



Our reference: Part 3A DOC13/41092; LIC08/957-07  
Contact: Karen Marler: (02) 4908 6803  
Electronic correspondence to: [hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au)

20 AUG 2013

Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Mr David Mooney  
email: [David.Mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:David.Mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Mooney

### **BULGA OPEN CUT MINE – MOD 8 SEDIMENT DAM**

I refer to your email of 6 August 2013 and the document titled: *"Environmental Assessment Proposed Modification to DA41-03-99 under Section 75W of Part 3A of the EP&A Act 1979 New Sedimentation Dam at Bulga Coal Surface Operations"* (the EA) prepared by GSS Environmental and dated June 2013, and requesting comments from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) regarding the project.

The EPA understands that the project includes the construction and operation of a new sediment dam with a capacity of up to 130 ML within the northern part of the existing Bulga Surface Operations and a part of the Mt Thorley Operations Open Cut Mine.

The EPA understands that the sediment dam will collect and treat sediment laden runoff from a shared overburden emplacement area on the common boundary between the Bulga and Mt Thorley mining operations. The EPA is aware from the EA that various amendments to the licensed premises boundary definitions are proposed, to assign responsibility for the construction, operation and management of the dam as both Bulga Coal Management Pty Ltd and Coal & Allied Operations Pty Ltd alternatively emplace overburden in a staged emplacement sequence on the common boundary.

The EPA has no objection to the project proceeding as described in the EA. The EPA is satisfied that the current conditions on Environment Protection Licence 563 can accommodate the dam construction and operations with the premises definitions amendments as outlined in the EA.

Both the Proponent and Coal & Allied Operations Pty Ltd should note however that their Environment Protection Licences do not permit the discharge of saline water (that is, water with an electrical conductivity of 400  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  or more) other than via their respective licensed discharge points which authorise discharge under the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme. The EA states that from time to time water may be allowed to overflow from the dam. Any overflow from the dam should be managed in accordance with the Environment Protection Licence conditions which reference the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme) Regulation 2002*.

Please contact me on (02) 49086803 if you require any further information regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely



**KAREN MARLER**  
**Head Regional Operations Unit – Hunter**  
**Environment Protection Authority**