



Our reference: DOC15/312244-01, EF13/3725
Contact: Cameron Perry 4908 6808
Electronic correspondence to: hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Fiona Gibson

Dear Ms Gibson

75W modification request to modify the development consent for Tomago Aluminium Smelter at 576-638 Tomago Road (DA 391-90 Mod 4 and DA 4980-90 MOD 3)

Reference is made to correspondence received by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requesting comment on the section 75W modification to the development consents for the Tomago Aluminium Company (TAC) Smelter at 576-638 Tomago Road, Tomago (DA 39r-80 MOD 4 and DA 4980-90 MOD 3). The proposed modification seeks approval to slightly increase the production capacity of the smelter.

With improvements in cell technology and energy efficiency, TAC has advised it has been able to marginally increase operating cell current from 245kA to 251 kA. The impact of this is expected to result in full year 2015 production of 581,000 tonnes/annum. To allow sufficient headroom in the development consent, TAC is seeking a modest increase of 10,000 tonnes/annum, or 1.7% above the previous limit, to a total of 585,000 tonnes/annum of saleable metal.

The EPA understands that in considering the proposal:

- No upgrades in plant or equipment are required.
- Air emissions of the key pollutants fluoride and sulphur dioxide will remain within existing load limits stipulated in Environment Protection Licence 6163. Improvements in emissions reduction have seen unit emissions (kg F/ tonne Al) decrease over time.
- Air quality verification work completed in 2013 confirmed that the air quality modelling presented in the AP2X Statement of Environmental Effects was conservative.
- Changes in traffic are minimal; 1 additional truck per day for raw materials and product transport.
- Noise, water and waste impacts will not change.
- Energy efficiency improvements will result in lower MWh/tonne, hence lower greenhouse emissions per tonne.

The EPA understands that the proposed modification entails a slight increase in the production limits of the premises. The EPA notes that the proponent can achieve this increase within existing pollutant load limits conditions placed on Environment Protection Licence 6163. In particular the proposal will not result in an increase in the emission limits for either sulphur dioxide or fluoride. On that basis the EPA has determined that the proposed activity, if approved, can be regulated without further conditions.

If you require any further information or wish to discuss the matter please contact Cameron Perry on (02) 4908 6808.

Yours sincerely,

 27-8-15

PETER JAMIESON
Head Regional Operations Unit - Hunter
Environment Protection Authority