

4 July 2017

Ms Lauren Evans  
Planning Officer  
Resource Assessments – Planning Services  
Department of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Evans

**Hunter Valley Operations South - Modification 5 (MP 06\_0261) – Response to Submissions**

I refer to your email of 15 June 2017 inviting comment on the Response to Submissions (RTS) exhibited on the NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure web site in relation to the Hunter Valley Operations South - Modification 5 (MP 06\_0261) (the Project).

The RTS has been reviewed with particular attention being paid to issues Hunter New England Population Health raised in relation to air quality, and noise and blasting, which may have an impact on public health. The following points are discussed and should be considered in the approval process for this project.

**Air Quality**

We requested the proponents provide an isopleth for a  $PM_{2.5}$  level of  $7\mu g/m^3$  to Figures 1 (Stage 2) and 2 (Stage 3) to incorporate the variation to the National Environmental Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (NEPM) air standard for annual average  $PM_{2.5}$  air standard of  $7\mu g/m^3$  which will be in force by 2025. Figures 5.18 and 5.19 on pages 101-102 of *Hunter Valley Operations South - Modification 5 -Response to Submissions – June 2017*, now show that there are several residences that will be subject to  $> 7\mu g/m^3$   $PM_{2.5}$  during Stages 2 and 3 of the Project. There are also multiple residences where the NEPM air standard for  $PM_{10}$  will not be met.

As has been stated in our previous submission, there is no evidence of a threshold below which exposure to particulate matter is not associated with health effects. Therefore, it is important that all reasonable and feasible measures are taken to minimise human exposure to particulate matter.

We also note that receptors marked in figures 5.18 and 5.19 are presented without a legend to explain the colour coding.

If you require any further information please telephone Carolyn Herlihy, Environmental Health Officer on 4924 6477.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor David Durrheim  
Service Director – Health Protection

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