

21 July 2025

Ms Jessie Evans
Director - Resource Assessments
Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022,
Parramatta NSW 2124
Via: Major Projects Planning Portal

Dear Ms Evans,

Modification Application Scoping Letter
Springvale Water Treat Plant (SSD-7592) Modification 12
Western Coal Services (SSD-5579) Modification 7
Angus Place Coal Mine (MP06_0021) Modification 10

Introduction

This modification application scoping letter has been prepared to outline the proposed modifications to the following Centennial Coal development consents:

- Springvale Water Treat Plant (**SWTP**) (SSD-7592) Proposed Modification 12;
- Western Coal Services (**WCS**) (SSD-5579) Proposed Modification 7; and
- Angus Place Coal Mine (**Angus Place**) (MP06_0021) Modification 10

SWTP is operated in accordance with SSD-7592 by Springvale Coal Pty Limited and this consent has been modified 11 times.

WCS is operated in accordance with SSD-5579 by Springvale Coal Pty Limited and this consent has been modified five (5) times.

Angus Place is operated in accordance with MP06_0021 by Centennial Angus Place Pty Limited and this consent has been modified seven (7) times with Modification 9 submitted but not yet determined.

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Background

Centennial Coal Company Pty Limited (**Centennial**) has developed the Western Water Strategy (the Strategy) to manage mine inflows from two underground coal mines in Lithgow, New South Wales (**NSW**), namely Springvale Mine (**Springvale**) (SSD-5594) and Angus Place (MP06_0221). The Strategy also includes the water management in the WCS (SSD-5579) which is a coal logistics, processing and handling project for Springvale. The Strategy identifies beneficial reuse options of mine water in industrial developments.

The Strategy is underpinned by the SWTP which operates under the SSD-7592 to receive and treat up to 42 megalitres per day (ML/day) of raw (or untreated) mine water (or mine inflows) from Springvale and Angus Place underground mining areas.

The raw water received in the SWTP is treated by reverse osmosis (**RO**) in a water treatment plant located within the Mount Piper Power Station (**MPPS**) premises operated by Energy Australia. The treated water is beneficially reused to meet the makeup water demand in the MPPS cooling water system. Any excess treated water is temporarily stored within Thompsons Creek Reservoir (**TCR**) for subsequent reuse during periods of high demand of water in the cooling water system.

The residuals waste stream from the RO water treatment plant is transferred to the reject emplacement area (**REA**) at WCS and the residuals stream from the water treatment plant is managed in accordance with WCS water management system.

Recently, the makeup water demand in the MPPS cooling water system has reduced as a function of MPPS operating capacity with the progressive transition to renewable energy sources to meet the electricity demands of the State. All treated water from the MPPS water treatment plant cannot be used in the cooling water system, and not all surplus treated water can be transferred to TCR for storage on an ongoing basis as the dam operates to maintain water operating levels. Additionally, the SWTP is not permitted to discharge any water off site to manage excess treated water as it was approved as a nil-discharge development.

Springvale and Angus Place underground mining areas require to be dewatered. Springvale mine water transfers to the water treatment plant take priority as, given it is an operating mine, the underground needs to be dewatered fully for the safety of the mine workers. Additionally, water make at Springvale underground has increased in recent years due to several contributing factors.

A consequence of dewatering at Springvale taking priority over Angus Place is that mine inflows have been building up at Angus Place underground storages. This steady increase in water levels at Angus Place underground storages cannot be sustained permanently because the eventual consequence of flooded underground storages would be damaged critical underground infrastructure and cause potential sterilization of coal reserves, which would compromise the viability of future coal mining opportunities at Angus Place.

The underground storages require additional dewatering until Springvale's dewatering rate is reduced, the McPhillamys Gold Project (SSD-9505) approved to receive Angus Place water is constructed and operational, and other potential water reuse options being investigated by Centennial are further developed.

The operations of the water treatment have also been recently affected by the high turbidity mine water from Springvale being transferred to SWTP due to geological conditions experienced during underground mining. This results in a rapid sludge build up at the settling ponds at MPPS. To avoid exceedance of the design criteria of the settling pond and the approved residual waste

stream levels, the treatment of Springvale's mine water during the high turbidity events have been reduced and this is impacting underground operations at Springvale.

At WCS, a Pollution Reduction Program (**PRP**) initiated by the EPA, proposes works (Pond Lambert) that require modification to WCS consent.

