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Director – Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment

By Email: ██████████

cc: ██████████

23 November 2018

Dear ██████████

Bylong Coal Project (SSD 6367) – Request for Additional Information

On 7 November 2018 the Independent Planning Commission (the **Commission**) held a public meeting as part of its consideration of the Bylong Coal Project (the **Project**).

As demonstrated through the transcript of the public meeting and technical presentation by the University of Sydney Water Resource Lab, both available on the Commission's website, there is significant community concern regarding the potential for the Project to result in significant groundwater impacts and uncertainty regarding the groundwater model used to assess the groundwater impacts.

To assist in considering these issues the Commission is writing to seek additional clarification and consideration by the Department and Planning and Environment. Specifically, these issues relate to:

1. ***The potential for significant impacts to groundwater availability to neighbouring properties***, specifically what is the probability that the Project will have an adverse impact on the availability of groundwater to neighbouring properties and what the “worst-case” scenario would be, taking into account climate change factors?
2. ***In the event of significant adverse groundwater availability impacts to neighbouring properties***, do the current and proposed monitoring regimes have adequate sensitivity and demonstrate suitable design to provide pre-emptive notice or warning that groundwater supplies may be impacted? Are the compensatory mechanisms proposed in the draft conditions of consent and the applicant's proposed compensatory scheme suitable to address any significant adverse impacts within a realistic timeframe to prevent financial losses to neighbouring properties as a result groundwater impacts, including the duration of compensatory water supply?
3. ***The geographical relationship and extent of the predicted drawdown***, specifically in relation to the potential drawdown impacts on the nearby Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, and any cumulative impacts or interactions between the Project and existing mining projects in the regions, including the Wilpinjong Coal Mine and Moolarben Coal Mine?
4. ***Clarification on modelling considerations and outcomes for the Moolarben Coal Project, as raised through public submissions and the public meeting***, including any identified factors which may have contributed to the identified disparity between the modelled level of groundwater take and the realised level of groundwater take? Are there any implications for the assessment of groundwater impacts for the Project?

5. **Clarification on the potential safety risks of water storage in the mine underground mine goaf**, and the relationship and importance of this water storage option on the overall function of the Project's site water balance.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to me on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
Senior Planning Officer
Independent Planning Commission NSW Secretariat