



Department of Primary Industries

OUT15/20481

Mr Hamish Aiken
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Hamish.Aiken@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Aiken,

**Chain Valley Colliery (SSD_5465 Mod 2) and
Manning Colliery (MP06_0311 Mod 3)
Proposed Modifications**

I refer to your email dated 15 July 2015 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment by DPI Water – Chain Valley Colliery Mod 2

DPI Water has reviewed the documents and provides the following comments.

- The proponent must submit the revised Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) (dated 2015) for review by DPI Water.
- The GWMP should include discussion of all water related activities carried out and the level of compliance with the previous GWMP.
- The GWMP should include an assessment of the groundwater take to demonstrate compliance with the Aquifer Interference Policy (AIP), with particular consideration of the minimal impact considerations set out in Table 1.
- The GWMP should include a monitoring strategy to monitor and identify impacts on groundwater with respect to the minimal impact considerations. The monitoring strategy should identify triggers and response plans for each of the monitored parameters in the event of greater than minimal impacts being identified at any time during the life of the mine.

The Water Management Plan should include details of all water licences and approvals held by the proponent and demonstrate that sufficient licensed entitlement is held to account for all take of surface water and groundwater, including incidental take.

For further information please contact Alison Collaros, Senior Water Regulation Officer, [Newcastle Office], on 4904 2527 or at alison.collaros@water.nsw.gov.au.

Comment by DPI Water – Mannering Colliery Mod 3

DPI Water has reviewed the exhibited Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Mannering Colliery Modification 3. The proposed modification includes an increase in run of mine coal from 1.1 Mtpa to a maximum of 1.3 Mtpa, with a proposed mine life up to 30 June 2022.

Table 3.1 in the EA states in Table 2.1 “the proposed modification will not involve changes to the approved underground mining and, as a result, no changes to groundwater or aquifers will occur.’ However no technical assessment has been provided in support of the modification to justify this claim.

The proponent should demonstrate that they have or will be able to obtain sufficient water licences to account for water take over the projected life of the mine, inclusive of any take which may occur indirectly post mining. DPI Water is aware that the proponent currently holds a licence under Part 5 of the Water Act 1912, being 20BL172016. This licence has an entitlement of 450 ML which relates groundwater within the consolidated rock strata. The proponent must demonstrate the licensing requirements of the proposed modification and whether these requirements are met via existing licences.

Mannering Colliery is located within an area whereby surface and groundwater held in the alluvial sediments are regulated under the *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009*. The colliery is located within the South Lake Macquarie Water Source. It is noted that the proponent currently does not hold any shares within this water source.

As such DPI Water requests that the proponent provide the following information to support the modification and facilitate DPI Water making comment:

- The technical assessment undertaken to determine that the modification will cause no additional groundwater impacts.
- Projected take of water for the duration of the mining operation from each water source.
- The most recent annual groundwater management report which includes:
 - I. Raw water monitoring data, interpretation and discussion of trends and implications on the groundwater condition and usage;
 - II. Groundwater extraction data (volumes and rates) taken from the licensed work or works, the extent of aquifer depressurisation and the salinity impacts, compared with predictions of aquifer performance made in the environmental impact statement(s) or similar project documents and compliance with the Aquifer Interference Policy;
 - III. An overall comparison of groundwater performance with predictions for the life of the mine provided in the development application and supporting documentation;
 - IV. Water related activities carried out and the level of compliance with the groundwater management plan; and
 - V. An outline of proposed adaptive or remediation actions when greater than minimal impacts are experienced at any time during the life of the activity.

For further information please contact Hannah Grogan, Water Regulation Officer (Newcastle West office) on 4904 2516 or at hannah.grogan@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Fisheries NSW and Crown Lands advise no issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'MH', is positioned above the printed name.

Kristian Holz
Director Policy, Legislation and Innovation