

23 February 2021

Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Attention: Rachel Carss

DENMAN ROAD (MR209): SSD-10418 – MOUNT PLEASANT OPTIMISATION PROJECT

On 2 February 2021, TfNSW accepted the referral by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) through the Planning Portal regarding the above-mentioned State Significant Development application (SSD). DPIE referred the Development Application to TfNSW for comment. This letter is a submission in response to that referral.

TfNSW understands the proposal to be for the following:

- Extension of the life of open cut mining operations from 22 December 2026 to 22 December 2048;
- Extracting an additional 247 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal over the life of the Project;
- Extracting and processing up to 21 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of ROM coal, an increase from the current approved extraction rate of 10.5 Mtpa;
- Transporting up to 17 Mtpa of ROM coal by rail;
- Dispatching up to 10 laden trains per day, with an average of 6.5 laden trains per day;
- Constructing new ancillary infrastructure, including water management facilities;
- Relocating, upgrading and augmenting existing ancillary infrastructure;
- Increasing the operational workforce to 830 people, with an average workforce of 600 people, an increase from the current workforce of approximately 440 people;
- Realigning the future Northern Link Road; and
- Changes to the approved final landform.

TfNSW Response & Requirements

TfNSW's primary interests are in the road network, traffic and broader transport issues. In particular, the efficiency and safety of the classified road network, the security of property assets and the integration of land use and transport.

Denman Road is a classified State road and Bengalla Road, Wybong Road and Kayuga Road are local roads. Council is the roads authority for these roads and all other public roads in the area, in accordance with Section 7 of the *Roads Act 1993*.

TfNSW notes that the Thomas Mitchell Drive/ Denman Road intersection is conditioned to be upgraded by the operator of Mount Arthur Coal Mine in accordance with Condition 47(c) of the development consent (09_0062) dated 26 September 2014. The upgrade is currently required to be completed by 31 December 2022 in accordance with the revised deadline stipulated by DPIE. A Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) has been recently executed between TfNSW and Mount Arthur Coal Mine. TfNSW is currently awaiting submission of detailed design plans for the intersection upgrade to commence its internal review and approval process prior to which construction cannot commence.

TfNSW has reviewed the referred information, including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by Resources Strategies Pty Ltd dated 22 January 2021 and Road Transport Assessment (Appendix J of EIS) prepared by The Transport Planning Partnership dated 14 December 2020.

TfNSW has reviewed the information provided and raises no objection to the proposal, provided the following matter is addressed and included in DPIE's conditions of development consent:

- The Road Transport Assessment assumes that shuttle buses will be operated daily to transport construction workforce to and from the mine and Muswellbrook, Scone, Aberdeen and Singleton. For instance, a maximum of 22 shuttle buses (typically 22-passenger capacity) have been estimated for transporting the predicted construction workforce of 414 people during the 2026 peak construction period of the proposal. Given that the traffic assessment has been based on the assumption of providing shuttle buses, which would generate lower traffic impact on surrounding road network as compared to construction workforce using private vehicles, TfNSW recommends that a condition is included in the development consent which requires the use of shuttle buses to transport all construction workforce during the extended life of the mining operations.

Advice to DPIE

TfNSW recommends that the following matters should be considered by DPIE in determining this development:

- TfNSW has no proposal that requires any part of the property.
- Council should ensure that appropriate traffic measures are in place during the construction phase of the project to minimise the impacts of construction vehicles on traffic efficiency and road safety within the vicinity.
- TfNSW highlights that in determining the application under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, it is the consent authority's responsibility to consider the environmental impacts of any road works which are ancillary to the development. This includes any works which form part of the proposal and/or any works which are deemed

necessary to include as requirements in the conditions of development consent. Depending on the level of environmental assessment undertaken to date and nature of the works, the consent authority may require the developer to undertake further environmental assessment for any ancillary road works.

On DPIE's determination of this matter, please forward a copy of the Notice of Determination to TfNSW for record and / or action purposes. Should you require further information please contact Dipen Nathwani, Development Services Case Officer, on 0418 514 166 or by emailing development.hunter@rms.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Marler', written over a faint circular stamp.

Peter Marler
A/Manager
Development Services North