



WAMBO COAL PTY LIMITED

**SOUTH WAMBO
UNDERGROUND MINE MODIFICATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

ATTACHMENT 4

Relevant Environmental Planning Instruments
and Government Policies

A4 RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES

This Attachment provides further discussion on the requirements and application of environmental planning instruments and relevant New South Wales (NSW) government policy to the South Wambo Underground Mine Modification (the Modification).

References to Sections 1 to 6 in this Attachment are references to the sections of the Main Report of the Environmental Assessment. Internal references within this Attachment are prefixed with “A4”.

A4.1 SINGLETON LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2013

The Wambo Coal Mine (Wambo) is wholly within the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA) (Figure 1). The following sub-sections identify the provisions in the *Singleton Local Environmental Plan 2013* (Singleton LEP) which have relevance to the Modification.

Wambo lies within land zoned RU1 “Primary Production” under the Singleton LEP. The Modification would extend into land zoned RU4 “Primary Production Small Lots”.

Under the Singleton LEP, “open cut mining” is permissible on lands in the RU1 Zone with development consent. Underground mining is not listed as a permissible use in the RU1 Zone under the Singleton LEP. Mining is not listed as a permissible use in the RU4 Zone under the Singleton LEP.

Part 2 of the Singleton LEP states:

Note. A type of development referred to in the Land Use Table is a reference to that type of development only to the extent it is not regulated by an applicable State environmental planning policy. The following State environmental planning policies in particular may be relevant to development on land to which this Plan applies:

...

State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007

...

Clause 4 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007* (Mining SEPP) relevantly provides:

4 Land to which Policy applies

This Policy applies to the State.

Clause 5(3) gives the Mining SEPP primacy where there is any inconsistency between the provisions in the Mining SEPP and the provisions in any other environmental planning instrument such as the Singleton LEP (subject to limited exceptions).

Clause 5(3) relevantly provides:

5 Relationship with other environmental planning policies

- (3) ... if this Policy is inconsistent with any other environmental planning instrument, whether made before or after this Policy, this Policy prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

The practical effect of clause 5(3) for Wambo is that if there is any inconsistency between the provisions of the Mining SEPP and those contained in the Singleton LEP, the provisions of the Mining SEPP will prevail.

Clauses 6 and 7 of the Mining SEPP set out what types of mining development are permissible without development consent and what types are permissible only with development consent. In this regard, clause 7(1) states:

7 Development permissible with consent

(1) Mining

Development for any of the following purposes may be carried out only with development consent:

- (a) *underground mining carried out on any land,*

...

The term ‘underground mining’ in the Mining SEPP is given an extended definition in clause 3(2) as follows:

underground mining means:

- (a) *mining carried out beneath the earth’s surface, including bord and pillar mining, longwall mining, top-level caving, sub-level caving and auger mining, and*
- (b) *shafts, drill holes, gas and water drainage works, surface rehabilitation works and access pits associated with that mining (whether carried out on or beneath the earth’s surface),*

but does not include open cut mining.

The effect of clause 7(1), in conjunction with the operation of clause 5(3) of the Mining SEPP, is that notwithstanding any prohibition contained in the Land Use Table of the Singleton LEP, Wambo and the Modification are permissible with development consent.

Clause 2.3(2) of the Singleton LEP relevantly provides:

- (2) *The consent authority must have regard to the objectives for development in a zone when determining a development application in respect of land within the zone.*

The consent authority for the Modification is the Minister for Planning (Section 5.1).

Under the Singleton LEP the objectives of the RU1 Zone are:

- *To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base.*
- *To encourage diversity in primary industry enterprises and systems appropriate for the area.*
- *To minimise the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands.*
- *To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.*

Under the Singleton LEP the objectives of the RU4 Zone are:

- *To enable sustainable primary industry and other compatible land uses.*
- *To encourage and promote diversity and employment opportunities in relation to primary industry enterprises, particularly those that require smaller lots or that are more intensive in nature.*
- *To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.*
- *To recognise Hunter Valley Wine Country and the adjoining environs of Broke-Fordwich as a major viticultural and tourist destination by providing additional opportunities for compatible tourist uses.*

The Modification is consistent with the general objectives of the RU1 and RU4 Zones as mining is a primary industry and the Modification would enhance the productivity of the existing mining operations at Wambo. The Modification is not expected to have any discernible direct or indirect impact on existing viticultural enterprises in the surrounding areas (Appendix G).

