



Soil Conservation Service of NSW



The Secretary
Department of Planning
GPO Box 3927
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: V. Thompson

Contact: Mr N. Abraham

Our reference: R1811

Your reference:



Dear Sir,

**PROPOSED CAMBERWELL COAL PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

This Service has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement forwarded to us by the Project proponents and a copy of our comments is attached for your information.

Yours faithfully,

V.J. Pattemore
for R.S. Junor
Commissioner

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LOCATION			
ACTION OFFICER	V. Thompson		
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Soil Conservation Service of NSW



The Shire Clerk
Singleton Shire Council
PO Box 314
SINGLETON NSW 2330

Contact: Mr N. Abraham

Our reference: R1811

Your reference:



Dear Sir,

PROPOSED CAMBERWELL COAL PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This Service has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement forwarded to us by the Project proponents. In general it provides a satisfactory statement of the constraints and requirements which will affect rehabilitation and erosion control on the site if it is developed as a mine.

However the Service considers that further comment on a number of specific items is warranted, namely:

1. Erosion Potential

The last paragraph of the summary on page 2 states in part "...., surface stability of land with a high erosion potential ...". I trust this is a typographical error as it should read "...lower erosion potential...".

2. Rehabilitation

The proposals for rehabilitation presented on pages 107 to 119 of the Environmental Impact Statement are satisfactory and meet the requirements of the Soil Conservation Service of N.S.W.

Possible restraints to successful rehabilitation have been considered fully and should not prevent the proponent from meeting the objectives described on pages 1 and 2 of this Statement.

The proposal to undertake rehabilitation so that a full range of options are available for the use of the land when mining is finished is completely in accordance with the policy of the Soil Conservation Service.

This Service supports the proposal by Camberwell Coal Pty Ltd to undertake trial work to adapt the general recommendations for rehabilitation to meet the specific requirements the site. This approach has proved successful at other locations and the Soil Conservation Service is also willing to assist with this developmental work. Further contact should be made with the Soil Conservationist, Extractive Industries, Singleton.

The concept of incorporating 75% of the initial application of fertiliser in the surface layer of the overburden prior to spreading topsoil is supported. As stated in the Environmental Impact Statement this will promote a deeper root system on the revegetation species.

The Extractive Industries officer may also be contacted to assist the proponent in meeting the statutory requirements for rehabilitation.

3. Water Management.

The proposals for water management and sediment control presented in the Environmental Impact Statement are conceptually sound. If properly implemented, the control measures described will effectively control runoff and erosion during the mining phase of the operation and also ensure that land undergoing rehabilitation is adequately stabilised.

However, as the diversion system for Station Creek and its tributaries will be a permanent modification, some deficiencies in its design are noted:-

- * The proposal to have dams C1 and C2 with the same top water level and joined by a level channel is not supported. A grade is required in this channel to ensure water flow through the diversion system during flood events, otherwise an excessive surcharge will occur in dam C1.
- * The Environmental Impact Statement states that all dams and diversion channels will be designed to cope with a 1 in 100 year flood. However, no dimensions or capacities of channels or freeboard of dams are given nor are stabilisation methods for the diversion channels given.

The Soil Conservation Service can provide technical assistance with the design of the water management works if required. Advice should also be sought from the Department of Water Resources regarding the need to licence dams or for referral to the Dam Safety Committee.

3. Bund Walls.

The concept of using vegetated bund walls to reduce noise, dust and the visual impact of the project is also supported. It is noted that the proponents intend to revegetate these immediately after construction. However, no design details for the bund walls are given. It is recommended that the bund walls have a side batter grade no steeper than 4:1 (approximately 14%).

Summary

The Environmental Impact Statement presents a thorough and reasonably accurate statement of the environmental factors which are likely to affect the stability of the site during the operation of the mine and the subsequent rehabilitation of the site when mining is completed. Reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the area will be left in a stable condition and the full range of options for the future use of the land restored.

If the deficiencies outlined above are attended to, the document will contain sufficient detail with regard to rehabilitation and site stability. It is preferable that this information be presented as a separate Rehabilitation Plan which could be periodically updated.

A copy of these comments have also been forwarded to the General Manager, Camberwell Coal Pty Ltd and Mr V. Thompson, Department of Planning, for their information.

Yours faithfully,



V.J. Pattemore
for R.S. Junor
Commissioner

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