



Centennial Coal

Angus Place

Wolgan Road
Lidsdale NSW 2790
PO Box 42
Wallerawang NSW 2845
Australia

T: 61 2 6354 8700
F: 61 2 6355 1493
E: info@centennialcoal.com.au
W: www.centennialcoal.com.au

18 March 2014

Mr Howard Reed
Manager Mining Projects
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Howard

RE: Centennial Angus Place Proposed Modification 4 of Project Approval 06_0021 – Environmental Assessment Requirements

Further to the Department's discussions with Mary-Anne Crawford in March 2013, Centennial Angus Place is seeking to modify its Project Approval (PA) 06_0021 pursuant to Section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) to allow for:

- The development of nominated roadways and headings within the Project Application Area defined for the Modification Project.
- Scheduled development of the Angus Place Mine Extension Project (SSD 5602) mining area in accordance with the Angus Place Colliery business plan.
- Extraction of up to approximately 800,000 tonnes of ROM coal as a result of the development activities.

Modification 2 of PA 06_0021 was approved on 22 April 2013 by the NSW Planning and Assessment Commission. Modification 2 permits Angus Place Colliery to undertake trial mining as defined in Appendix 5 of PA06_0021. On 20 November 2013, Centennial Angus Place lodged a State Significant Development Application (SSD 5602) and Environmental Impact Statement with the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I) for adequacy review. SSD 5602 predominantly seeks approval for continued longwall mining operations at Angus Place Colliery.

As indicated at the meeting in March 2013, mine planning has identified a development schedule shortfall between the trial mining permitted under PA06_0021 Modification 2 and the possible determination date of SSD 5602. This Modification request is therefore a bridging project to sustain development activities in line with the mine's business plan while the assessment of SSD 5602 is being undertaken. Centennial Angus Place acknowledges that longwall extraction does not form part of this proposed modification and that the development undertaken is at the company's own risk.

Figure 1 illustrates the development activities proposed to be undertaken. The nominated roadways and headings correspond to those initially sought but later modified under PA06_0021 Modification 2. Further, the development activities correspond with those referred and subsequently determined *Not a controlled action* under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC 2012/6414).

As is apparent from Figure 1, the nominated roadways and headings will establish two longwall panels, development consent for which are being sought as components of SSD 5602 (Longwall panels 1001 and 1003). Feedback from DP&I at the March 2013 meeting regarding PA06_0021 Mod 2 required the impacts of longwall extraction to be assessed prior

to the approval of development activities which define longwall geometry. A subsidence impact assessment will be undertaken to support the proposed Modification.

An Environmental Assessment will be prepared to support the Modification application. The assessment will address the environmental aspects with the potential to be impacted by the proposed Modification. In addition to satisfying the assessment requirements within Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation, technical assessments drawing on the work undertaken to support SSD 5602 will be prepared to support the Environmental Assessment and will include:

- A subsidence impact assessment to model the predicted subsidence associated with the development and extraction of longwall panels 1001 and 1003 (Figure 1). The subsidence impact assessment will include consideration of impacts to significant surface features overlying the future longwalls, and will focus on first workings development.
- A groundwater impact assessment to predict the potential impacts to deep and near surface groundwater resources as a result of the predicted subsidence.
- A surface water impact assessment to predict the potential impacts to surface water resources as a result of the predicted subsidence.
- An ecological impact assessment to predict the impacts to terrestrial and aquatic ecology as a result of the predicted subsidence and the resulting consequences on potential groundwater and surface water resources.

A cultural heritage technical report will not be prepared. A desktop review and a field survey of the Project Application Area, based on the findings from the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment to support SSD 5602, has indicated no heritage items are in close proximity to the Modification Project Application Area. Hence the Modification Project is not likely to impact on any items of cultural significance.

We are seeking confirmation from DP&I that the assessments proposed above for the Environmental Assessment are adequate.

Please contact Iain Hornshaw, Environmental Coordinator – Projects on (02) 6354 8738 or iain.hornshaw@centennialcoal.com.au to provide feedback.

