

Summary Fact Sheet

NSW Planning Assessment Commission Project Review Wilpinjong Extension Project (SSD 6764)

Tuesday, 20 December 2016

The NSW Planning Assessment Commission (the Commission) has completed its review of the Wilpinjong Extension Project.

The Commission has balanced the economic, social and environmental factors in its review of the proposal and, in doing so, identified a number of areas where further information or assessment is required, concluding that the recommendations of its review report must be satisfactorily addressed before the project can be considered further.

The Commission carefully considered the proposal and the submissions made, including the issues raised in written submissions to the Commission, presentations to the public hearing, submissions made on the Environmental Impact Statement, the Response to Submissions and various other documents provided by the Applicant and agencies as included within the preliminary Secretary's Environmental Assessment Report. The Commission also sought further clarification on biodiversity and heritage issues.

In reaching its conclusions, the Commission considered the potential impacts of the project on Wollar Village, as required by the review terms of reference. It found that the Applicant and the Department should give further consideration in establishing what the social impact on the locality, and specifically Wollar Village will be following closure of the mine.

The Commission recommends that the Applicant, in consultation with the Department of Planning and Environment prepare a long term strategy for the management of mine owned assets within Wollar Village. The strategy should include details on maintenance or replacement of assets where possible, or the timely removal and remediation of assets should maintenance or replacement not be a viable option on public safety grounds.

With regards to biodiversity and offsets, the Commission recommends incorporating as a minimum the Department's recommendations and adopting a progressive offset strategy. The Commission encourages development of a long term strategy for provision of potential habitat for the Regent Honeyeater.

The Commission considers that the proposal to create an additional long term void for Pit 8 is not justified based on the information provided and suggest further consideration be given to preventing this permanent void.

The Commission considers that the final assessment report should present water quality modelling and prediction information as being independent of the existing mining operations. Cumulative assessment of impacts of the whole project still need to be presented.

With regards to potential Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage impacts, the Commission recommends developing clear performance management objectives specifying the acceptable level of impact on sites of significance and taking all reasonable steps to consult the local Indigenous community as to the level of acceptable impact on items of significance.

The Commission recommends the Department exhaust all reasonable means to reach an agreement with the Applicant regarding voluntary acquisition of remaining private residences within Wollar. The Commission also recommends that the Applicant take all reasonable measures to ensure that private residences along Ulan Road are aware of the mitigation measures available where road noise exceedances occur.

The Commission's review report provides a comprehensive list of recommendations based on the conclusions of its review. The review report considers it is not appropriate to review or provide comments on the proposed conditions of consent as part of this review. The review of such conditions is considered to be most appropriate during the determination stage of the application once all concerns have been addressed and relevant information provided.