



Department of Primary Industries

OUT16/50686

Ms Jessie Evans
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Jessie.evans@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Jessie Evans

**Hunter Valley Operations North Coal Mine (DA 450-10-2003 MOD 6)
Comment on the Environmental Assessment and draft Notice of Modification**

I refer to your email of 17 November 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant divisions of DPI. Views were also sought from NSW Department of Industry - Lands that are now a division of the broader Department and no longer within NSW DPI. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI has reviewed the application and Environmental Assessment and provides the following recommendations:

- The proponent should provide further information regarding impacts of the fine reject emplacement on water licensing in the final landform and any changes to the Jerrys Plains Water Source Catchment area. Detail should be included on the licensing requirements of the approved final landform scenario and compared to that of the new proposed scenario.
- The groundwater assessment did not include an assessment against the Aquifer Interference Policy. Although it is stated in the EA that the activity does not constitute an Aquifer Interference Activity the lower hydraulic conductivity of the fine rejects may, in conjunction with additional water pumped into the void, increase the groundwater head in the coal measures up gradient of Carrington Pit. This should be monitored and reported on in the site's Annual Review.

Yours sincerely

Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice

DPI appreciates your help to improve our advice to you. Please complete this three minute survey about the advice we have provided to you, here:
<https://goo.gl/o8TXWz>