

Ref: BCO\_MOD10260303(A)

3/03/2026

Brittany Golding  
Planning Group  
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
4 Paramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Brittany

**RE: Boggabri Coal Mine Modification – increase to mine footprint and mine life – MP09\_0182-Mod-10-Request for Information (RFI)**

Please find below our response to the request for further information from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) (Attachment A).

**A. DEMONSTRATING SUFFICIENT ENTITLEMENT CAN BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO TAKE OCCURRING**

**Reference:** *Boggabri Coal Mine Modification 10 Application. Xenith Consulting. May 2025. Appendix J: Surface water Impact Assessment. EMM May 2025.*

Appendix J Section 8.4 (page 63) of the Modification 10 application provides a summary of the operational water licence requirements.

Copied below is a summary as provided in the Modification 10 application material (Appendix J, Section 8.5.1 (page 65)) which outlines BCOs assessment of future operational water licence needs.

For years with licensable water takes greater than the 93 ML entitlement (i.e. the higher rainfall years), BCOPL will be required to lease/purchase water entitlements from the open market. During such years, it is noted that the other water users within the Bluevale Water Source and other relevant sources, are expected to have sufficient access to water from rainfall and other water sources and consequently be in a position to offer temporary access to their water licence entitlements to BCOPL. Clarification with relevant regulatory agencies will be sought to confirm the additional permanent entitlement and where required and available, additional permanent entitlement will be obtained to account for the maximum predicted water take.

Accordingly, the environmental risks associated with the BCM Surface Water Management System remains low risk, with minimal impacts to other water users and the environment.

**BCO commits to Recommendation 1.1 as recommended by the NSW DCCEEW (Attachment A).**

### 8.5.1 Interception of local catchment runoff

Water take associated with the interception of local catchment runoff from the Bluevale Water Source is uncontrolled and weather dependent. Hence, the volume of surface water take that occurs from year to year will vary, with lower water take volumes occurring in dry years and higher water take volumes occurring in wet years. The local catchment area that is intercepted and requires licensing by BCM will also reduce over time as mining progresses to the north and west. To account for this variation and to ensure BCOPL hold sufficient WALs to cover any water take, water take from the Bluevale Water Source is accounted for using recorded site data and the SWBM.

The water accounting methodology is completed in accordance with the Enforceable Undertaking (EU 230608) issued by NRAR on 8 June 2023. Water accounting is undertaken on a quarterly basis whereby the SWBM is used to determine the volume of water take that occurred during the previous quarter (using measured site data) and predict (using short term climate forecasts) the volume of water take expected to occur in the following quarter. BCOPL purchase (via temporary trade) additional water entitlements to cover any measured or predicted water take in excess of BCOPL's existing WALs.

The Bluevale Water Source has a total of 2,972 unit-shares of unregulated river access licences (refer to Section 3.4). BCOPL would need to obtain an additional 191 unit-shares to achieve the predicted 284 ML/year licensable water take from the Bluevale Water Source during wet conditions (refer to Table 8.2). BCOPL has historically been successful in temporary trading water entitlements to account for water take associated with the interception of local catchment runoff.

In contrast to the typical trading market where water is sought during dry conditions when demand is high, BCOPL require additional entitlements during wet conditions when there is unlikely to be a large demand for water across the water sources. It is therefore anticipated that sufficient water would be available in the market for trade when required.

### 8.5.2 External water supply

BCOPL preferentially source external water supply from the BCM borefield in preference to pumping from the Namoi River. Water take from the Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source and Upper Namoi Zone 4, Namoi Valley Groundwater Source is controlled and accounted for via pump metering. BCOPL monitor pump volumes to ensure extraction volumes do not exceed their WAL entitlements for these water sources.

Water requirements in excess of BCOPL's WAL entitlements have historically been met via account carry over rules that are applicable to groundwater sources within the WSP for the Namoi Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020 or via temporary trade within the Upper Namoi Zone 4, Namoi Valley Groundwater Source.

The Upper Namoi Zone 4, Namoi Valley Groundwater Source has a total of 21,000 unit-shares of aquifer access licences and an active trading market. BCOPL has historically been successful in temporary trading water entitlements to meet operational water demands during drier periods including during the 2018 to 2019 drought.

The significant number of entitlements available and active water market provides confidence that BCOPL will be able to continue using temporary trade as a viable option to secure any additional water entitlements that may be needed during drier periods.

## 8.6 Licensing summary

Water licensing requirements, WAL entitlements held by BCOPL that are relevant to this SWIA, and the approach to obtain additional WALs when needed are summarised in Table 8.3.

