

10 March 2020

Steve O'Donoghue
Team Leader Resource and Energy Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Via Email: stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Steve

TARRAWONGA COAL MINE – TEMPORARY WATER HAULAGE MODIFICATION

Tarrawonga Coal Pty Limited (TCPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven), lodged the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Temporary Water Haulage Modification (the Modification) on 20 January 2020 for consideration by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment under Section 4.55(1A) of the New South Wales *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 Act* (EP&A Act).

A submission on the Modification Report was made by the Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) (letter dated 27 February 2020). TCPL's response to the NSC's submission is provided below.

Duration of the Modification

The requirement for water haulage after the initial 18 month period is subject to TCPL's ability to meet ongoing water supply requirements for dust suppression, coal crushing and other minor uses at the Tarrawonga Coal Mine. As described in Section 1.2.1 of the Modification Report, TCPL has already implemented a number of water reduction initiatives at the Tarrawonga Coal Mine, including but not limited to:

- Implemented the usage of dust suppressant binders to reduce water consumption and investigating additional dust suppressant products.
- Improvements to water storage management, including enlarging on-site storage capacity and desilting existing dams.
- Improvements to water cart application by improving sprays and application methodology.

The above initiatives will reduce the likelihood that TCPL will need to extract and truck water beyond the 18 month period. Any contingency groundwater extraction and haulage required after the initial 18 month period would be undertaken in accordance with future assessment and approval requirements under the EP&A Act.

Impacts of the Modification

Environmental impacts are assessed in Section 2 of the Modification Report (Environmental Review). Groundwater extraction via the existing Vickery Coal Mine groundwater bore will be accounted for under WALs held or obtained under the *Water Management Act 2000* (including Whitehaven-held WALs 12651 and 12653).

Limit to Traffic Generation

TCPL agrees that there would not be an increase in the maximum number of daily Whitehaven truck movements along the Northern Section of the Approved Road Transport Route under the Modification as described in Section 2.1 of the Modification Report.

Contributions

As noted above, there is no proposed increase in the maximum number of daily Whitehaven truck movements under the Modification. As such, Whitehaven considers the existing Voluntary Planning Agreement is appropriate for the temporary water haulage proposed under the Modification.

Use of Local Resources

Whitehaven intends to continue using local providers and employ local people whenever appropriate.

If you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact Tony Dwyer on (02) 6741 9316.

Yours sincerely



Tony Dwyer

Group Manager - Approvals and Environment