

# UNITED COLLIERIES

---

## GLENCORE

11 May 2016

Alison Stone  
Deputy Director General  
DPI Land and Natural Resources  
PO Box 2215  
DANGAR, NSW 2309

Dear Alison,

United Wambo Project SSD 15\_7142 - Notification of Application for Site Verification Certificate

Pursuant to Clause 17C(3)(a) of the *State Environment Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007* (Mining SEPP), United Collieries Pty Limited on behalf of the United Wambo Joint Venture would like to notify DPI Land and Natural Resources of its intention to submit an application for a Site Verification Certificate in relation to land that is owned by the Crown, as shown in the enclosed Figure 1.

By way of background, the United and Wambo mines are neighbouring mining operations located approximately 16 kilometres (km) west of Singleton in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales. United Collieries Pty Limited (United) is the operator of United mine and Wambo Coal Pty Limited (Wambo) is the operator of Wambo mine. United and Wambo have formed a Joint Venture which includes the proposed development of the United Wambo Open Cut Coal Mine Project (the Project).

The Project proposes to carry out open cut coal mining for a period of 23 years, with mining in a new open cut mine at United (the United Open Cut) combined with ongoing mining at the existing, approved Wambo Open Cut under a modified mine plan. The Project will optimise future mining operations across these two adjoining open cut mining areas, maximising coal recovery and the efficient use of existing mining infrastructure, while providing the operational flexibility required to actively manage the mine to minimise environmental impacts.

# GLENCORE

The Project is State Significant Development as defined under State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 and will require development consent under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). The Project will also require a modification to the existing Wambo Mine development consents under section 75W of the EP&A Act to harmonise these consents with the Project. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared to accompany these applications.

As part of the EIS an Agricultural Impact Assessment was undertaken that identified Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) within the Project Area (31.6ha) and within the proposed Mining Lease Application Area (3.8ha). It is important to note that the Mining Lease Application Area (3.8ha) is contained entirely within the Project Area (31.6ha). The Mining SEPP requires detailed examination of land and soil characteristics of State Significant mining developments that require a new mining lease.

The NSW government has prepared an Interim Protocol for Verification of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land which outlines the process for verification of whether or not land mapped as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) at the regional scale meets the BSAL criteria when assessed at the site or project scale.

The land referred to in the Site Verification Certificate Application is already the subject of an approved Mining Lease (ML1572) from the surface to the Whynot Seam. ML1572 is currently held by Wambo. However, as part of the Project, a new sub-surface mining lease is required for the proposed extraction of coal from the strata beneath the existing depth limit that applies to ML1572. Wambo owns the land adjacent to the Crown Land subject to this notification.

The Crown Land that is located within the application area for the Site Verification Certificate is shown on Figure 1 and as follows:

- Part of Lot 170 DP 823775 (2.4ha)
- Adjacent Crown Road (0.33ha)

A detailed verification assessment has been undertaken in respect of the land and soils occurring in the Project Area, and such assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Interim Protocol. In respect of the 3.8 hectares where a new sub-surface mining lease is required and BSAL has been mapped at the regional scale, the findings of that verification assessment are as follows:

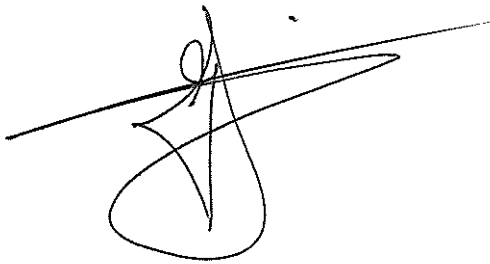
- No BSAL exists in the proposed Mining Lease Application Area (3.8ha); and
- A Site Verification Certificate should be granted in accordance with the requirements of the Mining SEPP.

