

HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS

1 April 2020

Mr Matthew Sprott
Director Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

By email: Matthew.Sprott@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Sprott

**RE: Hunter Valley Operations North DA 450-10-2003
Final Void Management Plan**

Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) is seeking a 12 month deferment on the requirement to have an approved final void management plan according to Schedule 3 Condition 28 of DA 450-10-2003 which relates to HVO North.

Condition 28 requires HVO to develop a final void management plan at least 5 years prior to cessation of open cut coal extraction or as otherwise agreed with the Secretary (Appendix 1). Although the current HVO North approval authorises mining until 12 June 2025, HVO does not intend to cease open cut coal operations at that time and has the coal resources to continue coal extraction for many decades. The business is currently reviewing its options to continue mining at HVO North beyond 12 June 2025.

There is no environmental or financial risk involved with HVO deferring the final void management plan. The site operates in accordance with an approved Mining Operations Plan that includes information regarding the final landform, and is underpinned by a financial security that factors in final void rehabilitation. The mining that is occurring at present will enable HVO to achieve the final void size and shape as approved in the HVO North consent.

Due to HVO's intentions to continue coal extraction at HVO North, development of a final void management plan at this stage would be premature and unnecessary given controls in existing management plans.

We appreciate your review of this request and if you wish to discuss please contact me on 0477 335 409.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ML', with a stylized, cursive flourish.

Michael Lloyd

Environment & Community Coordinator
Hunter Valley Operations

Appendix 1. Schedule 3 condition 28 of DA 450-10-2003 (HVO North)

Final Void Management Plan

28. At least 5 years before the cessation of open cut coal extraction that will result in the creation of a final void, or as otherwise agreed with the Secretary, the Applicant must prepare a Final Void Management Plan for each void, in consultation with DRE and DPI Water, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. Each plan must:

- (a) assess locational, design and future use options;
- (b) be integrated with the Water Management Plan and the Rehabilitation Management Plan;
- (c) assess short term and long term groundwater and other impacts associated with each option; and
- (d) describe the measures to be would be implemented to avoid, minimise, manage and monitor potential adverse impacts of the final void over time.

The Applicant must implement the approved management plan as approved from time to time by the Secretary.