

Director-General's Requirements

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

Application number	07_0087
Project	The proposed Bloomfield Colliery Completion of Mining and Rehabilitation project, which includes: • continuation of existing mining operations, including current open cut pits, overburden emplacement areas, assorted infrastructure, haul and access roads; • extending current open cut mining to recover an additional 9 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal, at a rate of up to 1.3 million tonnes of ROM coal a year; and • progressively rehabilitating the site.
Location	Approximately 20 kilometres northwest of Newcastle.
Proponent	Bloomfield Collieries Pty Limited
Date of Issue	8 October 2007
Date of Expiration	8 October 2009
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, including the interaction between the proposed activities and existing operations; • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions, including an assessment of the consistency of the project with the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</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; • 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 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 existing and approved mines in the area; – 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 project, the suitability of the site, and any social, economic and/or environmental benefits that may arise as a result 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	• Flora and Fauna – including impacts on critical habitats (including riparian habitat and groundwater dependent ecosystems), threatened species, populations, ecological communities and native vegetation; • Heritage – both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal;

	• Surface and Ground Water – including detailed modelling of potential surface and groundwater impacts; a site water balance; a salinity balance; and a detailed description of final void management; • Integrated Management – including proposals for noise, air quality, surface and ground water monitoring and management to be integrated with neighbouring mining operations, in particular the Abel and Donaldson Coal Mines; • Rehabilitation, Final Landform and Final Void Management – 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, and any other relevant strategic land use plans and objectives (including the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy, the draft Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan, the Hunter Catchment Blueprint, the Wallis and Fisheries Creek Total Catchment Management Strategy, and the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy). The strategy should also describe what measures would be put in place for the long term protection and management of the site following cessation of mining; • Noise; • Blasting and Vibration; • Air Quality; • Greenhouse Gases – a greenhouse gas assessment (including a quantitative analysis of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the combustion of product coal, and a qualitative assessment of the impacts of these emissions on the environment); 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 should 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 should consult with: • Department of Environment and Climate Change; • Department of Water and Energy; • Department of Primary Industries; • Cessnock Council; and • Maitland Council.
Deemed refusal period	60 days

State Government Technical and Policy Guidelines - For Reference

Aspect	Policy /Methodology
Flora and Fauna	
	• draft <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (DEC); • <i>Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Developments and Activities</i> (DEC); • <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (DNR)
Heritage	
	• draft <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (DEC); • <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit</i> (DEC); • <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>Archaeological Assessment Guidelines</i> (NSW Heritage Office)
Soil and Water	
	• <i>Design Manual for Soil Conservation Works - Technical Handbook No. 5</i> (DoL); • <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction</i> (Landcom); • <i>Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> (ANZECC); • <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC); • <i>Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams</i> (Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation); • <i>Works and Watercourse Design Guideline</i> (DNR); • the various <i>State Groundwater Policy</i> documents (DNR); • <i>MDBC Groundwater Sampling Quality Guidelines</i> (MDBC); • <i>MDBC Groundwater Flow Modelling Guidelines</i> (MDBC)
Noise	
	• <i>NSW Industrial Noise Policy</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (DEC)
Rehabilitation	
	• <i>Mine Rehabilitation – A Handbook For The Coal Mining Industry</i> (NSW Coal Association); • <i>Mine Rehabilitation – Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry</i> (Commonwealth of Australia); • <i>Mine Closure and Completion – Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry</i> (Commonwealth of Australia)
Blasting and Vibration	
	• <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting and Ground Vibration</i> (ANZECC); • <i>AS 2187.2-2006 Explosives – Storage and Use – Use of Explosives</i> (Standards Australia); • <i>Assessing Vibration – A Technical Guideline</i> (DEC)
Air Quality	
	• <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC); • <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC)
Greenhouse Gases	
	• <i>AGO Factors and Methods Workbook</i> (Australian Greenhouse Office)