

4 April 2014

Mr Sam Haddad
Director General
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Haddad

**Western Coal Services Project
SSD 5579**

I refer to the Executive Director's letter dated 26 March 2014 referring the above application to the Planning Assessment Commission for determination under Ministerial delegation.

Mr Alan Coutts and I constituted the Commission for the Project. I chaired the Commission.

The Commission notes that the Agency received twelve submissions being ten from public authorities including Lithgow City Council (who raised no objection), one from a resident of Blackman's Flat and one from the Nature Conversation Council. The Blackman's Flat resident and the Nature Conversation Council both objected.

None of the public authorities raised any objection to the proposal.

The Commission has carefully considered the Director-General's Assessment Report and recommended conditions, as well as the public authority submissions and the two objections.

The Commission notes the potential impact from noise and other issues including air quality, transportation, and flora and fauna have been duly considered and assessed in the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Report.

The report identified the positive contribution achieved through the consolidation of coal handling, processing and transportation along with the beneficial outcome from improving specific conditions of approval for the existing Springvale and Angus Place mines. The project, through the recommended conditions, would also ensure effective regulation of the consolidated ancillary mining infrastructure components including the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant and coal transportation.

The project is recommended for approval subject to conditions.

The Commission considers the identified issues have been adequately addressed and concurs with Planning & Infrastructure's recommendation to grant conditional approval for the reasons given in the Director-General's Assessment Report.

The file and signed instrument of approval are returned.

Yours sincerely



Gabrielle Kibble AO

Chair, Planning Assessment Commission

cc. The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW
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1 Farrer Place
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