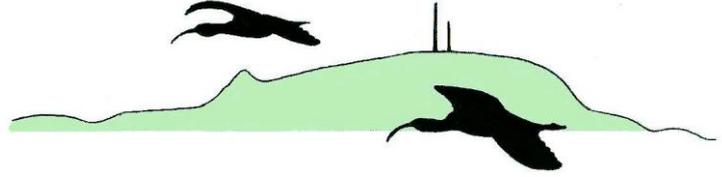


**ORANGE FIELD NATURALIST &
CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**
PO Box 369
ORANGE NSW 2800



The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

8th August 2013

RE: Proposed changes to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 through the release of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Resource Significance) 2013 (“the SEPP”).

Dear Sir/Madam,

Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society Inc. has been watching out for the environment, especially in the Central West of New South Wales, since its inception in 1972. This group has considerable expertise in the field of environmental management as many of its members are scientists in the field of biology, ecology or land management. The group strongly objects to these changes, which we feel are quite strongly biased away from protection of the environment, our particular concern being with wildlife conservation.

Making the consent authority’s principal consideration the significance of the resource is likely to result in a major contribution to the loss of biodiversity in the state. Environmental factors should be give more or equal weight in the decision-making process.

Permitting developments in certain cases that do not meet the standards in respect of air quality, noise levels, vibration and water makes a mockery of the whole process. Development standards should be replaced with binding environmental protections. And some of the standards themselves have been ‘watered down’ eg particulate pollution for private dwellings. Of particular concern is the need for government to make the minimum standards in the *Aquifer Interference Policy* binding on all development, including mining and coal seam gas.

It is totally unacceptable to merely ‘consider’ the advice of the Office of Environment and Heritage on biodiversity impacts. The SEPP should reflect the government’s recently

announced commitment to a 'net positive' standard for biodiversity impacts from state significant development.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.M. Kinross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C".

C.M. Kinross
Secretary, Orange Field Naturalist & Conservation Society Inc.