



Contact Name: Mathew Pringle
Contact No: (02) 6540 1139
Our Reference: OUT-7754/15

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Executive Director, Resources & Industry Policy
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission to Draft Mining SEPP Amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Significance of Resource) 2015.

Upper Hunter Shire Council fully supports the proposed repeal of Clause 12AA of State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 (Mining SEPP) and applauds the NSW Government for taking steps to reinstate a balanced framework for decision makers to assess the impacts of mining proposals.

Council agrees that the proposed amendment will help to restore some level of community confidence in the rigour of the assessment process with respect to mining proposals.

In addition to the proposed amendment, Council would encourage the NSW Government to consider repealing Clause 12AB of the Mining SEPP in order to reinstate the discretionary power of a consent authority to refuse a mining proposal that does not meet particular development standards. It is considered that the current non-discretionary development standards prevent a proper and impartial merit based assessment and diminishes third party and merit based appeal rights.

We thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Yours faithfully

Waid Crockett
GENERAL MANAGER

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All correspondence to:
General Manager
Upper Hunter Shire Council
PO Box 208, Scone NSW 2337

Telephone:
Scone Office - 6540 1100
Merriwa Office - 6521 7000
Murrurundi Office - 6540 1350

Email:
council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
Website:
www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au