



OUT15/27318

Dr Hamish Aiken  
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Department of Planning & Environment  
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Dear Hamish

### **Chain Valley Colliery Modification 2 - Response to Submissions**

I refer to your email dated 18 September 2015 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

DPI Water has reviewed the *Chain Valley Colliery – Modification 2 Response to Submissions* (September 2015). In accordance with this review DPI Water provides the following comments and recommendations.

It is noted that DPI Water had requested the proponent provide an updated copy of the Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP). It is understood that the GWMP is a component of the Water Management Plan (WMP), which DPI Water provided comment on in December 2014. These comments related specifically to requirements for trigger action response plans for water level drawdown and investigation to potential impacts on privately held bores. An updated copy of these plans has not been provided by the proponent. As such, should Modification 2 be approved, the WMP, GWMP and Extraction Plan is requested to be updated in consultation with DPI Water.

The proponent currently holds groundwater licence 20BL173107 under Part 5 of the *Water Act 1912*, this licence has a volumetric entitlement of 4443 ML per 12 month period commencing 1 July. Although the proponent states that the modification will cause 'negligible changes to groundwater flows and to the groundwater systems' it must be demonstrated that the proponent has sufficient water entitlement for the proposed modification. This includes any incidental take of water from the South Lake Macquarie Water Source within the *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009*. The proponent will need to provide an assessment of the volume of water taken from the surface water source, and liaise with DPI Water to ensure suitable licences are held. It is reiterated that this groundwater assessment should take into

consideration the minimal impact considerations set out in Table 1 of the aquifer interference policy.

## **Recommendations**

- The proponent provides the water take requirements for each water source. It is reiterated that this groundwater assessment needs to address the minimal impact considerations set out in Table 1 of the Aquifer Interference Policy.
- The proponent is requested to provide further detail on predicted water take requirements, inclusive of incidental take from the South Lake Macquarie Water Source. The proponent must ensure that sufficient water access licences are held for take of water over the projected life of the mine, inclusive of any take which may occur indirectly post mining.

For further information please contact Hannah Grogan, Water Regulation Officer, on 4904 2516 or [hannah.grogan@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hannah.grogan@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs  
**Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice**  
1 October 2015