The Modification would not significantly alter the compatibility of Wambo with adjoining land uses or land uses overlying the Modification area.

A4.2 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICIES

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011* is not relevant to this Modification under section 75W of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act), as the Modification does not constitute State significant development, State significant infrastructure, critical State significant infrastructure or a development application that would be determined by a joint regional planning panel.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007

The Mining SEPP consolidates the various environmental planning instruments that previously controlled mining activities.

Clause 5(3) of the Mining SEPP gives it primacy where there is an inconsistency between the provisions of the Mining SEPP and the provisions of any other environmental planning instrument (except the *State Environmental Planning Policy [Major Development] 2005*, *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 14 [Coastal Wetlands]* and *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 26 [Littoral Rainforest]*).

Clause 2

Clause 2 sets out the aims of the Mining SEPP as follows:

- (a) *to provide for the proper management and development of mineral, petroleum and extractive material resources for the purpose of promoting the social and economic welfare of the State, and*
- (b) *to facilitate the orderly and economic use and development of land containing mineral, petroleum and extractive material resources, and*
- (b1) *to promote the development of significant mineral resources, and*
- (c) *to establish appropriate planning controls to encourage ecologically sustainable development through the environmental assessment, and sustainable management, of development of mineral, petroleum and extractive material resources.*

- (d) *to establish a gateway assessment process for certain mining and petroleum (oil and gas) development:*

...

Clause 7

Clause 7(1) of the Mining SEPP states that development for any of the following purposes may be carried out only with development consent:

- (a) *underground mining carried out on any land,*
- (b) *mining carried out:*
- (i) *on land where development for the purposes of agriculture or industry may be carried out (with or without development consent), or*
- (ii) *on land that is, immediately before the commencement of this clause, the subject of a mining lease under the Mining Act 1992 or a mining licence under the Offshore Minerals Act 1999,*

The Modification is both on land where agriculture is permissible under the Singleton LEP and comprises mining within existing Wambo mining tenements (Figure 2).

Clause 12

Clause 12 of the Mining SEPP requires that, before determining an application for consent for development for the purposes of mining, the consent authority must:

- (a) *consider:*
- (i) *the existing uses and approved uses of land in the vicinity of the development, and*
- (ii) *whether or not the development is likely to have a significant impact on the uses that, in the opinion of the consent authority having regard to land use trends, are likely to be the preferred uses of land in the vicinity of the development, and*
- (iii) *any ways in which the development may be incompatible with any of those existing, approved or likely preferred uses, and*
- (b) *evaluate and compare the respective public benefits of the development and the land uses referred to in paragraph (a) (i) and (ii), and*
- (c) *evaluate any measures proposed by the applicant to avoid or minimise any incompatibility, as referred to in paragraph (a) (iii).*

Land use in the vicinity of Wambo is characterised by a combination of coal mining operations, agricultural land uses and the village of Warkworth. Land use in the Modification area includes areas of vegetation (including land within the RWEPP areas) and cleared grazing land. The majority of the Modification area is located on Wambo Coal Pty Limited (WCPL)-owned land.

The potential impacts of the Modification on surrounding land uses including vegetation, mining-related infrastructure and existing agricultural improvements as a result of mine subsidence are described in Appendices A and G and summarised in Section 4. The potential amenity impacts are assessed in Appendices H and I and summarised in Section 4.10 and 4.11.

The Modification would allow for the extraction of additional coal reserves that can be economically mined with underground mining methods.

WCPL would, where practicable, implement a range of measures to avoid or minimise any potential incompatibility of the Modification with existing and future land uses in the Modification area. This would be achieved through the implementation of the existing Wambo environmental management system.

