GE

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RE: EIS for Angus Place Mine Extension Project (SSD – 5602)

On behalf of General Electric, please accept comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Angus Place Mine Extension Project.

General Electric

GE is a global provider of technologies, services and finance with a long established presence in Australia. Indeed, GE's first project in New South Wales was the installation of motors on gates of Pyrmont Bridge in Sydney in 1902. All nine of GE's businesses – GE Capital, GE Lighting, GE Aviation, GE Healthcare, GE Transportation, GE Mining, GE Energy Management, GE Power & Water and GE Oil & Gas – work with local partners and customers in NSW where we employ almost 1500 staff.

In addition to its work with industry partners and customers, GE has liaised with policymakers at the three levels of government to explain its shared priority of major resource projects being developed sustainably and the adoption of technologies and best practice by proponents should be recognized in the EIS process.

One of the local partners GE has worked with is Centennial Coal Company Ltd and we would seek additional opportunities to extend that relationship to the proposed mine extension projects.

In terms of the Springvale Mine Extension Project, GE notes the comprehensive analysis of key issues as per the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements, including water resources, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Water

GE notes the EIS states *"mine water discharges into the surface catchment have a neutral effect on water quality since the beneficial use of that water as potential drinking water is maintained"*.

GE's experience is treatment technologies can recover more than 90% of produced water from resource projects, such as the development coal seam gas, or the dewatering of mine sites. The water can be treated to a potable (drinking water) standard.

Air quality

GE notes the EIS states the project is *"predicted to comply with all relevant air quality criteria at representative receptors during construction, operation and rehabilitation"*. It also states *"operational dust sources include coal handling facilities (conveyor transfer points), coal crushing; wheel generated dust from unpaved roads; ventilation shaft emissions; and wind erosion from cleared land"*.

GE's experience is that coal dust suppression solutions are prioritized for workplace health and safety, environment (minimising contamination and pollution), reduced inventory losses, reduced water and energy usages for dust control. Programs such as wetting agents, binders, crusting agents, foaming agents and foam binders have demonstrated:

- reduced dusting at generating stations and coal terminals with up to 90% less coal dust

during unloading, stack-out and reclamation;

- significant reduction of oxidation; and
- significant reduction of BTU losses due to oxidation and weathering.

Greenhouse gases

GE notes the EIS states the *"total lifetime direct (scope 1) emissions from the project are estimated to be approximately 42,473t CO_2-e per annum, which is relatively small as this represents approximately 0.03% of NSW GHG emissions and 0.01% of Australia's total GHG emissions"*.

Furthermore, the EIS states additional measures being implemented by Springvale Coal include:

- cost-effective measures to improve energy efficiency;

- regular maintenance of plant and equipment to minimize fuel consumption;
- consideration of energy efficiency in plant and equipment selection; as well as
- investigating, at a corporate level, measures that may be taken to offset scope 1 emissions from Angus Place Colliery's operations.

GE's own experience, through its ecomagination™ initiative, shows the initiatives that can be taken to reduce GHG emissions and improve energy intensity. Based on a 2004 baseline, GE had set itself the target of reducing GHG emissions by 25% by 2015 and improve its operations energy efficiency by 50% over the same period; by 2012, GE's GHG emissions had been reduced by 32% and energy intensity improved by the same rate (32%). GE works with customers and partners globally with a range of products to improve their use of energy and reduce the carbon intensity of their operations.

Conclusion

GE commends the project's economic injection *"into the local, regional, state and national economies for the life of the project. This expenditure is likely to generate additional economic activity and flow on effects, providing further employment opportunities"*.

GE believes the comprehensive EIS and commitments of the proponent can minimize the project's environmental impacts and maximize its economic benefits during the development, operation and rehabilitation of the Angus Place Coal Mine Extension Project.

If GE can provide additional information or clarification, please contact Government Affairs, Finance and Policy Director (Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea) Mr Kirby Anderson on (07) 3001 4339 or kirby.anderson@ge.com.

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