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Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Melanie Hollis

By email: melanie.hollis@planning.nsw.gov.au

21 September 2018

Dear Ms Hollis

Dartbrook Coal Mine - Modification 7 (DA 231-07-2000) – Response to Submissions

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) dated 7 September 2018 inviting the EPA to comment on the Response to Submissions (RTS) and provide recommended conditions of consent for the Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification. The EPA has considered the RTS for the proposal in respect to the further information required on air quality and noise (EPA letter to DPE - DOC18/435192-07 dated 25 July 2018). The EPA provides the following recommended conditions of approval:

Noise

The following table provides noise limit conditions at nominated locations. The EPA recommends that the Department of Planning and Environment include the Lot and DP number for each of the locations in the approval.

Recommended condition

1. *Noise generated at the premises must not exceed the noise limits presented in the table below at the nominated locations.*

Noise Assessment Group	Location	Noise Limits, dB(A)			
		Day	Evening	Night	Night
		L _{Aeq} (15 minutes)	L _{Aeq} (15 minutes)	L _{Aeq} (15 minutes)	L _{Amax}
1	Aberdeen	49	42	41	52
2 – East Site Receivers	Knight Day O'Brien Gordon	50	50	41	52
3 – West Site Receivers	Blairmore Point "Waitomo" "Maryvale"	40	40	35	52

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	Standing Loneragan McIntyre 1 McIntyre 2 McIntyre 3 "Woodburn" "Athlone" "Glenmore" "Belgrave" "Woodlands" "Mayvale" "Malara"				
	Any other residential receiver not subject to a negotiated agreement	40	35	35	52

Air Quality

The EPA supports the proponent's commitment to sealing the coal haulage route and dust controls such as road sweeping, the use of water sprays on coal stockpiles, the coal transfer areas and the coal load-out areas. These commitments would reduce emissions, but do not materially change the outcome of the EA assessment in that exceedances of the estimated cumulative PM_{2.5} (annual average) impact assessment criteria are still predicted. It is predicted that the cumulative PM_{2.5} (annual average) would increase from 7.6 µg/m³ to 8.2 µg/m³. The impact assessment criteria is 8 µg/m³.

Above ground non-haul road emissions account for approximately 41% of PM_{2.5} emissions. The largest emission sources are loading of trucks and unloading of coal to Hunter tunnel conveyor. While wet suppression is proposed to achieve 50% control of emissions from coal unloading, there are no controls are proposed for the loading of trucks.

It is therefore recommended that the following conditions be included in any approval:

Recommended conditions

1. Before the recommencement of mining on the premises, the proponent must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to reduce the emission of PM_{2.5} from the loading of trucks;
2. The proponent must seal all coal haulage roads before the recommencement of mining on the premises; and
3. Water sprays must be operated on all coal stockpiles, coal transfer areas and coal-load out areas to prevent or minimise the emission into the air of particulate matter.

If you require any further information regarding this matter please contact Bill George on 4908 6821 or by email to hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

MITCHELL BENNETT
Head Strategic Programs Unit – Hunter
Environment Protection Authority