

Department of Urban Affairs and Planning

Subject: Proposed Glennies Creek Coal Mine Modification - Request for Approval

File: N91/00267

Introduction

Maitland Main Collieries has requested a modification under Section 96(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979 to modify the development consent granted by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning on 1 November 1991 (DA: 105/90). The proposed modification relates to the development of a highwall entry within the north pit of the existing Camberwell mine and use of the former Oak Park school site for surface facilities. The proposal is located within Singleton Local Government Area.

The Department has undertaken an assessment of the proposal in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act. The Department's planning report is attached (tagged 'A').

Consultation

The Development Application (DA) and Statement of Environmental Effects for the proposed modification was exhibited between 31 August to 14 September 1998. Ten submissions were received during the exhibition period including three from State and local government agencies and seven objections from private individuals. The key issues raised in submissions were noise generation, air quality, water quality and visual impacts. Section 6 of the attached planning report contains a summary of the submissions.

Assessment of Key Issues

The attached planning report contains an assessment of the proposed modification. The report concludes that in terms of the key issues, namely noise, air quality, water quality and visual impacts, the impacts can be managed to an acceptable level. The original conditions of consent require the Applicant to maintain emissions within defined criteria and to undertake monitoring and reporting. The Statement of Environmental Effects proposed additional mitigation measures to specifically manage impacts potentially resulting from the proposed modifications to the works. These additional mitigation measures together with the original conditions and increased monitoring and community involvement requirements recommended by the Department will ensure that the impacts of the proposed works will not be significant.

Recommended Conditions of Consent

Section 9 of the planning report details the recommended modifications to the original Conditions of Consent. The recommended modified conditions are based on the assessment undertaken in the planning report and the need to update the consent to reflect current best practice in mining operations and changing community expectations. The Applicant has agreed to the proposed modifications to the Conditions of Consent.

The key elements of the modified conditions are as follows:

- preparation of a Noise Management Plan and Air Quality Management Plan;
- provision for landowners to request independent monitoring of dust and noise levels;
- preparation of a pre-construction compliance report;
- establishment of a community consultative committee and enhanced community notification strategy; and
- preparation of an Annual Environmental Management Report

Singleton Council has indicated it is satisfied with the recommended Conditions of Consent.

Conclusion

The proposal represents a minor change to the proposed operations at Glennies Creek. The impacts of the proposal can be managed to acceptable levels and are not considered to be significant. The recommended modifications to the original Conditions of Consent provide for more comprehensive monitoring and reporting requirements as well as bringing the consent in line with current best practice and changing community expectations.

It is recommended that the proposed modification be approved subject to the recommended modifications to the Conditions of Consent.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Minister:

- consider the findings and recommendations of the Department's planning report (tagged 'A');
- grant consent to the proposed modification to Singleton Council DA 105/90 under Section 96(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 subject to the conditions set out in the Instrument of Approval (tagged 'B'); and
- sign the Instrument of Approval (tagged 'B').

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Sam Haddad

Executive Director

Sustainable Development and Assessment

9. 11. 1998.

Approved

[Signature]
Craig Knowles MP

Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning

16/11/98