

Our Reference: 12211#42

Mr A Rode
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy, Resources & Compliance Division- Planning & Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

19 August 2020

Dear Mr Rode

AMENDED TAHMOOR SOUTH PROJECT APPLICATION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Second Project Amendment Report (the Report) for the Tahmoor South Project Application (Project Application). The granting of an extension of the deadline for feedback on this Report subsequent to the Council Meeting on 18 August 2020 by the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) is appreciated. The DPIE is; however, requested to note Council's disappointment that the short fourteen day feedback period prevented the adoption of a formal position regarding the amended Project Application.

Council has previously provided a submission on the Environmental Impact Statement for the Project which recognised the economic benefits of the Application including local employment; however, it raised a number of potential shortcomings and concerns particularly in regard to subsidence related impacts. In endorsing this submission at its meeting on 18 March 2019, Council resolved to "*request that (the exhibited Application) be reconsidered due to identified significant shortcomings*".

The significant modifications to the initial Project and associated impacts to the scale of production, including an 80 per cent reduction in number of dwellings directly above longwalls, is strongly welcomed and supported. The additional 175 jobs specifically related to the Project Application and the continued employment of 400 employees as part of the overall Project is also welcomed. However, a review of the Report by has identified residual concerns, particularly in regard to impacts on water sources that warrant a submission (attached).

The submission requests, in particular, that concerns raised over the adequacy in the protection and management of impacts to water sources be further investigated by the consent authority {preferably the Independent Planning Commission (IPC)} in consultation with applicable government agencies and research organisations. It also refers to separately lodged correspondence which raises legal based concerns over adverse implications of the Project on the operation of the Council managed Bargo Waste Management Centre.

The placement of the Report and related documents on public exhibition is recognised as not being a statutory requirement. However, public exhibition is viewed as being warranted given the modified application retains a range of impacts to the built and natural environment and the demonstrated high level of community interest (particularly the Bargo district) in the Project Application. Council requests that the local community be given the opportunity to provide comment on the Amendment Report prior to its finalisation and as part of the IPC process.

I request that the DPIE provide to Council:

- A response to all issues raised and requested amendments contained in the attached submission
- Details of intended consultation with members of the local community during the finalisation of the Project Application.
- An opportunity to participate in a Public Hearing as part of the Independent Planning Commission (recognising constraints in format as a consequence of the COVID pandemic).

Please contact Council's Manager Environmental Outcomes, Alexandra Stengl on 4677 9687 or via Alexandra.Stengl@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au for any enquiries regarding issues raised in the submission.

Yours faithfully



Michael Malone

Director

INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Attached: Submission on the Second Amendments Assessment Report including two Attachments