



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Central West

Central West Catchment Management Authority
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File: CW00192

Mr Kane Winwood
A/ Manager, Mining Projects
NSW Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

18 June, 2012

Dear Mr Winwood,

**Subject: Central West CMA comments on the Coalpac Consolidation Project (10_0178)
Environmental Assessment**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Coalpac Consolidation Project.

The Central West Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has previously provided comment into the Coalpac Consolidation Project Adequacy Assessment, particularly in the areas of:

- Native Vegetation (including biodiversity values);
- Water (surface and ground water);
- Cultural Heritage and engagement with the Aboriginal community; and
- Community engagement in an ongoing capacity.

The basis of this response to the Environmental Assessment will be focussed on these areas and how the issues raised by us have been addressed. The Central West CMA acknowledges the engagement that has occurred with NSW State agencies that have a role in natural resource management and will therefore support their comments in their specific areas of expertise.

The Central West CMA notes the reference to the Central West Catchment Action Plan (2007) in section 5.6.6 of the Environmental Assessment. The Central West CMA acknowledges the specific assessment of consistency with the Catchment Action Plan (2007) and the targets outlined in the Plan. We would like to inform the proponents that the Catchment Action Plan (2007) has recently undergone a major review and is currently with the Minister for Primary Industries awaiting approval and gazettal.

This is noted specifically to ensure that the proponent is aware that the new plan has a focus on resilience in the landscape and seeks to build the adaptive capacity of physical and social systems to the impacts of the change. A copy of the reviewed Catchment Action Plan can be found on our website at www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au and the Central West CMA suggests the proponent establishes a level of familiarity with the new approach and catchment goals.

Native Vegetation:

The amount of native vegetation within the endangered ecological community (EEC) for Box Gum Woodland and threatened species that will be impacted by the proposed project, continues to be a concern for the Central West CMA.

It is acknowledged that the Biodiversity Offset Strategy outlines an offset for the endangered EEC for Box Gum Woodland. It is stated that this will be achieved through the purchase of properties in the area. To ensure the full benefit of the offset, the Central West CMA reinforces the need for offsetting equivalent quality of EEC and native vegetation, therefore ensuring the need for preserving 'like for like' in terms of state and transition, and the subsequent biodiversity values.

The Central West CMA acknowledges the intent of the offset area to build on existing patches of remnant vegetation and wildlife corridors. This is a focus in the reviewed Catchment Action Plan and if the proposal is approved, the Central West CMA would welcome a partnership opportunity with Coalpac to work with neighbouring landholders and further enhance these values.

Cultural Heritage and consultation with the Aboriginal community:

The Central West CMA notes the consultation with the Aboriginal community as outlined in the Environmental Assessment. The staged approach of consultation and the inclusion of local community representatives during the field work component of the assessment is to be commended. It is vital that the consultation with the Aboriginal community remains during any operational phase of the project.

Community engagement:

The range of approaches for community engagement is noted in the report and it is felt that community engagement has been well demonstrated. The Central West CMA encourages the ongoing measures for community engagement as outlined in the Environmental Assessment.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment on the environmental assessment for this project.

If you have any questions with regard to the supplied comments, please do not hesitate to contact Jen Shearing at the details listed at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Chrystal
A/General Manager,
Central West CMA