



Birding NSW Inc ABN: 72 008 283 208

PO Box Q277 QVB Post Shop Sydney NSW 1230

Email: info@birdingnsw.org.au

Website: www.birdingnsw.org.au

Mr Stephen Barry, Planning Director
NSW Independent Planning Commission
Via email to casey.joshua@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

19 June 2022.

Dear Mr Barry,

RE: Glendell Continued Operations Project SSD 9349 and Mount Owen Continued Operations SSD 5850 Modification.

Much has been written about the Ravensworth Homestead and surrounding lands that are part of the history of NSW. We comment only that to move such a building to another site would completely destroy the integrity and probably the longevity, of such an important building. And, considering that moving the building to another site in the area would constitute providing an 'Offset' for wildlife, would also be a mistake. Once a section of an ancient natural bushland is changed, restoration will take thousands of years.

Birds provide our early warning system. No other group from the natural ecosystems are so obvious except vegetation which has a better chance of recovery if left to do so. Our scientific monitoring of birds over decades is proof of the calamitous state of some of the NSW bird species.

New South Wales is already at risk of losing more species to extinction than any other place in the world. Birds in trouble, specifically close to the mining areas, are Swift Parrot, Critically Endangered; Rufous Scrub-bird, Endangered; Regent Honeyeater, Critically Endangered and Diamond Firetail, Vulnerable. (Refs: International Union for the Conservation of Nature [IUCN] and The Action Plan for Australian Birds, 2020, ST Garnett et al, CSIRO)

Continued mining for coal and other minerals is at the root of climate change. This application seeks to mine a further 135 million tonnes of coal over 21 years (to 2044, very close to the IEAs goal of Net Zero by 2050) which will produce 226.9 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. So, there are many more concerns than whether a Homestead can be relocated and First Nations historical artifacts lost.

On behalf of 1000+ members and friends of Birding NSW, we respectfully ask that the Department considers all factors of the possible long-term destruction of the site as well as any short-term economic plan.

Sincerely

Ian Bailey

Ian G Bailey
Office of Conservation
Birding NSW inc

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PO Box 364 Liverpool NSW 1871.