

Director-General's Requirements

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

Application number	06_0261
Project	The Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) South Coal Project, which includes: • consolidation of 25 existing consents to allow production and processing of up to 16 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal across the HVO South mining complex; • extending Cheshunt, Riverview and South Lemington Pits; • transport of coal, overburden, tailings and rejects between HVO South and HVO North; • transport of coal via haul road or conveyor to the Wambo rail spur, or alternatively construction of a new rail spur, and transport of coal to market via rail; • upgrade and modification of existing surface facilities and infrastructure; • relocation of Comleroi Road and various utilities; • relocation or reconfiguration of the Hunter Valley Gliding Club; and • rehabilitation and revegetation of the site.
Location	Approximately 15 kilometres southwest of Singleton, in the Hunter Valley
Proponent	Coal & Allied Operations Pty Limited
Date of Issue	25 January 2007
Date of Expiration	25 January 2009
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment must include • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including the: – need for the project; – various components and stages of the project; and – the likely inter-relationship between the proposed operations and the existing or approved mining operations at HVO South and HVO North; • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions; • 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; • 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 noise, air quality, surface water and groundwater) that may arise from the combined operation of the project, together with the other approved and existing mines in the region; • a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset, manage and/or monitor the impacts of the project, and how the existing environmental monitoring and management programs/plans at HVO South and HVO North would be revised to accommodate the proposed changes; • 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 project, the suitability of the site, and the benefits of the project; and • 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	• Surface and Groundwater - including detailed modelling of potential surface and groundwater impacts; a site water balance; a salinity balance; and a detailed description of final void management; • Flora and Fauna – including impacts on critical habitats (including riparian habitat), threatened species, populations or ecological communities; and native vegetation; • Rehabilitation and Final Landform – including a detailed Rehabilitation and Landscape Management Strategy that describes how the site would be progressively rehabilitated and integrated into the landscape, taking into consideration the rehabilitation plans of existing and approved mines in the area, the Department of Primary Industry's Synoptic Plan, and any other relevant strategic land use objectives for the area. The strategy must also describe what measures would be put in place for the long term protection and management of the site following cessation of mining; • Noise – including operational and off-site road and rail noise impacts; • Blasting and Vibration; • Air Quality – including spontaneous combustion; • Greenhouse Gases – a greenhouse gas assessment (including a quantitative analysis of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the combustion of product coal, and a qualitative assessment of the impacts of these emissions on the environment); • Subsidence – an assessment of subsidence impacts associated with any highwall mining; • Heritage - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal; • Traffic and Transport; • Visual; and • Social and Economic.
References	The Environmental Assessment should take into account relevant 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, State or Commonwealth government authorities, service providers, community groups or affected landowners. The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment. In particular you must consult with: • Department of Environment and Conservation; • Department of Natural Resources; • Department of Primary Industries; • Australian Rail Track Corporation; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority; and • Singleton Council. The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment.
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); • the various <i>State Groundwater Policy</i> documents (DNR); • <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW</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>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (DNR)
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);
Greenhouse Gases	
	• <i>AGO Factors and Methods Workbook</i> (Australian Greenhouse Office);
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</i> (RTA); • <i>RTA Road Design Guide</i> (RTA); • relevant Austroad standards;
Rehabilitation	
	• NSW Department of Mineral Resources (1999) <i>Synoptic Plan: Integrated Landscapes for Coal Mine Rehabilitation in the Hunter Valley of NSW</i>;
Waste	
	• <i>Environmental Guidelines: Assessment and Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes</i> (DEC).