# GLENCORE

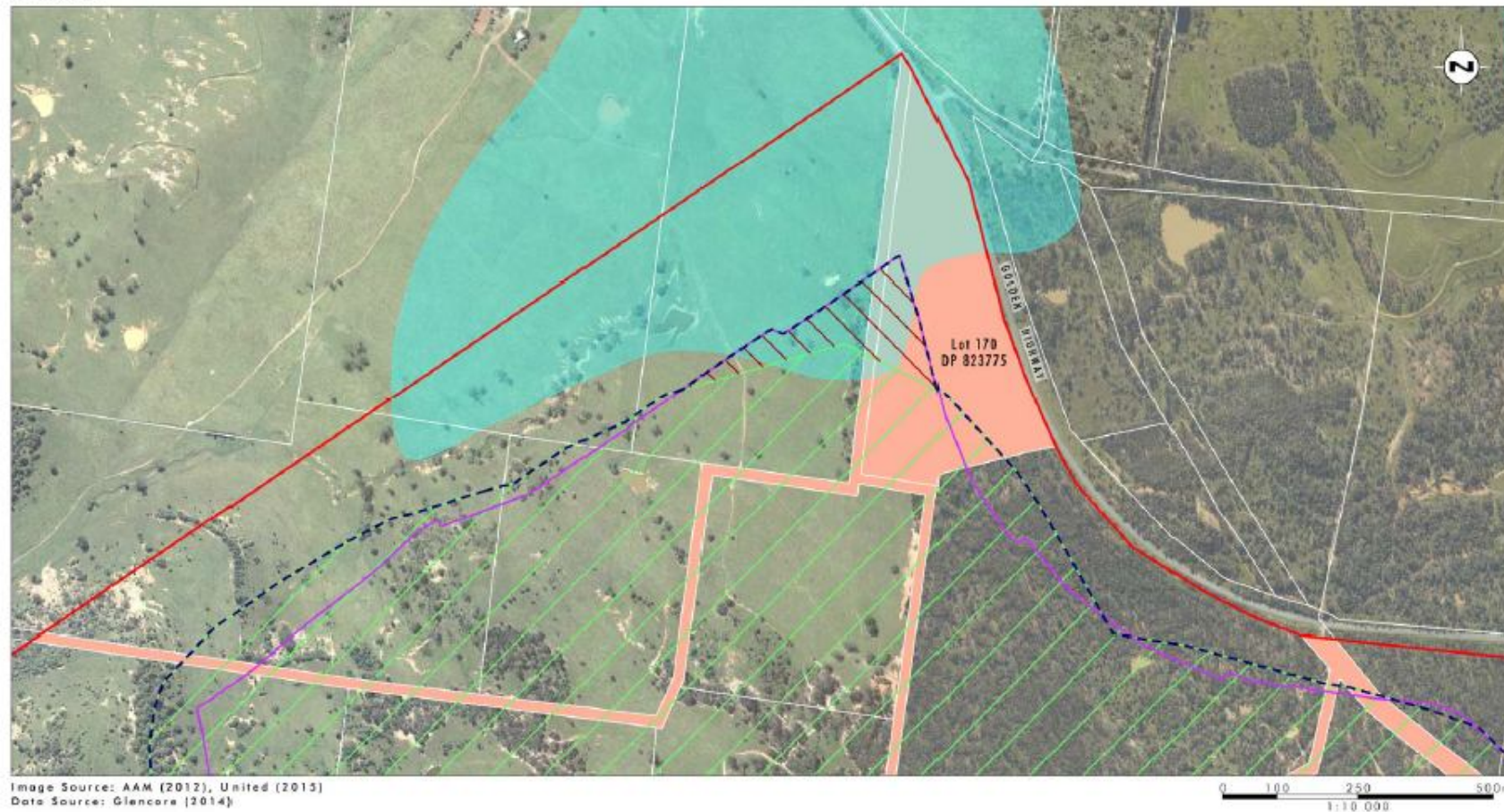
As noted above, the purpose of this notice is to satisfy the requirement of Clause 17C(3)(a) of the Mining SEPP which requires United to notify DPI Land and Natural Resources prior to making an application for a Site Verification Certificate that affects Crown Land. No action by DPI Land and Natural Resources is required.

Should you require any additional information please contact me as required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gary Wills', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary Wills  
Project Manager  
United Wambo Project  
M: +61 (0) 41 460 8040  
E: [Gary.Wills@glencore.com.au](mailto:Gary.Wills@glencore.com.au)



**Legend**

- Project Area
- Proposed Open Cut Area
- Overall Verification Application Area
- Areas excluded from the Assessment
- Detailed Verification Assessment Area
- Regionally Mapped Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land
- Crown Land

File Name (A4): 3509\_480.dgn  
20160510 12:15

FIGURE 1

Detailed VAA Assessment Area

Figure 1 Detailed Verification Assessment Area