



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Your reference: MP06-0311
Our reference: DOC14/64468-01; EF14/11228
Contact: Ziggy Andersons, 4908 6820

Ms Sophie Butcher
Planning Officer, Mining Projects
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Butcher

RE: REVIEW OF MANNERING COLLIERY – MODIFICATION 2 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – SECTION 75W MODIFICATION TO MP06-0311

I refer to your email requesting comments on the Mannering Colliery – Modification 2 Environmental Assessment (EA) which represents a modification to the approved Mannering Colliery (MC) project approval (MP06-0311). The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) understands that the proposed modification involves the construction of an underground linkage between MC and Chain Valley Colliery, and that the EA was placed on public exhibition on 23 May 2014.

OEH has undertaken a review of the EA titled 'Mannering Colliery – Modification 2, Environmental Assessment, Section 75W Modification to MP06-0311', prepared for LakeCoal Pty Ltd by EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Limited (EMM) and dated April 2014.

OEH is unable to assess the application as there is insufficient information provided within the EA. The EA lacks a description of the sites terrestrial ecology with a number of endangered ecological communities mapped as occurring within the amended Mannering Colliery project approval boundary and subsidence extents. In addition habitat for a number of threatened species recorded in the locality is also potentially present. OEH has reviewed the EA and provides comments and recommendations in **Attachment 1**.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Ziggy Andersons, Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer, on 4908 6820.

Yours sincerely

10 JUN 2014

RICHARD BATH
Senior Team Leader Planning, Hunter Central Coast Region
Regional Operations

Enclosure: Attachment 1

ATTACHMENT 1: COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL FOR PROPOSED MANNERING COLLIERY – SECTION 75W MODIFICATION TO MP06-0311

OEH has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Aboriginal cultural heritage issues, subsidence impacts on lake ecology and threatened biodiversity. Due to a lack of information regarding terrestrial ecology OEH is unable to assess this application until the below information is provided.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

The existing conditions of consent for MP06-0311 require a Heritage Management Plan to be developed. OEH supports this management initiative.

OEH would recommend that ongoing and continuous consultation with the relevant Aboriginal community and that any management plans be developed in consultation.

THREATENED BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

OEH has reviewed the EA for potential impacts on the terrestrial ecology within the application area and due to the lack of information is unable to assess this application. OEH acknowledges that predicted subsidence will range from 5mm to 20mm where first and second workings in the Great Northern Seam occur, respectively, however the total (cumulative) subsidence is predicted to range from 25mm to 38mm above areas of first working and 113mm to 126mm above areas of second working.

OEH notes that there are no descriptions or mapping provided for the 'dry sclerophyll woodland' and 'foreshore vegetation', in addition there is no indication as to whether or not any threatened flora or fauna species or their habitat has been recorded within the application area.

A review of readily available existing vegetation mapping and threatened species records indicate that the underground linkage and predicted subsidence extent will occur beneath two endangered ecological communities, one of which is a potential Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem. The other vegetation communities mapped within the site are known potential habitat for a number of threatened species recorded from the locality.

Therefore the EA should contain the following information as a minimum for OEH to be able to assess this application:

- a. Description and geo-referenced mapping of study area (and spatial data files), e.g. overlays on topographic maps, satellite images and /or aerial photos, including details of map datum, projection and zone, all survey locations, all vegetation communities, key habitat features and reported locations of threatened species, populations and ecological communities present in the subject site and study area.
- b. Description of survey methodologies used, including timing, location and weather conditions.
- c. Details, including qualifications and experience of all staff undertaking the surveys, mapping and assessment of impacts as part of the EA.
- d. Detailed description of all vegetation communities (both forested and non-woody [e.g. derived grasslands], including classification and methodology used to classify) and including all plot data. Plot data should be supplied to the OEH in electronic format (e.g. MS-Excel) and organised by vegetation community. Copies of all plot data (quadrat / transect) sheets should also be provided.
- e. Identification of national and state listed threatened biota known or likely to occur in the study area and their conservation status.
- f. Description of the likely impacts of the proposal on biodiversity and wildlife corridors, including direct and indirect and construction and operation impacts. Wherever possible, quantify these impacts such as the amount of each vegetation community or species habitat to be cleared or impacted, or any fragmentation of a wildlife corridor.

- g. The proposal should provide an assessment of the cumulative impacts of the proposal in relation to other nearby developments.
- h. Identification of the avoidance, mitigation and management measures that will be put in place as part of the proposal to avoid or minimise impacts, including details about alternative options considered and how long term management arrangements will be guaranteed.
- i. Description of the residual impacts of the proposal. If the proposal cannot adequately avoid or mitigate impacts on biodiversity, then a biodiversity offset package is expected

