



DOC20/226810- 4; EF13/4404

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Returned via Planning Portal

Attention: Ms Melanie Hollis
By email: Melanie.Hollis@planning.nsw.gov.au

1 April 2020

Dear Ms Hollis

**Mangoola Coal Continued Operations Project (SSD 8642)
Response to Submissions - Comments from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA)**

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received 18 March 2020, requesting comments in relation to further information provided by Mangoola Coal Continued Operations Project (SSD-8642) (the Project). Your email included a further advice from the proponent to the EPA on 17 March 2020 (Umwelt Reference 4004_R27_Response to RTS_20200317a_ltr). This information was provided in response to conditions recommended by the EPA in a letter dated 31 January 2020 (EPA Ref Doc19/1105145-13). Specifically, the response relates to recommended conditions L1.2 which stated:

The proponent must not transfer mine water from the Pit Water Dam to the Raw Water Dam. Saline water must only be discharged under the provisions of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme.

This condition was recommended because Figure 15 of the Surface Water Assessment (Appendix 11 of the EIS) indicated that mine water will be pumped from the Pit Water Dam to the Raw Water Dam which may overflow to Sandy Creek via farm dams. The figure does not show any return flow from the Raw Water Dam to the Pit Water Dam. However, the EPA has now become aware that the proponent can pump water from the Raw Water Dam to the Pit Water Dam.

Given that:

- the Raw Water Dam is a saline water storage dam;
- the principles of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme require that saline water is only discharged under the rules of the Scheme and not via dam spillway overflows;
- the proponent can manage water levels (freeboard) in the Raw Water Dam by transferring water to the Pit Water Dam so that it will not overflow except in a 1 in 250 Annual Exceedance Probability 72-hour rainfall event or greater; and
- the Pit Water Dam overflows into the mine pit,

the EPA recommends that the previously recommended Condition L1.2 be replaced with the following conditions:

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- the proponent must not discharge saline water except under the provisions of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme; and
- the proponent must manage water levels in the Raw Water Dam so that it does not discharge water from the premises except in a 1 in 250 Annual Exceedance Probability 72-hour rainfall event or greater.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Genevieve Lorang on 4908 6869 or by email to hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Your sincerely

MITCHELL BENNETT
Head Strategic Operations Unit - Hunter
Environment Protection Authority