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Dear Ms Robinson

**Tahmoor South – Mod 1 report – Extension of Time for Completion of Water Treatment Plant**

The EPA refers to your request for comments on an application for modification (Mod 1) of Development Consent SSD 8445 issued for the Tahmoor South Coal Project.

The proponent has applied to extend the due date for completion of the water treatment plant as required under condition B30 of the Consent. The proposed extension is from 30 September 2022 to 31 December 2023. The requirement to build the water treatment plant is also a condition of Tahmoor Coal's Environment Protection Licence (number 1389) held with the EPA.

The EPA has considered the application and while disappointed that the water treatment plant will be delayed for over 12 months, accepts that certain delays are beyond the proponent's control. The EPA is aware of delays of similar time periods occurred in a different underground coal mine that was required to install two reverse osmosis treatment plants. The timeframes for completion were interrupted first by COVID restrictions and then by a shortage of parts (electrical and membrane modules) that are currently in high demand worldwide.

The EPA acknowledges that the proponent has undertaken definitive steps to demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed treatment technology by installing a pilot plant. The EPA reviewed the performance report for the plant which was successful in achieving the discharge water quality criteria specified in the EPA licence (based on ANZECC Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters). Following the pilot plant trial, a contract for construction of the main plant was signed by the proponent in December 2021.

The EPA's view is that the time extension could be granted, if a clear and unambiguous commitment was provided by the proponent to achieve this extended date.

If you have questions regarding the above, please phone Andrew Couldridge on (02) 4224 4100.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Newman', written over a horizontal line.

4/5/2022

**GREG NEWMAN**  
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