



Heritage Council

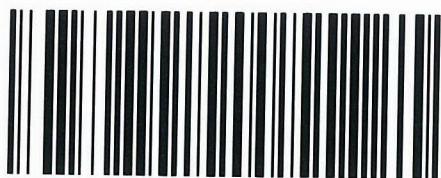
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File No: 11/22335
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Your Ref: SSD-5000

Matthew Riley
Planning Officer - Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Department of Planning
Received
27 MAR 2013
Scanning Room

Dear Mr Riley

Reference is made to your email dated 27th of February inviting the Heritage Council to provide comment on the Environmental Impact Statement by Whitehaven Coal currently on public exhibition for the Vickery Coal Project at Gunnedah (SSD-5000). It is noted that a hard copy and an electronic copy were forwarded to the Heritage Council by Whitehaven Coal under separate cover.

It is noted that the Non Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (Appendix J) by Michael Pearson Heritage Manage Consultants dated May 2012 states that historic research, searches of heritage databases and field survey located 15 potential items of historic heritage significance within the project area. Of these, only one (Broadwater Homestead) was assessed as having heritage significance at a local level.

Broadwater Homestead is located outside the direct and indirect impact zone of the project and accordingly will not be affected by the works. The Pearson report concludes that the project does not have any impacts on heritage items.

The Pearson report also makes recommendations regarding several items of moveable heritage which may be of potential interest to local historical collections and recommends that Whitehaven offers the opportunity to local heritage/historical societies to select items that would be useful additions to their collections.

Accordingly, as Delegate of the Heritage Council the following comments are provided for your information:

- To ensure that best practice is undertaken in regards to historic heritage management, it is recommended that a mitigation measure should be included by the Applicant which requires that if any unexpected 'relics' are uncovered during the project works, works should stop and the Heritage Council of NSW be notified of its discovery in accordance with Section 146 of the Heritage Act. Works should not recommence until the find can be recorded and assessed by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist and appropriate mitigation measures are undertaken.
- It is also recommended that prior to Whitehaven Coal gifting any moveable heritage from any of the sites within the project area to local heritage/historical societies, these items should be archivally recorded in accordance with relevant Heritage Council

guidelines. A copy of this archival record should be kept by Whitehaven Coal so there is a record of what items were gifted and what organisation they went to.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please feel free to contact Katrina Stankowski at Katrina.Stankowski@heritage.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



22/03/2013

Vincent Sicari

Manager – Conservation Team

Heritage Branch

Office of Environment & Heritage

Department of Premier and Cabinet

As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council