Yours sincerely

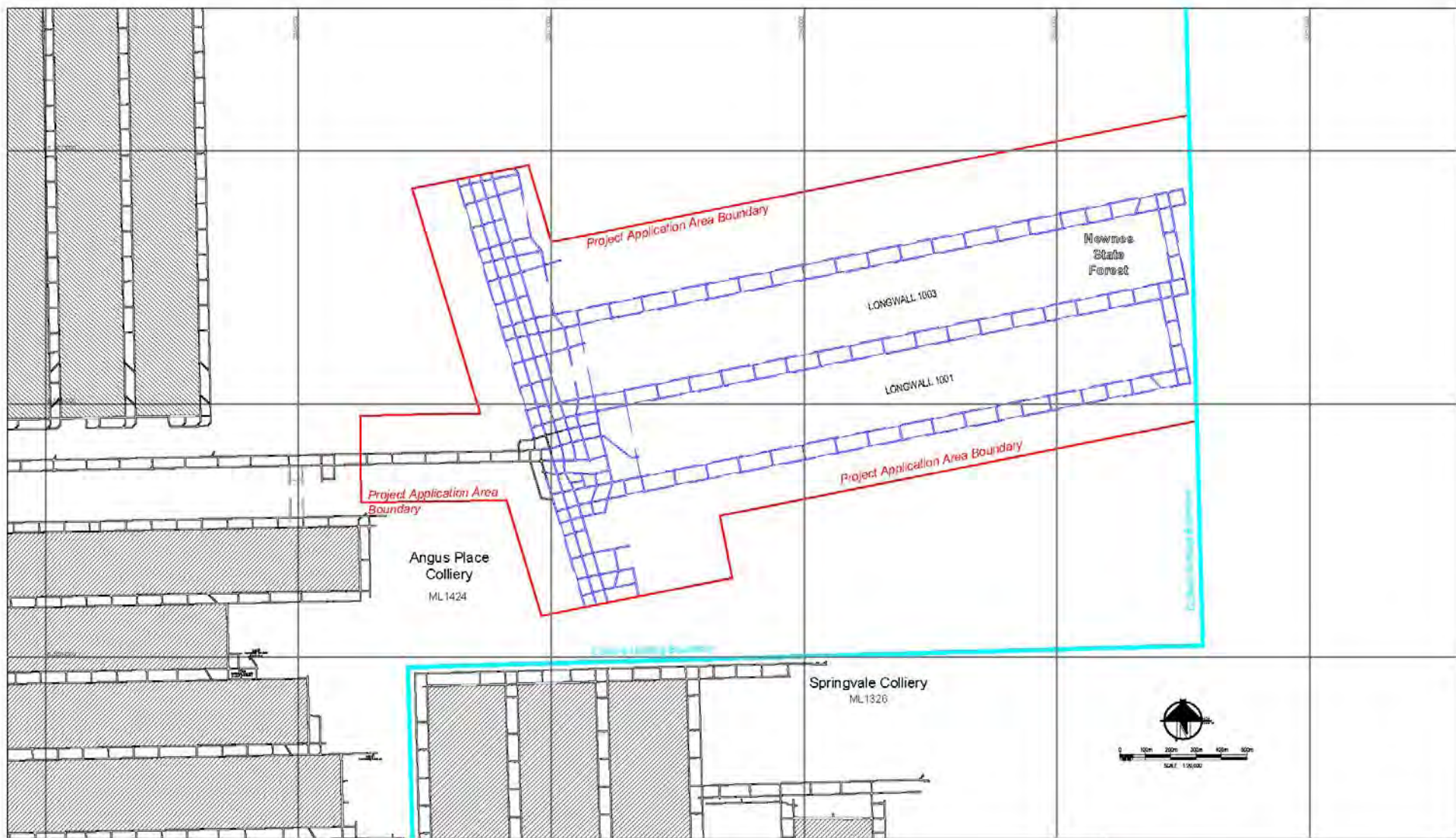


Brian Nicholls
Mine Manager
Angus Place Colliery

CC: Mary-Anne Crawford, Group Manager Approvals, Centennial Coal Company Limited

Encl:

Figure 1 – Development activities proposed under this Modification



LEGEND

- Existing Mine Workings
- Approved Mine Workings (as per MOD 1)
- Proposed Mine Workings Modification 4

DATE 1.03.2014

SEAM LITHGOW

SCALE 1:20,000

DRAWN ADM

CHECKED by IH

Angus Place Colliery: MOD 4
Project Application Area

 **Centennial Coal**
Angus Place

REFERENCE W:\Angus Place\Temporary Files\Hornshaw\Modification 4 (March 2014)\Figure 4.dwg

DRG. No. AP7310

A4

Mary-Anne,

Thank you for your letters of 31 January and 18 March 2014 for Airly and Angus Place mines setting out Centennial's proposed content of Environmental assessments (EAs) to accompany respective modification applications. I have discussed the content of these letters with Howard Reed and the requirements for the Environmental Assessments (EAs) to accompany these two applications. Howard has asked that I reply to you.

NSW Planning and Infrastructure (P&I) will not be issuing formal Director-General's requirements for these two EAs.

The submitted letters of 31 January 2014 for Airly and 18 March 2014 for Angus Place have generally identified the matters that are required to be addressed in each EA and the content of the EAs must reflect a thorough assessment of the identified matters.

In addition, the following matters must be addressed in the respective EA;

Airly

1. The Airly EA should indicate those areas where and how the "mine plan has been modified to take into consideration contemporary environmental standards" and describe the resultant "reduction in anticipated environmental impact". In a similar manner as provided with your letter, a table should be utilised that compares the elements of the existing approved operations with those of the proposed modification.

Angus Place MOD 4

2. The EA should be clear that the subsidence effects, impacts and environmental consequences under consideration are those associated with the extraction of the two longwall panels (LW 1001 and 1003), even though it is approval for first workings only within the trial mining area that is being sought by Centennial. The subsidence assessment must be based on the effects, impacts and environmental consequences of longwall extraction and an explanation provided of why this approach is necessary.

3. The EA must include an assessment of impacts to Aboriginal heritage. In this regard the EA must include evidence of consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders and their consideration of any potential impacts for Aboriginal heritage. P&I notes that the company's studies of the area under consideration are reported as not identifying any areas/sites of Aboriginal heritage. This needs to be confirmed by the Aboriginal stakeholders, particularly for Aboriginal cultural heritage for which the stakeholders are the custodians of knowledge of these places, which may not necessarily be represented by physical attributes other than the land itself.

4. The EA must accurately represent those portions of the Angus Place mine plan that are in accordance with the existing consent for the mine and those portions of the mine plan for which approval is being sought by way of the proposed modification application.

5. The EA must be essentially a stand-alone document, save for references to the existing development consent and previous assessment reports.

I am available to discuss any matters that would benefit from clarification.

Regards

Colin Phillips

Senior Planner, Mining Projects

NSW Planning & Infrastructure

GPO Box 39 | Sydney NSW 2001

T 02 9228 6483 E colin.phillips@planning.nsw.gov.au



Subscribe to P&I's e-news at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/enews
Please consider the environment before printing this email.