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Glendell Continued Operations Project (SSD 9349): Adequacy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Lauren,

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has invited the Resources Regulator (Regulator) to review the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for **Project SSD 9349** associated with Glendell Mine. Glendell Mine forms part of the Mount Owen Complex, which is owned by subsidiaries of Glencore Coal Pty Limited (Glencore).

Development Details

The Glendell Mine is an open cut operation located approximately 20 kilometres north west of Singleton, NSW. The key aspects of the Glendell Continued Operations Project comprises:

- i. an extension of open cut coal mining to the north of the existing Glendell Mine until approximately 2044;
- ii. extraction of approximately 140 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal until approximately 2044;
- iii. increase in production rate from 4.5 to 10 million tonnes per annum later in the mine life;
- iv. continued integration of the mine with the wider Mount Owen Complex, including use of the Mount Owen coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP), rail loop and associated infrastructure for ROM coal processing and product coal transport;
- v. demolition/relocation of the existing Glendell Mine Infrastructure Area (MIA), construction of a new MIA and/or utilisation of the existing Liddell or Mount Owen MIAs;
- vi. continued employment of existing Mount Owen Complex employees;
- vii. progressive rehabilitation of the site including taking over the remaining rehabilitation obligations under DA 80/952;
- viii. realignment of a section of Hebden Road;
- ix. diversion of Yorks Creek;
- x. relocation of Ravensworth Homestead; and
- xi. other ancillary infrastructure works such as the construction of a heavy vehicle access road and relocation of a pipeline and powerlines

The Resources Regulator has previously provided advice to DPIE in relation to the issue of Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) in a letter dated 29 May 2018 (DOC18/341699). In addition, the Regulator also met with Glencore in a combined meeting with the Division of Resources and Geoscience on 15 November 2019 to clarify the intent of the SEARs prior to the EIS being lodged.

Environment and Rehabilitation

The Mining Act Inspectorate within the Resources Regulator has responsibility for providing strategic advice for environmental issues pertaining to the proposed project in so far as they relate to or affect rehabilitation. Based on the review of the EIS, the Regulator advises the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment that it has no specific comments.

It should be noted that the Resources Regulator's does not provide any endorsement of the proposed rehabilitation methodologies presented in the EIS. Under the conditions of a mining authority granted under the *Mining Act 1992*, the Resources Regulator requires an authority holder to adopt a risk-based approach to achieving the required rehabilitation outcomes. The applicability of the controls to achieve effective and sustainable rehabilitation is to be determined based on the site specific risk assessments conducted by an authority holder. An authority holder may also be directed by the Resources Regulator to implement further risk control measures that may be required to achieve effective rehabilitation outcomes.

The Resources Regulator requests a review of the draft development consent conditions prior to finalisation and any granting of development consent.

Mine Safety

Mine Safety Operations within the Resource Regulator is responsible for ensuring mine operators manage the risk to worker health and safety through compliance with the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and the subordinate mining legislation. In particular the effective management of risk associated with the principal hazards as specified in the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014*.

Mine Safety Operations have not identified any risk that would require comment in relation to this matter.

For enquiries regarding this matter please contact me on 4063 6444 or nswresourcesregulator@service-now.com

Yours sincerely

Matthew Newton
Principal Inspector Environment & Rehabilitation Operations
Resources Regulator
NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

24 March 2020