



FORESTS NSW

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Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

13 October 2010

Our ref: F2010/01891

Attention: Kate Masters

Dear Kate

Mt Piper Ash Placement Project (Application Number: MP 09 0186)
Environmental Assessment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. This letter forms the submission of Forests NSW, a division of Industry & Investment NSW, in response to the Environmental Assessment currently on exhibition. Forests NSW has concerns regarding a lack of consultation by the proponents with respect to the neighbouring State forest, as well as issues regarding boundaries and rehabilitation. These concerns are detailed in Attachment A.

For further information regarding matters relating to Forests NSW please contact Dan Kirby, Bathurst office, on (02) 6331 2044.

Yours faithfully

GAVIN JEFFRIES
REGIONAL MANAGER

ATTACHMENT A

Forests NSW Submission

Director General's Requirements:

The Director General's Requirements issued in relation to preparation of this Environmental Assessment (EA) required that consultation occurred with neighbouring landholders. Although the Lamberts South and Neubecks Creek sites are predominantly surrounded by Ben Bullen State Forest, no such consultation has taken place with Forests NSW. Forests NSW therefore requests that the proponents include Forests NSW in their list of stakeholders to engage. The contact officer for Forests NSW is Dan Kirby, Bathurst Office, phone (02) 6331 2044.

Environmental Assessment Section 3.2.1: Site Location

The proposed Lamberts South site is noted in the EA as being *"highly disturbed as they are currently the site of open-cut mining activities"*. In addition the ownership of these land parcels is proposed within the EA to be transferred from Centennial Coal to the proponents. Forests NSW concern is that current mining activity (as shown in EA Figure 3-2) appears to have encroached upon the boundary of the State Forest. As such Forests NSW makes the following comments:

- All boundaries between the land parcels in question and the adjacent Ben Bullen State Forest should be surveyed and clearly delineated by the proponents prior to project commencement.
- An operational buffer should be put in place surrounding the Ben Bullen State Forest to protect the State forest and avoid unintentional encroachment.
- Rehabilitation requirements of any areas disturbed by current mining activities should be transferred to the proponents if a transfer of ownership takes place, including any rehabilitation required which may be outside a land parcel transferred but affected by mining within that land parcel.