

29 September 2020

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Attention: Stephen O'Donoghue, Director Resource Assessments  
12 Darcy Street  
Paramatta NSW 2124

Via email: [stephen.odonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen.odonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

**RE: VICKERY COAL MINE – PROPOSED STAGING OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Vickery Coal Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Pty Ltd (Whitehaven), has been approved to develop the Vickery Extension Project (the Project). Development Consent (SSD 7480) for the Project was issued under Part 4 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* in August 2020.

The Project includes the establishment and operation of the following:

- open cut mine;
- waste emplacement;
- on-site coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP);
- rail spur and loop and train load-out facility;
- electricity substations and associated infrastructure;
- ancillary infrastructure;
- northern groundwater borefield; and
- associated infrastructure, plant and activities.

Whitehaven has been preparing the Environmental Management Plans required by SSD 7480.

Condition A25(a), Schedule 2 of SSD 7480 provides that:

*With the approval of the Planning Secretary, the Applicant may:*

- prepare and submit any strategy, plan or program required by this consent on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the development to which strategy, plan or program applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan or program);*
- ...*

In accordance with Condition A25(a), Schedule 2 of SSD 7480, Vickery Coal Pty Ltd requests the Secretary's approval to submit the required environmental management plans/strategies/studies on a progressive (staged) basis, with the first stage of the plans to cover early works (including construction activities).

The early works stage is anticipated to take approximately 30 months based on sequencing of the major construction activities, with the bulk of significant construction earthworks to occur within a 12 - 18 month period, and will include amongst other items:

- construction of the CHPP;
- construction of the rail spur and loop and train load-out facility;
- construction of the mine industrial area;
- construction of run-of-mine (ROM) and product coal stockpile pads;



- haulage of ROM coal to the Gunnedah CHPP;
- initial development of the box cut;
- construction of temporary infrastructure facilities;
- construction of temporary ROM coal stockpiles;
- construction of workshops and offices;
- construction of water supply bores and Namoi River pump station and pipelines;
- construction of dams, sediment dams, up-catchment diversions, channels and other water management infrastructure;
- construction of soil stockpile areas;
- construction of access roads and internal roads;
- closure of a portion of Braymont Road;
- construction of connection to the existing 66 kilovolt powerline and construction of substations and power supply;
- construction of ancillary infrastructure including consumable storage areas, laydown areas, explosives storage facilities;
- ongoing exploration activities; and
- other associated minor infrastructure construction, use of other plant and other activities.

Further to the above, Condition A25(d), Schedule 2 of SSD 7480 provides that:

*With the approval of the Planning Secretary, the Applicant may:*

- (d) *combine any strategy, plan or program required by this consent with any similar strategy, plan or program required by a consent or approval for any adjoining mine subject to common, shared or related ownership or management.*

Whitehaven has an existing approved Traffic Management Plan associated with the Approved Road Transport Route currently used for transport of run-of-mine coal from the Tarrawonga Coal Mine and Rocglen Coal Mine to the Whitehaven CHPP in Gunnedah (as per the requirements of Condition 54A, Schedule 3 of the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Project Approval [11\_0047] and Condition 27, Schedule 3 of the Rocglen Coal Mine Project Approval [10\_0015]).

Condition B86, Schedule 2 of SSD 7480 requires preparation of a Traffic Management Plan for the Project. In accordance with Condition A25(d), Schedule 2 of SSD 7480, Whitehaven requests the Secretary's approval to combine the Project Traffic Management Plan with the existing approved Traffic Management Plan associated with the Approved Road Transport Route and Tarrawonga and Rocglen Coal Mines.

In summary, Whitehaven are seeking approval to:

- stage the submission of required environmental management plans/strategies/studies; and
- combine the Project Traffic Management Plan with the existing approved Traffic Management Plan associated with the Tarrawonga and Rocglen Cal Mines.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any queries or would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely

**VICKERY COAL PTY LTD**

  
**Tony Dwyer**

Group Manager – Approvals and Environment

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**Whitehaven Coal Limited** ABN 68 124 425 396