

# MANGOOLA OPEN CUT

GLENCORE

21 June 2022

Ms Heidi Watters  
Team Leader Northern Compliance  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Via: Major Projects Planning Portal

Dear Ms Watters

## RE: Mangoola Coal 2014 Groundwater Monitoring Plan Groundwater Model Validation

Mangoola coal are required to have the groundwater model validated by a qualified consultant regularly (at least every 3 years) as per **Section 4.4** of the approved 2014 Groundwater Monitoring Plan:

### 4.4 Model Validation

The groundwater inflow prediction for Mangoola Coal will be validated by a qualified groundwater consultant regularly (at least every 3 years), or if significant changes to mining operation occur or monitoring results identify a need (e.g. where groundwater extraction from the pit shows a significant change that is inconsistent with predictions). The predictions will be validated against historical monitoring data collected as part of the groundwater monitoring program.

Mangoola completed the last validation of the groundwater model in August 2019 and therefore the review as per the 3-year requirement is required to be completed by August 2022.

Mangoola continue to monitor groundwater levels as per the requirements of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan and have completed investigation requirements as required by the approved Surface Water Groundwater Response Plan. No monitoring results have been identified as an incident under in accordance with this management plan.

Mangoola Coal are required to resubmit a new Groundwater Management plan prior to the commencement of mining in accordance with condition B50 of State Significant Development (SSD) 8642. Mangoola has been working with Australasian Groundwater & Environment Consultants (AGE) in 2022 to ensure that we submit this plan with adequate time for review and approval to continue progressive mining operations.

Mangoola is also completing a drilling program to provide additional information into the groundwater model validation. Through 2021 and 2022 Mangoola excessive rainfall has made it impossible for drill rigs to access the required areas and as a result it has not been possible to commence the water bore drilling program.

As a result, AGE has provided advice that an extension on the groundwater model validation is required. Mangoola is requesting a **3-month extension** to the requirement in **Section 4.4** of the Groundwater Management Plan. In considering this request we ask that The Department consider:

- There have been no monitoring results that have resulted in an incident relating to the groundwater model;
- Mangoola coal and AGE are prioritising the Groundwater Management Plan required to be approved prior to Mining in accordance with SSD 8642; and
- The consultant has requested an additional 3 months to complete the validation and any additional information from groundwater drilling will be included (if available).

If approved the validation of the groundwater model will be completed by December 2022 or further extension will be requested.

If you have any questions regarding the changes, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Palmer', with a stylized, cursive script.

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