



Our reference: : SF14/11900; DOC17/484237-01  
Contact: : Rebecca Scrivener – 02 6773 7000 – [armidale@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:armidale@epa.nsw.gov.au)  
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Resource and Energy Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
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**BY EMAIL:** [joel.herbert@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:joel.herbert@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Herbert,

## **MAULES CREEK COAL MINE – MODIFICATION 4 (10\_0138 MOD 4) – SOUND POWER LEVEL MODIFICATION**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) refers to the modification application submitted by Whitehaven Coal for the Maules Creek Coal Mine seeking to remove reference to sound power levels and remove reference to best practice and best available technology in condition 12a, Schedule 3 of Project Approval 10-0138. Thank you for allowing the EPA additional time to provide these comments.

The EPA has reviewed the information provided and recommends the condition be amended by removing strike-thru text and adding underlined text in the second dot point below.

### **Condition 12:** The Proponent shall

#### **(a)** ensure that:

- all mining trucks and water carts used on the site are commissioned as noise suppressed (or attenuated) units;
- ~~ensure that all equipment and noise control measures deliver sound power levels that are equal to or better than the sound power levels identified in the EA and correspond to best practice or the application of the best available technology economically achievable~~ is implemented;
- where reasonable and feasible, improvements are made to existing noise suppression equipment as better technologies become available; ....

Removing reference to sound power levels in condition 12(a) does not diminish or affect the expectation that noise generated at the site will be managed to ensure noise at all privately-owned residences will not exceed 35dB(A)  $L_{Aeq(15min)}$  during the day/evening/night period and 45  $L_{A1(1min)}$  during the night period. The EPA notes Condition 7, Schedule 3 of the Project Approval and condition L3.1 of Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 20221 specifies this noise criteria applies at all privately-owned residences.

The EPA does not intend to amend current noise limits specified in EPL 20221.

It is expected that the proponent will continue to apply best practice or best available technology that is economically achievable to minimise noise generation from the mining activities to achieve compliance with noise limits. To achieve this the EPA recommends that part of the condition in the second dot point remain in the Project Approval.

Please contact Rebecca Scrivener on (02) 6773 7000 or by email to [armidale@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:armidale@epa.nsw.gov.au) to discuss this matter further.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert O'Hern', is positioned above the printed name.

**ROBERT O'HERN**  
**Head Regional Operations Unit**  
**Environment Protection Authority**