



7 February 2017

Mr Howard Reed
Director Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
Level 22
320 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Howard

Re: Hunter Valley Operations South Modification 5 – Changes to Air Quality Criteria.

Coal & Allied was notified on the 1 February 2017 via the New South Wales Minerals Council that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) updates the *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales*, herein referred to as the Approved Method (2016).

The Approved Method (2016) lists the statutory methods that are to be used to model and assess emissions of air pollutants from stationary sources in NSW. It is referred to in Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010, Part 5: Air impurities from emitted activities and plant. This document may also be referred to in conditions attached to statutory instruments, such as licences or notices issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

The Approved Methods (2016) replaces the previous version dated August 2005. We understand that the EPA will reference the revised Approved Methods (2016) when evaluating air quality impact assessments submitted as part of any planning application on or after the gazettal date (20 January 2017).

On 31 January, Coal & Allied lodged an application for Hunter Valley Operations South Modification 5 with the Department of Planning and Environment and commenced printing of the Environmental Assessment (EA) reports.

As a result, the air quality assessment included within the Hunter Valley Operations South Modification 5 EA was based on the previous version of the *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants (2005)*.

Coal & Allied has commissioned its consultants to assess the changes to the air quality assessment in the HVO South Modification EA, if any, as a consequence of the recently notified update of the Approved Methods (2016).

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Once finalised, a copy of this assessment will be provided to the Department of Environment and Planning as well as the EPA and communicated in the Response to Submissions following public exhibition. Any changes to the assessment on nearby properties, if any, will also be communicated directly with the property owner.

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Mark Nolan on 02 6570 0124.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Russo

Manager Project Approvals

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Cc: Mr Adam Gilligan, Regional Manager – Regional Operations Unit Hunter, Environment Protection Authority

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