



Your reference :
Our reference : EF13/4246; DOC15/244345-01
Contact : Ms Sheridan Ledger; (02) 6332 7608

Mr Paul Freeman
Senior Planner
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

31 July 2015

Dear Mr Freeman

MOOLARBEN COAL MINE – STAGE 1 MODIFICATION 12 & STAGE 2 MODIFICATION 2

I refer to your correspondence of 1 July 2015 requesting the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to provide comment on the proposed Moolarben Coal Mine – Stage 1 Modification 12 & Stage 2 Modification 2 (the Proposal).

As requested, the EPA has considered the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposal. The EPA would like to provide the following comments in response to the EA.

Noise

The EPA notes from its review of the noise impact assessment (NIA) that the information provided differs little from that which was previously provided for the Stage 1 Modification 11 and Stage 2 modification 1 (May 2015 modification). As you would be aware, the EPA previously raised concerns regarding the noise impact assessment in the May 2015 modification. The concerns raised by the EPA in its submission to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) regarding the May 2015 modification have not been addressed in the current NIA. The EPA would like to take this opportunity to re-iterate those comments made previously.

Further, the EPA recently completed the assessment of its noise monitoring undertaken at a residence on Ulan Road between October and December 2014. This monitoring indicates that further consideration of the low frequency component of noise emissions from the Moolarben Coal Mine (the Mine) may be warranted.

Surface Water Management

The EPA notes from the assessment that the Proposal *"would not include any significant change to the water management system, water supply or water demand"*. The EPA considers this statement is misleading as it assumes that the May 2015 modification has been adequately assessed and approved by the DPE.

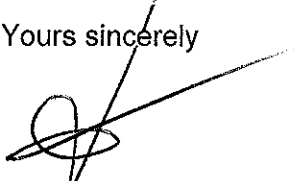
As you would be aware, the EPA previously raised a number of concerns regarding the May 2015 modification surface water management assessment and requested additional information be provided so as allow the EPA to assess the potential impacts. This information has not been provided to the EPA nor has it been included in the EA for the Proposal. As such, the EPA is unable to provide the DPE with any comment regarding the potential surface water impacts from the Proposal at the current time.

General Comment

The EPA can appreciate that the Mine may require alterations to its mine design post approval; however given the changes requested by the Proposal and the May 2015 Modification are connected and the previous modification was only submitted in May 2015, the EPA considers that these two (2) modifications should have been assessed and submitted as one (1) modification application. This would have enabled the EPA to assess all of the required information at the one time and to provide detailed comment to DPE in response.

Should you have any further enquiries in relation to this matter please contact Sheridan Ledger at the Central West (Bathurst) Office of the EPA by telephoning (02) 6332 7608.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Whyte', written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD WHYTE
Manager Central West
Environment Protection Authority