

LIDDELL COAL OPERATIONS

APPENDIX **E**

Consultation Log and Correspondence

APPENDICES

Liddell Coal Operations

Modification 5 to DA 305-11-01

Consultation Log

| Date | Consultation with: | | By: | | Mode of Correspondence | Summary/Purpose of consultation | Outcomes/ Actions/ Comments |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| | Name | Organisation | Name | Organisation | | | |
| 4-May-11 | Steven Oliver | LCO Community Consultative Committee | Mel Hawthorne Tony Galvin | LCO | CCC Bi-Annual Meeting | Notification to the CCC of LCO's intention to modify DA 305-11-01. Project plan was discussed and we indicated we were in the early stages of planning. | |
| | Jennifer Lecky | | | | | | |
| | Val Scott | | | | | | |
| | Sarah Roberts | | | | | | |
| | Craig Flemming | | | | | | |
| | Michael Spiteri | | | | | | |
| 1-Nov-11 | As above | LCO CCC | MH and TW | LCO | CCC Bi-Annual Meeting | Project plan was discussed and we indicated we were in the early stages of planning. | |
| 15-Sep-11 | David Kitto | DP&I | Nicole Armit | GSSE | Letter and PEA document | Submission of PEA and request for DGRs. | |
| 15-Sep-11 | | DPI DSC MSC SC NOW OEI | Nicole Armit | GSSE | Letter and PEA document | Advising that PEA submitted and seeking any additional comments | |
| 20-Oct-11 | Dave O'Brien | XCN | David Kitto | DP&I | Letter | Advising of objection by MSC to approval pathway and seeking a response | Response drafted by Minter Ellison and sent to DP&I |
| 11-Oct-11 | David Kitto | DP&I | Dave O'Brien | XCN | Email | Legal advice submitted to DP&I supporting the use of Section 75W for modification at Liddell | |
| 4-Nov-11 | David Kitto | DP&I | Tony Galvin | LCO | Email and letter | Response to MSC's objection | |
| 15-Feb-12 | Mel Hawthorne | LCO | David Mooney | DP&I | Email | DGRs received | |
| 18-Apr-12 | Steve Clair | EPA | David Foster | LCO | letter | Seek further input on noise modelling and methodology | |
| 30-Apr-12 | Mel Hawthorne | LCO | Richard Pearson | DP&I | Letter | Issue additional DGRs requiring and Agricultural Impact Statement be prepared to support the EA | |
| 1-May-12 | Fergus Hancock | NSW Office of Water (NOW) | Ben de Somer Nicole Armit SKM | LCO/GSSE/SKM | Meeting | Update on GW modelling methodology Clarify assessment requirements | NOW to send a formal letter detailing environmental assessment requirements |
| 16-May-12 | Jennifer Anderson Peter Bowman David Cameron Joel Deacon | Coal and Allied | David Foster Dan Brogan Ben de Somer | LCO | Meeting | Initial consultation on proposed management strategy for Chain of Ponds Hotel | |
| 16-May-12 | David Foster | LCO | Karen Marler | EPA | Letter | Comments on noise modelling and methodology | Address in Noise assessment |
| 18-May-12 | Jennifer Lecky Val Scott Julie Clydsdale Brian Thomas Ben Harrison | CCC | Ben de Somer David Foster Trevor Wells Marty Bower Liz Ruppe | LCO | Meeting | Project update | CCC request further information on rehabilitation planning at next meeting (Nov 12) |
| 23-May-12 | David Foster | LCO | Jennifer Anderson | Coal and Allied | Email | Confirming meeting (16/5) outcomes | |
| 25-May-12 | Fergus Hancock | NOW | Ben de Somer | LCO | Email | Request supply of additional assessment requirements as agreed at meeting on 1/5/12 | |
| 25-May-12 | Ben de Somer | LCO | Fergus Hancock | NOW | Email | Require more detail on project proposal to determine assessment requirements | Prepare and send. |
| 29-May-12 | Fergus Hancock | NOW | Ben de Somer | LCO | Email | Supply of additional project information as per request above | |
| 30-May-12 | Ben de Somer | LCO | Fergus Hancock | NOW | Email | Agree to send letter and request additional diagram (could not open previous sent) | |
| 31-May-12 | Fergus Hancock | NOW | Ben de Somer | LCO | Email | Supply additional diagrams as requested | |
| 7-Jun-12 | Jennifer Anderson | Coal and Allied | David Foster | LCO | Email | Supply of information requested 23/5 | |
| 24-Jun-12 | Fergus Hancock | NOW | Ben de Somer | LCO | Email | Follow up request additional assessment requirements | |
| 28-Jun-12 | Ben de Somer | LCO | Mark Miganelli | NOW | Letter | NOW assessment requirements | Address in water studies |
| 4-Jul-12 | David Foster | LCO | Jennifer Anderson | Coal and Allied | Email | Advising progress on their conservation management plan review | |
| 5-Jul-12 | David Kitto | DP&I | Ben de Somer David Foster Bret Jenkins Dave O'Brien | LCO/XCN | Meeting | Project update | |

