

Mr Trent Cini
Environment and Community Manager
Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Limited
By email: Trent.Cini@yancoal.com.au

15/12/2023

Subject: UG4 Longwalls 401-408 Revised Groundwater Report

Dear Mr Cini

I refer to the revised groundwater report submitted in accordance with condition 5 of the approval of the Extraction Plan for UG4 Longwalls LW401-408. The Department referred the report to the Independent Advisory Panel for Mining (the panel) and to its Water Group (DPE Water) for review and advice, and I acknowledge your response to the advice from these parties.

The panel generally advised the revised groundwater report has lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the groundwater system underlying the UG4 longwall panels, however, the panel requested additional information and made recommendations to improve the monitoring network and validate predictions. Similarly, DPE Water also made a number of recommendations in relation to monitoring and water licensing requirements.

Key recommendations from the panel included prioritisation of installing gauging stations and groundwater monitoring sites within and surrounding the Goulburn River. I note in your response that these sites would be installed by 31 December 2023, however, I understand that these have already been installed.

Following your response to DPE Water, I understand that additional water entitlement is required to meet predicted water inflows for the imminent water years. I also understand that the company has not agreed to install a recommended monitoring site in the vicinity of PZ191.

The Department has carefully reviewed the revised report and has considered the recommendations made and the company response. Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the Revised Groundwater Technical Report (version 2.01, dated 18 August 2023) subject to the conditions listed in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 – Revised Groundwater Report - Conditions of Approval

No.	Condition
1.	The Applicant must validate the nature of the local inferred fault that straddles Longwalls LW406 and LW407. Within eight weeks of the intersection of the fault, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, a validation report must be submitted to the Department that includes analysis of data collected from the existing monitoring network, including the PZ103C standpipe and PZ103D vibrating wire pizometre.
2.	By 30 March 2024, the Applicant must provide an update to the Department on the progress of investigations to confirm the separation of perched and regional water tables feeding 'The Drip' and

No.	Condition
	the Goulburn River, respectively. Investigations must include the installation new shallow standpipes into the Triassic sandstone in the area immediately north of 'The Drip'.
3.	The Applicant must install groundwater monitoring site PZ-A no later than 30 June 2024, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary.
4.	Unless otherwise agreed by DPE Water, the Applicant must install an additional nested groundwater monitoring site near PZ191 and by 30 June 2024, to demonstrate ongoing consensus between conceptualisation and modelling of alluvium contact with the Goulburn River / Goulburn River Diversion. The Applicant may recommend to DPE Water alternative monitoring arrangements to achieve the same outcome, for their consideration.
5.	By 16 February 2024, the Applicant must: (a) submit a schedule to the Department outlining how residual water take requirements will be obtained prior to water take occurring; and (b) incorporate assessment criteria and a trigger action response plan for groundwater take from each of the relevant water sources into the next revision of the water management plan.

You are reminded that if there are any inconsistencies between the groundwater report and the conditions of approval, the conditions prevail.

Please ensure you make the document publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Gen Lucas on (02) 9274 6489.

Yours sincerely



Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments
As nominee of the Planning Secretary