



Our reference: DOC14/111371, EF13/8845
Contact: Natasha Ryan (02) 4908 6833
Electronic correspondence to: hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au

NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: Sophie.butcher@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Butcher

Manning Colliery MP06_0311 Modification
Environment Protection Authority – Comments and recommended conditions of approval

I refer to your email dated 3 June 2014 requesting assessment of Lakecoal Pty Limited's (Lakecoal) Manning Colliery – Modification 2 MP06_0311 and the Environmental Assessment (EA) titled "*Manning Colliery – Modification 2 Environmental Assessment Section 75W Modification to MP06_0311*" prepared by EMM dated April 2014.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) understands that the proposed modification involves:

- The development and use of up to four first working headings within the Fassifern Seam to connect Manning Colliery and Chain Valley Colliery;
- The installation, and use of an underground conveyor belt system and ancillary services, enabling Run of Mine coal to be transferred between Chain Valley Colliery and Manning Colliery; and
- The use of existing Manning Colliery infrastructure to transport coal from Chain Valley Colliery underground workings to the Vales Point Power Station (VPPS) at a rate not greater than 1.1 million tonnes per annum.

Lakecoal currently holds an Environment Protection Licence (EPL) for Manning Colliery. The EPA has reviewed the information provided, and has determined that, should development consent be granted, it would be able to vary Lakecoal's EPL under section 58 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) to facilitate this modification and enable the transfer of coal to Manning Colliery, subject to conditions. Lakecoal would be required to submit an application for a licence variation to the EPA in order to vary the EPL to amend the premises description and conditions. EPA notes that Manning Colliery will receive or handle coal from both leases (Chain Valley and Manning) at a rate not greater than 1.1 million tonnes per annum.

Water Quality

The Manning Colliery is currently under care and maintenance. EPA consider that Lakecoal would need to continue to meet the wastewater volumetric and concentration of pollutant limits imposed by the current EPL.

PO Box 488G Newcastle NSW 2300
Email: hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au
117 Bull Street, Newcastle West NSW 2302
Tel: (02) 4908 6800 Fax: (02) 4908 6810
ABN 43 692 285 758
www.epa.nsw.gov.au

Groundwater

The EA identifies that the current rate of groundwater inflow will increase from 1.1 ML/day to 1.8ML/day, there was no discussion about whether this would lead to a greater need to dewater and discharge more wastewater from the premises to waters. As a result the EPA considers that Lakecoal must meet the daily volumetric limit for discharge currently established at 4000 kilolitres per day for wastewater from the site. The EPA would not grant any increase to this discharge of pollutants unless an appropriate environmental assessment was undertaken commensurate with section 45 of the POEO Act. EPA understands that water inflows to the underground linkage will be managed at Chain Valley Colliery through dewatering. The EPA has made comment on this in a submission to the DPE in regard to Chain Valley Colliery.

EPA advises DPE that apart from these comments with respect to Mannering Colliery, it would consider the current conditions of approval for MP06_0311 dated 12 March 2008 would prevail.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Natasha Ryan on 02 49086833.

Yours sincerely



1 JUL 2014

MARK HARTWELL
Head Regional Operations Unit - Hunter
Environment Protection Authority