

OUT16/38859

Melanie Hollis
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Dear Ms Hollis

**Bengalla Continuation Project – Modification 3 Statement of Environmental Effects
Exhibition**

I refer to your email dated 30 September 2016 inviting the Department of Industry, Division of Resources & Energy (the Division) to provide comments on the Bengalla Continuation Project – Modification 3 (the Project) Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE).

The Division understands that the Bengalla Mining Company (BMC) proposes changes seeking to enable greater flexibility for the operation within the Approved Disturbance Boundary (ADB) and accommodate a rail line associated with the nearby Mount Pleasant Project which will traverse the existing Explosives Storage Facility Envelope. The proposed modifications are summarised as follows:

- construct a reload and explosive storage facility within the ADB
- reposition the Hunter River pipeline within the ADB
- situate topsoil stockpiles as needed within the ADB.

The proposal does not require any changes to production rates and quantities, the existing method of mining, destination of ROM coal, position of existing infrastructure or ADB. Based on the aforementioned factors and intention to locate these activities entirely within the assessed area (ADB) risks to rehabilitation are considered negligible.

The Division provides the following comments:

Based on a review of the information provided in the '*Bengalla Mine, Development Consent, Modification, Statement of Environmental Effects*', dated September 2016.

The Division considers that sustainable rehabilitation outcomes may be achieved as a result of the consent conditions and obligations imposed upon the project by the Consent Authority and that any identified risks to attaining the approved land use outcomes, post-

mining, can be effectively regulated through consistent conditions imposed on the mining authorities issued under the *Mining Act 1992*.

The Division has reviewed the current consent conditions (SDD-5170 MOD2) related to rehabilitation and recommends that should the Project be approved, the existing conditions 44 (Rehabilitation Objectives), 45 (Progressive Rehabilitation) and 46 (Rehabilitation Management Plan) be retained.

The Division supports the approval of the project.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Steve Cozens, Senior Project Officer, Royalty & Advisory Services on 9842 8573.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zane West', written in a cursive style.

Zane West

Manager Royalties & Advisory Services