

Major Projects application



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

Date received: 17/10/06

Project Application No. 06-0236

1. Before you lodge

This form is required to apply for the approval of the Minister to carry out a Project to which Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (the Act) applies.

Before lodging this application, it is recommended that you first consult with the Department of Planning (the Department) concerning your Project.

Please be aware that you may need to conduct a Planning Focus Meeting before lodging this application involving the Department, relevant agencies, Council or other groups identified by the Department. If you are required to conduct a Planning Focus Meeting, you will need to provide details and outcomes arising from the meeting.

To ensure that your application is accepted as being duly made, you must

- complete ALL parts of this form, and
- submit all relevant information required by this form.

All applications must be lodged with the Director-General, by courier or mail.

Ground floor, 23-33 Bridge Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001
DX 10181 Sydney Stock Exchange
t: 02 9228 6111
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2. Details of the proponent

Company/organisation/agency

Hunter Enviro-Mining (Operations) Pty Limited

ABN

84 096 170 633

☒ Mr ☐ Ms ☐ Mrs ☐ Dr ☐ Other

First name

Peter

Family name

Lamell

STREET ADDRESS

Unit/street no.

3/95

Street name

High Street

Suburb or town

East Maitland

State

NSW

Postcode

2323

POSTAL ADDRESS (or mark 'as above')

PO Box 205

Suburb or town

East Maitland

State

NSW

Postcode

2323

Daytime telephone

(03) 9552 0247

Fax

(03) 9565 9808

Mobile

0403 763 210

Email

peter.lamell@bigpond.com

3. Identify the land you propose to develop

STREET ADDRESS

Unit/street no.

Street or property name

Suburb, town or locality

Postcode

Local government area

REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

OR: detailed description of land attached: ☒

The real property description is found on a map of the land or on the title documents for the land. If you are unsure of the real property description, you should contact the Department of Lands.

Please ensure that you place a slash (/) to distinguish between the lot, section, DP and strata numbers. If the Major Project applies to more than one piece of land, please use a comma to distinguish between each real property description.

Where the Major Project is subject to Clause 8F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* and in lieu of completing the above, a description or detailed plan of the land affected must be included with the documents required with Part 4 below.

4. Proposed Major Project - Description and other Requirements

Provide a brief title for your Project that includes all significant components. If the application relates to only part of a Project, include a clear title that describes the relevant part.

Rehabilitation of the Neath, Aberdare East and Richmond Main East Chitter and Tailings Emplacements in the Cessnock Local Government Area, NSW.

This application applies to the Rehabilitation of the Neath, Aberdare East and Richmond Main East Chitter and Tailings Emplacements. Rehabilitation of these emplacements is undertaken through the removal of the chitter and tailings to the Hebburn No.3 Project washery and potentially local power stations.

The Hebburn No 3 Project involves the clean-up and rehabilitation of the former Hebburn No. 2 Colliery site near Cessnock and several other coal chitter and tailings emplacements in the area. A coal washery was constructed at the Hebburn No.2 chitter and tailings emplacement and has been in operation since 5th December 2005. The washery processes material collected from the chitter and tailings emplacements to extract coal suitable for export which is then used to finance the rehabilitation project. The project is being conducted by Hunter Enviro Mining (Operations) Pty Ltd (HEM), a NSW based mine rehabilitation company, which employs a number of local employees and contractors.

The Hebburn No.3 processing plant obtained development consent in 2001 to extract and process approximately 0.7 million tonnes (Mt) of carbonaceous material from the derelict Hebburn No.2 mine site. Since that time the project was modified to incorporate the processing of smaller carbonaceous emplacements (satellites) in the local area to supplement resources at the Hebburn No.2 site, making a total resource of approximately 2.2Mt.

A significant proportion of the estimated coal in the emplacement at Hebburn No 2 and at several of the other emplacements in the area has burnt since investigations began in 1998. This has reduced the overall coal resource available to support the project operations and has also shortened the planned project life.

HEM has identified additional coal chitter and tailings emplacements that would benefit from an environmental clean up and rehabilitation which would assist in extending the project life.

