



Jacqueline Tracey
A/Executive Director
Office of the Independent Planning Commission

Via email: jacqueline.tracey@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

30 October 2020

Dear Ms Tracey

Tahmoor South Coal Project (SSD 8445)

Tahmoor Coal Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of SIMEC (Australia) Mining Pty Ltd, owns and operates the Tahmoor Coal Mine in the southern coalfield of NSW, located approximately 75 kilometers south-west of Sydney. The mine produces metallurgical coal for steelmaking.

The mine operates under several development consents which permit the extraction of up to 3 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal per annum. Approved mining operations are anticipated to be completed by 2022.

In January 2019, Tahmoor Coal lodged a development application and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tahmoor South Coal Project (the project). Tahmoor Coal has revised the proposed mine design and submitted amended development applications on two occasions (in February and August 2020). The project involves the extraction of an additional 33 million tonnes of ROM coal to be extracted over a 10 year period.

During the public exhibition of the EIS in 2019, the Department received 85 public submissions, of which 73 supported the project, 10 objected to the project and 2 provided comments. Subsequently, the Department has received over 120 representations from members of the public and special interest groups, including over 100 objections.

On 27 October 2020, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces requested the Independent Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing into the carrying out of the Tahmoor South Coal Project, prior to determining the application (see **Attachment 1**).

In accordance with the Minister's terms of reference for the project, the Commission is requested to hold a public hearing and make its determination of the application within 12 weeks of receiving the Department's assessment report, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. The Department is currently finalising its assessment of the project and it is expected that the project will be referred to the Commission by end-November 2020.

If you require any further information please contact Stephen O'Donoghue, Director Resource Assessments on 0477 345 626.

Yours sincerely

Mike Young
Executive Director
Energy, Industry and Compliance

Attachment 1: Minister's Request for Public Hearing