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Department of Planning
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

APPLICATION

MP-2007/103

Date

15 May 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

Development	The drilling and operation of coal seam gas exploration wells
Location	HELENSBURGH, LILYVALE, MADDENS PLAINS and CATARACT NSW

Thank you for providing Council with the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report for the above major project.

In general, Council is supportive of this proposal to undertake gas exploration and monitoring as there are significant and real environmental benefits in utilising such a resource as an alternate and additional energy source.

Council would like to make the following comments for consideration by the Department in the assessment of the application.

1. Environmental

The EA Report prepared by Olson Consulting Group Pty Ltd, dated March 2009, for the project reasonably covers all environmental aspects of the proposal. As such, the recommendations of this report should be endorsed and in addition to these, Council also provides the following comments:

- (a) The addition of potassium chloride to the drilling mud raises the mud salinity above that of the local soil, surface and groundwater. In this regard, the drilling mud will need to be appropriately contained on site and disposed of at an approved waste disposal site.
- (b) Waste water from the cleaning of the drill bit, drill stem and other tools and machinery should be collected and contained in portable tanks and disposed of at an approved waste disposal site. No such waste water should be permitted to be discharged in the local creeks or drainage lines.
- (c) Mine water recovered from de-watering or de-moisturising gases may contain solubilised methane and low molecular weight hydrocarbon. In this regard, such mine water should be contained in portable tanks and disposed of at an approved waste disposal site.
- (d) Top soil should not be relocated from one site to another.
- (e) Cut and fill for the positioning of the drilling rig and other equipment must be kept to a minimum and erosion and sediment controls as per the recommendations in the EA Report will need to be implemented.

- (f) After the completion of drilling activities and the transfer of equipment, disturbed areas should be restored and re-planted with local native species, to be monitored and watered regularly to ensure their establishment and survival.
- (g) Drilling residue generated from wild cut bores due to contamination with drilling mud will need to be appropriately contained and removed from the site.

2. Aboriginal Archaeology

The Aboriginal and Historic Cultural Heritage Assessment report by BIOSIS Research provides a detailed consideration of the Aboriginal Heritage issues relevant to the site. However, it is noted that the comments of the Aboriginal Communities have not been received and incorporated into this final report and as such, the cultural significance of sites and the concerns of the Aboriginal groups have not been incorporated into this final report for consideration. This matter should be addressed to confirm that the recommendations of the report are consistent with the cultural values associated with the place.

It is also recommended that the recommendations of Chapter 11.0 of this report are implemented as conditions of consent.

3. Council's Combined City Wide and City Centre Section 94A Development Contributions Plan 2008

This plan should be considered by the Department in the assessment of the project and if consent is to be granted, in imposing conditions on the project.

Should you require further clarification on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Erin Fuller
City Wide Development Manager
Wollongong City Council
Direct Line (02) 4227 7314