

28 March 2014

Mr Sam Haddad  
Director-General  
NSW Planning & Infrastructure  
23-33 Bridge Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Matthew Sprott  
[matthew.sprott@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:matthew.sprott@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Haddad,

**Drayton South Coal Project – Impacts on Muswellbrook-Jerrys Plains Landscape Conservation Area**

In regard to the Drayton South Coal Project which is currently being assessed by the Department of Planning, it has come to the attention of the National Trust that this development proposal for open cut and high wall coal mining extends into and will Impact upon the National Trust's Muswellbrook-Jerrys Plains Landscape Conservation Area listed on the National Trust Register in August, 1984 (copy of Listing Report attached).

In August, 2013 the Board of the National Trust adopted the National Trust Policy on the Impacts of Coal Mining (copy attached). The Policy Background noted: -

*"The National Trust is not opposed to coal mining and recognises the role that this activity has played in the history of Australia and its economic significance at the present time. Nonetheless, this industry is well-recognised as having significant and often detrimental side effects. In the Hunter Valley, seventeen Landscape Conservation Areas were listed on the National Trust Register for their scenic, agricultural, historic and nature conservation significance. Coal mining has threatened the heritage values of a number of these areas."*

Point 5 of the Policy states:

*5. The National Trust will oppose open-cut coal mining proposals within listed Landscape Conservation Areas or which impact on listed Urban Conservation Areas or significant individually listed items.*

In determining this project, the Trust understands that the Planning Assessment Commission has regard to (amongst other matters) the public interest and Community responses that are based on logically probative evidence (as opposed to unjustified fears or concerns). The "public interest" in the context of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act refers to the people and state of NSW.

Founded in 1945, the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) is the oldest, independent community advocate for the preservation of built heritage in Australia. In 1946, the National Trust was the first to introduce a Register to list heritage items and places, at the request of the State Government. The National Trust Register now has more than 11,570 entries. The Register is often a precursor to local government Heritage Listing, as well as State and National Heritage Listing and inscription as World Heritage. The National Trust commenced listing Landscape Conservation Areas in 1974 and there are now



more than 120 such areas on the Trust Register. These listings are prepared and endorsed by the Trust's expert Landscape Heritage Conservation Committee, which was originally formed as the Landscape Conservation Committee of the National Trust in the mid 1950s.

The Trust seeks to have its deep concerns and opposition to the extension of this open cut coal mine into the Muswellbrook-Jerrys Plains Landscape Conservation Area registered with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and brought to the attention of the Planning Assessment Commission in its further deliberations on this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Graham Quint  
Director - Advocacy