Clause 14

Clause 14(1) of the Mining SEPP requires that, before granting consent for development for the purposes of mining, the consent authority must consider whether or not the approval should be issued subject to conditions aimed at ensuring that the development is undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner, including conditions to ensure the following:

- (a) *that impacts on significant water resources, including surface and groundwater resources, are avoided, or are minimised to the greatest extent practicable,*
- (b) *that impacts on threatened species and biodiversity, are avoided, or are minimised to the greatest extent practicable,*
- (c) *that greenhouse gas emissions are minimised to the greatest extent practicable.*

In addition, clause 14(2) requires that, without limiting clause 14(1), in determining a development application for development for the purposes of mining, the consent authority must consider an assessment of the greenhouse gas emissions (including downstream emissions) of the development, and must do so having regard to any applicable State or national policies, programmes or guidelines concerning greenhouse gas emissions.

The potential impacts of the Modification on groundwater and surface water resources are discussed in Sections 4.4 and 4.5, including measures to minimise potential impacts which are described in Sections 4.4.3 and 4.5.3. The potential impacts of the Modification on threatened species and biodiversity are described in Sections 4.8 and 4.9, including measures to minimise potential impacts which are described in Sections 4.7.3 and 4.8.3.

Existing Wambo greenhouse gas abatement measures and the Modification greenhouse gas emissions estimate are described in Section 4.12.1. The Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Review (Appendix I) provides a quantitative assessment of potential Scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions of the Modification.

Clause 15

Clause 15 of the Mining SEPP requires that:

- (1) *Before granting consent for development for the purposes of mining, petroleum production or extractive industry, the consent authority must consider the efficiency or otherwise of the development in terms of resource recovery.*
- (2) *Before granting consent for the development, the consent authority must consider whether or not the consent should be issued subject to conditions aimed at optimising the efficiency of resource recovery and the reuse or recycling of material.*
- (3) *The consent authority may refuse to grant consent to development if it is not satisfied that the development will be carried out in such a way as to optimise the efficiency of recovery of minerals, petroleum or extractive materials and to minimise the creation of waste in association with the extraction, recovery or processing of minerals, petroleum or extractive materials.*

The Modification would allow for the extraction of additional coal reserves that can be economically mined with underground mining methods. It is in WCPL's financial interest to maximise the efficiency of coal recovery and minimise the generation of coal reject which requires disposal. As such, the Modification aims to achieve efficient resource recovery.

Clause 16

Clause 16(1) of the Mining SEPP requires that, before granting consent for development for the purposes of mining that involves the transport of materials, the consent authority must consider whether or not the consent should be issued subject to conditions that do any one or more of the following:

- (a) *require that some or all of the transport of materials in connection with the development is not to be by public road,*
- (b) *limit or preclude truck movements, in connection with the development, that occur on roads in residential areas or on roads near to schools,*
- (c) *require the preparation and implementation, in relation to the development, of a code of conduct relating to the transport of materials on public roads.*

Wambo product coal would continue to be transported from site by rail.

The primary public road network transport routes to and from Wambo include routes that are adjacent to rural areas, industrial/commercial areas, residential areas and schools.

The Road Transport Assessment, conducted by GTA Consultants, concluded that no significant impacts on the performance capacity, efficiency and safety of the road network are expected to arise as a result of the Modification (Appendix J).

Clause 17

Clause 17 of the Mining SEPP requires that before granting consent for development for the purposes of mining, the consent authority must consider whether or not the approval should be issued subject to conditions aimed at ensuring the rehabilitation of land that will be affected by the development.

In particular, the consent authority must consider whether conditions of the consent should:

- (a) *require the preparation of a plan that identifies the proposed end use and landform of the land once rehabilitated, or*
- (b) *require waste generated by the development or the rehabilitation to be dealt with appropriately, or*
- (c) *require any soil contaminated as a result of the development to be remediated in accordance with relevant guidelines (including guidelines under section 145C of the Act and the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997), or*
- (d) *require steps to be taken to ensure that the state of the land, while being rehabilitated and at the completion of the rehabilitation, does not jeopardize public safety.*

At the cessation of mining at Wambo, a rehabilitation programme would be implemented for the Modification area (Section 3.10). The proposed management of coal reject material is discussed in Section 3.6 and the management of waste rock material is described in Section 2.8. One of the key Wambo rehabilitation objectives is the creation of safe, stable, adequately drained post-mining land that is consistent with the surrounding landscape (Section 2.13).

