

# OEH – Report on Site Verification Certificate

## DP&E Application No. 18\_9666

**Project Name:** Tahmoor South Project

**Proponents Name:** Tahmoor Coal Pty Ltd

**Proponents Address:** Remembrance Driveway, Tahmoor, NSW, 2573

**Date complete application and data received by OEH:** 11/10/2018

**Date report dispatched to DP&E:** 19/10/2018

### Summary of Project:

Tahmoor Coal operates the Tahmoor underground mine located in the Southern Coalfields approximately 80 km south-west of Sydney. The Tahmoor mine produces up to 3 million tonnes per annum of coal.

Tahmoor Coal is seeking approval to extend the mine to the south and east of the existing surface facilities area, which will extend the life of the mine to approximately 2040.

As the project is classified as a *State Significant Development the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation (2000)* it requires the development application to be accompanied by either, a Site Verification Certificate (SVC), which certifies that the land of the proposed development is to be carried out is not Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL), or a Gateway Certificate.

As part of the Tahmoor South Project, the proponents have forwarded an SVC application and site data to DP&E, whom have requested OEH to undertake an assessment, against the standards of the *Interim Protocol*, of a single small area (totalling 35 ha including 100 m buffer) requiring approval.

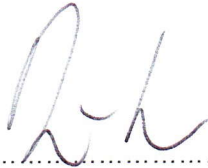
OEH received the proponents report and incomplete site data from DP&E on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The proponents supplied additional data on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 which enabled OEH to carry out its assessment.

This document undertakes a review of data supplied as part of Tahmoor South Project (18\_9666) application against the [Interim protocol for site verification and mapping of biophysical strategic agricultural land \(BSAL\)](#). OEH provides the following advice in respect of the 18\_9666 SVC application.

**OEH Advice to DP&E:**

Applicant's soil and land data appears consistent with the <i>Interim protocol for site verification and mapping of biophysical strategic agricultural land</i>	Yes
Applicant's soil and land data appears consistent with OEH soil survey knowledge and existing soil and landscape data of the general area	Yes
Applicant's project area, or part thereof, is likely to contain BSAL according to the <i>Interim protocol for site verification and mapping of biophysical strategic agricultural land</i>	No

**Approved by:**



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**Rob Muller**, Acting Senior Team Leader, Assessment

**OEH ASSESSMENT OF BSAL SITE VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE APPLICATION**

**SVC 18\_9666**

SUMMARY OF ASSESSED ITEMS	Appropriate as per the <i>Interim protocol</i>		Justification
	Yes	No	
<b>PERSONNEL</b>			
Evidence provided by the applicant that a qualified soil scientist oversaw the verification assessment and signed off on the quality and extent of the work	X		Clayton Richards is registered as a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) with Soil Science Australia Inc.
<b>MAPS</b>			
Geographically accurate base map (at 1:25,000) of assessment area supplied as per the <i>Interim protocol</i> . Spatial dataset (boundary of assessment area) supplied in GIS format as per <i>Interim protocol</i> .	X		Map provided in report and GIS format.
Soil map (at 1:25,000) of project area supplied including all observation (Detailed, Check and Exclusion) sites as per the <i>Interim protocol</i> . Spatial datasets (soil map, observation sites and data reliability/data source diagram) supplied in GIS format as per <i>Interim protocol</i> .	X		Map provided in report and GIS format.
Map of assessment area showing BSAL (at 1:25,000) and exclusion zones marked according to their BSAL limitation. Spatial dataset (boundary of BSAL areas) supplied in GIS format as per the <i>Interim protocol</i> .		X	Map provided in report but not in GIS format. This did not affect OEH's assessment.
Maps presented in correct datum with appropriate symbology, north points, unambiguous legends, meaningful colour ramps, scale bars, and sampling grid included as per the <i>Interim protocol</i> .	X		

SUMMARY OF ASSESSED ITEMS	Appropriate as per the <i>Interim protocol</i>		Justification
	Yes	No	
Metadata for spatial datasets have been provided as per the <i>Interim protocol</i> .	X		
<b>LODGEMENT OF SITE AND LABORATORY DATA</b>			
All Site observations lodged on BSAL Soil Data Cards or eDIRT and all required field attributes completed correctly for each observation type as per the <i>Interim protocol</i> (i.e. <b>check, exclusion and detailed</b> ).	X		
All Laboratory data supplied in the SALIS Lab Data Template, appropriate test procedures (e.g. National Test Code) identified and all relevant test results completed as per the <i>Interim protocol</i> .	X		
<b>MODEL OF SOILS DISTRIBUTION</b>			
Where the proponent does not have access to the land, a model of soils distribution is provided detailing the methodology used to enable an assessment of the land in question to be made.	N/A	N/A	Proponents had access to the land.
<b>SITE ASSESSMENT</b>			
The project area or part thereof contains a contiguous area of at least 20 hectares which meets all BSAL conditions – possible/verified BSAL adjoining the assessment area may need to be considered		X	
Sampling density is as specified in the <i>Interim Protocol</i>	X		Sampling density is 1 site per 17.5 hectares (ha), based on total of 2 sites over an assessment area of 35 ha.
Site observations are recorded as specified in the <i>Interim Protocol</i>	X		

SUMMARY OF ASSESSED ITEMS	Appropriate as per the <i>Interim protocol</i>		Justification
	Yes	No	
<b>Observation sites (check, detailed and exclusion sites)</b> are relatively evenly distributed across the survey area	X		One detailed site was collected from each of the three areas within the application area.
Each soil type identified has at least three <b>detailed sites</b>	X		Due to the very small size of the project area, OEH has approved a minimum of one detailed observation site per area unless a soil site met the requirements of BSAL, in which case a minimum of 3 detailed observation sites are required. The proponent has provided 2 detailed observation sites for the Magnesic Mottled Brown Kurosol map unit. As neither site met the requirements for BSAL, the proponent has met OEH's requirements.
All relevant data has been collected and provided for <b>detailed sites</b> as per the <i>Interim protocol</i>	X		
<b>Detailed sites</b> are representative of the soil type being assessed	X		
Description of <b>detailed sites</b> is accompanied by a photograph of the site and of the soil profile being described	X		
Appropriate information (as specified in the <i>Interim protocol</i> ) collected for all <b>exclusion sites</b>	N/A	N/A	No exclusion sites were required.
At least two <b>exclusion sites</b> per polygon in excluded areas (except for areas with no access e.g. only remote modelling of attributes)	N/A	N/A	
Adequate numbers of <b>check sites</b> used to (i) allocate a site to a soil type and soil map unit and, (ii) confirm existing mapping	N/A	N/A	No check sites were required.
<b>CROSS REFERENCE ASSESSMENT WITH OEH SOILS DATA</b>			

SUMMARY OF ASSESSED ITEMS	Appropriate as per the <i>Interim protocol</i>		Justification
	Yes	No	
Soil mapping and attributes appear consistent with OEH soil and landscape data and expected/anticipated soil types in the project area or locality	X		<p>The proponent's data is generally consistent with OEH knowledge and data of the soil types in the area. The site assessment area falls within the Lucas Heights (<b>lhz</b>) soil landscape map unit of the <i>Soil and land resources of the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment</i>.</p> <p>The soils are Yellow and Brown Kurosols which have moderate to high limitations for cultivation, are of generally low fertility and are prone to sheet erosion if cleared or if groundcover is not maintained.</p> <p>OEH has not identified any regional BSAL in the area.</p>