To ensure that dewatering of mine water at Springvale and Angus Place is maintained, for reasons discussed above, modifications to SWTP, WCS and Angus Place consents are required to allow the Strategy to continue to work effectively and achieve its objectives.

Proposed Modification

Centennial is seeking to modify the SWTP, WCS and Angus Place consents to provide for the following:

- Discharge of up to 16.5 ML/day of treated mine water from SWTP via new Licenced Discharge point (**LDP**) located at WCS to Wangcol Creek /Coxs River;
 - Water transfer pipeline;
 - LDP outlet structure;
 - Engineered outlet open channel to convey water from the LDP to Wangcol Creek;
 - RO treated water with EC maximum 500 uS/cm;
 - SWTP Environment Protection Licence (**EPL**) required;
- Co-discharge of up to 10 ML/day Angus Place mine water via new LDP for period of 4 years;
 - Water transfer pipelines;
 - Angus Place mine water EC ~ 1,200 uS/cm;
 - Angus Place mine water treated through metals treatment plant and settlement ponds;
- Amend condition 5(a) of Schedule 2 of the SSD-7592 consent to allow for a maximum of 48 ML/day transfer via the Raw Water Transfer Pipeline and a 12 month rolling average for the 42 ML/day limit through the SWTP to accommodate pumping shut down periods and infrastructure outages;
- Amend Condition 6E Schedule 2 of SWTP consent reporting conditions;
- Provision of operational flexibility to manage SWTP or MPPS challenges;
- Alternative dam location to dam approved in WCS Mod 4 (WCS PRP matters);
 - Pond Lambert (56 ML capacity);
 - REA Decant Pond;
 - Water transfer pipelines;
 - Amendment of secondary rehabilitation domains to accommodate Pond Lambert;
- Residual de-watering plant operation (on as required basis) at SWTP residuals pond for high turbidity mine water events;
 - Sludge collected in skip bin for disposal at REA or landfill;

- Produced water recirculated to SWTP;
- Housekeeping matters;
 - Project area boundary adjustments to align with the proposed modifications;
 - SWTP Consent - Receiving of up to 2.6 ML/day at SWTP Pond D from SCSS Water Transfer System (approved under WCS Mod 4);
 - Angus Place Consent - Transfer of up to 13 ML/day of raw mine water at Angus Place underground storage to the approved McPhlamys Gold Project;
 - Angus Place Consent - Transfer of 2.6 ML/day from Angus Place to WCS Washery Makeup Tank (approved under WCS Mod 4);
 - Residual pipeline to WCS boundary amendment to reflect as built corridor.

Approval Pathway

Development consents may be modified under Section 4.55(2) of the EP&A Act provided that the development as modified will be substantially the same development as the development for which consent was originally granted.

Centennial is seeking to modify the SWTP, WCS and Angus Place consents pursuant to Section 4.55(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*.

It is considered that the modifications to the SWTP, WCS and Angus Place consents will be substantially the same as the development for which each consent was originally granted.

Environmental Assessment

A single Modification Report is proposed to be prepared to support the Modification Applications for SWTP, WCS and Angus Place.

A Modification Report is currently being prepared which will be submitted via the DPHI Major Projects Portal for assessment and determination.

The Modification Report will be prepared in accordance with the *State significant development guidelines – preparing a modification report* (DPE, 2022).

The Modification Report will be supported by the following technical assessments:

- Water Resources Assessment;
- Geomorphological Assessment;
- Aquatic Ecology Assessment; and
- Biodiversity Development Assessment Report.

Consultation

Consultation is proposed to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPIE, 2024).

Centennial Coal has commenced consultation on the proposed modification with the following:

- Western Region (Springvale, Angus Place and WCS) Community Consultative Committee;
- Western Region Aboriginal Stakeholder Group;

- Western Region Non Government Organization (**NGO**) Stakeholder Group;
- Lithgow City Council;
- Environment Protection Authority; and
- WaterNSW.

Additionally, Centennial Coal will consult with the following agencies:

- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Water Assessments;
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation;
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Heritage NSW
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - NSW Resources; and
- Transport for NSW;

Summary

Centennial Coal seeks confirmation from the Secretary regarding the proposed approval pathway and the level of environmental assessment and consultation proposed is adequate to support the Modification Report.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to call Ron Bush on 0436 034 401 or via email at (ron.bush@centennialcoal.com.au).

Regards,



Ron Bush
General Manager – Development and Approvals
Centennial Coal