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|-----------|---|--|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| 3-Aug-12 | Local Community | | Ben de Somer | LCO | Newsletter | Community newsletter distributed and posted on website containing project description | |
| 9-Aug-12 | Mahani Taylor | DSEWPAC | Bret Jenkins Nigel Charnock Ben de Somer Umwelt | XCN/LCO/ Umwelt | Meeting | Results of ecology assessments to date EPBC Act referral requirements Proposed offset strategy | |
| 14-Aug-12 | Mahani Taylor | DSEWPAC | Bret Jenkins Nigel Charnock Ben de Somer Umwelt | XCN | Email/Letter | Confirming meeting actions, seeking feedback | |
| 15-Aug-12 | David Kitto | DP&I | Bret Jenkins Nigel Charnock | XCN | Meeting | Consult on Biodiversity offset approach | |
| 21-Aug-12 | Michael Spiteri | Local resident | Ben de Somer David Foster | LCO | Meeting | Project consultation | |
| 27-Aug-12 | Tim Walls | BOP/XCN | Crystal Bradley | DSEWPAC | Email | Advice on EPBC Act requirements for Spotted Quoll | |
| 20-Sep-12 | David Foster | LCO | Jennifer Anderson | Coal and Allied | Email | Provision of updated conservation strategy for Chain of Ponds Inn. | Review with archaeologist Finalise scope of works with C&A and seek agreement |
| 18-Oct-12 | Richard, Beverly & Ross Clydsdale | Local residents | Ben de Somer Marty Bower | LCO | Meeting | Project consultation | |
| 19-Oct-12 | Fergus Hancock | NOW | Ben de Somer David Foster Nicole Armit SKM | LCO | Meeting | Further consultation on outcomes of groundwater modelling and discussion on where to from here. | |
| 19-Oct-12 | John Martin (mayor) Lindy Hyam Mark Ihlein Alan Fletcher | Singleton Council | Ben de Somer David Foster Trevor Wells David O'Brien Bret Jenkins | LCO/XCN | Meeting | Project consultation | |
| 16-Nov-12 | Jennifer Lecky Val Scott Craig Flemming | CCC | Ben de Somer David Foster Marty Bower Liz Ruppe | LCO | Meeting | Project Update | |
| 22-Nov-12 | Rob O'Neill | NOW | Vicki Mc Bride Bret Jenkins Nicole Armit Tim Browne Richard Creswell | XCN/GSSE/ Umwelt/SKM | Meeting | Further consultation on groundwater impact assessment process, outcomes of groundwater modelling and where to from here | Rob O'Neill recommended a meeting be arranged with NOW's John Williams regarding the groundwater model. |
| 17-Dec-12 | John Williams Fergus Hancock | NOW | Ben de Somer Richard Creswell Brian Rask | LCO/SKM | Meeting | Further consultation on the development of the groundwater model. | |
| 20-Dec-12 | Tom Holz David Cameron Joel Deacon Mark Nolan Peter Bowman | Coal and Allied | Ben de Somer David Foster | LCO | Meeting | Update on heritage assessment and recommended proposed management strategies for the Chain of Ponds Inn. | Seek additional input from structural engineer on proposed building management strategy and associated blasting strategy. |
| Feb-13 | | ARTC Ausgrid Hunter-Central Rivers CMA Dams Safety Committee Macquarie Generation RMS Telstra | Nicole Armit | GSSE | Letter | Advising of status of proposed modification and requesting any comments or advice prior to submission of EA for Adequacy Review to the DP&I. | |
| 11-Mar-13 | Nicole Armit | GSSE | Paul Purcell | ARTC | Letter and email | Response to letter sent on 14/2/13 requesting that assessment of any additional train movements be undertaken in accordance with the Rail Traffic Generating Development Guidelines | No additional train movements proposed. |
| 15-May-13 | Mahani Taylor | DSEWPAC | Ben de Somer Vicki McBride GSSE Umwelt | XCN/LCO/ Umwelt/ GSSE | Meeting | Results of ecology assessments to date EPBC Act referral requirements Proposed offset strategy | |
| 17-May-13 | Cr Jennifer Lecky Glenn Bunney Ross Clydsdale | CCC | Ben de Somer | LCO | CCC Bi-Annual Meeting | Project Update | |
| 3-Jun-13 | Cr Martin Rush (Mayor) Steve McDonald Glenn Bunney Craig Flemming Matt Lysaught | Muswellbrook Council | David Foster Trevor Wells | LCO | Meeting | Project Update | |
| 5-Jun-13 | Richard Bath David Paull | OEH | David Foster Bret Jenkins Nicole Armit Travis Peake | XCN/LCO/ Umwelt/ GSSE | Meeting | Outcomes of ecology assessment and proposed offset strategy | |
| 24-Jun-13 | Roger Mehr | OEH | Jodie Benton | OzArk | Phone call | Outcomes of archaeological assessment and management recommendations | |



