

Department of Planning and Environment

Our ref: MP09_0013-PA-45

Tom McMahon
Group Environment Manager
Wollongong Resources Pty Ltd

17 November 2022

Subject: Letter of Approval – Extraction Plan PC27-PC34

Dear Mr McMahon

I refer to the Russell Vale Colliery Revised Underground Expansion Project Stage 1 and 2 Extraction Plan submitted to the Department on 13 April 2022, and subsequent revisions to the plan submitted on 10 June 2022, 21 July 2022, and 7 October 2022. I also refer to your response to the Department and other relevant agencies dated 9 September 2022.

The Department has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the Extraction Plan and associated responses, in consultation with relevant agencies. The Department considers that the adopted bord and pillar mining method is an effective risk control, consequently, the impacts of the planned mining on the surrounding environment would be negligible.

The Department acknowledges that, while unlikely, there remains a residual risk of increased subsidence associated with areas of the Bulli Seam that are yet to be confirmed as collapsed, but that this risk exists regardless of the planned mining. The Department considers that the proposed monitoring of underground conditions will adequately provide for the opportunity for adaptive management of the mine plan, if required.

To ensure sufficient baseline data is collected prior to mining, the Department has recommended conditions relating to groundwater monitoring at reference sites and frog monitoring within the Stage 2 extraction area. Conditions applied to the Stage 1 Extraction Plan that had not been satisfied at the time of this approval are included in this approval.

The Planning Secretary has approved the secondary extraction of PC27 – 34, subject to the conditions outlined in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 – Conditions of Approval Stage 1 and 2 extraction plan (PC08-PC08, PC21-PC25 and PC27-PC34)

Aspect	Conditions of approval
Terms of Approval	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Applicant must carry out the development: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. in compliance with the conditions of the development consent; b. in compliance with the conditions of this approval. 2. If there is any inconsistency between the conditions of consent (MP09_0013), the conditions of this approval and the Extraction Plan Stage 1 – PC07-PC08 and PC21-PC25 (2021), then the conditions of this approval and the development consent prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. 3. All approvals of previous Extraction Plans issued in respect of the development set out in Schedule 2 under the provisions of the development consent set out in Schedule 1 cease to have effect from the date of this approval.
Groundwater Impact Monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The Applicant must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. install groundwater open standpipes and soil moisture probes at three reference upland swamp sites located at least 350 metres from the current, approved or planned future secondary workings within three months of this approval. A minimum of two of the three reference sites must be located at two ecological control swamps ACUS, BCUS12, BCUS13, S15A(1), S22, S33, WACUS or WCUS; b. commence the collection of baseline groundwater data at reference sites within one month of installing the groundwater monitoring bores, continue collecting data throughout mining and for a minimum of 12 months after all mining in the Stage 1 and 2 extraction area has ceased; c. sample groundwater using the same collection intervals and data suite (water quality and water depth) collected from swamps within the extraction area; d. identify which reference sites are representative of the swamps being monitored within the extraction area and create a pairing of reference sites to all category 1 swamps within the extraction area; e. once 12 months of data has been collected, review and update TARP levels using baseline data collected at the reference swamps and the paired swamps within the extraction area; f. include an analysis of groundwater data from the reference swamp and paired swamps within the extraction area the Annual Review required by condition F11 of Part F of MP09_0013; <p>to the satisfaction of the Secretary.</p>

Aspect	Conditions of approval
Spatial Data	<p>5. Within 12 months of this approval, the Applicant must provide the Department and Environment and Heritage Group with spatial data files for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. secondary workings; b. first workings; c. Bulli Seam and Balgownie Seam goaf areas, both collapsed, unconfirmed as collapsed and un-collapsed areas; d. upland swamps within the extraction area and within 350 metres of the extraction area and associated category labels for each swamp; e. reference swamps and associated ecological monitoring and groundwater monitoring points; f. environmental monitoring points, including subsidence, groundwater, soil moisture, surface water, ecological monitoring; and g. any other spatial data requested by the Department <p>to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</p>

Conditions governing individual panels

PC07 and PC08

Public Infrastructure	<p>6. Prior to commencing second workings in PC07 and PC08, the Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. review and confirm the risk control measures proposed for the key public infrastructure outlined in Condition C7 of P09_0013, based on the results of monitoring from the extraction of the full length of PC21; b. undertake the review in consultation with key public infrastructure operators; and c. provide evidence to the Planning Secretary of the endorsement of the risk control measures by key public infrastructure operators <p>to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</p>
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PC27 to PC34

Baseline Data for Upland Swamps	<p>7. Prior to undermining the areas identified as assumed habitat for the Giant Burrowing Frog and Little John’s Tree Frog habitat on the map included in Attachment A, the Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. undertake baseline monitoring surveys for the Giant Burrowing Frog and Little John’s Tree Frog within the areas identified as assumed habitat on the map included in Attachment A; and b. submit to the Department, a revised Biodiversity Management Plan, Upland Swamp Monitoring Plan and Master TARP that incorporates a TARP to manage remediation and offsetting if impacts to the Giant Burrowing Frog and Little John’s Treefrog were to occur. <p>to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</p>
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Department of Planning and Environment

The Department has attached a copy of the detailed reasons for approval in **Attachment B**. A copy of this letter will be placed on the Department's major project register, under post approval documents for Russell Vale Underground Expansion.

