

DOC18/21821-04; EF16/11941

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Tertius Greyling
By email: terius.greyling@planning.nsw.gov.au

1 February 2018

Dear Mr Greyling

**MOUNT PLEASANT COAL MINE MODIFICATION 4 (DA 92/97 MOD 4)
EXHIBITION NOTICE – REQUEST FOR COMMENT**

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), dated 15 January 2018 inviting comments and any recommended conditions of consent in respect of the proposed Mount Pleasant Coal Mine Modification.

The EPA understands that the modification application involves:

- duplication of product coal transport infrastructure, including construction and operation of a second rail spur, rail loop, conveyor, rail load-out facility and associated services;
- duplication of water supply infrastructure, including construction and operation of a second pump station, water pipeline to the Hunter River and associated electricity supply; and
- demolition and removal of the existing approved product coal transport infrastructure and water supply infrastructure within the extent of Bengalla Mine, once the new infrastructure is fully operational.

The EPA has reviewed the EIS and provides the following comments and recommendations:

Air Quality

Modification 4 to DA92/97 proposes to duplicate rail loading facilities before removing those used in the first years of mine operation. Current rail loading facilities are within the Bengalla mine's planned area for mining and will need to be removed before mining in the Bengalla mine reaches them.

The new rail loading facilities require construction of a five-kilometre rail spur, rail loop, conveyor, and ancillary facilities including infrastructure for water and electricity supply. This is a significant change to the location of coal handling facilities. This new infrastructure does not require relocation of air monitoring points listed on EPL 20850.

There is no proposed change to coal production or coal beneficiation, Hansen Bailey (2017, p8). The proposal changes the location of a minor source of dust emissions, 0.08% of total (TAS 2017, p3). The new location for coal handling is estimated to result in a very small increase in total emissions of 0.03% arising from additional transfer points and greater conveyor distance (TAS 2017, p3).

Dispersion modelling was used to assess the potential impact of change to emissions. It predicts negligible change to particle concentrations from the proposal (TAS 2017, p5).

The EPA advises assessment has been conducted broadly in agreement with guidance set out in '*Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (2016)*'.

The proponent commits to the mitigation and management measures detailed in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (Hansen Bailey 2017, p41).

Recommendation

EPA supports the proposed modification and no change is required to conditions of approval regarding emissions to air.

Noise

Recommendations

The EPA advises that it supports the modification application, subject to:

1. Should the application be approved, that the proponent applies to vary their Environment Protection Licence to update noise limits specified in Table 3-9 of the noise assessment.
2. That DPE include conditions restricting the proposed construction that are outside of the mining lease to Standard Construction hours outlined in the Interim Construction Noise Guidelines, except for the following:
 - a) The delivery of materials required by the police or other authorities for safety reasons;
 - b) Activities required in an emergency to avoid the loss of lives, property or to prevent environmental harm;
 - c) Construction that, except with the written agreement of the occupier of a residence or other sensitive land use, results in $L_{Aeq(15\text{minute})}$ levels that are:
 - No more than 5dB above Rating Background Level at any residence; and
 - No more than the Noise Management Levels specified in Table 3 of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline at sensitive land uses other than residences.

Should the development be modified either by the applicant prior to the granting of the consent or as a result of a condition proposed to be attached to the consent, it will be necessary to consult with the EPA about the changes before consent is granted. This will enable the EPA to determine whether a recommended condition of approval needs to be modified in light of the changes.

Environment Protection Licence Variation

The proponent currently holds Environment Protection Licence 12977 under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act). Should DPE approve the proposal, the proponent will need to apply for and obtain a Licence Variation from the EPA that will include the updated noise limits.

If you require any further information regarding this matter please contact me on 4908 6821 or by email to hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

 1-2-18

BILL GEORGE
Senior Regional Operations Officer - Hunter
Environment Protection Authority

