

20 June 2018

Contact: *Nicole Wallwood*

Telephone: *9865 2503*

Our ref: *D2018/65427*

Mr Paul Freeman
Team Leader, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Freeman

Angus Place Colliery modification request (PA 06_0221 – Modification 5)

Thank you for your email received 1 June 2018 seeking WaterNSW's comments on the Angus Place Colliery modification request (Mod 5).

The Angus Place Colliery is partly located within the declared Sydney catchment area. Pursuant to the *Water NSW Act 2014*, WaterNSW has objectives and functions within declared catchment areas. A key function is to protect and enhance the quality of water.

WaterNSW has adopted a set of principles that establish outcomes it considers as essential to protect the drinking water supplies of the Greater Sydney region from mining impacts – see - https://www.watarnsw.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/119890/Mining-principles.pdf.

The principles relevant to the Angus Place Colliery are:

- protection of water quality – WaterNSW considers that mining activities must not result in a reduction in the quality of surface and ground water inflows to Lake Burragorang, and
- sound and robust evidence regarding environmental impacts – WaterNSW considers that information provided by the proponent must be detailed, thorough, scientifically robust and holistic. The potential cumulative impacts must be comprehensively addressed.

In general, WaterNSW supports any proposal with an overall objective to improve the quality of water that is or may be discharged into the declared Sydney catchment area. We also note that from 1 January 2020 (or earlier when the Springvale Water Treatment Plan is operational), there is proposed to be no mine water discharges from LDP001 – and this is also supported by WaterNSW.

WaterNSW has reviewed the Environmental Assessment prepared by EMM Consulting (dated 11 May 2018) and based on the information provided, WaterNSW is not able to assess whether the proposed modification would have a neutral or beneficial impact on water quality (NorBE) in the context of the current permitted impacts from the mine as approved under the original consent and subsequent modifications (PA 06_0221), in line with State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011.

WaterNSW has the following comments in light of our review of the Environmental Assessment and the site visit on 13 June 2018, and the above and requests that the following matters be addressed in the Response to Submissions (RTS) report:

- A NorBE assessment of the proposal with regard to actual historic, current and proposed water quality at the discharge point (LDP001), Kangaroo Creek, Coxs River and Lake


Burraborang and as assessed against permitted impacts under the existing consent. The assessment must address concentrations and loads with a focus on salinity.

- The predicted quantity or reduction in groundwater elevation for the 900 panel area should be specified, similar to what has been provided for the 800 panel area.
- WaterNSW supports the recommendation by the EPA that sediments within the reed bed system directly upstream of LDP001 should be sampled to determine any potential water quality concerns and to inform the suitable location for discharges from the Temporary Water Treatment Plant. If the sampling confirms contaminants are present, the discharge should be below the reed beds, having consideration for appropriate energy dissipation and scour protection above the LDP001 v-notch weir.
- WaterNSW considers additional water quality and quantity monitoring should be undertaken to fully assess the potential groundwater and surface water impacts to Long Swamp, Kangaroo Creek and the Cocks River system from the proposal, and in particular, to validate the potential for groundwater impacts to the Cocks River system. The location of any new groundwater monitoring sites should be determined in consultation with WaterNSW.
- WaterNSW notes the proposal for temporary storage of residuals from within the Newcom Colliery workings. WaterNSW considers further information is required to address the potential impacts and groundwater interactions given the Newcom Colliery workings are located closer to the Cocks River system.

It is requested that WaterNSW remain as a stakeholder for the proposal and would appreciate continued involvement in the assessment of this modification request. WaterNSW will provide further comments and advice on the above matters to the Department following review of the RTS, and will also provide advice on recommended conditions at that time.

If you wish to discuss further, please contact Nicole Wallwood on (02) 9865 2503 or Dr Girja Sharma on 9865 2501.

Regards,



MALCOLM HUGHES
Manager Catchment Protection

CC: Darryl Clift, Bathurst EPA Office