



Jack Murphy
Environmental Assessment Officer
Resource Assessments | Planning Services
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sent by e-mail to: jack.murphy@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Murphy

Bloomfield Colliery Life of Mine Extension - Modification 4 (MP 07_0087 MOD 4)

Thank you for the invitation on 1 February 2018 for the Heritage Council of NSW to comment on the environmental assessment of Modification 4, Life of Mine Extension, of the State Significant Development at Bloomfield Colliery (MP 07_0087 MOD 4).

Modification 4 involves

- An extension of the existing open cut mining operations for an additional nine years until 31 December 2030;
- Continuation of mining within approved extraction areas at existing production limits of up to 1.3 million tonnes per annum of run-of-mine coal; and
- Modification of the previously approved final landform, including moving the final void approximately 200 metres to the west.

The Heritage Council of NSW was not invited to comment on the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements, the environmental assessment of the original proposal determined 3 September 2009 or the subsequent modifications 1 to 3.

The following documents were reviewed:

- AECOM - Environmental Assessment – Bloomfield Colliery - Life of Mine Extension, Modification 4, Revision 0, 17 Jan 2018
- Appendix I – Heritage Searches

The 2008 environmental assessment did not list heritage items within the Project Area. However, the AECOM assessment for Modification 4 advises that there are three locally significant heritage items near the project area:

- The Buttai Cemetery (Wilfred Elliott Private Cemetery) is listed on the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan (CLEP) 2011 and
- Buttai Reservoir No. 1 and No. 2 are on the Hunter Water Corporation S170 Heritage and Conservation Register. The Hunter Water S170 Register advises that Buttai Reservoir No 1 (1880) is of state significance as it is the oldest operating reservoir within the Hunter Water system. Reservoir 2 (1920s) is of local significance.

The AECOM assessment for Modification 4 advises that there will be no impact on the reservoirs and any vibration impact on the historic cemetery will diminish as mining moves north away from the cemetery.

However, as Modification 4 involves extraction from deeper coal seams and extraction is moving north closer to the reservoirs, the likelihood of an adverse impact will increase in the future. Furthermore, as Buttai Reservoir No. 1 comprises vaulted brick and stone and Reservoir No. 2 comprises early C20th concrete, both may be affected by increased blasting and vibration. As modification proposes lengthening the life of the mine, it is opportune to evaluate if there was any impact of the operation to date on the Buttai Cemetery which is situated on the southern boundary of the mine.

Considering the above information, the following conditions are recommended to be included in any approval of Modification 4.

- 1. A condition survey is to be undertaken of the Buttai No. 1 reservoir and No. 2 reservoir within two months of any determination of Modification 4. The reservoirs' condition is to be monitored for the life of the mine. Any damage is to be carefully repaired following best conservation practice and as advised by Hunter Water's heritage specialist.**
- 2. The condition of the Buttai Cemetery (Wilfred Elliott Private Cemetery) and its contents, any memorials headstones, graves, fences and trees should be surveyed within two months of any determination of Modification 4. Any damage should be mitigated. A conservation management plan should also be prepared for the cemetery in accordance with Heritage Council of NSW guidelines, refer www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/conservation/managementplan.htm**

Any comments on Biodiversity and Aboriginal archaeological under National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 will be provided by the Regional Operations Division, Northern Region of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

If you have any questions regarding the above matter, please contact Ed Beebe, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer, at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage on telephone (02) 9585 6045 or at ed.beebe@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



26/02/2018

Katrina Stankowski

Acting / Senior Team Leader Heritage Assessment North

Heritage Division

Office of Environment & Heritage

As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW