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1 February 2011

Mr David Kitto
Director – Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
23-33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

Re: Mount Pleasant Project Modification (DA 92/97 MOD 1) – Response to additional information request

Dear David,

We refer to Coal & Allied's application for modification to development consent DA 92/97 for the proposed Mount Pleasant Project Modification and the Department of Planning's request for additional information.

More specifically, the Department requested a response from Coal & Allied with respect to the following matters:

1. Indicative final landform at a year six closure scenario;
2. Withdrawal of the proposed two year extension of development consent from the proposed modification; and
3. Provision of biodiversity survey results to the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water for surveys completed in October 2010.

In response to item 1, rehabilitation and development of the final landform will be undertaken progressively across the mined area, generally consistent with the approved approach and methodologies described in Section 6.5 of the Mount Pleasant Mine Environmental Impact Statement, ERM Mitchell McCotter 1997.

Given that the development consent expires on 22 December 2020 and an approximate three year construction and development period will occur, the footprint of disturbance and rehabilitation at the end of year 2020 will reflect approximately year six of mining operations. However, as per the EIS, it is expected that mining will continue beyond year 6. Development beyond the lapse of consent period would be the subject of future development applications. Should circumstances prevent future mine development then a final void would remain and rehabilitation would occur as described below and conceptually illustrated in Figure 1 (enclosed).

Development Consent DA 92/97 requires the preparation of three environmental management plans related to rehabilitation and final landform prior to the commencement of construction works.

The three environmental management plans comprise:

- Flora and Fauna Management Plan, required by Condition 3.4;
- Landscaping and Revegetation Management Plan, required by Condition 3.7; and

- Land Management Plan, required by Condition 3.10.

The plans, which are required to be developed in consultation with relevant government agencies, will provide a greater level detail to that contained within the EIS, including rehabilitation objectives. Broad rehabilitation objectives will include the following:

- successful design and rehabilitation of landforms to ensure structural stability, revegetation success and containment of wastes;
- development of a final landform with recognition of the pre-mining landform features and surrounding landscape features; and
- post-mining land use compatible with surrounding land uses, capable of supporting viable grazing and ecological values and providing environmental and community benefits.

An indicative final landform for the year six closure scenario (Figure 1) has been developed generally consistent with the above and would include the following outcomes.

- The eastern section of the project area will consist of a long undulating ridgeline with a north-south orientation, emulating the surrounding topography.
- The highwall of the pit voids will be blasted down, regraded and landscaped to reduce the visual impact. The slopes will vary according to the erosion hazard, stability and drainage requirements. Disturbed areas will be vegetated with woodland and grassland species, which will provide a habitat resource for native species.
- Surface drainage will be restored to be compatible with the surrounding drainage patterns. This will be achieved using a combination of controls such as graded banks, designed channels and, where necessary, water course reinforcement.

Under this scenario, it is assumed that mining would cease on the current expiry of the development consent with the final landform completed thereafter.

Conceptually, the rehabilitation process is likely to comprise the following five phases.

- Decommissioning; including removal of infrastructure and removal and/or containment of any hazardous or contaminated material.
- Landform establishment; including design and installation of structural soil conservation and drainage works, eg contour furrows, contour banks, sedimentation dams and/ or diversion drains, to ensure the long term stability and productivity of the rehabilitated land. Slope gradients will vary according to erosion hazard, stability and drainage requirements, though will generally be less than 10 degrees. Visual amenity and public, stock and fauna safety will also be addressed during this phase of rehabilitation.
- Growing media development; ensuring physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the growing media to optimise its potential in terms of the preferred vegetative cover.
- Ecosystem establishment; including species selection, revegetation and habitat augmentation, and weed and pest management.
- Ecosystem sustainability; incorporating assessment against performance indicators for components including floristic structure, nutrient cycling, recruitment and recovery, and community structure and function.

The specific requirements for rehabilitation will be determined in consultation with relevant government agencies and stakeholders and will be documented in the Rehabilitation and Environmental Management Plan (REMP)/ Mining Operations Plan (MOP), as required by the *Mining Act 1992*. The REMP/ MOP will be consistent with the aforementioned management plans and will address the landscape and rehabilitation domains, objectives, methodology, criteria, performance measures and indicators, as well as the monitoring, review and reporting processes and requirements, and contingency measures. The monitoring of rehabilitation performance will be reported in an annual report.

In response to item 2, Coal & Allied formally requests the withdrawal of the proposed extension of development consent from 22 December 2020 to 31 December 2022 from the proposed modification, as referenced in Section 3.2.2 of the Mount Pleasant Project Modification Environmental Assessment (EMGA Mitchell McLennan 2010).

In response to item 3, as referenced in the Mount Pleasant Project Modification Response to Submissions Report (EMGA Mitchell McLennan 2010), additional flora surveys were undertaken within the conveyor/service corridor envelope from 11 - 13 October 2010 as part of broader works commissioned by Bengalla Mining Company. These surveys are not reported formally in a report other than that provided in the Response to Submissions Report.

We trust that the above and enclosed addresses the information requested.

Should you have any queries or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Nolan on (02) 6570 0301 or myself on the details below.

Yours sincerely



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Enclosures: Figure 1 - Indicative Final Landform Year 6 Closure Scenario

