

Department of Planning and Environment

Natalie Gardiner
Environment and Community Coordinator
Centennial Springvale

Via: NSW Planning Portal (ref: SSD-5594-PA-36; PA-37; PA-42)

13/05/2022

Dear Ms Gardiner

Springvale Coal (SSD-5594)
Flora Trigger Notification and Investigation Reports – Summer 2020/2021 and Autumn 2021

I refer to the LW 424-427 Extraction Plan trigger notifications dated 8 July 2021 and 1 September 2021 in relation to exceedances of the floristic performance indicator for non-live vegetation cover at Marrangaroo, Paddys Creek, Nine Mile, and East Gang Gang shrub swamps and Pine hanging swamp, and exceedance of the preliminary trigger level for this metric at Pine shrub swamp.

The Department notes that investigations have been completed for each of these triggers in accordance with the LW 424-427 Swamp Monitoring Program Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP). The investigations, undertaken by EcoResolve (dated 31 August 2021 and 25 October 2021) conclude that the increase in non-live vegetation is notably greater in undermined swamps compared to control swamps. Further monitoring and investigation is recommended to determine the extent of these impacts.

Since the completion of these investigations, the Department has conditionally approved the LW 428-432 Extraction Plan, which includes a consolidated Swamp Monitoring Program covering longwalls 415-432 and a requirement for additional swamp and water monitoring at a number of hanging swamps. Swamp monitoring is required to be undertaken in accordance with the consolidated LW 415-432 Swamp Monitoring Program, as amended in accordance with the LW 428-432 Extraction Plan approval.

Additionally, Centennial has accepted that mining undertaken under the Springvale Coal Mine Extension project (SSD-5594) has resulted in greater than negligible environmental consequences to Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps, and that these consequences are required to be offset in accordance with Schedule 3, Conditions 4 and 5 of SSD-5594.

An offset strategy was conditionally approved by the Planning Secretary on 28 March 2022. The strategy relates to offset liabilities arising from greater than negligible environmental consequences to the Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps resulting from mining under SSD-5594, and includes the shrub swamps subject to these trigger notifications. Any offset liability arising from greater than negligible environmental consequences to Newnes Plateau Hanging Swamps are not addressed by the approved offset strategy.

In accordance with Schedule 2 Condition 4 of SSD-5594, the Department requires that by 30 June 2022, Centennial Springvale submit the following to the Department:

- A copy of seasonal swamp monitoring reports completed since Autumn 2021;

- Analysis of whether conditions have improved, worsened or stabilised, in accordance with the LW 424-432 Swamp Monitoring Program TARP;
- An outline of any proposed corrective actions and the timeframe for these actions, in accordance with the LW 424-432 Swamp Monitoring Program TARP;
- Specific consideration of whether any ongoing exceedances of the floristic performance indicator for non-live vegetation cover (or other performance indicator) at Newnes Plateau Hanging Swamps represent a greater than negligible environmental consequences for Newnes Plateau Hanging Swamps and whether these exceedances are attributed to mining;
- An update on the status of additional swamp and water monitoring required as a condition of approval of the Springvale Coal Mine Longwalls 428-432 Extraction Plan.

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".

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary