



Mr Chris Schultz
Lead Environment
Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd
PO Box 514
Unanderra, New South Wales 2526

11/09/2020

Dear Mr Schultz

**Bulli Seam Operations (MP08_0150)
Water Management Plan**

I refer to the Appin Mine Water Management Plan which was lodged on the Department's Major Projects portal on 21 July 2020.

The Department has reviewed the document and considers that it generally addresses the requirements of condition 16 of Schedule 4 of Project Approval MP08_0150. Accordingly, the Planning Secretary approves the water management plan (Revision 6, dated July 2020).

The Department notes that the management plan does not include details about the volume of water that would be treated at the Appin North Water Treatment Plant or the upgraded Appin West Water Treatment Plant, and the water balance does not reflect the changes associated with these plants. The Department also notes the water balance included in the management plan uses data that is three years old, and the plan does not clearly demonstrate the mine's capacity to manage water under all meteorological conditions, including unusually wet or unusually dry years.

Consequently, the Department requests that you submit an updated water management plan by 31 July 2021 (being the date by which the Appin West Water Treatment Plant must be installed under special condition E1.1 of Environmental Protection Licence 2504).

The revised management plan should include a water balance based on up-to-date water inputs/outputs, should reflect the changes resulting from the installation/upgrades of the water treatment plants, and should clearly demonstrate the capacity of the mine to manage water under all weather conditions.

The Department also draws your attention to the comments provided by the Natural Resources Regulator (NRAR) on the water balance. The Department concurs with NRAR that the water balance is not particularly easy to interpret, and you should include in the next revision of the management plan a table comparing water inputs, usage and outputs.

Please ensure that the approved plan is placed on the project website at your earliest convenience.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Emily Murray on 02 8837 6041.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S O'Donoghue'.

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments
As nominee of the Planning Secretary