

DA200-5-2003-Mod 5:LGS
Building and Development



20 March 2025

Melanie Hollis
The Department of Planning, Housing and Environment (Department)
melanie.hollis@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Melanie,

Cullen Valley Modification 5 – Extension of Life (DA200-5-2003-Mod 5)

I refer to the abovementioned project and your request for submission for the proposed Cullen Valley Modification 5 – Extension of Life Application.

It is noted that Development Consent DA200-5-2003 authorises:

- opencut and underground mining operations up until 19 August 2025,
- production of up to 1 million tonnes (Mt) of product coal per calendar year from the site to be transported by private haul road and public roads to domestic markets including the Mount Piper Power Station (MPPS),
- transportation of no more than 250,000 tonnes (t) of product coal a year by road to domestic destinations other than the MPPS.

The modification proposes to:

- extend the life of mining from 19 August 2025 for a further five years until 19 August 2030,
- amend the current development consent boundary to include water management infrastructure (Dams 2 and 3) that are currently outside the development consent area.

Council considers the Environmental Impact Statement to adequately highlight the relevant issues, and has no objection to the modification application subject to the following:

1. Current Operations

All other activities, outside of the modification and that was approved under DA200-5-2003 is to continue, including mining methods, annual coal extraction rates, coal processing and handling activities, surface infrastructure and hours of operation. No additional surface disturbance activities beyond those currently assessed and approved is to be undertaken.

2. Greenhouse gas

Council recommends that the mitigation emissions are implemented to minimise GHG emissions.

3. Surface Water

The mine is to continue to manage water resources in accordance with the objectives of the approved WMP and requirements of the EPL.

4. Groundwater

The Mine is to continue to manage water resources in accordance with the objectives of the WMP.

5. Amenity and Visual Impacts

The development is to maintain and protect the visual amenity specifically from the Cullen Bullen township, public places, adjoining landowners/residences, surrounding villages, heritage items and visual prominent places such as look out points, the Castlereagh Highway.

6. Contamination

As per the EIS any soils within and surrounding former infrastructure areas are to be assessed and any areas of contamination to be remediated or disposed of at an appropriately licensed facility. Dams forming part of the mine water management system is to be removed unless utilised for habitat purposes or subsequent land uses.

Council requests additional information in this regard.

7. Biodiversity

No additional disturbance beyond what was previously assessed and approved is to be undertaken as part of the modification.

8. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Management of Aboriginal heritage sites is to continue to be undertaken in accordance with the relevant conditions of Development Consent DA 200-5-2003.

9. Traffic and Transportation

No changes to the existing and approved traffic operations are to occur as part of the modification.

Council, subject to Transport for NSW consent, would support the proposed traffic mitigation measures such as additional intersection warning signs for northbound and southbound vehicles on the Castlereagh Highway.

The Traffic and Transport Management should be reviewed and updated where necessary taking into consideration the traffic impact assessment.

Council would like an assessment undertaken on Boulder Road to determine any potential impacts that have occurred from the Coal trucks to date and any potential impacts in the future.

10. Noise and Vibration

Quarterly Noise Monitoring is to continue to be undertaken with the noise controls and mitigation measures to be implemented within the Noise Management Plan for the life of the mine.

11. Air Quality

All Air Quality measures are to be managed and monitored in accordance with the approved Air Quality Management Plan.

12. Landscaping, Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Plans

Council requests that the Landscaping Plan (relating to visual impacts and is to detail the type of planting suitable for climates during all seasons), Rehabilitation Plan and Decommissioning Plans be updated and amended should any consent be granted for the modification.

13. Community Contribution

Council would like the opportunity to review the existing Planning Agreement, as per Schedule 2, Condition 17 on the consent, for community/public facilities and/or infrastructure for this project. As such, Council requests that the applicant consult with Council prior to determination to address the need for community contributions.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned between Monday to Friday on (02) 63549999, in Council's Building and Development Department should you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Lauren Stevens
Development Planner