



Your Ref:  
17/10889

Ms Lynelle Briggs AO  
Chairperson  
Planning Assessment Commission  
GPO Box 3415  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms Briggs *Lynelle*

**Wallarrah 2 Coal Project (SSD 4974)**

I refer to the Planning Assessment Commission's Review Reports on the merits of the Wallarrah 2 Coal Project, dated June 2014 and May 2017. The Department has now finalised its assessment of the merits of the Wallarrah 2 Coal Project and a copy of its Residual Matters Report is enclosed. This report addresses each of the Commission's recommendations and should be read in conjunction with the Department's Preliminary Assessment Report, dated August 2015, and Addendum Assessment Report, dated February 2017.

To help inform its consideration of the key recommendations in the Commission's May 2017 Review Report, the Department sought and received additional information from both Wyong Coal and Central Coast Council and also commissioned an independent peer reviewer to provide further comment on the project's economic benefits.

The Department has carefully and thoroughly considered each of the Commission's recommendations, the additional information provided and the independent peer review. In particular, the Department has given careful consideration to the Commission's recommendation that the project should have no net impact on potential offtake from the catchment.

Having considered all these matters, the Department considers that the project can be developed and operated in accordance with all applicable NSW Government policies and assessment criteria. The Department therefore considers the project is approvable.

Should you have any further questions in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Howard Reed, Director, Resource Assessments, at the Department on 9274 6308.

Yours sincerely

**Marcus Ray**  
Planning Services

*25/09/2017*