Letter to the Editor of the Newcastle Herald

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure completely rejects the claim that it directed NSW Office of Water advice on the Ashton South East Open Cut Project near Camberwell (‘Coalmine advice brushed aside, court told’ – Newcastle Herald, 3/9/13).

This offensive claim was never put to the department before it was published in The Herald. If it had been, the department would have refuted it in the strongest possible terms.

The department undertakes its assessments on the merits of the project alone.

In this particular assessment, input from the NSW Office of Water was one of many important submissions considered and the department also commissioned an independent hydrology expert to advise on the project’s potential water impacts.

All relevant input and documentation relating to this assessment is publicly available on the department’s website and the department stands by its recommendation, which was generally accepted by the independent Planning Assessment Commission when it approved the project.

Yours sincerely,

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