**Table 8.3** Water licensing requirements summary

Water requirement	Water take mechanism	Water sharing plan	Water source	WALs required	WALs held <sup>6</sup>	Licensing approach <sup>4</sup>
Interception of catchment runoff	Incidental water take	Namoi and Peel Unregulated Rivers Water Sources 2012	Bluevale Water Source	191 ML <sup>3</sup>	93 ML	Temporary trade
External water supply	Namoi River via pump and pipeline	Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources 2016	Lower and Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Sources	2,040 ML <sup>3</sup>	322 ML <sup>1</sup>	- <sup>2</sup>
	Extracted from borefield via pump and pipeline	Namoi Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020	Upper Namoi Zone 4, Namoi Valley Groundwater Source		1,028 ML	Temporary trade

- Notes:
1. Does not include the 32.1 unit shares of supplementary water that BCOPL hold in these water sources.
  2. Additional entitlements required to meet external water supply demands to be preferentially sourced via groundwater.
  3. Represents the maximum annual water take based on 130 years of climate data.
  4. Licensing approach is in addition to the WALs held by BCOPL.
  5. Based on the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile intercepted runoff volume.
  6. WAL volumes assume 100% available water determinations for the relevant water sources.

**B. SUBMIT AN UPDATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE WATER TAKE CHANGES ASSOCIATED WITH MODIFICATION 10.**

As part of the final conditioning for MOD10 application, BCO will provide an updated Water Management Plan that includes the water changes associated with Modification 10.

**BCO commits to Recommendation 1.2 as recommended by the NSW DCCEEW (Attachment A).**

If you require additional information please contact the undersigned or Amanda O’Kane (email: [Amanda.okane@idemitsu.com.au](mailto:Amanda.okane@idemitsu.com.au); Mobile: 0437 018 019).

Yours sincerely

*L. Wilson*

**Liam Wilson  
Head of HSECT  
Idemitsu Australia**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**A:** Boggabri Coal Mine Modification 10. Response to Agency Request for Additional information. Boggabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd. NSW DCCEEW Reference OUT26/734. 09/02/2026.

## ATTACHMENT A

*Boggabri Coal Mine Modification 10. Response to Agency Request for Additional information.  
Boggabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd. NSW DCCEEW Reference OUT26/734. 09/02/2026.*

Our ref: OUT26/734

Brittany Golding  
Planning Group  
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
Email: [brittany.golding@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:brittany.golding@planning.nsw.gov.au)

9/02/2026

---

Subject: Boggabri Coal Mine Modification - Increase to mine footprint and mine life - MP09\_0182-Mod-10 – Request for Information (RFI)

Dear Brittany Golding,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 27 January 2026 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

NSW DCCEEW Water Group has reviewed the RFI and has recommendations regarding:

- demonstrating sufficient entitlement can be obtained prior to take occurring.
- submit an updated Water Management Plan that includes the water take changes associated with Modification 10.

Please see **Attachment A** for details.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact the Water Assessments team at [water.assessments@dcceew.nsw.gov.au](mailto:water.assessments@dcceew.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Tim Baker,  
A/Manager, Water Assessments, Planning & Knowledge Division  
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

## Attachment A

---

### Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding the Boggabri Coal Mine Modification - Increase to mine footprint and mine life - MP09\_0182-Mod-10 - Request for Information (RFI)

#### 1.0 Water supply, take and licensing

---

##### 1.1 Recommendation – post-approval

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) should request the proponent to demonstrate sufficient entitlement can be obtained prior to take occurring.

##### Explanation

The proponent is relying on temporary trades and carry over water to account for significant volumes of water take due to the project. This approach carries a compliance risk due to the potential for it being unavailable when required. The proponent has not provided further information to understand the viability of this approach for the project's life. It is therefore recommended that additional permanent entitlement is obtained to account for the maximum predicted water take. This includes 756 shares in Zone 4 and 2 shares in Zone 11 in the Namoi Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020, and 441 shares in the Bluevale Water Source in the Namoi and Peel Unregulated River Water Source 2012.

Under the *Water Management Act 2000*, a WAL must be obtained prior to any water take occurring unless an exemption under the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2025* applies.

##### 1.2 Recommendation – post approval

DPHI should request the proponent to submit an updated Water Management Plan that includes the water take changes associated with Modification 10.

##### Explanation

An updated Water Management Plan is required which includes the changes associated with Modification 10 which must demonstrate sufficient entitlement is held in all sources prior to take occurring and that all water access licences nominate an extraction point prior to use.

End Attachment A

---