

5 March 2019

Contact: *Juri Jung*
Telephone: 98652503
Our ref: D2019/22776

Andrew Rode
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Resource Assessments | Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Rode

Tahmoor South Coal Mine (SSD 17_8445)

I refer to your e-mail dated 30 January 2019 inviting WaterNSW to provide advice on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tahmoor South Coal Mine project (the Project). WaterNSW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the EIS.

WaterNSW acknowledges that the revised mining area is no longer within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment (SDWC). However, given the proximity of the proposed longwalls to the Metropolitan Special Area, WaterNSW has assessed whether the potential impacts may extend to the SDWC, with particular consideration of WaterNSW's Mining Principles.

The Mining Principles that are most relevant to the Project are 'protection of water quantity', and 'sound and robust evidence regarding environmental impacts'. The Principles can be found at <https://www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/catchment/mining/principles>.

The EIS provides predictions for groundwater drawdown, baseflow reduction and associated reduction in flows to Pheasant's Nest Weir. Based on the information in the EIS, WaterNSW considers that groundwater drawdown and baseflow reduction from the Project would pose a low risk to water quantity in the SDWC.

WaterNSW notes that the potential for future mining at the Dendrobium coal mine has not been included in relation to cumulative impacts in the Metropolitan Special Area. WaterNSW considers that the groundwater assessment for the Project should be updated to include potential cumulative impacts from any future mining at Dendrobium when the EIS for such mining is submitted.

The EIS states that a groundwater management plan for Project will be developed. WaterNSW requests that the groundwater management plan should be developed in consultation with WaterNSW. WaterNSW also requests that it remains as a stakeholder for the Project and would appreciate having further opportunities to comment on the Project as the assessment progresses.

If you wish to discuss this letter further, please contact Juri Jung on 9865 2503 or e-mail at environmental.assessments@waternsw.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clay Preshaw".

CLAY PRESRAW
Manager Catchment Protection