



Kiersten Fishburn
Secretary
Department of Planning, Housing and
Infrastructure

27 August 2026

Via email: [REDACTED]

HVO Continuation Project (SSD-11826681 & SSD-11826621)

Dear Secretary,

The Independent Planning Commission (Commission) is currently working towards its determination of the HVO North and HVO South Open Cut Coal Continuation Projects (the HVO Continuation Project).

The Minister requested that the Commission conduct a public hearing and determine the Project within 12 weeks of receipt of the Department's Assessment Report. The 12 week timeframe commenced on 12 June 2026 and will be reached on 4 September 2026. The Minister's request provides that the Planning Secretary may agree to another date by which the Project is to be determined.

I am writing to seek an extension of the determination timeframe, on the following basis:

- the length of the public hearing was extended to three days to accommodate the significant level of public interest in the Project, closing on 22 July 2026
- similarly, the public submission period was extended by ten days to close on 5 August 2026
- more than 10,000 written submissions were lodged during the submission period, which are being carefully considered by the Commission
- the Commission has subsequently requested further information from the applicant to be provided by 4 September 2026, or such further time the applicant might require.

Accordingly, the Commission seeks an extension to determine the HVO Continuation Project within four weeks of the receipt and publication of the requested information from the applicant.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Samantha McLean

Executive Director

Office of the Independent Planning Commission

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