



OUT13/12940

23 MAY 2013

Ms Elle Donnelley  
Mining and Industry Projects  
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

*Elle.Donnelley@planning.nsw.gov.au*

Dear Ms Donnelley,

**Maules Creek Coal Project (10\_0138 Mod 1)  
Response to exhibition of Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your email dated 2 May 2013 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment by NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water (Office of Water) appreciates the opportunity to review the report for the proposed Modification 1 – Transmission Line and Switching Station, for Maules Creek Coal Project. The Office of Water's comments are outlined as follows.

- The report did not contain the original approved alignment for the transmission line and switching station and infrastructure for the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) from the original Environmental Assessment for Maules Creek Coal Project. This made it difficult to determine exactly what changes were proposed from the approved layout.
- It is unclear in the report if the transmission line and switching station will impact on watercourses or drainage lines within the site. Whilst projects approved under the repealed Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* do not require a separate Controlled Activity Approval under the *Water Management Act 2000*, works within riparian areas should be consistent with the Office of Water's 'Guidelines for Controlled Activities'.


It is expected all works within riparian areas are undertaken with minimal disturbance, erosion and sediment control measures, provide adequate drainage, maintain hydrological flow regimes and all disturbed areas are revegetated and rehabilitated appropriately.

- The modification report outlines the realignment of the CHPP will result in some minor changes in catchment for water collected for use within the water management system. The Office of Water recently provided comment on the Water Management Plan for the Maules Creek Coal Project. The Office of Water understands an updated site water balance, reflecting the changes to the layout of the CHPP were incorporated into the Water Management Plan.
- It is important appropriate Erosion and Sediment Control measures are implemented during the construction and operation phase, to prevent contamination to both groundwater and surface water sources.

For further information please contact Christie Jackson, Water Regulation Officer, Tamworth, on 6701 9652 or [Christie.Jackson@water.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Christie.Jackson@water.nsw.gov.au).

The other divisions of DPI do not have any comments on the EIS.

Yours sincerely



Phil Anquetil  
**Executive Director Business Service**