

7 April 2020

Steve O'Donoghue
Team Leader Resource and Energy Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Via Email: stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Steve,

TARRAWONGA COAL MINE – TEMPORARY WATER HAULAGE MODIFICATION

Tarrawonga Coal Pty Limited (TCPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven), lodged the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Temporary Water Haulage Modification (the Modification) on 20 January 2020 for consideration by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) under Section 4.55(1A) of the New South Wales *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act).

Submissions on the Modification Report were made by DPIE – Water and National Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) (letter dated 26 March 2020) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) (letter dated 9 March 2020). TCPL's response to the DPIE – Water and EPA submissions is provided below.

DPIE – Water and NRAR

TCPL will apply to transfer Water Access Licence (WAL) allocations to the Works Approval (90CA807002) as required to meet the anticipated demand from the groundwater bore. As noted by DPIE – Water and NRAR, 218 megalitres (ML) of allocation (WALs 12651 and 12653) is already assigned to the Works Approval, which under the relevant Water Sharing Plan rules permits 654 ML of extraction every two years. This would provide at least thirteen months of continuous supply from the groundwater bore (at 1.6 ML/day yield).

TCPL agrees to update its Water Management Plan prior to the commencement of trucking the water.

The bore (90CA807002) has an appropriate metering device installed, and the volume of water taken will be reported as part of Annual Reviews.

EPA

As noted by the EPA, Whitehaven and Idemitsu have prepared a Boggabri-Tarrawonga-Maules Creek Complex Water Management Strategy which provides a framework for sharing water between the three mining operations. During 2019, Whitehaven and Idemitsu formed an agreement to transfer a tranche of water between Idemitsu's Boggabri Coal Mine and Whitehaven's Maules Creek Coal Mine. Whitehaven subsequently sought to extend this agreement to purchase additional tranches of water from Idemitsu, however commercial terms could not be agreed upon.

In accordance with the intent of the Water Management Strategy, Whitehaven will continue to investigate opportunities to share water between the operations, where commercial terms can be agreed. In the event this does not occur, it is critical that TCPL has an alternative, secure water source available for its operations should site water stocks not be sufficient to meet demand.

TCPL considers that water trading between operations continue to be conducted on commercial terms by negotiation (in accordance with the relevant Project Approval conditions), while extraction of groundwater (and surface water) be managed in accordance with the WM Act.

If you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6741 9316.

Yours sincerely



Tony Dwyer

Group Manager - Approvals and Environment