25 February 2013

Ian Hall
Upper Hunter Manager
Ausgrid
41 Thomas Mitchell Dr
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Dear Ian,

RE: PROPOSED MODIFICATION 5 OF DA305-11-01 AT LIDDELL COAL OPERATIONS

Introduction

Liddell Coal Operations (LCO) is an established open-cut mine located at Ravensworth, in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, operating under development consent DA 305-11-01. The purpose of this letter is to introduce a proposed modification to DA 305-11-01 under Part 3A, section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The proposed modification would primarily involve the extension of existing open cut mining activities as illustrated in **Figure 1** (attached).

More specifically, the proposed modification (referred to as the Project) would involve the following:

- Extension of the South and Entrance Pits to the south east, and, upon completion of mining in these pits, the mining of coal resources under the Mine Infrastructure Area (MIA) during which the MIA would be relocated to temporary facility.
- The extension of open cut mining activities would lead to an associated extension of the life of mine at LCO from 2023 to 2028.
- An additional tailings emplacement area would be constructed within the final void of the South Pit to dispose of the additional tailings associated with the extension of open cut mining activities.
- Coal would continue to be processed at the LCO Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) at the approved rate of up to 8 Mtpa. As a contingency for coal processing, LCO also propose to deliver up to 1.5 Mtpa of this ROM coal to the Ravensworth Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (RCHPP) for washing via a new connection to the existing overland conveyor or the road transport route to RCHPP. In addition, up to 2 Mtpa may be received from the adjacent Mt Owen Complex for processing via a new connection to the existing overland conveyor.
- Infrastructure and auxiliary surface disturbance to support the new mining areas would also be required, including but not limited to, powerlines, water management infrastructure and haul roads.

*GSS Environmental a Division of SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 29 001 584 612)
Effective 3 November 2012*

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| Central Coast Office: | PO Box 3214, Wamberal NSW 2260 | Phone: (02) 4385 7899 | Fax: (02) 4385 8028 |

The proposed works lie wholly within both the existing development consent boundary and the mining lease ML 1597 boundary. No changes are proposed to the annual ROM coal production, approved operating hours, mining method, or mining equipment, which will remain as approved under DA 305-11-01, as modified. LCO has received confirmation from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) that the project will be assessed under section 75W of Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

The Applicant

LCO is operated and managed by Liddell Coal Operations Pty Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Xstrata Coal Pty Limited (Xstrata), on behalf of a Joint Venture between Xstrata (67.5%) and Mitsui Matsushima Australia (32.5%).

Mining at LCO has been in continuous operation since the 1950s, during which time mining operations have been subject to a number of development consents. In 2001, a development application was lodged with the then Planning NSW to continue operations within the colliery holding. Development Consent DA 305-11-01 was granted by the Minister for Planning on 20 November 2002 for 21 years of continued mining operations at LCO, and has since been modified on four separate occasions.

