

29 October 2014

Chief Executive
RPI Development Assessment Team
Department of State Development, Infrastructure & Planning
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

RPIAct@dsdip.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Comet Ridge Project

TECSOL Australia Pty Ltd (TECSOL) represents Acacia Coal Limited (Acacia Coal); the Proponent/Applicant for the proposed Comet Ridge Project (CRP).

Acacia Coal proposes to construct and operate a small open cut coal mine within the Bowen Basin coalfields, located approximately 30 kilometres (km) southwest of Blackwater. The proposed mine will comprise one Mining Lease and an associated Site-specific Environmental Authority, following such grants from the Department of Natural Resources & Mines (DNRM) and Department of Environment & Heritage Protection (DEHP).

According to online mapping, the Mining Lease Application (MLA) is wholly located on land that is designated as Priority Agricultural Area (PAA) under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 (RPI Act)*. TECSOL has commissioned qualified soil scientists to verify the validity of this classification and the results of the relevant studies are enclosed herein.

Our studies involved a review of available aerial photos and government data sources, field assessments and discussions with affected landholders. These activities have concluded that the MLA area is not currently used for Priority Agricultural Land Use (PALU), nor has the land been used for PALU within the last ten (10) years. In addition, the MLA area is not located on land mapped as Strategic Cropping Area (SCA).

We hereby seek confirmation that the proposed CRP does not require a Regional Interests Development Approval (RIDA) under Part 3, Division 2 of the *RPI Act*. Accordingly, please find enclosed the following assessment application material for the Chief Executive's consideration and approval:

- Attachment A: Letter of Authorisation for TECSOL to act on behalf of Acacia Coal;
- Attachment B: Completed *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* Assessment application form;
- Attachment C: Report entitled, '*Regional Planning Interests (RPI) Assessment Report for the Comet Ridge Project*', including maps, title searches and technical reports.

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Schedule 4, Part 2 of the *RPI Reg* prescribes an application fee of \$2,823.00 for an assessment application that states it complies with Schedule 2, Part 2, Section 3(2) of the *RPI Reg*, that is, that the proposed activity is not located on land designated as PALU. Accordingly, please find enclosed a cheque for the amount of \$2,823.00 as payment of the prescribed fee for this assessment application.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Montgomery', written in a cursive style.

Emma Montgomery
Director
TECSOL Australia Pty Ltd

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