

Mr. Jack Turner
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Resource Assessments
Planning & Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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Parramatta NSW 2124

By email: Jack.Turner@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr. Turner

Notice of Exhibition of application for (Wongawilli Coal Mine – Proposed Modification 2 – North West Mains Development) (SSD MP09_0161)

Thank you for your referral dated 4 February 2021 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

The proposed development involves a modification to the existing Wongawilla Colliery (MOD2):

- Time extension by five years until 31 December 2025 to the approved North West Mains Driveage (NWMD);
- Additional driveage and underground mains heading approximately 2.9 linear km to access existing Wongawilli Ventilation Shaft 1 – using first workings mining methods;
- Additional access to the NWMD via existing Portals W10 and W9;
- Minor alignment changes to the NWMD as ventilation infrastructure is no longer proposed at the western end of the approved NWMD alignment;
- Relocation of coal handling infrastructure (including crusher, sizer and screen) from the Wongawilli lower pit top to underground; and
- Construction of new 60m long section of coal conveyor system and coal storage bin at the Wongawilli upper pit top.

The proposal is located partially within State Heritage Register (SHR) item Avon Dam (SHR 01358) located at Avon Dam Road, Avon Dam. The proposal is also partially located within the local heritage item *Wongawilli Colliery* (WLEP 2009 item 7100) and is adjacent to the *Illawarra Escarpment Landscape Area* (WLEP 2009 HCA).

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- *Wongawilli Colliery Modification Report – PA 09_0161 MOD2 – North West Mains Development*, prepared by EMM, December 2020
- [Appendix M – Part 1] *Historical Heritage Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact*, prepared by Biosis, dated 26 October 2020

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the following comments:

- The Biosis report states that, as the driveage is being developed using the first workings method, no impacts are expected to the ground surface;

- The Biosis report does not discuss reasons why the additional driveage is located below the SHR curtilage and does not provide consideration of locations outside of the SHR curtilage;
- It is recommended that all project works should be located outside the Avon Dam SHR curtilage with no extraction beneath the SHR curtilage;
- If DPIE intends to approve this modification, the recommendations of the Biosis report should be included as conditions; and
- The report indicates that the study area has low archaeological potential and recommends an unexpected finds procedure. This is an appropriate management process. Additionally, it is noted that archaeological information in the CMP attached is out of date, it is recommended the CMP is updated to reflect the current legislative requirements for understanding archaeological significance.

As the site contains a local heritage item, and a local heritage conservation area is in the vicinity, advice should be sought from the relevant local council.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Veerle Norbury, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer at Heritage NSW on 9873 8616 or veerle.norbury@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Steven Meredith
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Northern Region
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier and Cabinet
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
24 February 2021