If you have any enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Jessie Evans, Director Resource Assessments, on (02) 8275 1374 or jessie.evans@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

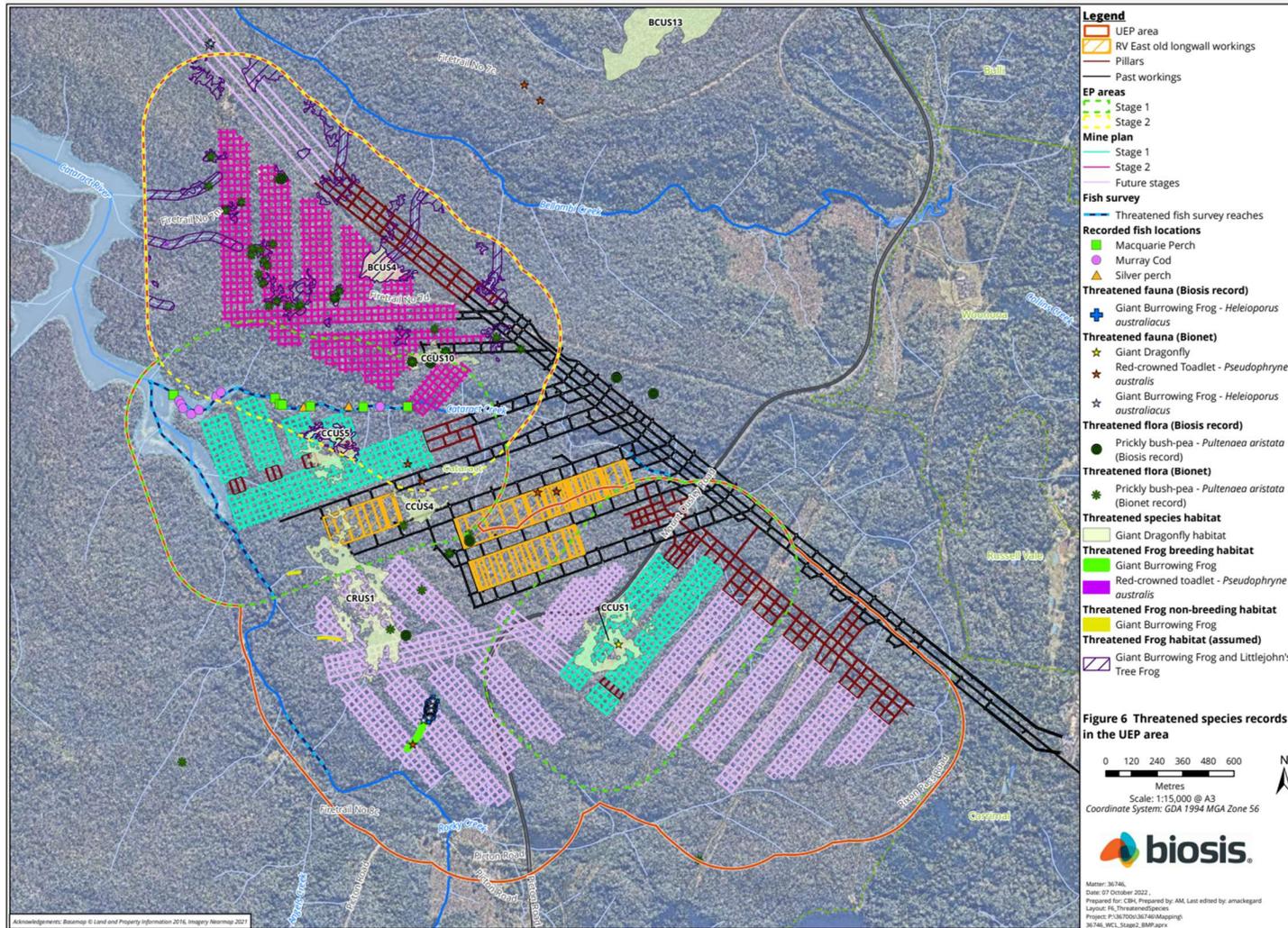
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Evans".

Jessie Evans

Director
Resource Assessments

as a nominee of the Planning Secretary

Attachment A – Threatened Species Map



Attachment B – Reasons for Approval