WCPL's Mining Operations Plan complies with the Rehabilitation Management Plan requirement in Condition 94C, Schedule 4 of the Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003).

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* (Infrastructure SEPP) applies to the whole of NSW and includes provisions for consultation with relevant public authorities about certain development during the assessment process or prior to development commencing.

Subdivision 2, Division 5, Part 3 of the Infrastructure SEPP sets out provisions for developments that are likely to affect an electricity transmission or distribution network. Clause 45 of the Infrastructure SEPP relevantly provides:

- (1) *This clause applies to a development application (or an application for modification of a consent) for development comprising or involving any of the following:*

...

- (b) *development carried out:*

- (i) *within or immediately adjacent to an easement for electricity purposes (whether or not the electricity infrastructure exists), or*
- (ii) *immediately adjacent to an electricity substation, or*
- (iii) *within 5m of an exposed overhead electricity power line,*

...

- (2) *Before determining a development application (or an application for modification of a consent) for development to which this clause applies, the consent authority must:*

- (a) *give written notice to the electricity supply authority for the area in which the development is to be carried out, inviting comments about potential safety risks, and*
- (b) *take into consideration any response to the notice that is received within 21 days after the notice is given.*

As described in Section 4.2, the approved and modified mine layouts would result in subsidence impacts on an 11 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line (ETL) owned and operated by Ausgrid.

Consultation has been conducted with Ausgrid and (the relevant electricity supply authorities) regarding the Modification. Measures to manage the impacts of subsidence on the 11 kV ETL would be developed in consultation with Ausgrid as a component of the relevant Extraction Plan for consideration and approval by the relevant authorities, and would be consistent with the current requirements of the Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003) with regards to subsidence impacts on built features.

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 33 (Hazardous and Offensive Development)

Clause 13 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 33 (Hazardous and Offensive Development)* requires the consent authority, in considering a development application for a potentially hazardous or a potentially offensive industry, to consider:

- (c) *in the case of development for the purpose of a potentially hazardous industry—a preliminary hazard analysis prepared by or on behalf of the applicant, and*

- (d) any feasible alternatives to the carrying out of the development and the reasons for choosing the development the subject of the application (including any feasible alternatives for the location of the development and the reasons for choosing the location the subject of the application)

...

As described in Section 4.15, the Modification would not significantly alter the consequences or likelihood of a hazardous event occurring at Wambo as the operational activities on-site would be generally unchanged. Operations at Wambo would be carried out in accordance with established safety and environmental management systems to mitigate the risk of hazardous events.

Notwithstanding, environmental management plans and monitoring programmes would be reviewed, and if necessary, revised by WCPL to include the Modification and manage any associated environmental risks.

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 (Koala Habitat Protection)

The *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 (Koala Habitat Protection)* requires the consent authority for any development application in certain LGAs (including Singleton) to consider whether land subject to a development application is "potential koala habitat" or "core koala habitat".

FloraSearch (Appendix D) and Eco Logical (Appendix E) consider that the Modification area comprises potential Koala habitat, but does not comprise core Koala habitat.

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 (Remediation of Land)

The *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 (Remediation of Land)* (SEPP 55) aims to provide a State-wide planning approach to the remediation of contaminated land. Under SEPP 55, planning authorities are required to consider the potential for contamination to adversely affect the suitability of the site for its proposed use.

A consent authority must consider the following under clause 7(1) of SEPP 55:

- (a) it has considered whether the land is contaminated, and

- (b) if the land is contaminated, it is satisfied that the land is suitable in its contaminated state (or will be suitable, after remediation) for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, and
- (c) if the land requires remediation to be made suitable for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, it is satisfied that the land will be remediated before the land is used for that purpose.

Further, under clause 7(2), before determining an application for consent to carry out development that would involve a change of use of land, the consent authority must consider a report specifying the findings of a preliminary investigation of the land concerned, carried out in accordance with the contaminated land planning guidelines.