Requirement for the Modification

LCO currently has approval to conduct mining operations until the end of 2023; however current open cut mining activities will reach the approved mining footprint by 2015. Coal reserves have been identified outside this footprint, within the existing development consent boundary, and LCO are therefore seeking approval to modify DA 305-11-01 to allow for an extension of open cut mining operations. In extending the mining activities at LCO, the proposed modification would:

- Allow for the development of on-going open cut mining operations, maximising resource recovery within the existing development consent and mining lease boundaries; and
- Maintain continuity of coal production, and subsequently secure on-going employment opportunities and socio-economic flow-on benefits.

Specialist Studies and Key Issues

GSS Environmental (GSSE) has been engaged by LCO as the Lead Environmental Consultant for the Project. On this basis, we are writing to inform Ausgrid of the Project and seek advice/comments should you have any, prior to the EA being submitted for Adequacy Review in March.

The following specialist studies will be completed for the Environmental Assessment: groundwater, surface water, archaeology, air quality, ecology, soils and land capability, traffic and transport, economic assessment, visual amenity and noise. All other aspects required to be addressed by the DGRs will be addressed by GSSE in the EA.

In relation to site services and infrastructure, no Ausgrid infrastructure lies within the proposed Entrance Pit Extension, as illustrated in **Figure 2** (attached). With regards to the proposed South Pit Extension and MIA Pit, an 11 kV powerline owned by Ausgrid passes through the southern end of the LCO development consent boundary and proposed modification area. However, this area is not planned to be disturbed as part of the modification until towards the end of mine life, approximately 2023/2024, the exact timing of which will depend on mine planning as the mine progresses southeast. LCO will continue to consult with Ausgrid should relocation or termination of this powerline be required in the future, as per the current Statement of Commitments in DA 305-11-01. It is also noted that another 11 kV Ausgrid powerline, previously located within the proposed disturbance area, was recently terminated in consultation with Ausgrid. Termination of this powerline was confirmed by Ausgrid on 18 February 2013.

Should you require further information on this Project please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 4920 3035, or Ben de Somer, LCO Environment and Community Superintendent on (02) 6570 9947.

Yours Faithfully
GSS Environmental



NICOLE ARMIT

Principal

Ph: 4920 3035

Mob: 0407 910 841

Email: armit@gssenvironmental.com

encl: Figure 1 – Project Area

Figure 2 – Existing Infrastructure



14 February 2013

Adam Bush
Catchment Management Authority
Hunter-Central Rivers
PO BOX 297
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Dear Adam,

RE: PROPOSED MODIFICATION 5 OF DA305-11-01 AT LIDDELL COAL OPERATIONS

Introduction

Liddell Coal Operations (LCO) is an established open-cut mine located at Ravensworth, in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, operating under development consent DA 305-11-01.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to a proposed modification to DA 305-11-01 under Part 3A, section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The proposed modification would primarily involve the extension of existing open cut mining activities as illustrated in **Figure 1** (attached).

More specifically, the proposed modification (referred to as the Project) would involve the following:

- Extension of the South and Entrance Pits to the south east, and, upon completion of mining in these pits, the mining of coal resources under the Mine Infrastructure Area (MIA) during which the MIA would be relocated to temporary facility.
- The extension of open cut mining activities would lead to an associated extension of the life of mine at LCO from 2023 to 2028.
- An additional tailings emplacement area would be constructed within the final void of the South Pit to dispose of the additional tailings associated with the extension of open cut mining activities.
- Coal would continue to be processed at the LCO Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) at the approved rate of up to 8 Mtpa. As a contingency for coal processing, LCO also propose to deliver up to 1.5 Mtpa of this ROM coal to the Ravensworth Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (RCHPP) for washing via a new connection to the existing overland conveyor or the road transport route to RCHPP. In addition, up to 2 Mtpa may be received from the adjacent Mt Owen Complex for processing via a new connection to the existing overland conveyor.
- Infrastructure and auxiliary surface disturbance to support the new mining areas would also be required, including but not limited to, powerlines, water management infrastructure and haul roads.

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The proposed works lie wholly within both the existing development consent boundary and the mining lease ML 1597 boundary. No changes are proposed to the annual ROM coal production, approved operating hours, mining method, or mining equipment, which will remain as approved under DA 305-11-01, as modified. LCO has received confirmation from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) that the project will be assessed under section 75W of Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

The Applicant

LCO is operated and managed by Liddell Coal Operations Pty Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Xstrata Coal Pty Limited (Xstrata), on behalf of a Joint Venture between Xstrata (67.5%) and Mitsui Matsushima Australia (32.5%).

