peak transport periods.

Upon determination of the application it would be appreciated if Department of Planning and Environment could forward a copy of the approval for our records. If you have any further enquiries regarding the above comments please do not hesitate to contact Liz Smith, Manager Land Use Assessment on (02) 6640 1362 or via email at: development.northern@rms.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully



for Monica Sirol
Network & Safety Manager, Northern Region

29 October 2018