



OUT21/14059

Jack Turner
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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Dear Mr Turner

**Wongawilli Colliery Modification 2 (North West Mains Development) –
Response to Submissions (RtS)**

I refer to your email of 24 September 2021 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter.

The Wongawilli Colliery Modification 2 (North West Mains Development) project includes the proposal to extend the life of the mine by five years to enable continued development of the previously approved North West Mains Development. The Supplementary Groundwater Impact Assessment has been prepared as part of the Modification 2 Submission Report to address previous comments from government agencies.

Our recommendations regarding groundwater are provided in Attachment A.

Any further referrals to DPIE Water and NRAR can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au or to the following coordinating officer within DPIE Water:

Simon Francis – Senior Project Officer
E: simon.francis@dpie.nsw.gov.au
M: 0428 926 117

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mitchell Isaacs'.

Mitchell Isaacs
Chief Knowledge Officer
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment: Water
29 October 2021

Attachment A

Advice to DPIE Planning & Assessment regarding the Wongawilli Colliery Modification 2 (North West Mains Development) - Response to Submissions

DPIE Water and NRAR provide the following recommendations.

Groundwater

1. Pre-approval Recommendation:

- a. The Proponent should provide an independence declaration from EMM Consulting Pty Limited (Dr Doug Weatherill) relating to the peer review of the groundwater model in the Groundwater Impact Assessment (GIA), and the Supplementary Groundwater Impact Assessment (SGIA).

In case this is not possible, we recommend a new independent peer review to be undertaken by a new reviewer, who has declared independence from the Project, the Proponent, and their consultants.

[Explanation](#)

The Submission Report and SGIA state that an independence declaration was completed and included in peer review report (Appendix C to the SGIA). However, no such declaration has been provided despite the previous request and discussion between DPIE, the Proponents, and their consultants in the online workshop on 27 May 2021, in which the Proponents advised they would provide a declaration of no conflict of interest from the model peer reviewer, Dr Doug Weatherill of EMM Consulting Pty Limited.

2. Post-approval Recommendation:

- a. The Proponent should correct the cross section lines in Figure 2-8 in the SGIA.

[Explanation](#)

The cross section lines in Figure 2-8 have been swapped in the SGIA. They were correctly labelled in the corresponding figure (Figure 3-5) in the GIA. We note that this could cause serious confusion in conceptual and numerical modelling geological and hydrogeological modelling and analysis in the future.

End Attachment A