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Job ID: DOC15/434767
Your ref: SSD 6300

Mr Hamish Aiken
Team Leader
Resource Assessments | Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Aiken

RE: Notice of Exhibition of Rix's Creek Mine Extension Project (SSD 6300)

I refer to your email received on 2 November seeking input from the Heritage Council of NSW for the above SSD proposal. The EIS submitted with the application indicates that the proposed site is not listed on the State Heritage Register, a Potential State Heritage Item, in the vicinity of any State Heritage Listed item or has any impact on state listed archaeology. Therefore, consultation with the Heritage Council is not required.

If the scope of the project changes and further Heritage Impacts are identified, please refer the Information to us for further comment.

If you have any questions regarding the above matter please contact Gary Hinder, State Heritage Assessment Officer, at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, on (02) 9873 8547 or by email at gary.hinder@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Rajeev Maini
Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division, Office of Environment & Heritage
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
25 November 2015



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File No. EF13/08009
Our Ref. DOC15/439191
Previous Ref: DOC15/434767

Hamish Aiken
Team Leader
Resource Assessments, Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Aiken

RIXS Creek Mine – Continuation of Mining Project (SSD 6300) –Comments on the Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for referring the Rix Creek Mine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (herein referred to as the 'Project Area') to the Heritage Council of NSW for comment and to identify appropriate conditions of approval to the Department of Planning and Environment.

This letter is in addition to previous correspondence from the Heritage Division provided in a letter dated 25 November 2015. The document reference for this letter was DOC15/434767.

A review of the documentation associated with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been undertaken which included:

- 'Rix's Creek Mine Non-Indigenous Heritage Impact Assessment' prepared by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd dated 15 October 2015 (the Assessment).

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW I have reviewed this information and provide the following recommended comments and conditions:

The Project Area does not contain statutorily listed heritage items of local or state significance. It is however noted that one item (the Rixs Creek Coke Ovens and Associated Works) is located adjacent to but outside the Project Area, and is a local heritage item listed on the Singleton Local Environmental Plan 2013. The Archaeological Assessment provided in support of the application has identified four potential heritage items within the Project Area.

The Assessment identified direct and indirect impacts to four items identified during field investigations. Impacts include:

- Direct impact to a Linear Embankment and separate Mound with Historic Material believed associated with the Rixs Creek Coke Ovens; and
- Indirect impacts to the Granbalang Trig Station; and
- Indirect impacts to the Rixs Creek Coke Ovens and Associated Works located outside by adjacent to the study area.

The 'Linear Embankment and Mound with Historic Material' has been assessed as locally significant based for its historical association with the locally listed former 'Rixs Creek Coke Ovens and Associated Works site'. The Assessment has not attempted to undertake additional

historical research to identify the function of these features or to clarify their association if any with the coke ovens. The Assessment did not justify why surface 'relics' present at both sites should be collected when the embankment and mound were assessed as having no technical or archaeological research significance associated with either feature.

To ensure the Applicant does not undertake works that may be unnecessary from a heritage perspective, it is recommended the following conditions be included to resolve the inconsistency identified above and to clarify what, if any mitigation measures are appropriate for the 'Linear Embankment and Mound with Historic Material'. The following condition could be adopted to resolve this by requiring:

1. Additional historical research specific to the 'Linear Embankment and Mound with Historic Material' and its potential association with the "Rixs Creek Coke Ovens and Associated Works" shall be undertaken to better understand and inform the significance of the Linear Embankment and Mound'.

Mitigation measures proposed for the Rixs Creek Coke Ovens and Associated Works in section 9.4, section 9.5.2 and section 9.6.2 are supported. These should be adopted by the Department of Planning and Environment with the following additions to the proposed updated Conservation Management Plan (CMP):

2. A detailed Condition Report of the Coke Ovens and Associated Works site prepared by suitably qualified structural engineer, including detailing existing location and extent of cracks and other defects that may be susceptible from damage caused by vibration;
3. A monitoring timetable should be prepared for regular monitoring of the coke ovens site during and up to one (1) year after blasting activity has been completed;
4. Detailed mitigation options in the event damage caused by vibration activity is identified including remediation options involving the inclusion of new fabric; and
5. A final report shall be prepared within one (1) year of completion of blasting works outlining the results of both visual and vibration monitoring and any repair work completed on the site and shall be submitted for the information of the Department of Planning and Environment and the Heritage Council of NSW.

Should you have any queries, please contact Chris Lewczak, Acting Archaeologist, at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage on telephone (02) 9873 8500 or at Chris.Lewczak@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Stankowski,
Acting Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment and Heritage

AS DELEGATE OF THE NSW HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW
02 December 2015