



Department of

THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM and TERRITORIES

90/1353

Mr M Smith
Acting Manager
Assessments Branch
Box 3927 GPO
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your letter of 11 September 1990 inviting comments on the enclosed Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Glennies Creek Coal Mine, Singleton.

The documentation has been examined by this Branch and a list of matters considered to be insufficiently addressed are attached.

Although no Commonwealth action or decision is currently required for the proposal, if the proponent seeks future approval for an export licence we would expect the proposal to be referred for examination under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974.

The contact officer for this project is Maree McLaurin
06-274 1588.

Yours sincerely

John Ashe
Assistant Secretary
Environment Assessment Branch

25 October 1990

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COMMENTS ON THE GLENNIES CREEK COAL MINE EIS

General Comments

The EIS does not discuss how it will treat or where it will dispose of sewage effluents

A discussion of employee facilities for both the constructional and operating workforce is omitted

A diagram illustrating the groundwater table before and after subsidence would be useful

There is no one map outlining in detail the whole project

Volume 1: Summary

6.1.1 Land Use and Land Utilisation, p32, 2nd para, 2nd sentence, the company give assurances that dust generation will be kept within acceptable levels to minimise impacts on milk production, the EIS does not indicate how this will be achieved or how dust gets into the milk

6.1.7 Soils, p34, 2nd sentence does not make sense

6.2.4.2 Glennies Creek, p38, last para, does not indicate what financial costs to farmers may result from relocating irrigation pump intake points

6.3.1 Roads and Traffic p40, does the company plan to contribute to maintenance costs of the road system used by employees? Who is to pay for the roundabout on the New England Highway?

6.8.3 Water Quality, p49, a discussion of possible impacts to aquatic fauna/flora as a result of increased turbidity and salinity is included

7.8 Monitoring, p57, what contingency plans, procedures, etc will be implemented if any adverse impacts are detected through monitoring

Volume 2: Supplementary Studies

Appendix C, Glennies Creek Streamflow Monitoring and Compensation for Loss of Flow, p20, 2nd para, what remedial measures would be carried out in this event?

Appendix C, remedial measures for subsidence effects have been inadequately addressed

Appendix G, G.1 Existing Environment, p1, last paragraph, proposed amelioration to reduce background noise levels?

Appendix H, Flow in Glennies Creek, p2, no conversion for 1 cusec to megalitres is provided. This section does not make it clear why it is important to introduce cusecs as a measurement

Appendix I, Flora, a vegetation map should be included of the site

Appendix I, I.4.4, Creek Lines and Pondages, p4, last para, no indication is given that this rejects disposal dump does not flow into Glennies Creek

Appendix I, I.6, Impacts, possible erosion/sedimentation problems associated with vegetation clearance. Any proposed strategies to prevent erosion/sedimentation

Appendix J, J.1 Introduction, p1, a fauna survey of the site should be conducted, or if this is not justifiable some evidence should be included that other surveys conducted in the area are relevant

Appendix J, J.3.2 Birds, p3, 2nd para, a catalogue of expected bird species occurring in the regions is of no use to this study in another document to which public access may be difficult, a copy of the catalogue should be included in this study

Appendix J, J.3.3 Reptiles and Amphibians, p4, a list of what reptiles and amphibians found in the area should be included

Appendix J, J.4, Impacts, p4, 2nd para, 3rd sentence, an oversimplification as the ability of species to migrate to new areas is dependent upon several ecological variables

Appendix J, the fauna survey overall has several deficiencies in particular aquatic fauna has been ignored

Appendix L, no information in the study indicates whether or not the dams are engineered