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Mr Matthew Sprott
Planner - Mining Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
P O BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
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Dear Mr Sprott

**DRAYTON SOUTH COAL PROJECT – CONSEQUENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR RETRACTED MINE PLAN**

I refer to the Consequential Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Retracted Mine Plan exhibited on the NSW Planning & Infrastructure web site in relation to the Drayton South Coal Project.

The EIA has been reviewed by Hunter New England (HNE) Population Health with particular attention being paid to management of issues which may have an impact on public health such as air quality, noise, and water.

Air Quality

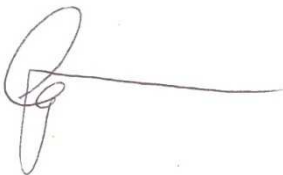
Provided the NSW EPA is satisfied that the modelling complies with the requirements of the approved methods, the revised air quality modelling for the retracted mine plan predicts a significant reduction in air quality impacts. However, any increase in exposure to particulate matter is associated with some increase in health risk and it is recommended that, should the project be approved, the proponent is required to do all that is reasonable and feasible minimise particulate matter emissions.

Noise

The acoustic assessment for the retracted mine plan indicates there will be a slight reduction in noise levels at the closest receivers. Adherence to the Noise and Blasting Management Performance Measures summarized in Table 7 will help to limit the impacts of noise and blasting on the local population.

If you require any additional information, please contact Carolyn Herlihy, Environmental Health Officer on 4924 6468.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Craig Dalton
Acting Service Director – Health Protection
Hunter New England Population Health**

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