



Matthew Sprott  
Planning Officer  
Mining Projects  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Sprott

**North Wambo Underground Coal Mine Modification 14 (DA 305-7-2003)  
Review of Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your email of 3 October 2014 regarding the Wambo Coal Pty Ltd application to modify the development consent for the North Wambo Underground Coal Mine to develop an additional underground longwall panel (Longwall 10A) in the Wambo coal seam.

NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services, Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) has reviewed the *North Wambo Underground Coal Mine Longwall 10A Modification Environmental Assessment* (EA) dated September 2104 and provides the following comments which are directed at specific areas of DRE responsibility for this proposal.

**MINING TITLE**

As coal is a prescribed mineral under the *Mining Act 1992*, the proponent is required to hold appropriate mining titles from DRE in order to mine this mineral. DRE understands the proposed mining activities are within Consolidated Coal Lease 773 held by the Proponent.

Under the *Mining Act 1992*, mining and rehabilitation are regulated by conditions included in the mining lease, including requirements for the submission of a Mining Operations Plan (MOP) and a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) prior to the commencement of operations, and subsequent Annual Environmental Management Reports (AEMR). DRE requires that proponent submit a revised MOP to include this modification if approved.

The proponent should be aware that ESG3: Mining Operations Plan (MOP) Guidelines dated September 2013 are available on the DRE website at:  
<http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/environment/pgf>

## **SUBSIDENCE**

DRE has reviewed the subsidence impact of the proposed Longwall 10A, particularly in relation to built features, public safety and potential instability of cliff formations or steep slopes.

Base on the information provided within the EA, DRE considers the proposed modification does not substantially change the overall subsidence risks at the site and should be manageable through the Extraction Plan process/SMP process.

## **RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

DRE recommends that the following conditions be incorporated into the Development Consent, if granted:

### **Rehabilitation Objectives and Commitments**

The Proponent must rehabilitate the site to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services.

Rehabilitation related to subsidence impacts must be substantially consistent with the Table 1:

Table 1: Rehabilitation objectives

<b>Rehabilitation Feature</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Mine site (as a whole of the disturbed land and water)	Safe, stable and non-polluting, fit for the purpose of the intended post-mining land use(s).
Rehabilitation materials	Materials (including topsoils, substrates and biological resources, eg seeds, of the disturbed areas) are recovered, appropriately managed and used effectively as resources in the rehabilitation.
Landforms	Final landforms sustain the intended land use for the post-mining domain(s).
Water Quality	Water retained on site is fit for the intended land use(s) for the post-mining domain(s).  Water discharged from site is consistent with the baseline ecological, hydrological and geomorphic conditions of the creeks prior to mining disturbance.  Water management is consistent with the regional catchment management strategy.
Native flora and fauna habitat and corridors	Species are selected that re-establishes or complements local biodiversity.  Subsidence impacts are remediated so as not to impact wildlife activity.
Post-mining agricultural pursuits	The land capability classification for the relevant nominated agricultural pursuit for each domain is established and self-sustaining within 5 years of land use establishment (first planting of vegetation).  Subsidence impacts are remediated so as to allow pre-mining agricultural pursuits to continue, where an agricultural pursuit is proposed as a final land-use.

### **Progressive Rehabilitation**

The proponent shall carry out all surface disturbing activities (eg pre-stripping in advance of mining operations including for example monitoring lines and access for rehabilitation purposes) in a manner that, as far is reasonably practicable, minimises potential for dust emissions and shall carry out rehabilitation of disturbed areas (including subsidence impacts) progressively, as soon as reasonably practicable, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services.

### **Rehabilitation Plan**

1. The Proponent must prepare and implement a Rehabilitation Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services.
2. Rehabilitation Plan must:
  - a. be submitted and approved by the Secretary of Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services prior to carrying out any surface disturbing activities of the development (including surface expression of subsidence related impacts), unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary;
  - b. be prepared in accordance with DRE guidelines and in consultation with the Department, Office of Environment and Heritage, Environmental Protection Authority, Office of Water, Council and the mine Community Consultative Committee;;
  - c. incorporate and not be inconsistent with the rehabilitation objectives in the EA and Table 1;
  - d. integrate and build on, to the maximum extent practicable, the other management plans required under this approval, with sufficient information for the Rehabilitation Plan to operate as a stand-alone document; and,
  - e. address all aspects of mine closure and rehabilitation, including post mining land use domains, rehabilitation objectives, completion criteria and rehabilitation monitoring and management.

*Note: The approved Mining Operation Plan (which will become the Rehabilitation Management Plan once the Mining Act Amendments have commenced), required as a condition of the Mining Lease(s) issued in relation to this project, will satisfy the requirements of this condition for a Rehabilitation Management Plan.*

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Julie Moloney, Principal Adviser, Industry Coordination on (02) 4931 6549.

Yours sincerely



**Adrian Delany**  
**A/Director Industry Coordination**

16.10.14