Mining at LCO has been in continuous operation since the 1950s, during which time mining operations have been subject to a number of development consents. In 2001, a development application was lodged with the then Planning NSW to continue operations within the colliery holding. Development Consent DA 305-11-01 was granted by the Minister for Planning on 20 November 2002 for 21 years of continued mining operations at LCO, and has since been modified on four separate occasions.

Requirement for the Modification

LCO currently has approval to conduct mining operations until the end of 2023; however current open cut mining activities will reach the approved mining footprint by 2015. Coal reserves have been identified outside this footprint, within the existing development consent boundary, and LCO are therefore seeking approval to modify DA 305-11-01 to allow for an extension of open cut mining operations. In extending the mining activities at LCO, the proposed modification would:

- Allow for the development of on-going open cut mining operations, maximising resource recovery within the existing development consent and mining lease boundaries; and
- Maintain continuity of coal production, and subsequently secure on-going employment opportunities and socio-economic flow-on benefits.

Specialist Studies and Key Issues

GSS Environmental (GSSE) has been engaged by LCO as the Lead Environmental Consultant for the Project. On this basis, we are writing to inform the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority of the Project and seek advice/comments should you have any, prior to the EA being submitted for Adequacy Review in March.

The following specialist studies will be completed for the Environmental Assessment: groundwater, surface water, archaeology, air quality, ecology, soils and land capability, traffic and transport, visual amenity, mine closure and rehabilitation, economic assessment and noise. All other aspects required to be addressed by the DGRs will be addressed by GSSE in the EA.

In particular with regards to water resources and catchment management, Gilbert and Associates have been engaged to conduct a detailed surface water assessment and preparation of a water balance for the proposed modification. SKM have been engaged to develop a groundwater model and impact assessment, EcoLogical Australia is preparing an impact assessment on aquatic ecology in the area, and Umwelt Australia is undertaking an assessment of potential impacts on terrestrial ecology. Detailed results of all of these studies will be presented in the EA.

Should you require further information on this Project please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 4920 3035, or Ben de Somer, LCO Environment and Community Superintendent on (02) 6570 9947.

Yours Faithfully
GSS Environmental



NICOLE ARMIT

Principal

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Email: armit@gssenvironmental.com

encl: Figure 1 – Project Area



14 February 2013

Bill Ziegler
Manager, Mining Impacts
Dams Safety Committee
PO Box 3720
Parramatta NSW 2333

Dear Bill,

RE: PROPOSED MODIFICATION 5 OF DA305-11-01 AT LIDDELL COAL OPERATIONS

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The Applicant

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LCO currently has approval to conduct mining operations until the end of 2023; however current open cut mining activities will reach the approved mining footprint by 2015. Coal reserves have been identified outside this footprint, within the existing development consent boundary, and LCO are therefore seeking approval to modify DA 305-11-01 to allow for an extension of open cut mining operations. In extending the mining activities at LCO, the proposed modification would:

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Specialist Studies and Key Issues

GSS Environmental (GSSE) has been engaged by LCO as the Lead Environmental Consultant for the Project. On this basis, we are writing to inform the Dams Safety Committee of the Project and seek advice/comments should you have any, prior to the EA being submitted for Adequacy Review in March.

The following specialist studies will be completed for the Environmental Assessment: groundwater, surface water, archaeology, air quality, ecology, soils and land capability, traffic and transport, visual amenity, economic assessment and noise. All other aspects required to be addressed by the DGRs will be addressed by GSSE in the EA.

The proposed extension involves a continuation of mining in a south easterly direction away from Lake Liddell, as illustrated in **Figure 1**, which is a prescribed dam as listed in Schedule 1 of the *Dams Safety Act 1978*. The LCO Antienne Tailings Dam, which is also a prescribed dam, will continue to be managed as per the existing approval. In addition, no changes are proposed to the mining method or mining equipment. The proposed modification will therefore not result in any changes with respect to interaction with prescribed infrastructure. LCO will however continue to consult with Macquarie Generation and the Dams Safety Committee as required.

Should you require further information on this Project please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 4920 3035, or Ben de Somer, LCO Environment and Community Superintendent on (02) 6570 9947.