Because the Modification is within existing Wambo mining tenements, no change of use is proposed and no preliminary land contamination investigation is required.

A4.3 STRATEGIC REGIONAL LAND USE POLICY

As part of the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy, the NSW Government introduced a 'Gateway Process' for the upfront assessment of the impacts of State significant mining and coal seam gas proposals on Strategic Agricultural Land (NSW Government, 2012c).

The Modification area is wholly contained within existing Wambo mining tenements, and therefore a Site Verification Certificate or Gateway Certificate is not required (clause 20 of Schedule 6A of the EP&A Act).

Notwithstanding, Strategic Agricultural Land as mapped in the Mining SEPP is described in Section 4.3.1 and presented on Figure 11. An assessment of potential impacts on agricultural land and resources is presented in Section 4.3.2.

An assessment against the provisions of the NSW *Aquifer Interference Policy* (the AIP) (NSW Government, 2012a) is provided in Section A4.4.

A4.4 AQUIFER INTERFERENCE POLICY

The AIP has been developed by the NSW Government as a component of the NSW Government's Strategic Regional Land Use Policy. The AIP applies State-wide and details water licence and impact assessment requirements.

The AIP has been developed to ensure equitable water sharing between various water users and proper licensing of water taken by aquifer interference activities such that the take is accounted for in the water budget and water sharing arrangements. The AIP also aims to enhance existing regulation, contributing to a comprehensive framework to protect the rights of all water users and the environment in NSW.

The NSW *Water Management Act, 2000* defines an aquifer interference activity as that which involves any of the following:

- *the penetration of an aquifer;*
- *the interference with water in an aquifer;*
- *the obstruction of the flow of water in an aquifer;*
- *the taking of water from an aquifer in the course of carrying out mining or any other activity prescribed by the regulations; and*
- *the disposal of water taken from an aquifer in the course of carrying out mining or any other activity prescribed by the regulations.*

A Groundwater Assessment (HydroSimulations, 2016) has been prepared in consideration of the AIP and the key conclusions are summarised below.

Water Source

The AIP requires all water taken by aquifer interference activities to be accounted for within the extraction limits set by the relevant Water Sharing Plan.

The only Water Sharing Plan currently in force and relevant to Wambo is the *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009*.

Licensing to account for water taken from the coal seams and other hardrock units that comprise the porous rock aquifer is currently required at Wambo under the NSW *Water Act, 1912*.

A Draft Water Sharing Plan for the North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources has been placed on public exhibition and once commenced, the licensing provisions of the *Water Management Act, 2000* will come into effect for the porous rock groundwater sources in the Wambo area. This means that existing *Water Act, 1912* licences will be converted to *Water Management Act, 2000* water access licences, and water supply works and use approvals.

Baseline Groundwater Conditions

Baseline groundwater conditions and the existing observed impacts of the approved Wambo operations on alluvial and porous rock aquifers are presented in Section 2 of HydroSimulations (2016).

Modelling of Potential Impacts

The Groundwater Assessment included predictive modelling of the cumulative groundwater impacts using a three-dimensional numerical model. Detail on the development and calibration of the numerical model is provided in HydroSimulations (2016).

The potential impacts of the Modification have been assessed by making comparisons between the approved and the modified mining layouts.

Licensing Requirements

Details of the current groundwater licences with extraction entitlements held by WCPL are summarised in Table A4-1. The predicted annual groundwater volumes required to be licensed for the already approved South Wambo Underground Mine operations and incorporating the Modification are summarised in Table A4-2.

Comparison of WCPL's licence entitlements against the predicted maximum annual licensing requirements shows that adequate licences are available to account for the potential take of water associated with the South Wambo Underground Mine incorporating the Modification (HydroSimulations, 2016).

WCPL would assign these licences to water supply works in accordance with the rules under Part 9 in the relevant Water Sharing Plan.

Post-closure annual licensing requirements are expected to be less than the licensing requirements during operation. Sufficient licence allocations could be retired at the completion of Wambo to account for the potential post-closure take of water.

The numerical groundwater model would be refined over the progression of the mine life in order to more accurately calculate the post-closure licensing requirements associated with Wambo.

