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23 September 2025

Jarrold Blane
Team Leader
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Via: NSW Major Projects Planning portal

**EPA Advice on Submissions Report
Mod 5 Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project – MP07_0087-Mod-5**

Dear Jarrod,

I am writing in response to your request for the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to review the Submissions Report for proposed Modification 5 to the Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project at Four Mile Creek, Ashtonfield.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents:

- *Response to submissions* (Revision 0) – GHD – 29 August 2025
- *Response to submissions* – Todoroski Air Sciences – 1 August 2025
- *Greenhouse Gas Assessment* (Version 003) – Todoroski Air Sciences – 29 August 2025
- Recommended noise criteria – ENM – 11 August 2025

The EPA understands the proposal is for:

- Extend approval for mining until 31 December 2035,
- Increase mining area by 39ha and total ROM extraction by 5.8Mt over life of mine,
- Extract coal to deeper seams (Big Ben) in existing disturbed areas (Creek Cut),
- Reduce production rate from 1.3Mtpa to 0.9Mtpa ROM coal,
- Continue use of infrastructure (coal handling and preparation plan) approved by Abel consent MP05_0136 until 31 December 2035.

Bloomfield Collieries currently holds Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 396 issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) for mining of coal at the premises.

The EPA has reviewed the Submissions Report and notes it generally addresses the EPA's submission on this project from 20 May 2025.

The EPA advises that the greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment is still being reviewed in consultation with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE) Net Zero Emissions Modelling (NZEM) team. The EPA will provide further advice on the review of the GHG assessment once this has been completed.

NSW Environment Protection Authority

As the environmental steward and regulator of our State we are committed to a sustainable future. Join us on our mission to protect tomorrow together.

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The EPA has the following comments and recommendations for the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for consideration as part of its assessment:

1. Matters for consideration

a. Noise impacts

The EPA generally accepts the basis of the proposed criteria as set out in the *Recommended noise criteria* briefing note prepared by ENM with the exception of the daytime criteria for location H (Louth Park).

EPA suggests DPHI ensure that the criteria proposed can be reasonably achieved by the Proponent, noting that its predicted operational noise levels, including feasible and reasonable noise mitigation and management measures, are still up to 4 dBA higher than the limits proposed in some cases.

Recommendation: The EPA recommends DPHI consider:

- Including alternate daytime criteria for location H (Louth Park) in any approval, as detailed in **Attachment A**.
- Seeking confirmation from the Proponent that it can further reduce its operations sufficiently to achieve the noise limits proposed. Further detail on what operational changes can be made to achieve these reductions should be provided.

2. Matters to be addressed with conditions

b. Air Quality

The additional information provided is considered sufficient with regard to predicted fugitive dust emissions and the application of control factors.

Recommendation: The EPA recommends DPHI consider addressing the air quality items in **Attachment A** as part of any approval of the project.

The EPA is willing to be consulted further to review any draft conditions for the project if approved, particularly with regard to conditions relating to noise impacts and limits that are likely to be implemented as part of the EPL for the premises.

Please contact Carlos Ferguson at environmentprotection.planning@epa.nsw.gov.au if you have any further questions about this matter.

Yours sincerely,



CHRISTIE JACKSON
Unit Head – Environment Protection Planning
NSW Environment Protection Authority

ATTACHMENT A – Recommended considerations for conditions – Mod 5 Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project – MP07_0087-Mod-5

The EPA recommends DPHI consider addressing the matters below as part of any approval for the project.

Noise impacts

1. The EPA recommends a daytime noise criteria of 35 dB(A) for location H (Louth Park) instead of the 40 dB(A) proposed by the Proponent. This is based on:
 - (i) the existing highest noise criteria at for both the Bloomfield Project Approval (MP 07_0087) and Condition 1, Schedule 4 of the Abel Project Approval, (MP 05_0136) is 35 dB(A) at Location H; and
 - (ii) the Project is predicted to not exceed 26 dB(A) (excluding operation of the coal preparation plant) during the daytime at location H.

Air Quality

The EPA recommends DPHI consider the items below as part of its determination of the project to ensure the key details and commitments made in the application relating to air quality form part of any approval.

1. Production rates should not exceed 0.9 million tonnes per year (Mt/yr) of ROM coal in any 12-month period.
2. The project area for mining operations should not exceed 606 hectares.
3. The total resource extraction should not exceed 32.8 million tonnes of ROM coal over the project lifetime.
4. The Proponent should ensure that sufficient water is available at all times throughout the project lifetime to adequately control fugitive dust emissions.
5. The Proponent should ensure that water is applied to haul roads to achieve an 85% control efficiency relative to not watering haul roads.
6. The Proponent should develop and implement an air quality management plan. As a minimum, the air quality management plan should include the following parts:
 - (i) Objectives and targets,
 - (ii) Risk assessment,
 - (iii) Proactive and reactive mitigation measures of all significant, and potentially significant emissions sources,
 - (iv) Key performance indicator(s),
 - (v) Monitoring method(s),
 - (vi) Location, frequency and duration of monitoring,
 - (vii) Record keeping,
 - (viii) Response mechanisms and contingency measures,
 - (ix) System and performance review for continuous improvement,
 - (x) Compliance reporting.