



Our reference : EF13/3856; DOC13/110142-02
Contact : Mr Andrew Helms; (02) 6332 7604

Mr Howard Reed
Manager Mining Projects
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Mr Brendan Liew

10 July 2014

Dear Mr Reed

WILPINJONG COAL MINE – 05_0021 MOD 6

I refer to a letter and Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by Resource Strategies Pty Limited for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine modification 05_0021 MOD 6 (the Project) and received by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 26 June 2014.

The EPA has reviewed the EA and understands that the primary objective of the Project is to increase the run-of-mine coal production from 15 Mtpa to 16 Mtpa and that this increase will be achieved through a range of operational efficiencies rather than an expansion of the mining footprint. The EPA offers the following comments on specific aspects of the EA:

Noise:

The EA states that there will be an augmentation of the mobile fleet with the addition of three D-11 dozers and day time only contractor equipment (e.g. water carts). The noise assessment states that this equipment will raise the total site sound power levels by up to 0.6 dBA in the daytime and 0.3 dBA during the evening and night time periods – levels that would not be noticeable to residential receivers. The EPA notes that the EA predicts that there will be no exceedances of the current noise criteria with the exception of three private residences already identified as being within the Noise Management Zone.

Air Quality:

The EPA notes that the air assessment similarly concluded that private residential receivers would not experience increased impacts as a result of the Project.

Spontaneous Combustion:

The EA states that the project would not significantly alter the potential for spontaneous combustion events based on there being no change to the extent of mining and that the material handling methodology employed on site will not change significantly. The potential for the increased duration of the stockpiling of run-of-mine coal between the years 2014 to 2016 was also identified.

Mitigation measures identified in the EA include the ongoing implementation of the Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan, reworking of existing dumps of problematic carbonaceous waste rock material by the end of 2015 and the commencement of a detailed spontaneous combustion coal and

partings testwork program commencing in mid-2014 the results of which will be fed back in to the management of coal stockpiles on site where appropriate.

The EPA recommends that the Department of Planning and Environment require that Wilpinjong Coal Pty Limited review the existing Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan within 6 months of any approval being granted for this project. The review should include the assessment of the suitability of the existing management techniques versus current industry best practice (including thermal imaging where appropriate) that could be reasonably and feasibly applied at the Wilpinjong Mine. The EPA notes that the current plan, as displayed on the company's website, was prepared in May 2006.

The EPA is satisfied that the activities proposed under the Project can be managed under the conditions of the existing Environment Protection Licence No. 12425 (the licence) in such a way as to have negligible impacts on the existing environment with respect to air, noise and surface water quality. No variations will be required to the licence should the modification be approved.

Should you have any enquiries in relation to this matter please contact Mr Andrew Helms at the Central West (Bathurst) Office of the EPA by telephoning (02) 6332 7604.

Yours sincerely



DARRYL CLIFT
Head Central West Unit
Environment Protection Authority