



Planning Services

Resource Assessments

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Mr Jon Degotardi  
Manager – Technical Services  
Metropolitan Coal  
Po Box 402  
HELENSBURGH NSW 2508

Dear Mr Degotardi

**Metropolitan Mine– Extraction Plan for Longwall 303**

I refer to your email dated 19 September 2018, which enclosed an updated Extraction Plan for Longwalls 301 to 303. I also refer to your responses to the Department and the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment (the Panel) dated 21 September 2018.

The Department has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the updated Extraction Plan and associated response documents, in consultation with WaterNSW, the Dams Safety Committee, the Division of Resources and Geoscience, the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Resources Regulator, as well as the Panel.

The Department notes that the then Planning Assessment Commission's recommendations for the Metropolitan Coal Project in 2009 focused on limiting subsidence on natural features, particularly the Woronora Reservoir, the Waratah Rivulet and the Eastern Tributary.

It is generally acknowledged and accepted by Metropolitan Coal, the Department, the relevant agencies and the Panel that impacts beyond those predicted have been experienced along Eastern Tributary. Furthermore, these impacts have occurred at valley closure levels of less than 200 mm.

Based on the Department's assessment and advice from agencies and the Panel, the Secretary grants conditional approval for Longwall 303. This Extraction Plan approval reflects a precautionary approach and only allows mining to take place in the first 1,143 metres of Longwall 303.

Should monitoring and further investigations demonstrate that additional mining of Longwall 303 would not impact the Eastern Tributary, Metropolitan Coal can seek further approval from the Secretary to extract additional coal. Any application to undertake secondary extraction beyond 1,143 metres in Longwall 303 must be accompanied by a revised Extraction Plan, and a response to the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment's advice dated 6 November 2018.

The Department has prepared a Record of Decision, which summarises its consideration of the updated Extraction Plan and provides the three conditions of approval (see **Attachment A**).

If you have any further questions, please call Jessie Evans on (02) 9274 6419.

  
8/11/18

David Kitto  
Executive Director  
Resource Assessments and Business Systems  
as nominee of the Secretary