

1148-3#734

Mr M Young  
Principal Planning Officer  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Mr Young

**Submission on the Tahmoor South Coal Project (SSD 8445)**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tahmoor South Project Application (the Project) during its public exhibition.

The Project Application is considered a significant development within the Wollondilly LGA with relevance and potential implications to a range of Council responsibilities, including the operation of the Bargo Waste Management Centre (BWMC). Council staff with responsibilities for this Centre have requested a meeting with the DPE to discuss concerns over potential impacts of the Project on the operation and future rehabilitation of the BWMC as a matter of priority. They have further requested that this meeting also be attended by Subsidence Advisory NSW and Environment Protection Authority representatives.

The Project application also has strong relevance to Council's responsibilities in advocating views expressed by the local community in regard to both positive aspects as well as concerns over potential related impacts to the natural, cultural and built environment. The production of the Project Overview by SIMEC Mining is supported in principle as a form of effective engagement. However, the distribution of this Project Overview to approximately 3,500 residents less than two weeks before the conclusion of the public exhibition period is inadequate and an extension of at least 14 days is requested.

The EIS has a number of positive aspects including a detailed groundwater modelling, assessment of likely subsidence impacts to properties and public facilities as well as Social Impact Assessment. However, our review has identified a range of inconsistencies with the position of Council and local community it represents that warranted the preparation of a submission (attached). The Executive Summary of this submission provides the position of Council on key identified issues associated with the Project, major identified shortcomings as well as requested responses as assistance to the DPE.

The submission identifies issues and suggested conditions of consent that are requested to be investigated by the Independent Planning Assessment Commission in accordance with the State Significant Development framework applying to the Project. It also requests a response to all issues raised in an accompanying independent peer review of the Aquatic Ecology section of the EIS from Dr Ian Wright (at the Western Sydney University) obtained by Council.



The submission is requested to be recorded as a draft as the timing of the public exhibition period prevented its consideration and potential endorsement at the next available Council meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The DPE is requested to note that the declining of an extension allowing for the lodgement of the submission after this meeting sought by Staff has been viewed with strong disappointment.

I request that the Department of Planning & Environment provide to Council:

- A response to all issues raised as well as the suggested amendments to the Environmental Impact Statement.
- All responses to submissions and any project advice from the Independent Expert Scientific Committee and this information also be made publicly available.
- An opportunity for Council to participate in the Public Hearing that has been directed to be held by the Minister.

Council is available and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss key aspects of issues raised in Council's submission with senior Department of Planning & Environment Staff.

Please contact Council's Manager Environmental Outcomes, Alexandra Stengl on 4677 9577 or via e-mail [Alexandra.stengl@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Alexandra.stengl@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au) to discuss any issues raised in Council's submission or to arrange any discussion opportunities.

Yours faithfully



Michael Malone  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

