



Ms Ros Druce  
Maules Creek Community Council Inc

By email: [upthecreek2382@gmail.com](mailto:upthecreek2382@gmail.com)

Dear Ms Druce

Thank you for your letter regarding the Maules Creek Coal Mine.

I note that the approved Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for the Maules Creek Coal Mine allows, under exceptional circumstances, minor clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation outside of the period between 15 February and 30 April with the prior written consent of the Secretary.

The Department received a request from Whitehaven Coal to clear 11.9 hectares of native vegetation outside of the above clearing window under exceptional circumstances.

The Department has considered Whitehaven Coal's request following consultation with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). I can inform you that the Department has not approved Whitehaven Coal's request due to the extent of clearing proposed and the potential impacts on fauna, particularly during the winter period.

However, it is important to note that Whitehaven Coal has approval to clear this area under the project approval for the Maules Creek Coal Mine (10\_0138), in accordance with its approved BMP, and that the area in question does not form part of the biodiversity offset strategy for the mine.

Should you have any further questions in relation to this matter, you can contact Mr Mike Young, Director, Resource and Energy Assessments, at the Department on (02) 8217 2091.

Yours sincerely

David Kitto  
**Executive Director**  
**Resource Assessments & Business Systems**