



OUT14/13559

Mr Howard Reed
Manager Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems and Approval
NSW Planning & Infrastructure
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: Jessie.Giblett@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Reed

**Russell Vale Modification 2 (MP 10_0046)
Review of Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your letter dated 17 April 2014 inviting comments from NSW Trade & Investment - Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) on the proposed modification by Wollongong Coal Pty Limited.

DRE has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for this proposed modification and provides the following comments and recommendations associated with DRE's areas of responsibility.

DRE supports the proposed extraction of the initial 400 metres of Longwall 6 and the extension of the existing project approval until 30 June 2015. The modification is supported due to the minor environmental impact the proposal is likely to place on the environment and enabling the company to operate and utilize the coal resources at the mine, while awaiting the determination of its major project application (MP09_0013).

DRE's support is subject to the following recommendations:

1. The proponent must continue the implementation of subsidence risk management strategies that were used at the mine during the extraction of Longwalls 4 & 5.
2. Further extraction of Longwall 6, or other longwalls and first workings/development (consistent with its current application MP 13_0013), are to be considered under separate applications.

3. The proponent is required to continue background flora and fauna monitoring before the commencement of mining of Longwall 6, to fulfil the requirement for sufficient background monitoring. Alternatively, the proponent needs to satisfy Office of Environment and Heritage and DRE that sufficient data has been collected to differentiate potential mining impacts from natural variation, particularly on CRUS1 and CCUS4 swamp vegetation.
4. Approval conditions should include a requirement for appropriate rehabilitation of any impacts resulting from subsidence or as a result of the Subsidence Management Plan monitoring program. (DRE has noted during a recent inspection that clearing has occurred in order to provide a line of sight for surveying/monitoring over Landwalls 4 and 5 and a portion of Longwall 6.)
5. Approval conditions should also include a requirement to update the mine's Rehabilitation Management Plan/Mining Operations Plan to take into account new mining areas and potential impacts requiring rehabilitation, whether from subsidence or as a result of the Subsidence Management Plan monitoring program.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Vince Fallico, Project Officer, Industry Coordination on 8281 7340.

Yours sincerely



12/5/14

Bryan Whitlock
A/Director Industry Coordination