NSW Resources

D25/16625
6 May 2025

Jarrod Blane
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
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Via: Major Projects Portal

ADVICE RESPONSE: Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project – Modification 5

Stage: Advice on Modification Report

Development Application: MP07_0087-Mod-5

Dear Jarrod

I refer to your correspondence dated 14 April 2025 inviting the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - NSW Resources to review the information supplied and provide comments on Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project – Modification 5 the Modification), submitted to Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure by Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd (the Proponent).

The Bloomfield Colliery, an existing open cut coal mine at Four Mile Creak southeast of Maitland and 20km Northwest of Newcastle, operates under SSD consent MP07_0087 with approval to produce up to 1.3 Mtpa of ROM coal until 2030. This modification:

- extends mining areas to access additional seams to extract 5.8 Mt of coal
- reduces the annual production cap to 0.9 Mtpa
- extends mining operations to 2035, and
- includes changes to rehabilitation plans to improve land use options and continued use of shared infrastructure and tailings facilities approved under the Abel consent.

Please refer to NSW Resources Regulator advice Attachment A.

Resources and Economic Assessment Review

NSW Resources has reviewed the information supplied and provides the following advice.

Resource Assessment

Size and Quality of the Resource and Resource Recovery

Coal at Bloomfield has a high raw ash around 28 to 30% and a washed ash (CF1.70) of 14 to 17% with a yield of around 70%. There are no significant geological structures at Bloomfield. Identified faulting has had small throws of up to 2 m and generally occur in a north-south to south-east (NS-SE) direction. Only minor igneous intrusions have been identified within the workings. The most significant is a dyke that is 3 to 4 metres thick in the Creek Cut area. This dyke trends NNW-SSE through the central area of ML1738. The heat effects of this dyke on the coal are minimal.

Bloomfield Colliery coal has been mined on the site for around 170 years by underground and open cut methods. The open cut which has been operating since 1966, is approved to produce a maximum of 1.3 Mtpa of ROM coal by open cut methods. Product coal is predominantly thermal coal with some semi-soft coking coal for the Asian export market. Open cut mining operations is currently located in the southern portion of the approved Bloomfield Coal Project area within the S-Cut and Creek Cut open cut pits. The Colliery is a multi-seam, multi bench system, mining up to 13 seams or splits.

Economic Assessment

NSW Resources has calculated that total revenues from the Modification would be of the order of A$286 million in current dollars, with the net present value of this revenue stream being around A$196 million (at a real discount rate of 5%).

As well as providing export coal revenue which adds to NSW and Australia’s balance of trade, the proposed Modification will provide economic benefits to the local, regional and state economies.

The Proponent has provided NSW Resources with information that the Modification will:

- provide benefits to local and regional employment, household incomes in the Project locality and State government revenues
- extend production from start 2031 and cease production in end 2035
- the proposed modification would not change the operation workforce, which supports up to 93 operational jobs
- the Colliery would continue to operate with a reduction of the approved annual ROM tonnage from 1.3 Mt to 0.9 Mt
- apart from some minor sustaining expenditure, there will be no major additional capital expenditure over the life of the Modification.

The assessment completed by NSW Resources has used export coal price assumptions based on Consensus Economics price forecasts. These prices used in this assessment were similar to the export coal prices provided separately by Bloomfield Collieries to NSW Resources.

Royalty Calculation

Assumptions

- Total coal sales of around 2 Mt over the life of the Modification.
- Operating (production phase) Modification life of five years from 2031-2035.

- Consensus Economics price forecasts
- Real discount rate of 5%
- Allowable deductions from total revenue reducing the 10.8% statutory royalty rate to around 10.5% of total revenue received for each year of the operational phase of the Modification life.

Total Royalties estimate

Using these assumptions and parameters, NSW Resources has calculated that the State will receive:

Parameter	A$M (2025 dollars)
Total royalties received	$30
Net Present Value (NPV) royalties (5% discount rate, real)	$20.5
Annual estimated royalties (average)	$6 (approximate)

Summary of review

The Modification is primarily driven by the discovery of additional coal resources in the Creek Cut and Workshop Cut areas, allowing for extended mining to optimise resource recovery. It also addresses legacy mine subsidence issues in the Workshop Cut by stabilising old underground workings. Additionally, the continuation of mining supports local employment, economic benefits, and improved post-mining land use potential with a decreased final void and reduced slope angles creating a more suitable landform for post mining land use.

NSW Resources is satisfied that, should the operational outcomes be realised, resource recovery, the proposed mine design and mining method submissions adequately recover resources and is projected to provide an appropriate return to the state.

For further advice on this matter, please contact Elisa Paull, Project Officer, Industry Advisory and Mining Concierge unit on 02 4063 6860 or mining.concierge@dpird.nsw.gov.au .

Sincerely

Scott Anson
Manager Industry Advisory and Mining Concierge
Industry Development

for

Tony Linnane
Executive Director Strategy, Performance and Industry Development
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - NSW Resources

Attachment A

Resources Regulator
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Tuesday, 13 May 2025

Jarrod Blane
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
jarrod.blane@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Via: Major Projects Portal

Dear Jarrod,

I refer to the Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project – Modification 5 submitted to the Resources Regulator on 14 April 2025 (MP07_0087-Mod-5). Based on a review of the document, the Resources Regulator has no specific comments.

LIMITATIONS

It should be noted that the Resources Regulator does not provide any endorsement of the proposed rehabilitation methodologies presented in the plans provided. Under the conditions of a mining authorisation granted under the *Mining Act 1992*, the Resources Regulator requires the holder to adopt a risk-based approach to achieving the required rehabilitation outcomes.

The applicability of the controls to achieve effective and sustainable rehabilitation is to be determined based on site-specific risk assessments conducted by the authorisation holder. An authorisation holder may also be directed by the Resources Regulator to implement further risk control measures required to achieve effective rehabilitation outcomes during the life of the mine.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS IF APPROVED

The proponent will be required to comply with rehabilitation requirements under the mining authorisations prior to the commencement of the works associated with the proposal.

The Resources Regulator may undertake assessments of the mine operators' proposed mining activities under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and Regulation as well as other WHS regulatory obligations.

BACKGROUND

The Mining Act Inspectorate within the Resources Regulator undertake risk-based compliance and enforcement activities in relation to obligations under the *Mining Act 1992*. This includes undertaking assessment and compliance activities in relation to mine rehabilitation activities and determination of security deposits. To ensure consistency, the Regulator requests the opportunity to review a copy of the draft development consent prior to any approval of the project.

The Mine Safety Inspectorate within the Resources Regulator is responsible for ensuring the mine operators' compliance with the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation, in particular the effective management of risks associated with the principal hazards as specified in the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022*.

CONTACT

Should you require any further information or clarification, please contact the Regulator on 1300 814 609 (Press Option 2 Press Option 5) or email nswresourcesregulator@service-now.com.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Margetts

Chief Inspector of Mines

Resources Regulator