

BN16/9015

Thomas Watt
Senior Planning Officer
Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
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Dear Thomas

Rixs Creek Coal Mine Extension Project Response to Submissions report

I refer to your email dated 31 October 2016, inviting the Division of Resources & Energy (the Division) to provide comments on the Rixs Creek Coal Mine Extension Project (the Project) Response to Submissions report.

The Division advises that the information provided in the Response to Submissions document dated 20 October 2016 adequately addresses the issues raised in the Division's submission dated 7 December 2015.

The Division has determined that sustainable rehabilitation outcomes can be achieved as a result of the project and that any identified risks or opportunities can be effectively regulated through the conditions of mining authorities issued under the *Mining Act 1992*.

Should approval be granted for the Project, the Division will require further details from DPE in regard to the final rehabilitation and post-mining land use commitments to be included in the consent. The purpose of this information is to inform the drafting of specific mining lease conditions (issued pursuant to the *Mining Act 1992*) that the Division will enforce over the life of the project to ensure that these rehabilitation and post mining land use commitments are achieved. Specifically, the following issues will need to be discussed / included in the Mining Operations Plan (MOP):

- **Final Landuse:** Demonstrate that the final landuse of grazing is sustainable. Specific objectives and criteria relating to the land capability of pasture communities must be included in the Mining Operations Plan.
- **Final Landform:** It must be demonstrated that proposed final landform include overburden dumps and final batters which can sustain the proposed final landuse and support a sufficiently sustainable landform without on-going maintenance requirements.

- **Objectives and Criteria:** Specific rehabilitation objectives for each domain were included in the EA and these were consistent with the current approved MOP. Ongoing development of existing rehabilitation objectives and criteria should be undertaken by Bloomfield Colliers Pty Limited.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Steve Cozens, Senior Project Officer, Royalty and Advisory Services on telephone (02) 9842 8573.

Yours sincerely

K Hargreaves 16.11.11

Kylie Hargreaves
Deputy Secretary
Resources & Energy