



DOC18/615865-03; EF13/3223

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email to: philip.nevill@planning.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Mr Philip Nevill

11 September 2018

Dear Mr Nevill

**Proposed Modification to Liddell Coal Mine, Modification 7 (DA 231-07-2000)
Exhibition Notice - Comments from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA)**

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received 24 August 2018, seeking comments in relation to the application from Liddell Coal Operations Pty Ltd to modify its development consent for the Liddell Coal Mine, located in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, in the Singleton and Muswellbrook local government areas.

The EPA has reviewed *Environmental Assessment Modification 7 to DA 305-11-01* dated August 2018 (EA), and understands that the modification is seeking to make minor adjustment to the consent boundary to facilitate rehabilitation works in the historic Mountain Block mining area; clear approximately 1 hectare of remnant vegetation within the Mountain Block offset area; and make some minor administrative changes.

Noise impacts

The EPA requires the proponent to provide an updated acoustic report that suitably calculates and models the likely noise impacts to residential receivers.

The Acoustic Report prepared by Global Acoustics at Appendix F of the EA states '*it is unlikely to be any increase in impacts to the community*'; however, this appears to be based on assumptions and not modelling despite the proposed activities being closer to receivers. While the EPA acknowledges that the proposed modification is relatively minor in the context of the operations undertaken at the Liddell Coal Mine in totality, the EPA requires a suitable assessment to fully assess the noise impacts from the proposal.

Thorough assessment of the proposed modification is particularly important because the 2013 assessment for Modification 5 for DA 305-11-01 indicated that noise from Liddell Coal Mine is anticipated to increase in mid-2018. The EPA's submission on to the then Department of Planning and Infrastructure advised that the noise assessment for that modification predicted exceedances of the Project Specific Noise Levels that must be addressed by the proponent in accordance with Chapters 8 and 9 of the Industrial Noise Policy.

Air Quality

Air quality impacts can be managed through existing licence conditions, and there are unlikely to be any increase in impacts to the community.

The guiding principle for particulate matter management is to adopt all feasible and reasonable best practice mitigation measures. The EA proposes to manage dust emissions by minimising the areas of exposed earth open at any one time with smaller targeted areas exposed and rehabilitated before moving on. Mitigation also includes many measures contained within the Air Quality Management and Monitoring Plan including identification of access roads, vehicle speeds, maintenance of equipment, water carts for dust suppression, stockpile management and progressive rehabilitation.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Genevieve Lorang on (02) 4908 6869 or by email to hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

MITCHELL BENNETT
Head Strategic Programs Unit - Hunter
Environment Protection Authority