Mr Robert Greenwood  
General Manager  
Blue Mountains City Council  
Locked Bag 1005  
KATOOMBA NSW 2780

26 September 2012

Dear Mr Greenwood

Proposed Coalpac Consolidation Project – Castlereagh Highway, Cullen Bullen

The Commission is currently conducting a Review under section 23D(1)(b)(ii) and Schedule 3 of the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, of the Coalpac Consolidation Project Proposal (10_0178) at Cullen Bullen, near Lithgow. The terms of reference are to:

*Carry out a review of the Coalpac Consolidation Project, and:*
  a. *Consider the Environmental Assessment of the project, all issues raised in submissions on the project, and any information provided on the project during the course of the review;*
  b. *Assess the merits of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to the potential:*
    i. *Local health and amenity impacts of the project, particularly dust, noise and blasting impacts noting its proximity to the village;*
    ii. *Biodiversity impacts of the project;*
    iii. *Water resource impacts of the project; and*
  c. *Recommend appropriate measures to avoid, minimise and/or offset these impacts.*


The Proposal primarily involves the supply of coal to the Mount Piper Power Station via a proposed conveyor, but it also seeks approval to haul coal and sand to domestic customers primarily on the east coast including in Sydney.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) estimates about 0.45 Mtpa of product coal will be transported by road via the Great Western Highway, requiring up to 51 one-way truck movements for up to 290 haul days. In addition, an estimated 0.64 Mtpa of sand product will also be transported via the Great Western Highway by up to 64 one-way truck movements for up to 290 haul days. It is assumed all trucks will return empty doubling the daily movements quoted above. The proponent advises the Bells Line of Road will not be used as a truck haulage route.
In addition, 1 Mtpa of coal for export will be moved by train from the mine through the Blue Mountains to Port Kembla. Coalpac suggests this will require 290 one-way rail movements each year. Again, it is assumed that all trains will also return doubling the movements quoted above.

Subject to project approval, transport of sand to Sydney would commence in year 2 through to year 14. Transport of coal by rail and road would extend over the life of the project which is for 21 years.

To assist the Commission with its review of the Coalpac Consolidation Project the views of your Council would be appreciated, particularly with respect to road and rail traffic and any potential impacts for your Council and community.

The Commission would be happy to meet with representatives of Blue Mountains City Council and/or receive a written response. Any written response would need to be received by close of business 19 October 2012, as the timeframe for the Commission review is restricted with a report and recommendation due to be provided to the Minister by mid November 2012.

Ms Sera Taschner (Commission Secretariat) can assist with any enquiries concerning the Commission’s requests on (02) 9383 2117 or email sera.taschner@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Dr Neil Shepherd AM
Chair, Coalpac Commission Chair