

26 April 2023

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment

Via [Project Portal](#)

Dear Stephen,

RE: MOOLARBEN COAL COMPLEX –INDEPENDENT WATER QUALITY STUDY - PA05_0117 CONDITION 32A SCHEDULE 3

Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Ltd (MCO) submitted an Independent Water Quality Study (IWQS) report, prepared by the University of Queensland – Sustainable Minerals Institute, an independent scientific organisation approved by the then Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 25 February 2022 in accordance with Condition 32A of PA05_0117.

On 29 March 2022 DPE requested the study is updated and re-submitted once consultation with the EPA is complete. The EPA have now completed their review of the IWQS and concluded

‘while the expert review concluded that there are still areas of the report that could benefit from additional studies and/or further clarification, the EPA considers that the IWQS addresses the requirements of condition 32A of the project approval (and the corresponding Special Condition E1 on Environment Protection Licence 12932 (the licence)).’

MCO have submitted a variation to the EPL to Increased daily volumetric limit at Licenced Discharge Point 1, from 15 ML/day to **20 ML/day** and reduced EC limits for Licenced Discharge Point 1, from 685 µS/cm to **619 µS/cm** consistent with background salinity concentrations determined by the IWQS.

Should you have any further queries or require any additional information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0408 312 269 or Trent.Cini@yancoal.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Trent Cini
Environment & Community Manager
Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Ltd

Attachment A – EPA Correspondence to MCO regarding the IWQS



DOC23/146971

Mr Trent Cini
Environment and Community Manager
Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Limited

Via e-mail: trent.cini@yancoal.com

2 March 2023

Dear Mr Cini

**INDEPENDENT WATER QUALITY STUDY
Moolarben Coal Complex**

I refer to the Independent Water Quality Study (IWQS) prepared for Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Limited (MCO) to satisfy condition 32A of Project Approval 05_0117 for the Moolarben Coal Complex (MCC).

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received the IWQS on 10 December 2021 with MCO seeking feedback from the EPA in order to satisfy the consultation requirements of condition 32A.

As you are aware, the EPA sought an expert review of the IWQS which was completed on 17 June 2022. This review included seeking additional water quality information from MCO which was provided on 1 April 2022. The EPA provided MCO with a summary of the outcomes of this review at a meeting held at the MCC on 1 July 2022 and in an e-mail provided to MCO on 20 July 2022.

While the expert review concluded that there are still areas of the report that could benefit from additional studies and/or further clarification, the EPA considers that the IWQS addresses the requirements of condition 32A of the project approval (and the corresponding Special Condition E1 on Environment Protection Licence 12932 (the licence)).

The EPA acknowledges the background electrical conductivity concentration (EC) for the Goulburn River and recommended EC water quality limits developed as part of the IWQS and notes that MCO will shortly be making an application to the EPA to vary the licence.

If you have any specific questions regarding this matter please contact Mr Andrew Helms on 6333 3805 or via e-mail at EPA.Southopsregional@epa.nsw.gov.au. For general enquiries to the EPA please call (02) 9995 5000 or e-mail info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SL', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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A/Manager
Regulatory Operations Regional South

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