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Ms Gabrielle Allan
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Planning and Assessment Division
Department of Planning and Environment

Via email: gabrielle.allan@dpie.nsw.gov.au

EPA Advice on Submissions Report

Dear Ms Allan

Thank you for the request for advice from Public Authority Consultation (PAE-36057224), requesting the review by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Western Coal Services MOD 4 – Submissions Report (June 2022) for SSD-5579 (MOD 4).

As part of this response, the EPA has reviewed the following document:

- *'Centennial Western Coal Services Project Modification 4 – Western Coal Services MOD4 Submissions Report v.1, James Bailey & Associates (23 June 2022).*

The EPA understands the proposal is in response to the Pollution Studies and Reduction Program (PRP) issued to Springvale Coal Pty Ltd (Western Coal Services) – Environment Protection Licence (EPL 21229) to evaluate options for the long-term management of groundwater being discharged from licensed discharge point (LDP 001, formerly LDP 006) into Wangcol Creek. The EPA acknowledges and supports the work by Western Coal Services to remove the long-standing discharge of water generated from historical mine workings at Western Coal Services and discharged via LDP 001.

The EPA notes that MOD 4 also includes a proposal to enable Springvale Coal to change the existing water management system at Springvale Coal Services to facilitate the transfer of water between Western Coal Services and other operations.

As communicated to the Department of Planning (DPE) in the EPA submission on the Modification report, the EPA was seeking clarity around the volumes of water proposed to be piped off-site from Western Coal Services. The EPA has reviewed the submissions report and understands that the shortfall (beyond the approximate 2 ML / day generated due to historical mine workings and discharged via LDP 001) in volumes of water could be sourced from Angus Place Colliery and Pond D at Mount Piper Power Station (MPPS) to make up the 15.6 ML / day or more to the Regis – McPhillamys Gold Project.

Regarding Scenario 2, assuming all elements of the proposed modification are implemented, the EPA considers this to be beyond the scope of the PRP and appears to introduce extraction of groundwater from other mine sites along with transfers to the Regis – McPhillamys Gold Project, with this being a project with no approval at this stage.

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The EPA does not support the potential transfer of water to and from other mine sites such as Angus Place Colliery and / or those in the planning phase without approval (Regis – McPhillamys Gold Project) as part of MOD 4.

The EPA notes that Scenario 3, as outlined on page 23 of the Modification report proposes conditions assuming that the transfer of water to McPhillamys Gold Project does not occur. Scenario 3 would however reduce the discharge from LDP 001 from an estimated 616 ML / year to 4 ML / year. With reference to the PRP on EPL 21229, Scenario 3 presents a potential option to enable compliance with the PRP.

For the purposes of MOD 4, the EPA supports the transfer of water generated:

1. via historical mine workings (estimated at 2 ML / day), or
2. surface water generated during wet weather conditions,

that would otherwise only be discharged via LDP 001 at Western Coal Services into Wangcol Creek, being transferred to MPPS for treatment or re-use.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Allan Adams on 6333 3804 or via email at allan.adams@epa.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



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