

27 August 2013

Mr Rod Dwyer  
Principal Planner/General Manager  
RPS Australia  
PO Box 428  
HAMILTON NSW 2303

Dear Mr Dwyer,

**Re: Western Coal Services Project (Project Application no: SSD-5579)  
Environmental Impact Statement**

I am writing in regards to the request for review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provided for the Western Coal Services Project. A review was previously conducted by Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District and a letter with comments was sent to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, dated 31 May 2013. The comments focused on the Air Quality and Noise requirements as these are the impacts of most concern with the project proposal in relation to long term health effects on the community.

A second version of the EIS has been received, and we have received an email from Lyndon Bryant from Centennial Coal, dated 27 August 2013, which attempts to address some of the issues raised in the initial review. Whilst a number of our concerns have been addressed adequately, the following issues in relation to Air Quality and Noise remain:

**Air Quality DRGs**

- It is noted that the comment on how existing PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels were estimated has been addressed. However it is unclear why Bathurst data was used for estimating background levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>.

**Noise DRGs**

- The assessment proposes individual agreements with residents at Blackmans Flat; however, more detail should be provided about whether building treatment or acquisition is being considered as an option. We understand that individual agreements are confidential, but it would be useful to know what options residents are being offered as these will have long-term impacts on their health.
- The EIS outlines the approach to assessing potential sleep disturbance according to the NSW EPA Industrial Noise Policy, however the report then refers to use of alternative sleep disturbance criteria such as the NSW Road

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ABN 31 910 677 424

Nepean Hospital  
Derby Street, Penrith NSW 2750  
PO Box 63, Penrith NSW 2751  
Tel (02) 4734 2000

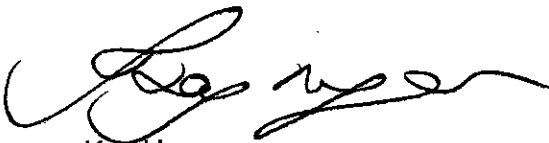
Website [www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au)

Noise Policy (RNP), which are not as stringent. The use of alternative sleep disturbance criteria to develop alternative project specific noise goals is not supported.

The EIS noted in the overview of key findings (Appendix 7 Social Impact Assessment) that conventional measures to reduce the impacts (noise, visual and dust) will not address the cumulative impacts that have occurred over many years, and future zoning of Blackmans Flat will need to recognise dominant land use.

If you like to discuss any of the above comments further please contact Nicola Scott, Public Health Officer on (02) 4734 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Hyman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kay Hyman  
**Chief Executive**