

24 November 2025

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Via Email: jessie.evans@planning.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Jessie Evans – Director Resource Assessments

Dear Jessie,

RE: STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT (SSD-4966) – REQUEST FOR STAGING OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Stratford Mining Complex (SMC) is an open cut coal mining operation located in the Gloucester Basin, approximately 100 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW). Mining operations at the SMC ceased in 2024 and Stratford Coal Pty Ltd (SCPL) has commenced the mine closure phase, including rehabilitation and closure activities in preparation for relinquishment of the mining leases. Stratford did not mine the full extent approved under the Development Consent.

The SMC is approved under Development Consent SSD-4966, which requires a number of environmental management plans/strategies to be prepared and implemented for the life of the SMC to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

As the SMC has entered the mine closure phase, a number of components of the currently approved environmental management plans/strategies are no longer required and/or could be combined or reduced in scope for the mine closure phase. In addition, the nature of the rehabilitation and closure activities necessitate the implementation of specific environmental management and monitoring methods for this phase of the development.

Conditions 15 and 16, Schedule 2 of Development Consent SSD-4966 state:

15. *With the approval of the Secretary, the Applicant may submit any strategy, plan or program required by this consent on a progressive basis.*

Notes

- While any strategy, plan or program may be submitted on a progressive basis, the Applicant will need to ensure that the existing operations on site are covered by suitable strategies, plans or programs at all times.*
 - If the submission of any strategy, plan or program is to be staged, then the relevant strategy, plan or program must clearly describe the specific stage to which the strategy, plan or program applies, the relationship of this stage to any future stages, and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan or program.*
16. *Until they are replaced by an equivalent strategy, plan or program approved under this consent, the Applicant shall implement the existing strategies, plans or programs for the site that have been approved under existing development consents.*

In accordance with Conditions 15 and 16, Schedule 2 of Development Consent SSD-4966, SCPL proposes to update the existing environmental management plans/strategies for the SMC to reflect the activities and management/monitoring applicable to the mine closure phase of the development.

Initially, the review and update would focus on preparation of a Closure Environmental Management Strategy (Closure EMS) document which addresses the requirements of Condition 1, Schedule 5 of Development Consent SSD-4966, with a focus on the closure phase. This would involve the Closure EMS describing:

- The current status of the SMC mine closure phase, including
 - the extent of mining operations undertaken;
 - aspects which were not undertaken to the full extent of the Development Consent; and
 - rehabilitation and closure activities undertaken to date.
- The refined final landform and post-mining land uses for the extent of development/mining undertaken.
- The remaining rehabilitation and closure activities required to achieve the refined final landform and post-mining land uses.
- Justification that the refined final landform and post-mining land uses are consistent with approved environmental outcomes.

The remaining environmental management plans will be updated progressively as mine closure activities are undertaken.

In accordance with Conditions 15, Schedule 2 of Development Consent SSD-4966, SCPL requests the Secretary's approval to update and stage the following environmental management plans/strategies to reflect the mine closure phase of the development:

- **Environmental Management Strategy** (Condition 1, Schedule 5);
- **Noise Management Plan** (Condition 6, Schedule 3);
- **Blast Management Plan** (Condition 16, Schedule 3);
- **Air Quality Management Plan** (Condition 23, Schedule 3);
- **Water Management Plan** (Condition 32, Schedule 3);
- **Squirrel Glider Management Plan** (Condition 38, Schedule 3);
- **Biodiversity Management Plan** (Condition 39, Schedule 3);
- **Heritage Management Plan** (Condition 43, Schedule 3); and
- **Rehabilitation Management Plan** (Condition 55, Schedule 3).

As per Condition 16, Schedule 2 of Development Consent SSD-4966, the existing SMC environmental management plans/strategies will continue to be implemented until updated documents are approved.

Should you require any additional information or wish to arrange a meeting to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned via Thomas.Kirkwood@yancoal.com.au or 0437 174 781.

Yours sincerely
Stratford Coal Pty Ltd



Thomas Kirkwood
ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENT