



OUT17/26809

Mr Colin Phillips  
Resource Assessments  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Colin.phillips@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Phillips

**Rocky Hill Coal Project (SSD 5156)**  
**Comment on the Response to Submissions RTS**

I refer to your email of 19 June 2017 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant branches of DPI. Views were also sought from NSW Department of Industry - Lands that are now a division of the broader Department and no longer within NSW DPI. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to [landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

DPI has reviewed the RTS for this project and provides the following comments and recommendations:

- Should the project be approved, determination should include a condition to require the Water Management Plan (WMP) and the Mining Operations Plan (MOP) be developed in consultation with DPI Water ([water.referrals@nsw.gov.au](mailto:water.referrals@nsw.gov.au)) prior to commencement of activities. To assist in preparing for this consultation the WMP should address:
  - o water monitoring requirements, inclusive of replacement of monitoring bores which may be impacted from mining progression
  - o placement of overburden and triggers for when a low permeability barrier may be required
  - o compensatory measures for impacted users
  - o revegetation in line with [DPI Water Guidelines for Controlled Activities \(2012\)](#)
- DPI Water supports compensatory flow measures in the Avon River, subject to the appropriate Environmental Protection Licence.
- DPI considers that greater confidence is required regarding the proponents ability to obtain the peak extraction requirements from the Gloucester Basin being 1100 ML. It is noted in the RTS on pages 5 and 6 that an agreement is in place to obtain surplus water from Yancoal with the predicted availability noted in Table 2.16.4. However the long term feasibility of this arrangement is unclear as it assumes no further development by Yancoal and also requires that the mining operation and/or extraction plans for each operation are inextricably linked to ensure that cumulative extraction for any given year is within Yancoals entitlement.

- The proponent should confirm that Yancoal will sell the required shares each year, and not just surplus shares. The proponent should consult with DPI Water on the feasibility of the proposed water sharing arrangement with Yancoal.
- The proponent should provide detailed information regarding the proposed catchment changes and shares required for dams S2, W2 and W3. It is noted that these dams are to be constructed on 3<sup>rd</sup> order streams however due to diversions will be 'effectively turkey's nest dams'.
- The proponent should provide further detailed information on impacts to downstream water users, including what consultation has been undertaken with downstream licensed users and whether any survey of basic landholder rights users has been undertaken.
- The proponent should provide detail regarding market scope to obtain additional shares in the Avon River Water Source for years 8-12. This needs to be considered as shares will be required to offset reduced upward recharge (baseflow loss) to the Avon River.
- To increase confidence in the ability of the project to obtain the appropriate water access licences for decommissioning of dams in years 8-12 the proponent should demonstrate that it can obtain the required shares or that the water storage and management system can be reduced without erosion or water quality impacts.
- The proponent should provide further details regarding the Stakeholder Engagement Plan such as how agreed management and mitigation measures would be developed, implemented, monitored and reported, and what mechanisms for dispute resolution would be put in place.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs  
**Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice**  
 30 July 2017

*DPI appreciates your help to improve our advice to you. Please complete this three minute survey about the advice we have provided to you, here:*

<https://goo.gl/o8TXWz>