

3 Marist Place Parramatta NSW 2150

Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124 DX 8225 PARRAMATTA Telephone: 61 2 9873 8500 Facsimile: 61 2 9873 8599

heritage@heritage.nsw.gov.au www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

 Contact:
 Lucy Moore

 Telephone:
 (02) 9873 8535

 Email:
 lucy.moore@heritage.nsw.gov.au

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PCU044136

Mr Clay Preshaw Acting Team Leader, Mining Projects Department of Planning & Infrastructure GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Preshaw

## RE: Exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement for Wallarah 2 Coal Project (SSD 4974)

Reference is made to your letter, received 26 April 2013, advising that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), prepared by Hansen Bailey Environmental Consultants for Wyong Areas Coal Joint Venture Group, is currently on public exhibition for the abovementioned project.

In providing comment, it is noted that Section 7.15 and Appendix T deal with Historic (non-Aboriginal) Cultural Heritage and the impact of the project on these values.

It is also noted that the Director-General's Requirements (DGRs) for the project specify that a historic heritage assessment (including archaeology) is to be undertaken and must "include a statement of heritage impact (including significant assessment) for any State significant or locally significant historic heritage items; and outline any proposed mitigation and management measures (including an evaluation of the effectiveness and reliability of the measures" (p87).

The EIS identifies that 13 known heritage items and 19 potential heritage items are located within or adjacent to the project site. Of those identified, no sites will be directly impacted by the project but four known and one potential heritage site will be within the Subsidence Impact Limit and may be adversely affected by subsidence or increased flooding.

It is noted that in identifying the known and potential heritage items, the EIS consulted statutory and non-statutory heritage lists including the State Heritage Register and Wyong Council's Local Environmental Plan (1991). Wyong Council is currently preparing a new LEP Draft LEP 2012 and the available council's is on website (http://www.wyong.nsw.gov.au/building-and-development/local-environmental-plan/draftwyong-lep-dcp-ss-2012/). It is recommended that Wyong Council be consulted to ascertain whether any new heritage items have been identified and included in the draft plan. If so, these items should be considered in the EIS.



Upon reviewing numbers alone, the LEP 1991 contains 97 heritage items while the Draft LEP 2012 contains 159 items—an increase of some 52 identified items.

A characteristic of Wyong Council's LEP 1991 and Draft LEP 2012 is that no archaeological heritage sites have been identified. It is recommended that the applicant undertake a thorough investigation of potential archaeological sites and the results incorporated into the EIS.

It is noted that preparation of a Historical Heritage Management Plan is proposed following development consent. As the implementation of mitigation and management measures are one of the identified DGRs, the applicant is strongly encouraged to prepare the plan prior to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure granting approval of the project.

The Heritage Branch would be happy to review any further documentation that may address any likely heritage impacts. If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Lucy Moore, Heritage Officer, on (02) 9873 8535.

Yours sincerely

02/05/2013

Vincent Sicari Manager – Conservation Team Heritage Branch Office of Environment & Heritage Department of Premier and Cabinet

## As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council

cc. Ms Dianne Munro, Principal, Hansen Bailey Environmental Consultants, PO Box 473, SINGLETON NSW 2330