

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Reference: MP05_0117-PA-114

Mr Ian Flood
Environment and Community Manager
Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Ltd
07/05/2026

Subject: Moolarben Coal – End of Panel Report and Auditing Requirements

Dear Mr Flood

I refer to your letter seeking clarification on whether the End of Panel (EoP) report for longwall LW407 satisfies the note in condition 9, Schedule 5 of Project Approval 05_0117 (Stage 1) regarding auditing of impacts associated with the UG4 mining area.

Condition 9 of Schedule 5 includes requirements to commission independent audits of the Stage 1 project at regular times of over the project life. The note to this condition states:

- *Notwithstanding the timing referred to above, audits must be carried out prior to the completion of longwall panels 4 and 8. The Proponent must liaise with the Department to determine the precise date of these audits.*
- *This audit team should be led by a suitably qualified auditor, and include experts in the field of subsidence, surface water and groundwater management, noise, ecology and mine rehabilitation.*

The intention of this note is to ensure that there are independent audits of impacts associated with the UG4 mining area, with the timing of these audits to be considered in line with the schedule of mining.

The provision of EoP reports was a commitment made in the extraction plan for longwalls LW401–408. Upon review of the first EoP report for longwalls LW401–403, the Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Mining (Mining Panel) requested an additional EoP report be provided following the completion of longwall LW407 and prior to completion of LW408. The scope of the requested EoP was defined by the Mining Panel to include comprehensive reporting on:

- subsidence predictions and actual impacts;
- data trends for all underlying groundwater systems and assessment impacts to the Triassic sandstone aquifer;
- surface water data and trends for the Goulburn River; and
- impacts on cultural heritage.

The Department considers that this EoP report could satisfy the requirements of the note with regards to audits of subsidence, groundwater and surface water impacts. However, to ensure that this process includes an independent perspective, the Department requests that the EoP report include an independent review of predicted versus observed groundwater and surface water impacts by Dr Lloyd

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Townley. The Department will also provide a copy of the EoP report to the Mining Panel for additional independent evaluation.

The note also makes reference to audits for impacts associated with noise, ecology and mine rehabilitation. The Department considers these matters are not required to form part of the EoP report, but should be considered as part of the whole-of-complex audit later that is scheduled for later this year.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Cherie Colyer-Morris, Senior Environmental Assessments Officer on 02 4904 2738 or Cherie.colyer-morris@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SOD", written in a cursive style.

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary