

Lauren Evans
Senior Planning Officer
Resource Assessments
Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

By email: lauren.evans@planning.nsw.gov.au

**Mount Owen Continued Operations Project - Modification 2 (SSD 5850 MOD 2):
Response to Submissions**

Dear Lauren,

I refer to the Department of Planning and Environment – Resources Assessments (DPE – Resources & Assessment) email dated 7 January 2019 inviting the Resources Regulator to provide advice on the Response to Submissions for Mount Owen Continued Operations Project - Modification 2 (SSD 5850 MOD 2).

Development Details

The Mount Owen Mine is an open cut operation located approximately 20 kilometres from Singleton, NSW. The Mount Owen Continued Operations Project - Modification 2 proposes to:

- extend the size and depth of the North Pit to extract an additional 35 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal over the life of the mine;
- extend the life of the mine until 2037. This extends the approved life of mine for six years to 2031;
- extend the approved disturbance area by approximately 46 hectares to accommodate additional infrastructure and to shape the final landform to tie into the surrounding topography. The total area proposed to be disturbed by the mine is 2580 ha;
- establish an additional 126 ha of rehabilitation, or 80 ha more than the additional disturbance area;
- emplace material over existing rehabilitation;
- increase the void depth to around -175 m AHD and is expected to fill to a depth of approximately 100 m to - 60 m AHD.

The Resources Regulator has previously provided the following advice:

- Adequacy of the Statement of Environmental Effects (DOC18/823474) dated 29 October 2018. It was recommended that the Resources Regulator review the draft development consent conditions prior to finalisation and any granting of development consent.

Environment and Rehabilitation

The Compliance Operations unit within the Resources Regulator has responsibility for providing strategic advice for environmental issues pertaining to the proposed project in so far as they relate to or affect rehabilitation.

The Response to Submissions (DOC19/12253) advises the additional information does not change the description of the Proposed Modification with regard to final landform and landuse. The additional mitigation measures do not result in changes to rehabilitation outcomes that require reassessment of advice provided by the Resources Regulator (DOC18/823474).

The Resources Regulator advises the Department of Planning and Environment – Resource Assessments that there is no change to the recommendations provided in the Response to Submissions document dated 29 October 2018.

The Resources Regulator has determined that sustainable rehabilitation outcomes can be achieved as a result of the project and that any identified risks or opportunities can be effectively regulated through the conditions of mining authorities issued under the *Mining Act 1992*.

The Resources Regulator requests a review of the draft development consent conditions prior to finalisation and any granting of development consent.

For enquiries regarding this matter please contact me on 4063 6444 or minres.environment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Neil McElhinney
Inspector Environment

On behalf of
Matthew Newton
Director Compliance Operations
Resources Regulator
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

18 January 2019