Yours Faithfully
GSS Environmental



NICOLE ARMIT

Principal

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Email: armit@gssenvironmental.com

encl: Figure 1 – Project Area



14 February 2013

John Neely
General Manager
Macquarie Generation
Private Mail Bag 2
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

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Specialist Studies and Key Issues

GSS Environmental (GSSE) has been engaged by LCO as the Lead Environmental Consultant for the Project. On this basis, we are writing to inform Macquarie Generation of the Project as a neighbouring landholder and seek advice/comments should you have any, prior to the EA being submitted for Adequacy Review in March.

The following specialist studies will be completed for the Environmental Assessment: groundwater, surface water, archaeology, air quality, ecology, soils and land capability, traffic and transport, visual amenity, economic assessment and noise. All other aspects required to be addressed by the DGRs will be addressed by GSSE in the EA.

The proposed extension involves a continuation of mining in a south easterly direction away from Lake Liddell, as illustrated in **Figure 1**. No changes are proposed to the mining method or mining equipment. The proposed modification will therefore not result in any changes with respect to interaction with the Lake or dam wall. LCO will continue to consult with Macquarie Generation as required.

Should you require further information on this Project please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 4920 3035, or Ben de Somer, LCO Environment and Community Superintendent on (02) 6570 9947.

Yours Faithfully
GSS Environmental



NICOLE ARMIT

Principal

Ph: 4920 3035

Mob: 0407 910 841

Email: armit@gssenvironmental.com

encl: Figure 1 – Project Area



14 February 2013

Christian McCallum
Manager, Land Use Development
Hunter Operations & Engineering Services
Roads and Maritime Services
Locked Bag 30
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Christian,

RE: PROPOSED MODIFICATION 5 OF DA305-11-01 AT LIDDELL COAL OPERATIONS

Introduction

Liddell Coal Operations (LCO) is an established open-cut mine located at Ravensworth, in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, operating under development consent DA 305-11-01.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce a proposed modification to DA 305-11-01 under Part 3A, section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The proposed modification would primarily involve the extension of existing open cut mining activities in both the South and Entrance Pits to the south east, as illustrated in **Figure 1** (attached).

The proposed works lie wholly within both the existing development consent boundary and the mining lease ML 1597 boundary. No changes are proposed to the annual ROM coal production, approved operating hours, mining method, or mining equipment, which will remain as approved under DA 305-11-01, as modified. LCO has received confirmation from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) that the project will be assessed under section 75W of Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

The following aspects of the proposed modification are relevant with regards to traffic and coal transportation:

- Coal transportation:
 - DA 305-11-01 allows for up to 1.5 Mtpa of ROM coal to be sent from LCO to the Cumnock Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) for processing as required. The Cumnock CHPP is no longer in operation and LCO therefore seek to instead transport up to 1.5 Mtpa of ROM coal by truck to the Ravensworth Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (RCHPP) to maintain processing flexibility. This would extend the current approved haulage route by approximately 1.5 km along Liddell Station Road (refer **Figure 1**). LCO also propose a new connection to the existing overland conveyor to also provide the option of transporting coal to the RCHPP via conveyor.

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Effective 3 November 2012*

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- Construction and commissioning of a conveyor and transfer point from the existing Mt Owen/Glendell/Macquarie Generation conveyor, enabling LCO to send or receive coal to and from the existing conveyor.
- Employee numbers: LCO proposed to regularise the current 340 full time personnel and 120 contractors at LCO. The 2006 modification (Umwelt, 2006) stated that the total number of permanent employees would be up to 240, with an additional temporary construction workforce of 150.

The Applicant

LCO is operated and managed by Liddell Coal Operations Pty Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Xstrata Coal Pty Limited (Xstrata), on behalf of a Joint Venture between Xstrata (67.5%) and Mitsui Matsushima Australia (32.5%).

Mining at LCO has been in continuous operation since the 1950s, during which time mining operations have been subject to a number of development consents. In 2001, a development application was lodged with the then Planning NSW to continue operations within the colliery holding. Development Consent DA 305-11-01 was granted by the Minister for Planning on 20 November 2002 for 21 years of continued mining operations at LCO, and has since been modified on four separate occasions.

