

Mr James Wearne
Centennial Springvale Pty Limited
PO Box 198
Wallerawang NSW 2845

8 July 2021

Dear Mr Wearne

Springvale Coal (SSD-5594)
LW 424-427 Extraction Plan Groundwater TARP trigger investigation - SPR1301

I refer to your correspondence dated 25 June 2021 and accompanying *SPR1301 Trigger Investigation* (Jacobs 2021) submitted in response to a groundwater level trigger at Springvale Mine on 13 May 2021. It is noted that the investigation report has been prepared to address the requirements of the Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) within the Swamp Monitoring Program for Longwall 424-427.

The Department has carefully reviewed the investigation findings and notes:

- The groundwater level at SPR1301 has shown a general declining trend from 2015 to 2020, corresponding with drought conditions, before stabilising following rainfall in February 2020. Groundwater levels fell below the 95th percentile short term trigger level during the pre-mining period in June 2020. The cause of this decline is unknown.
- Mining moved to within the 600m Trigger Investigation Area of SPR1301 in February 2021 and water levels were observed to have been below the 95th percentile short term trigger level for more than a month in April 2021. Water levels have since increased above the 95th percentile short term trigger level.
- Declines in groundwater levels below comparative 95th percentile short term trigger levels have been observed at two reference bores. Water levels have since recovered to almost pre-drought levels at one reference bore, with the second reference bore remaining below the comparative trigger level.
- Declines in groundwater levels appear to be the result of climatic conditions, however additional monitoring and review is required to determine whether any mining related impacts are present.
- Centennial will continue to monitor and review the trigger in accordance with the process outlined in the Swamp Monitoring Program TARP for Longwall 424-427.

The Swamp Monitoring Program TARP for Longwall 424-427 requires that Centennial monitor conditions for a 6-month period and re-evaluate whether anomalous conditions remain, worsen or improve. The Department requests that during this period Centennial provide the Department with updated monitoring reports on a two-monthly basis. Reporting should include review and interpretation of monitoring data, comparison of data to reference sites and Marragaroo Swamp monitoring bores, and assessment against groundwater triggers.

At the conclusion of the 6-month monitoring period, and no later than 13 January 2022, an Updated Trigger Investigation Report is to be submitted to the Department. The Updated Trigger Investigation Report is to be prepared in consultation with the Springvale Independent Monitoring Panel and include any recommendations for further action in accordance with the Swamp Monitoring Program for Longwall 424-427.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Gabrielle Allan on 02 9585 6078 or gabrielle.allan@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S O'Donoghue', written in a cursive style.

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director Resource Assessments
As nominee of the Planning Secretary