



Michael Lloyd
Environment & Community Coordinator
Hunter Valley Operations
PO Box 315
Singleton NSW 2330

15/04/2020

Dear Mr Lloyd

**Hunter Valley Operations North (DA 450-10-2003)
Final Void Management Plan**

I refer to your letter dated 1 April 2020 requesting an extension of time to prepare the Final Void Management Plan (FVMP) required under condition 28 of Schedule 3 of the above development consent.

The Department notes that Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) is seeking a 12-month extension of time to prepare the FVMP whilst HVO explores options for the continuation of mining beyond June 2025. The Department considers that a 12-month extension of time is reasonable as this would allow for better integration with any proposed future mining or alternative uses for the site. Consequently, the Secretary has granted an extension of time until **12 June 2021** to prepare the FVMP.

Notwithstanding, the Department wishes to emphasise the importance of forward planning for the management of final voids. In the absence of any development consent (or substantially progressed development application) for continued mining operations at the site, the Department will be reticent to further delay the preparation of the FVMP.

For any further enquiries, please contact Lauren Evans at the details above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Sprott'.

Matthew Sprott
Director
Resource Assessments (Coal & Quarries)

as nominee of the Planning Secretary