

15 March 2024

Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Attention: Jack Turner – Team Leader

Dear Jack,

RE: MOOLARBEN COAL STAGE 1 – UG4 LW401, LW402, LW403 END OF PANEL REPORT

On 16 February 2024, NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) requested Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Ltd (MCO) provide additional responses to recommendations from the Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Mining's review of the UG4 LW401-403 End of Panel Report.

Please find below responses to these recommendations and/or a schedule for when these recommendations will be implemented.

It is noted DPHI has requested MCO prepare an End of Panel Report covering the period of monitoring to the end of LW407, with this LW401-407 End of Panel Report to be submitted prior to the completion of longwall mining in LW408.

MCO accepts this request, noting LW407 is currently scheduled to be completed by October 2025.

RESPONSES TO PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ***confirm that PZ235A has been replaced by PZ235C,***

MCO confirms that PZ235A has been replaced with PZ235C.

- ***clarify the Triassic sandstone water level trends at PZ235A/C and PZ236A,***

Water levels within the Triassic sandstone at PZ235C and PZ236A have remained relatively stable since installation. Enclosure 1 includes a hydrograph depicting the current trends. A rise during December 2023 at PZ236A was observed, further monitoring results at this piezometer are required to understand the influences of this result or if it is erroneous in nature.

- ***closely monitor drawdown in the Triassic sandstone and Permian overburden groundwater systems north of LW408 to minimise dewatering in this sensitive area, so as to maintain hydraulic gradients from/to the Goulburn River,***
- ***closely monitor surface water-groundwater connectivity north of LW408 to identify any unacceptable mining-induced impacts,***
- ***report and focus on these shallow groundwater and surface water trends in future annual reports,***

MCO agrees with these recommendations to continue to closely monitor groundwater and surface water trends.

The results of this monitoring, along with trends, comparison to predictions and trigger levels, will be presented in the LW401-407 End of Panel Report.

- ***prepare historical (annual) water balances since 2020/21 that can be quoted in future reports and used for future model verification/recalibration, and***

MCO accepts this recommendation. Historic total mine dewatering (including recirculation, water supply, and inflows) since 2020 will be reported in the LW401-407 End of Panel Report.

- ***update the Water Management Plan to describe the expanded water monitoring network and include additional Triassic sandstone monitoring sites as water level trigger locations to protect the Triassic groundwater system close to the Goulburn River and 'The Drip'.***

MCO accepts this recommendation. The Water Management Plan will be revised as part of the Extraction Plan for LW409-414 (scheduled to be submitted in June 2024), and will include trigger levels for recently installed monitoring sites where sufficient data has been collated.

Should DHPI have any queries regarding the information provided in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Trent Cini

Environment & Community Manager
Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Ltd

ENCLOSURE 1
HYDROGRAPHS FOR 235C and 236A

UG4 PZ236A and PZ235C Hydrograph

