



Mr Cody Brady  
Principal Mining Approvals  
Illawarra Coal South32  
PO Box 514  
UNANDERRA NSW 2326

19 March 2021

Dear Mr Brady

**Bulli Seam Operations (08\_0150)  
Appin Area 9 Extraction Plan Variation**

I refer to your letter dated 16 March 2021 and supporting documentation seeking approval to extend the finishing end of Longwall 903 by 50 metres. The proposed variation is required only as a contingency measure should mining conditions continue to present increased health and safety risks.

The Department has consulted with the Resources Regulator and notes its comments (see attached letter dated 19 March 2021), particularly in relation to the Subsidence High-risk Site classification given to the final phase of Longwall 903 extraction and the requirement to submit a High Risk Activity (HRA) notification.

The Department notes that the previous Extraction Plan variation (dated 21 March 2019) approved a reduction in the finishing end of Longwall 903, which was required in order to maintain the barrier between the goaf and life of mine bearings. While the reduced longwall length would still be the preferred option, the proposed variation provides a safe alternative and would not result in any significant changes to the subsidence impacts approved for Longwall 903.

The Department has carefully considered the request and additional South32 advice dated 17 March 2021 and notes that the proposed variation would remain within the area assessed and approved under the project approval (as modified). The Resources Regulator has confirmed that the proposed variation would not significantly change the overall safety risk profile and that the current risk management system must continue if the variation is approved.

The Department would like to emphasise its preference for the finishing end of Longwall 903 to remain unchanged at the currently approved finishing position of 3 cut through. However, noting the challenging mining conditions and increased safety risks, the Department recognises the need for a contingency measure should conditions continue to deteriorate.

Accordingly, the Planning Secretary approves the Extraction Plan variation and revised layout for Longwall 903, subject to deteriorating mining conditions leading to increased hazards to personnel, mining equipment and roadways.

If you have any questions, please contact Philip Nevill on 8275 1036 or at [philip.nevill@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:philip.nevill@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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

**Stephen O'Donoghue**  
Director Resource Assessments