



Industry & Investment

REF: OUT10/1048

Ms Kitty Carter
Strategic Planning Team
Wollondilly Council
PO Box 21
Picton NSW 2571

Dear Kitty

Draft Wollondilly LEP 1991 (Amendment No. 75) Maldon Employment Lands – Rezoning

BACKGROUND

The NSW Department of Primary Industries responded to this rezoning request in a letter dated 31 July 2009 – ref 09/4501. In this the response objections were raised and the rezoning would not be supported until future underground coal mining in the area was complete. Subsequent to this letter Illawarra Coal, a subsidiary of BHP Billiton, submitted an Environmental Assessment under Part 3A of the EP&A Act 1979 titled "Bulli Seam Operations".

The coal resource beneath the Maldon area is high quality hard coking coal used in steel making. This coal is used locally at the Port Kembla steelworks and is also shipped to the Whyalla steelworks making the coal in this area a very important strategic resource for both NSW and Australia.

A meeting was requested by the Department of Planning to discuss the objections of Industry & Investment NSW. A meeting was held at the Wollondilly Council Chambers on 22 December 2009 to discuss the objections of Industry & Investment NSW. Present at this meeting were representatives of Wollondilly Council (Kitty Carter, Kylie Fairhall), Illawarra Coal (Richard Walsh, Sterling Bartlam), the Department of Planning (Terry Doran, Mato Prskalo), Darren Bullock (Mine Subsidence Board) and Kevin Ruming from the Industry & Investment NSW.

At this meeting Industry & Investment NSW indicated that due to the long likely time frames before mining would occur that it would lift its objections to the rezoning subject to several conditions with respect to the impacts on new buildings of future mining induced ground subsidence. A key requirement of Industry & Investment NSW is that there is no sterilisation of the high quality coal resources in this area. Furthermore the design and location within the site of new structures would satisfy the Mine Subsidence Board and BHP-Illawarra Coal and be capable of withstanding with limited or no damage mining induced ground subsidence.

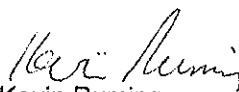
POSITION

To re-consider the rezoning application and lift current objections Industry & Investment NSW require that;

- (1) The proponent completes a study to quantify likely future mining induced ground subsidence at the site due to longwall mining in the Bulli and Balgownie Coal Seams. The scope of this study should have input by and then be reviewed for adequacy by the Mine Subsidence Board and BHP - Illawarra Coal.
- (2) That any future Development Control Plan for this site requires that any new buildings and equipment installed within them are certified by an appropriately qualified person that the structures will withstand future subsidence and the operation of equipment wont be unduly affected by subsidence.

Cc Greg Cole Clark; Mine Subsidence Board
 Darren Bullock; Mine Subsidence Board
 Richard Walsh; Illawarra Coal
 Terry Doran; Department of Planning

Yours sincerely,

 1/2/10
Dr Kevin Rumig
Acting Manager Coal Advice