Requirement for the Modification

LCO currently has approval to conduct mining operations until the end of 2023; however current open cut mining activities will reach the approved mining footprint by 2015. Coal reserves have been identified outside this footprint, within the existing development consent boundary, and LCO are therefore seeking approval to modify DA 305-11-01 to allow for an extension of open cut mining operations. In extending the mining activities at LCO, the proposed modification would:

- Allow for the development of on-going open cut mining operations, maximising resource recovery within the existing development consent and mining lease boundaries; and
- Maintain continuity of coal production, and subsequently secure on-going employment opportunities and socio-economic flow-on benefits.

Specialist Studies and Key Issues

GSS Environmental (GSSE) has been engaged by LCO as the Lead Environmental Consultant for the Project. On this basis, we are writing to inform Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) of the Project and seek advice/comments should you have any, prior to the EA being submitted for Adequacy Review in March.

The following specialist studies will be completed for the Environmental Assessment (EA): groundwater, surface water, archaeology, air quality, ecology, soils and land capability, traffic and transport, visual amenity, economic assessment and noise. All other aspects required to be addressed by the DGRs will be addressed by GSSE in the EA.

With regards to traffic, Parsons Brinckerhoff was engaged to carry out a traffic impact assessment of the proposed modification. Results of this assessment to date indicate that the proposed modification would have negligible impacts on the road network, and that the road network and intersections in the vicinity of LCO would continue to operate within their respective capacities and at similar satisfactory Levels of Service. A full traffic and transport assessment will be submitted with the EA.

Should you require further information on this Project please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 4920 3035, or Ben de Somer, LCO Environment and Community Superintendent on (02) 6570 9947.

Yours Faithfully
GSS Environmental



NICOLE ARMIT

Principal

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encl: Figure 1 – Project Area



25 February 2013

Gavin Auld
Network Protection Officer
Telstra
6/317 Hunter Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Gavin,

RE: PROPOSED MODIFICATION 5 OF DA305-11-01 AT LIDDELL COAL OPERATIONS

Introduction

Liddell Coal Operations (LCO) is an established open-cut mine located at Ravensworth, in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, operating under development consent DA 305-11-01.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce a proposed modification to DA 305-11-01 under Part 3A, section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The proposed modification would primarily involve the extension of existing open cut mining activities as illustrated in **Figure 1** (attached).

More specifically, the proposed modification (referred to as the Project) would involve the following:

- Extension of the South and Entrance Pits to the south east, and, upon completion of mining in these pits, the mining of coal resources under the Mine Infrastructure Area (MIA) during which the MIA would be relocated to temporary facility.
- The extension of open cut mining activities would lead to an associated extension of the life of mine at LCO from 2023 to 2028.
- An additional tailings emplacement area would be constructed within the final void of the South Pit to dispose of the additional tailings associated with the extension of open cut mining activities.
- Coal would continue to be processed at the LCO Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) at the approved rate of up to 8 Mtpa. As a contingency for coal processing, LCO also propose to deliver up to 1.5 Mtpa of this ROM coal to the Ravensworth Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (RCHPP) for washing via a new connection to the existing overland conveyor or the road transport route to RCHPP. In addition, up to 2 Mtpa may be received from the adjacent Mt Owen Complex for processing via a new connection to the existing overland conveyor.
- Infrastructure and auxiliary surface disturbance to support the new mining areas would also be required, including but not limited to, powerlines, water management infrastructure and haul roads.

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The proposed works lie wholly within both the existing development consent boundary and the mining lease ML 1597 boundary. No changes are proposed to the annual ROM coal production, approved operating hours, mining method, or mining equipment, which will remain as approved under DA 305-11-01, as modified. LCO has received confirmation from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) that the project will be assessed under section 75W of Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

The Applicant

LCO is operated and managed by Liddell Coal Operations Pty Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Xstrata Coal Pty Limited (Xstrata), on behalf of a Joint Venture between Xstrata (67.5%) and Mitsui Matsushima Australia (32.5%).

Mining at LCO has been in continuous operation since the 1950s, during which time mining operations have been subject to a number of development consents. In 2001, a development application was lodged with the then Planning NSW to continue operations within the colliery holding. Development Consent DA 305-11-01 was granted by the Minister for Planning on 20 November 2002 for 21 years of continued mining operations at LCO, and has since been modified on four separate occasions.

