



Professor Mary O'Kane  
Chair  
Independent Planning Commission  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Professor O'Kane

**Tahmoor South Coal Project (SSD 8445)**

I refer to the request from the former Minister for Planning, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, asking the Independent Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing into the carrying out of the Tahmoor South Coal Project (the Project).

The Department has prepared the attached Preliminary Issues Report for the Tahmoor South Coal Project to assist the Commission in conducting the public hearing.

During exhibition of the Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Department received a total of 86 submissions. The Department also received advice from 12 Government agencies and the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly Shire Councils.

The majority of community submitters (85%) supported the project due to the potential economic and employment benefits associated with mining in the region. Submissions objecting to the project (13%) raised concerns about subsidence impacts and associated property damage, groundwater impacts, biodiversity impacts, greenhouse gas emissions and the possibility of damage to Thirlmere Lakes which are part of the world heritage listed Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

In preparing its Preliminary Issues Report, the Department engaged an independent groundwater expert to provide advice on the EIS's groundwater assessment. The preliminary advice from the groundwater expert is attached to the Department's report.

If you have any more questions, please contact Mr Howard Reed, Director, Resource Assessments, at the Department on 9274 6308.

Yours sincerely

**Marcus Ray**  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Planning Services**

07/06/2019