Should any additional licences be required as a result of ongoing review of the numerical groundwater model, WCPL would comply with the access licence dealing rules in the relevant Water Sharing Plan.

**Table A4-1
Groundwater Licence Summary**

Licence Number	Description	Facility	Valid To	Extraction Limits
Licences under the <i>Water Management Act, 2000</i> (Alluvial Aquifer)				
WAL 23897 ¹	Well No. 2	Well	Perpetuity	70 ML/year
Licences under the <i>Water Act, 1912</i> (Porous Rock Aquifer)				
20BL132753	Old Well No. 1	Well	29/07/2018	243ML/year
20BL167738 ²	Dewatering Bore	Bore	11/09/2015	57ML/year
20BL168643	Dewatering Bore	Bore	7/08/2018	40ML/year
20BL168017	Dewatering (Bore No. 2)	Bore	21/05/2017	750ML/year (20PT910929)
20BL172061 ²	Dewatering (BoreNo.2a)	Bore	22/03/2014	
20BL173040	Dewatering Bore	Bore	21/05/2017	
20BL172156	Dewatering	Excavation	3/05/2019	98ML/year
20BL166910	Dewatering (Bore No. 1)	Bore	21/05/2017	450ML/year (20PT910607)
20BL173032	Dewatering Bore	Bore	30/11/2016	
20BL173033	Dewatering Bore	Bore	30/11/2016	
20BL173034	Dewatering Bore	Bore	30/11/2016	
20BL173035	Dewatering Bore	Bore	30/11/2016	
20BL173844	Dewatering Bore	Bore	04/09/2019	9 ML/year

Note: Only licences with an extraction entitlement have been included in this table.

ML/year = million litres per year.

¹ Assigned to the Lower Wollombi Brook Water Source.

² Renewal lodged.

**Table A4-2
South Wambo Underground Mine Groundwater Licensing Requirement Summary**

Water Sharing Plan	Management Zone/ Groundwater Source	Predicted Annual Inflow Volumes Requiring Licensing (January 2018 to December 2033) (ML/year)	
		Currently Approved	Modification
<i>Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources Water Sharing Plan 2009</i>	Lower Wollombi Brook	Average 26 Maximum 28	Average 31 Maximum 36
<i>Water Act, 1912 (Draft Water Sharing Plan for the North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources)</i>	Porous Rock (Sydney Basin – North Coast)	Average 740 Maximum 1,180	Average 852 Maximum 1,293

Source: After HydroSimulations (2016).

Note: Licensing volumes are for the South Wambo Underground Mine only. Additional licensing volumes would be required for extraction associated with the Wambo Open Cut and South Bates Underground Mine prior to their completion.

Minimal Impact Considerations

The AIP establishes minimal impact considerations for highly productive and less productive groundwater. Figure 11 shows the DPI Water mapping of highly productive groundwater in the vicinity of Wambo, which indicates a highly productive alluvial aquifer exists adjacent to Wollombi Brook and a small portion adjacent to Wambo Creek.

An assessment of the Modification against the minimal impact considerations in the AIP was conducted as part of the Groundwater Assessment (HydroSimulations, 2016).

The Groundwater Assessment concluded that the Modification is within the 'Level 1' minimal impact considerations outlined in the AIP for water quality impacts.

There would be no additional private groundwater users affected as a result of the Modification. WCPL would continue to implement an approved Surface and Groundwater Response Plan in the event a complaint is received from a private landowner in relation to loss of groundwater supply associated with the approved operations. Therefore, Wambo (including the Modification) is within the 'Level 2' minimal impact considerations outlined in the AIP for water table and water pressure impacts.

Relevant Mitigation and Contingency Measures

Other Groundwater Users

The existing Wambo Surface and Groundwater Response Plan (WCPL, 2015h) includes a process to deal with a complaint received in relation to loss of groundwater supply. WCPL would continue to implement an approved Surface and Groundwater Response Plan for the Modification.

Monitoring and Reporting of Water Make

WCPL would continue to monitor and report groundwater extraction as required under the conditions of its water licences.

The numerical groundwater model would continue to be refined over the progression of the mine life at Wambo.