

22 November 2021

Secretary
c/- Director, Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Attention: Jessie Evans, Director, Resource Assessments

By email: Jessie.Evans@planning.nsw.gov.au,

Dear Jessie,

RE: METROPOLITAN COAL – LONGWALL 308 MINOR FIRST WORKINGS

Metropolitan Coal was granted Project Approval (08_0149) for the Metropolitan Coal Project (the Project) on 22 June 2009 by the NSW Minister for Planning under Section 75J of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Project comprises the continuation, upgrade and extension of underground coal mining operations and surface facilities at the Metropolitan Coal Mine.

Metropolitan Coal submitted the Longwalls 305-307 Extraction Plan to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 9 October 2019. The Longwalls 305-307 Extraction Plan was approved by DPIE on 16 March 2020.

An application to alter the layout of the first workings of Longwalls 306-310 was submitted to DPIE on 5 November 2020. This change did not involve any variations to the panel widths, pillar widths or panel orientation, and therefore did not result in any increased impacts compared to those described in the approved Longwalls 305-307 Extraction Plan. The application was approved by DPIE on 30 November 2020.

An application to extend the commencing end (i.e. northern end) of Longwall 307 by 50 metres was submitted to DPIE on the 19 January 2021 and subsequently approved on 13 August 2021.

As you would be aware, Metropolitan Coal is preparing an extraction plan for Longwalls 308-310 and intends to submit this plan to DPIE for assessment in January 2022. However, to maintain safe operating conditions in the underground area, Metropolitan Coal plans to develop non-subsiding first workings at the commencing end of Longwall 308 (Figure 1) prior to the extraction plan approval. This would enable Metropolitan Coal to develop an in-seam gas drainage drilling site over the maingate of Longwall 308 for the purpose of draining areas of high gas content (i.e. the northerly longwall extents from Longwall 309 onwards). The in-seam gas drainage is required so that Metropolitan Coal can safely mine the northerly extents of future longwalls (i.e. Longwall 309 onwards), as described in the Preferred Project Layout and shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows the proposed development of first workings that are beyond those approved under the Longwalls 305-307 Extraction Plan. The new first workings would establish the longwall geometry (e.g. longwall panel and maingate pillar widths for Longwall 308) consistent with that approved under the Longwalls 305-307 Extraction Plan. It would also establish the position of the commencing end of Longwall 308, which results in a shorter panel than that approved under the Metropolitan Coal Project Preferred Project Report. The revised positioning has been based on seam thickness and coal quality considerations, consistent with the previous Longwalls 301-307 panels.

The proposed first workings would be non-subsiding and therefore would not increase subsidence effects compared to the approved Longwalls 305-307 Extraction Plan. The potential increase in groundwater inflows would be negligible in the context of the area of historical extraction at the mine. Therefore, no additional environmental consequences are anticipated.

Metropolitan Coal kindly requests the Secretary approve the proposed changes to the first workings under Condition 5, Schedule 3 of the Project Approval (08_0149).

Metropolitan Coal notes that the extraction of Longwalls 308-310 would be subject to future Extraction Plan approval.

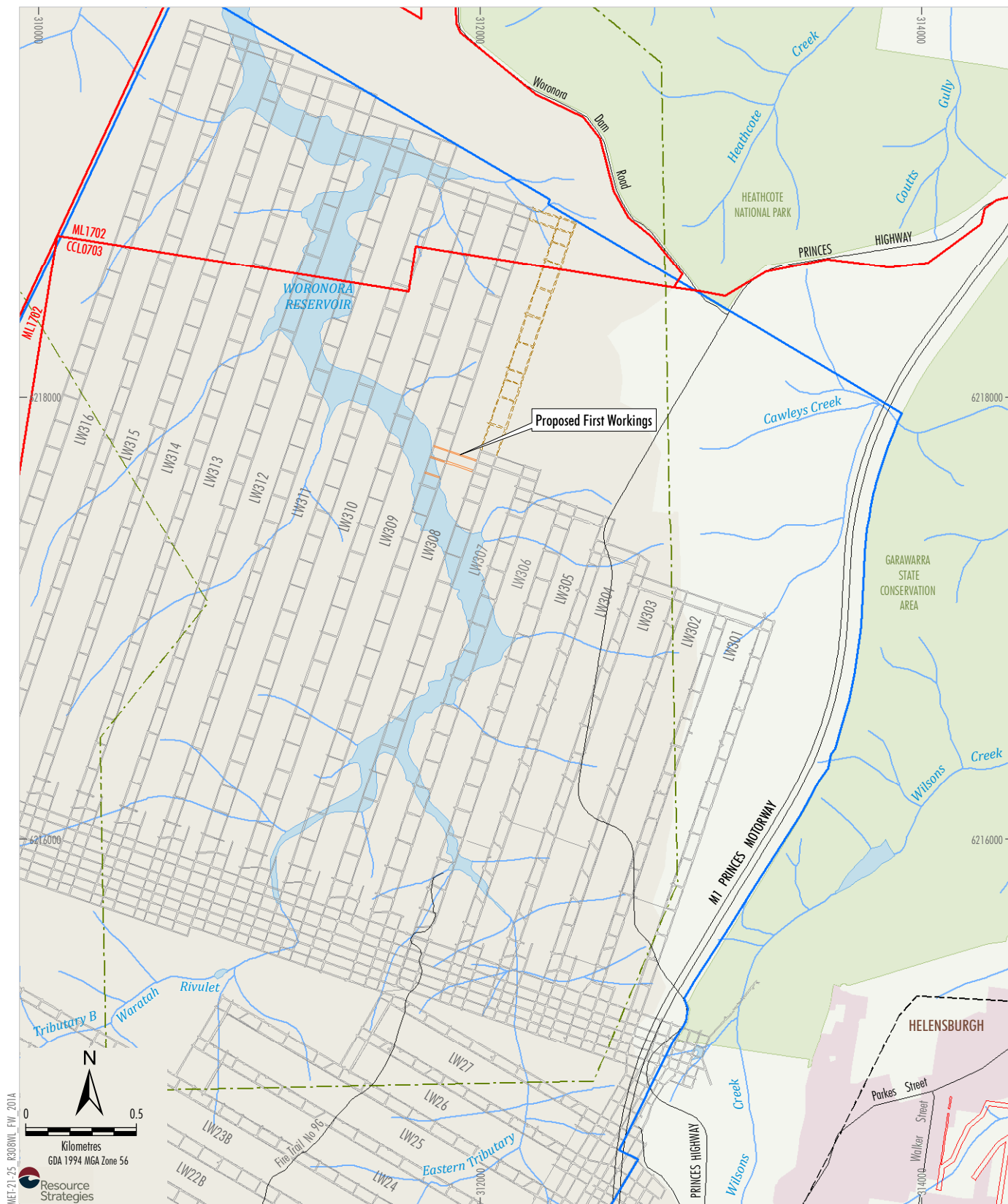
Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 4294 7233 should you have any queries or require any further information.

Yours faithfully,



JON DEGOTARDI

Manager – Technical Services



Source: Land and Property Information (2015); Department of Industry (2015);
Metropolitan Coal (2021)

- LEGEND**
- Mining Lease Boundary
 - Woronora Special Area
 - Project Underground Mining Area
Longwalls 20-27 and 301-317
 - Woronora Notification Area
 - Existing Underground Access Drive (Main Drift)
 - - - First Workings Amendment
 - First Workings not to be Developed

Peabody
METROPOLITAN COAL
Longwall 308 First Workings
Amendment Area

Figure 1