


HLA-Envirosiences Pty Limited

ABN 34 080 204 702

E02/00498

Our Ref: U909
Your Ref: S01/00200-DA-309-11-2001-1

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PlanningNSW
Executive Director
Sustainable Development
GPO 3927
Sydney NSW 2001

Fax to: 97628722

Attention: Messrs G. Kirkby and C. Ritchie

Dear Sirs

Ashton Coal Mine Project at Camberwell

I refer to PlanningNSW facsimiles dated 15 April and 24 April 2002.

In relation to the agricultural issues raised within the facsimile dated 15 April 2002 it is my opinion these matters were satisfactorily responded to in HLA's letter to PlanningNSW dated 28 March 2002. It is noted that issues other than agricultural matters were canvassed in NSW Agriculture correspondence. The non-agricultural matters have been responded to by the proponent directly with the relevant government agency.

In response to PlanningNSW facsimile dated 24 April 2002 it was HLA's understanding that ecological issues had been adequately addressed as per correspondence dated 28 March 2002.

The EIS team is unaware of any documentation that supports the view that the northern woodland is of regional conservation significance. In respect of the Grey-crowned Babbler, Glossy Black Cockatoo and Masked Owl the following information is offered.

The Grey-crowned Babbler has been detected and noted on all site visitations in the southern woodland, but never observed (directly or in-directly) in the northern woodland. Had the Grey-crowned Babbler been present in the northern woodland is highly likely to have been observed and reported.

Potential habitat for the Glossy Black Cockatoo is not present in the northern woodland. Allocasuarina species are known foraging habitat, however Bullock (*A. luehmannii*) is not known as a significant foraging resource (Higgins 1999). No potential breeding habitat was observed. It is highly unlikely that this species would use the northern woodland.

The Masked Owl was targeted in the field studies for the EIS, using call play back methodology. If the species is present it will respond almost immediately to call playback (R. Kavanagh-S Forest pers com), however no response was detected. It is unlikely the species is present in the northern woodland. Please refer to Appendix J, Volume 2 of the Ashton EIS.

Newcastle Office: 18 Warabrook Boulevard Warabrook NSW 2304

All Mail Should Be Addressed To: PO Box 73 HRMC NSW 2310 Ph: (+61 2) 4966 0044 Fax: (+61 2) 4966 0005

Email: mail@hla-enviro.com.au

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Gordon K.
For urgent advise pls.
SM.
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Relocating or partially relocating the eastern emplacement would impact upon the design of the western emplacement and landowners concerns in respect of dust and noise. The Ashton open cut and eastern emplacement has been designed as a balance between acceptable environmental impacts, community expectation and input, resource recovery and financial considerations.

It is our understanding following the PlanningNSW arranged meeting of 7 May 2002 and meeting Mr Sam Haddad and representatives of White Mining Ltd on 10 May 2002 that all issues had been resolved, except the additional information sought by DLWC (refer to notes of meeting dated 7 May 2002) and NPWS for aboriginal heritage.

Yours faithfully
HLA-Envirosciences Pty Limited

Alan Wells

Alan Wells
Regional Manager

Encl.

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