The areas identified are:

- An estimated 1.7MT of chitter and tailings at the now abandoned Aberdare East Colliery emplacements;
- An estimated 1 MT of chitter and tailings adjacent at the former Neath Colliery site; and
- An estimated 160,000 tonnes of chitter at Richmond Main East.

HEM is seeking to clean up and rehabilitate these three areas by collecting and transporting the material from emplacements to the Hebburn No 3 washery and processing this material to extract saleable coal. Some material unsuitable for washing may be transported directly to local power stations.

HEM has identified several potential haulage routes utilising both public roads and tracks. Sections of these haulage routes could significantly reduce environmental and community impacts from the movement of trucks for haulage of the emplaced material to the washery at Hebburn. These sections of haulage route are existing fire trails through the Werakata National Park. The fire trails would be upgraded by HEM with access only required for the duration of the project. If the fire trails are used, significant benefits could be attained by the local community, National Park and the community and emergency services, particularly the Rural Fire Service.

The environment and local community will benefit from: the removal of the emplacements which leach acid and salt and are a potential spontaneous combustion risk, the removal of exotic plant life and the removal of the visual impact. If the fire trails are used, all of these benefits could be achieved with the use of a haul route with minimal impact. Allowing these existing trails to be used would provide improved and safe access for the community and emergency services, particularly the Rural Fire Service.

Is the application related only to a part of a Project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

You are also required to provide a Project Description Report and address any matters required by the Director-General in accordance with 75E of the Act. Failure to do so may lead to your application being rejected.

Is a Project Description attached:

Hard copy: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Electronic version: ☒ Yes ☐ No

(NB: An electronic copy is required as all applications must be provided on the Department's website. You should contact the Department on the correct electronic format).

Is the Project Description Report consistent with the requirements of any Guideline produced by the Department (including any draft)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Does the Project Description Report include additional matters required by the Director-General, such as evidence of a Planning Focus Meeting and consultation? ☒ Yes ☐ No

CONCEPT APPROVAL

If you are applying for a **concept approval**, the Department's *Concept Approval Guideline* should be consulted and the matters identified therein must be addressed as part of your application.

Does the Project Description Report submitted address the relevant guidelines for Concept Approvals? ☐ Yes ☐ No

FULL TIME EQUIVALENT JOBS

Please indicate the number of jobs created by the proposed Major Project. This should be expressed as a proportion of full time jobs over a full year.

Construction jobs (full-time equivalent)	0
Operational jobs (full-time equivalent)	57

5. Approvals from state agencies

Does the proposed Major Project require any of the following: (tick all appropriate)

- ☐ an aquaculture permit under section 144 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*
- ☐ an approval under section 15 of the *Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961*
- ☒ a mining lease under the *Mining Act 1992*
- ☐ a production lease under the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*
- ☒ an environment protection licence under Chapter 3 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (for any of the purposes referred to in section 43 of that Act)
- ☐ a consent under section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993*

6. Application fee

You are required to pay a fee for the assessment of a Major Project. This fee is based on the estimated cost of the Major Project.

The Department requires that you pay a proportion of the total fee with this application and you should consult with the Department before lodging this application to determine the proportion to be paid.

Estimated Project Cost

\$300,000

7. Owner's Consent

As the owner(s) of the above property, I/we consent to this application being made on our behalf by the Proponent:

Signature

Signature

Name

Name

Date

Date

Note: The Department will not accept an application for a Major Project without having the signature of the owner of the land, **unless** the Major Project is subject to Clause 8F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*.

8. Proponent's Signatures

As the proponent(s) of the proposed Major Project and in signing below, I/we hereby:

- provide a description of the proposed Project and address all matters required by the Director-General pursuant to Section 75E of the Act, and
- apply, subject to satisfying Clause 8D of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*, for the Director-General Environmental Assessment Requirements pursuant to Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and
- declare that all information contained within this application is accurate at the time of signing.

Signature

In what capacity are you signing if you are not the proponent

Name

Peter Lamell

Name, if you are not the proponent

Date

25/8/06