

Our ref: MP08\_0184-PA-122

Lucy Stuart  
Environment and Community Manager  
Ulan Coal Mines Limited  
Via Major Projects Portal

17/06/2024

**Subject: Ulan Coal Mine Expansion (PA08\_0184) – Baseflow Offsets**

Dear Mrs Stuart,

I refer to your letter dated 22 December 2021 regarding revised estimates of baseflow losses associated with the above project.

Condition 29 of Schedule 3 of the consent for the Ulan Coal Mine Expansion (PA08\_0184) requires the offset of any baseflow to the Goulburn and Talbragar Rivers caused by the project to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

Condition 29 notes that at the date of the approval, baseflow losses for the Goulburn River and Talbragar River were modelled as 0.05ML/day and 0.13ML/day respectively. Improved or additional hydrological data may lead to amendments to these modelled losses.

I understand that the Ulan Coal Operations Groundwater Model has been updated to be consistent with current model practices. This update has resulted in revised estimates of baseflow losses in the Goulburn and Talbragar River Rivers of 0.275 ML/day and 0.083ML/day respectively.

The Department acknowledges the changes to the estimates of baseflow losses. The Department notes that its residual queries in correspondence dated 7 August 2023 regarding whether the revised predictions are generally in accordance with the approved project have not been addressed. As outlined in your correspondence via email on 13 June 2024, this will be considered as part of the current update to the groundwater model.

I also understand that you are seeking the Planning Secretary's acknowledgement that the predicted losses are adequately offset by Water Access Licenses (WALs) held by Ulan Coal under the respective water sharing plans.

The Department notes its correspondence dated 7 August 2023 that offsets are to be effected by the retirement of water entitlement within the respective catchment or provision of offset by alternative means to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

The Department notes that the Water Management Plan (Version 11, submitted 11 December 2024) required under the consent has been updated to note that WAL pertaining to baseflow losses will be retired in perpetuity.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Jack Turner on 9995 5387.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S O'Donoghue', written in a cursive style.

Stephen O'Donoghue  
Director  
Resource Assessments