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DPE Revision of Mine Plan Letter



Mr Bill Vatovec
Chief Operating Officer
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By email: william.vatovec@kepcoaustralia.com

Dear Mr Vatovec

Bylong Coal Project (SSD 6367) - Revision of Mine Plan

The Department has carefully considered the advice provided by the Independent Planning Commission (the Commission) in its review of the Bylong Coal Project, KEPCO's response to the Commission's report, and the subsequent advice provided by the Heritage Council of NSW on the heritage values of Tarwyn Park.

Key concerns raised by both the Commission and the Heritage Council include:

- direct impacts of the eastern open cut pit and overburden emplacement area on the Tarwyn Park property; and
- landscape and visual impacts on the Tarwyn Park homestead across the valley towards the Growee Range.

Given the concerns raised by the Commission and the advice of the Heritage Council, the Department now considers that revisions to the proposed mine plan are required to adequately avoid and minimise the potential impacts on the heritage values of Tarwyn Park and surrounding landscape, and intends to include these revisions in any recommended conditions of consent.

In particular, the Department considers that:

- no open cut mining or overburden emplacement should be permitted on the Tarwyn Park property; and
- overburden emplacement areas should be redesigned to minimise the visual impacts and maximise the integration of the proposed final landform with the surrounding topography.

In arriving at this conclusion, the Department notes that its preliminary assessment indicates that there would be sufficient capacity in the amended final void configuration to manage coal rejects and water storage, although this would require confirmation.

The Department also notes that the reduction of the extent of the open cut to the west of Tarwyn Park would have the added benefit of avoiding direct impacts on the historic catholic church and cemetery and the need for exhumation and reinterment of grave sites. However, consideration of indirect impacts and management of these heritage sites in-situ would now need to be assessed.

To assist the Department to finalise its assessment of the revised mine plan, it would be appreciated if you would provide the additional information identified in Attachment 1 to the Department by **end June 2018**. Please contact Stephen O'Donoghue (0477 345 626) at the Department to facilitate the provision of this information.

Yours sincerely



28/5/18

David Kitto
Executive Director
Resource Assessments and Business Systems

ATTACHMENT 1

Aspect	Information Required
Mine Plan and Final landform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the revised mine plan including conceptual mine progression, changes to coal resource extracted and production profile. • Updated figures identifying the revised mine plan including changes to ancillary infrastructure, such as haul road to the revised eastern open cut pit.
Updated Figures required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised development layout • Conceptual mine progression – open cut stages • Final landform • Landownership with revised disturbance boundary • Updated figure - Aboriginal heritage impacts • Updated figure – Historic heritage items impacted • Land available for agriculture with revised disturbance boundary overlay (see email request from the Department 22/2/18)
Visual/ Scenic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated photomontages from Tarwyn Park property across to the Growee Range, Tal Tal Mountain and Telstra Hill for the revised mine progression and final landform.
BSAL / Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised area of impacts to BSAL, CIC and LSC class. • Revised BSAL reinstatement in final landform. • Updated soil inventory to confirm availability of soils for rehabilitation.
Groundwater/ Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level review confirming groundwater/ surface water impacts would be equal to or less than that predicted in the EIS documentation provided to date. • Water balance review - capacity to manage rejects and water storage in the revised final void configuration.
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of avoidance and minimisation of impacts on heritage items due to mine plan revision. • Updated mitigation measures, including updated table of impact / management measures for heritage items, where direct impacts are now avoided, including Aboriginal and Historic Heritage items.
Blasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the impacts of blasting and proposed mitigation measures on heritage items, including items where direct impacts will now be avoided (Aboriginal and Historic heritage) and where blast impacts now need to be considered.
Economic/ Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised benefit cost analysis - net benefits to NSW including revised royalties. • High level review of the CGE/ Input-Output analysis to confirm general findings, including changes to workforce peaks
Air and Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level review confirming impacts would be equal to or less than that predicted in the EIS documentation provided to date.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level review of changes to transport on road network confirming impacts would be equal to or less than that predicted in the EIS documentation provided to date.