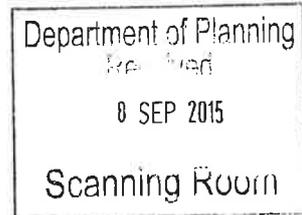


3 September 2015

Director of Assessment Policy Systems &  
Stakeholder Engagement  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Contact: Mr Ian Turnbull  
Our Ref: DOC2015/041561  
Your Ref:

Dear Sir/Madam



### **Integrated Mining Policy – Submission**

Thank you for providing Council the opportunity to comment on the range of documents associated with the NSW Government's Integrated Mining Policy.

Cessnock City Council has a long and proud mining heritage which continues to this day. Our local government area contains several operating mines employing significant number of local residents. These past operations in particular, have impacted on our Community through legacy issues including subsidence and waste from former operations.

Further to our submission on the Stage 1 reforms Council recognises the opportunity for these reforms to make a positive contribution not only to the LGA's where the proposed future mining operations exist but the adjacent and supporting Council's, such as Cessnock, which are impacted. These impacts were clearly articulated in Councils assessment of mining impacts which led to the inclusion of our LGA in the eligibility list for Resources for Regions funding. The introduction of the Integrated Mining Policy should ensure that legacy impacts of mining operations are considered, minimised and managed proactively to ensure that communities can be sustained into the future. The policy provides a mechanism whereby the past legacy issues can be addressed in the planning and operational stages, this is an approach that is supported by Council.

The introduction of Regional Planning Agreements would see those impacts which are not restricted by Council boundaries provide positive outcomes to communities affected by mining. These impacts are both direct (eg transport infrastructure, decreased air quality) and indirect (eg population growth which supports mining and associated operations). Planning for these impacts has provided Council with a blueprint for meeting the future needs of the LGA. Council's Draft Community Infrastructure Plan considers the growth not only within our LGA but explores the relationship with the Kurri Kurri / Maitland urban growth corridor. The critical linkages such as Testers Hollow on Maitland Rd could be addressed through the mechanisms identified in the Draft reform documentation.

Council is particularly interested in the process of integration of the policy reforms with existing approvals and Modifications to those approvals and continuing the dialogue with the operators of mines within our Local Government Area to ensure both sustainable employment for local residents and positive legacies when the operations conclude.

Council requests that Department of Planning and Environment be cognisant of the sub-regional strategies and context when reviewing contributions proposed by proponents for mining activities. It is important that these plans are appropriately considered during the assessment of any agreements. The projected rapid growth in sites, such as Huntlee, are directly associated with providing housing in closer proximity to mining areas and as a result should be considered as part of the process. In this regard, when the Department is looking at agreements for State Significant Developments, Council staff are available to meet and discuss these matters.

Council also supports a balanced approach to ensure that current operations remain viable and sustainable in the long term.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Principal Natural Environment Planner on telephone 02 4993 4276 or via email [ian.turnbull@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ian.turnbull@cessnock.nsw.gov.au).

Yours faithfully



Gareth Curtis  
Director Planning and Environment