

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application Number	06_0108
Project	The proposed Mt Arthur Coal South Pit Extension project, which includes: • extending the existing South Pit 2.4 kilometres further south; • producing up to 3 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal a year; and • rehabilitating the site.
Location	Approximately 3km south-west of Muswellbrook, in the Upper Hunter Valley
Proponent	Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd
Date of Issue	26 April 2006
Date of Expiration	26 April 2008
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including the: - need for the project; - alternatives considered; and - various components and stages of the project; • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions; • an environmental risk analysis of the project which takes into consideration the issues raised during consultation; • a detailed assessment of the key issues specified below, which includes: - description of the existing environment; - an assessment of the potential impacts of the project, including potential cumulative impacts (particularly on surface and groundwater, flora and fauna, noise, and air quality) that may arise from the combined operation of the mine, together with existing Mt Arthur operations including Bayswater No. 2, the proposed Mt Arthur Coal Underground project, and the neighbouring Drayton Coal Mine and Saddlers Creek Proposal; - a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset, manage, and/or monitor the impacts of the project; • a draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures; • a conclusion justifying the project, taking into consideration the environmental impacts of the proposal, the suitability of the site, and whether or not the project is in the public interest; • a signed statement from the author of the Environmental Assessment certifying that the information contained in the report is neither false nor misleading.
Key Issues	• Flora and Fauna – including impacts on critical habitats, threatened species, populations, ecological communities and native vegetation. An offset strategy should be included to compensate for the loss of existing (or previously approved) conservation areas, and to ensure that there is no net loss of flora and fauna values in the area in the medium to long term; • Surface and Groundwater - including a site water balance, a salinity budget, and potential impacts on Saddlers Creek. A surface and groundwater contingency strategy must be included as part of the mitigation measures for the project which details the measures proposed to protect the supply of water to landowners and the environment in the region;

	• Rehabilitation, Final Landform and Final Void Management – including a justification of the proposed final land use for the site in relation to strategic land use objectives and the synoptic landscape plan for the Upper Hunter Valley area; a detailed description of how the site would be progressively rehabilitated and integrated into the biodiversity offset strategy for the project; and the measures which would be put in place for the long term protection and management of the site (and any off-site biodiversity offset areas) following cessation of mining; • Noise – including construction, operation, and on-site and off-site road and rail noise impacts, including impacts adjacent to the Antiene rail spur; • Blasting and Vibration; • Air Quality – including a detailed greenhouse gas assessment, and consideration of impacts in the vicinity of the Antiene rural residential area; • Heritage - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal; • Visual; • Traffic and Transport; and • Social and Economic.
References	The Environmental Assessment should take into account appropriate State government technical and policy guidelines. While not exhaustive, guidelines which may be relevant to the project are included in the attached list.
Consultation	During the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, you must consult with the relevant local and State government authorities, service providers, community groups, affected landowners and any affected Commonwealth government authorities. In particular you must consult with: • Department of Environment and Conservation; • Department of Natural Resources; • Department of Primary Industries; • Muswellbrook Shire Council; • Australian Rail Track Corporation; and • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.
Deemed refusal period	60 days

State Government Technical and Policy Guidelines - For Reference

Aspect	Policy /Methodology
Soil and Water	
	• <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction</i> (Landcom); • <i>Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> (ANZECC); • <i>Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams</i> (Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation); • <i>NSW State Rivers and Estuaries Policy</i> (DNR); • the various <i>State Groundwater Policy</i> documents (DNR); • <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation</i> (DEC);
Flora and Fauna	
	• draft <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (DEC); • <i>Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and Activities</i> (DEC); • <i>Guidelines for Developments Adjoining Department of Environment Conservation Land</i> (DEC); • <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (DNR); • <i>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings</i> (DPI);
Blasting and Vibration	
	• <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting and Ground Vibration</i> (ANZECC);
Noise	
	• <i>NSW Industrial Noise Policy</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (DEC);
Air Quality	
	• <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC);
Heritage	
	• draft <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (DEC); • <i>Assessing Heritage Significance</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>Archaeological Assessment Guidelines</i> (NSW Heritage Office, 1996)
Traffic	
	• <i>Guide to Traffic Generating Development and Road Design Guide</i> (RTA); • <i>RTA Road Design Guide</i> (RTA); • relevant Austroad standards;
Rehabilitation	
	• <i>Guidelines for Rehabilitation of Land for Agricultural End Use</i> (DPI);
Waste	
	• <i>Environmental Guidelines: Assessment and Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes</i> (DEC).