Requirement for the Modification

LCO currently has approval to conduct mining operations until the end of 2023; however current open cut mining activities will reach the approved mining footprint by 2015. Coal reserves have been identified outside this footprint, within the existing development consent boundary, and LCO are therefore seeking approval to modify DA 305-11-01 to allow for an extension of open cut mining operations. In extending the mining activities at LCO, the proposed modification would:

- Allow for the development of on-going open cut mining operations, maximising resource recovery within the existing development consent and mining lease boundaries; and
- Maintain continuity of coal production, and subsequently secure on-going employment opportunities and socio-economic flow-on benefits.

Specialist Studies and Key Issues

GSS Environmental (GSSE) has been engaged by LCO as the Lead Environmental Consultant for the Project. On this basis, we are writing to inform Telstra of the Project and seek advice/comments should you have any, prior to the EA being submitted for Adequacy Review in March.

The following specialist studies will be completed for the Environmental Assessment: groundwater, surface water, archaeology, air quality, ecology, soils and land capability, traffic and transport, visual amenity, economic assessment and noise. All other aspects required to be assessed by the DGRs will be addressed by GSSE in the EA.

In relation to site services and infrastructure, no Telstra owned infrastructure lies within the proposed open cut extension area. A Telstra fibre optic cable lies within an existing services easement parallel to the Main Northern Railway Line, which traverses the LCO mining lease, as illustrated in **Figure 2** (attached). However, this fibre optic cable will in no way be impacted upon by the proposed modification. LCO will continue to consult with Telstra in accordance with existing protocols.

Should you require further information on this Project please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 4920 3035, or Ben de Somer, LCO Environment and Community Superintendent on (02) 6570 9947.

Yours Faithfully
GSS Environmental



NICOLE ARMIT

Principal

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encl: Figure 1 – Project Area

Figure 2 - Infrastructure



14 February 2013

John Brown
ARTC
Locked Bag 1
Broadmeadow NSW 2292

Dear John,

RE: PROPOSED MODIFICATION 5 OF DA305-11-01 AT LIDDELL COAL OPERATIONS

Introduction

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- Infrastructure and auxiliary surface disturbance to support the new mining areas would also be required, including but not limited to, powerlines, water management infrastructure and haul roads.

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The Applicant

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- Maintain continuity of coal production, and subsequently secure on-going employment opportunities and socio-economic flow-on benefits.

Specialist Studies and Key Issues

GSS Environmental (GSSE) has been engaged by LCO as the Lead Environmental Consultant for the Project. On this basis, we are writing to inform ARTC of the Project and seek advice/comments should you have any, prior to the EA being submitted for Adequacy Review in March.

The following specialist studies will be completed for the Environmental Assessment: groundwater, surface water, archaeology, air quality, ecology, soils and land capability, traffic and transport, economic assessment, mine closure and rehabilitation, visual amenity and noise. All other aspects required to be addressed by the DGRs will be addressed by GSSE in the EA.

In relation to the Main Northern Railway Line, the proposed extension involves a continuation of mining parallel to, and on either side of, the Railway Line, progressing in a south easterly direction as illustrated in **Figure 1**. The proposed modification will therefore not result in any changes with respect to interaction with the Railway Line and the associated management protocols currently in place to manage any potential impacts. There will be no change to access arrangements, with ARTC access maintained. LCO will continue to consult with ARTC as required.

Should you require further information on this Project please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 4920 3035, or Ben de Somer, LCO Environment and Community Superintendent on (02) 6570 9947.

Yours Faithfully
GSS Environmental



NICOLE ARMIT

Principal

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encl: Figure 1 – Project Area



E-MAILED
11-3-13

AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION LTD

Our Reference: 65/530/45
Your Reference: 633.XCN07.01400

11 March 2013

Nicole Armit
GSS Environmental
P O Box 907
HAMILTON NSW 2303



armit@gssenvironmental.com

Dear Nicole,

RE: PROPOSED MODIFICATION 5 OF DA305-11-01 AT LIDDELL COAL OPERATIONS

Thank you for your correspondence dated 14 February 2013 regarding the abovementioned matter.

I subsequently advise that GSS Environmental should assess any additional train movements on ARTC's network associated with the proposed mine expansion in accordance with the Rail Traffic Generating Development guidelines.

A copy of the guidelines can be found by following the below link:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/noise/railnoise.htm> or RING Appendix 2

Should you require further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact Teena Renès on (02) 4941 9619 at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Teena Renès – Property Manager, Newcastle

Per:

Paul Purcell
Manager ARTC Property