

Our Reference: DA:MH:2197050
Your Reference: SSD-7480-Mod-1
PAE-75446709
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Via: Major Projects Portal

Monday 23 September 2024



RE: Vickery Mine Extension - MOD 1 (SSD-7480-Mod-1) - Advice on Modification Report (PAE-75446709)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the modification report for Vickery Coal Mine (VCM) Extension- MOD 1. It is understood that the proposed modification would include the following:

- Additional Project rail loop construction footprint and upgrade of an existing access road to provide temporary construction access to the Project rail spur.
- Construction of pipelines from transfer points on the adjoining Mirrabinda and Ovenden properties and from the mine infrastructure area to the Rocglen Coal Mine.
- Alternative realignment of the approved Blue Vale Road diversion and commensurate reduction of the open cut extent.
- Construction and use of a temporary concrete batching plant.
- Extraction, crushing and screening of up to 90,000 cubic metres of gravel in any calendar year from the site for collection by customers (daytime hours only).
- Disposal of waste heavy vehicle tyres in the waste rock emplacement areas.
- Extended run-of-mine (ROM) coal road haulage hours.
- Improve mine landform designs using best practice geomorphic design principles; and
- Update of the Schedule of Lands and a minor change to a rehabilitation objective.

Having reviewed the provided documentation, the following feedback is now provided:



Narrabri Shire Council
46 - 48 Maitland Street
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Biodiversity

It is understood that the modification will require the clearing of a further 55.2 hectares of native vegetation, in this regard:

- Clearing of vegetation should be minimised wherever practicable. Impacts of construction, including clearing of potentially threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities, should be investigated thoroughly and a detailed biodiversity development assessment report prepared.
- Further assessment should be undertaken to determine the presence of any threatened ecological communities (TECs) and threatened or migratory species within the investigation area and measures should be implemented to mitigate and manage impacts.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The area may hold cultural significance to First Nations people including cultural heritage sites, and more broadly, the cultural heritage value of the environment generally. VCM's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan should be reviewed and updated where required in alignment with the modification proposal.

Air Quality

Activities associated with the proposed temporary concrete batching plant, construction works, and the extraction, crushing and screening of gravel, may account for an increase in dust generation above the approved project operation levels.

- VCM should continue to manage its impacts to regional air quality in accordance with the relevant management plans as well as complying with NSW EPA guidelines.
- Whilst it is noted that Mod-1 is unlikely to affect air quality beyond the range of historically measured fluctuations, potential cumulative air quality impacts require ongoing consideration particularly in the context of increased/altered mining activities in the area.

Upgraded Construction Access Road

It is understood the need for an additional temporary access road from Blue Vale Road south of the MIA to the rail spur corridor has been identified as an opportunity to segregate the rail construction workforce and deliveries from the MIA construction area, improving safety and efficiency of vehicle movements.

Construction of the project will generate additional light and heavy vehicle movements on the local road network and should be further investigated as part of a detailed Traffic Impact Assessment report. Potential impact of the proposal on Council's Road assets should be clearly detailed. The Traffic Management Plan for the Vickery Coal Mine should be reviewed and amended as necessary to incorporate the Modification proposal.

Road Haulage Hours Modification

- Thorough consultation with local landowners should be undertaken, and private agreements secured, as part of any proposed changes to approved road haulage hours. All agreements should be finalised and in place prior to any approvals being granted.
- VCM Driver Code of Conduct and Whitehaven's specific inductions for haulage truck operators should be reviewed, and amended where appropriate, to ensure the behavioural requirements for truck drivers.
- Fatigue management measures applicable to the haulage truck drivers should be reviewed to confirm they are appropriate.
- Signage, guideposts and lane delineation on the Approved ROM Coal Transport Route should be assessed against the approved protocol to ensure that it adequately addresses the night-time visibility needs of drivers on the route.
- The Traffic Management Plan(s) for the Vickery, Tarrawonga, and Rocglen Mines should be reviewed and amended as necessary to incorporate the Modification proposal and any mitigation measures recommended.
- Continuation of road maintenance agreements with Narrabri Shire Council under the Modification to be confirmed.

Narrabri Shire Council expects that Vickery Coal Mine continues to operate in strict accordance with all conditions of approval and all relevant legislative requirements.

Council trust that the above advice provides the necessary assistance and should you have any further questions or require any further clarification on the contents of Council's submission, please contact Ms Michelle Castles, Council's Manager Planning and Development on (02) 6799 6866 or via council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au.

Kind Regards,



Michelle Castles
Manager Planning and Development