

SECTION 3

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3 STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.1 Community Consultation by the Proponent

A joint meeting with Kearsley residents and representatives of Cessnock City Council and the proponent was held on 22 September 2006 in part to discuss existing trucking operations associated with the collection and haulage of chitter and future operations associated with the Part 3A Application.

The meeting was chaired by the Mayor of Cessnock City Council with the major issues and concerns raised by the residents being discussed. The issues and concerns raised included:

- The number, size and frequency of existing and future trucking operations;
- The haulage times – especially having regard to the “set down” and “pickup” of school children along haulage routes;
- Dust;
- Noise;
- Specialist studies undertaken by the proponent;
- Haulage routes and potential use of non-public roads;
- Ongoing communications between the proponents representatives and residents; and
- Statutory process and procedures associated with the processing of the Environmental Assessment report under the EP&A Act, 1979 (as amended).

The meeting concluded with an agreement that a Community Reference Group be formed should the Part 3A application be approved by the Minister for Planning. The Community Reference Groups' composition would comprise 2 representatives from each of the sites (Aberdare East, Neath and Richmond Main East), the proponent and Cessnock City Council. The purpose of the Community Reference Group would enable issues arising from collection and transportation of chitter and tailings to be discussed and resolved with the proponent.

3.2 Future Community Consultation

If the Major Projects Application is approved the proponent will implement a communications program consisting of a website, telephone hotline, newsletters and “one on one” discussions with residents living along the haulage routes and at Aberdare East, Neath or Richmond Main East.

3.2.1 Website

The proponent has established and will broadly advertise a dedicated website to enable residents of the district, interested persons and key community groups to contact HEM to discuss issues or aspects associated with the project. The address for the website is <http://www.hunterenviro.com.au>.

3.2.2 Telephone Hotline

If the project is approved, a dedicated telephone hotline will be established and advertised to the local community. The purpose of the telephone line will enable residents to contact a representative of HEM concerning any issue arising from the approved operations.

3.2.3 Newsletters

Newsletters will be distributed to residents detailing the performance of the operations in relation to conditions of approval. The newsletters will also allow the proponent to inform the residents about the program and upcoming works.

3.2.4 Complaints Register

Upon approval for the project the proponent will establish a complaints register with associated protocols prior to the commencement of activities onsite. The complaints register for the life of the project.

3.3 Consultation with Government Authorities by Proponent

A PFM was convened by the DoP and held in Weston on 25 July 2006. The purpose of the PFM was for the proponent to provide information regarding the project and allow government authorities the opportunity to identify potential issues or requirements.

Representatives from the following government organisations and authorities attended the PFM:

- Department of Planning;
- Department of Environment and Conservation;
- Department of Primary Industries;
- Cessnock City Council; and
- Department of Natural Resources;

The DoP received written submissions advising the requirements of each organisation. An outcome of the PFM was the issuing of the DGRs (refer **Appendix 2**) as required under Part 3A of the EP&A Act, 1979. **Table 3.1** provides a summary of the DGRs including where they have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment Report. Since the PFM, consultation with the government organisations and authorities has occurred to clarify and assist the proponent's understanding of agency requirements to enable the preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report including the proponent's draft Statement of Commitments.

Table 3.1: Summary of DGRs and where they have been referenced in the Environmental Assessment Report.

Specific Issues to be Addressed	Reference in Environmental Assessment Report
An executive summary	<i>Before Section 1</i>
A detailed description of the project including the: need for the project; • various components of the project; and – • any likely inter-relationship between the	<i>Section 4</i>

Specific Issues to be Addressed	Reference in Environmental Assessment Report
proposed operations and existing or approved reclamation operations supplying material to the Hebburn No. 3 washery;	
Consideration of any relevant statutory provisions, including the permissibility of road haulage through the Werakata National Park;	<i>Section 2</i>
A general overview of the environmental impacts of the project, identifying the key issues for further assessment, and taking into consideration the issues raised during consultation;	<i>Section 5</i>
A detailed assessment of the key issues specified below, and any other significant issues identified in the general overview of environmental impacts of the project (see above), which includes: - a description of the existing environment; - an assessment of the potential impacts of the project including potential cumulative impacts (particularly on traffic and transport, noise, and air quality).	<i>Section 5</i>
A description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset, manage, and/or monitor the impacts of the project.	<i>Section 5</i>
A draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures.	<i>Section 6</i>
A conclusion justifying the project, taking into consideration the environmental impacts of the project, the suitability of the sites, and the benefits of the project.	<i>Section 7</i>
A signed statement from the author of the Environmental Assessment Report certifying that the information contained in the report is neither false nor misleading.	<i>Before Section 1</i>
Surface and Groundwater – including, for each site: - A detailed assessment of the surface and groundwater impacts (including potential saline and/or acidic discharges) - A site water balance; and - A detailed description of the water management system. - 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.	<i>Section 5</i>

Specific Issues to be Addressed	Reference in Environmental Assessment Report
Flora and Fauna – including impacts on: • Critical habitats (including riparian habitat); • Threatened species populations; • Ecological communities; and • Native vegetation.	<i>Section 5</i>
Rehabilitation and Land Use Management – including a detailed Rehabilitation Strategy that describes how the sites would be progressively rehabilitated, revegetated, and integrated with the surrounding landscape and land use, taking into consideration any relevant strategic land use plans and objectives (Lower Hunter Regional Strategy, the Hunter Catchment Blueprint, the Wallis and Fisheries Creek Total Catchment Management Strategy, and the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy). The Rehabilitation Strategy should also describe what measures that would be put in place for the long term protection and management of the sites following mine closure.	<i>Section 5</i>
Noise – including operational and off-site road noise impacts	<i>Section 5</i>
Air Quality – including spontaneous combustion, off-site dust emissions from road haulage, and an assessment of the project-related greenhouse gas emissions	<i>Section 5</i>
Heritage -both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal	<i>Section 5</i>
Traffic and Transport	<i>Section 5</i>
Visual	<i>Section 5</i>
Hazard and Risk – including public safety and site security	<i>Section 5</i>
Social and Economic.	<i>Section 5</i>
Consultation	<i>Section 2</i>

3.4 Public Exhibition of the Environmental Assessment Report

The new Part 3A provision of the EP&A Act 1979 has enhanced the public's accessibility to information and has made the assessment process more transparent. The proponent's Major Project Application, the DGRs and other key documents associated with the project are available on the DoP website, which will be updated as the project moves to a new phase in the assessment process.

DoP Website: (http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/major_projects.asp)

The Environmental Assessment Report will be placed on public exhibition by the DoP for a period of at least 30 days. Members of the public and interested persons will be invited to make written submissions on any aspect of the project.

If you wish to make a submission on the HEM project, the submission should include the following information:

- Your name and address;
- Hebburn No. 3 Chitter and Tailings Reclamation Project (Major Project No. 06_0236);
- A statement on whether you support or object to the proposal; and
- The reasons why you support or object to the proposal.

Your submission must reach the DoP by the specified date in the public notice and be addressed to:

Major Development Assessments,
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001.

Under Section 75H of the EP&A Act 1979 the Director-General is required to send copies of submissions or a report of the issues raised in those submissions to the proponent, other parties and any other authorities the Director-General considers appropriate, but the names and addresses would be withheld.

If you have any enquiries you may contact the DoP by phone, fax or email.

Enquiries: 1300 305 695 Fax: (02) 9228 6466

Email: information@planning.nsw.gov.au

The Environmental Assessment Report will be available at the offices of the Department of Planning and Cessnock City Council. Printed copies of the Environmental Assessment Report are available at a cost of \$25. The CD copies are available free of charge.