



Department of Primary Industries

Out13/4262

19 MAR 2013

Sophie Butcher
Planner
Mining Project
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
<mailto:sophie.butcher@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Ms Butcher

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 February 2013 concerning the review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Modification to the Abel Coal Mine.

The Office of Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security (O AS&FS) has reviewed the AIS provided by Resource Strategies. Specific issues are included in Attachment 1 enclosed. A brief summary follows:

The EA has adequately addressed in general the agricultural issues regarding: mine subsidence rectification, rehabilitation of land post extraction to the current level of land capability, and potential risk to surface water and groundwater for existing agricultural users.

The EA notes that there is some land within the Abel Mine area that is capable of continuous cropping (land capability class 2). Ensuring that the mining activities are outside the identified land class 2 would limit the risk of reducing the value of the agricultural resource.

The O AS&SFS forwards this advice direct to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure in accordance with agreed arrangements for mining applications that affect agricultural land. Additional advice from the other divisions within the Department of Primary Industries may be forwarded by a separate letter.

If you wish to discuss the issue further please call Liz Rogers on telephone 02 63913642 or by email liz.rogers@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Dr Regina Fogarty
Director Office of Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security
Encl

Specific Agricultural Impact Assessment Issues

The Environmental Assessment (EA) although mentions briefly (page 46) the presence of land within the mining area of land capability class 2 suitable for continuous cropping, there is no discussion on potential risk or mitigation of subsidence if disturbed.

The EA diagrams shows that the extent of mining under AL 2 is limited.

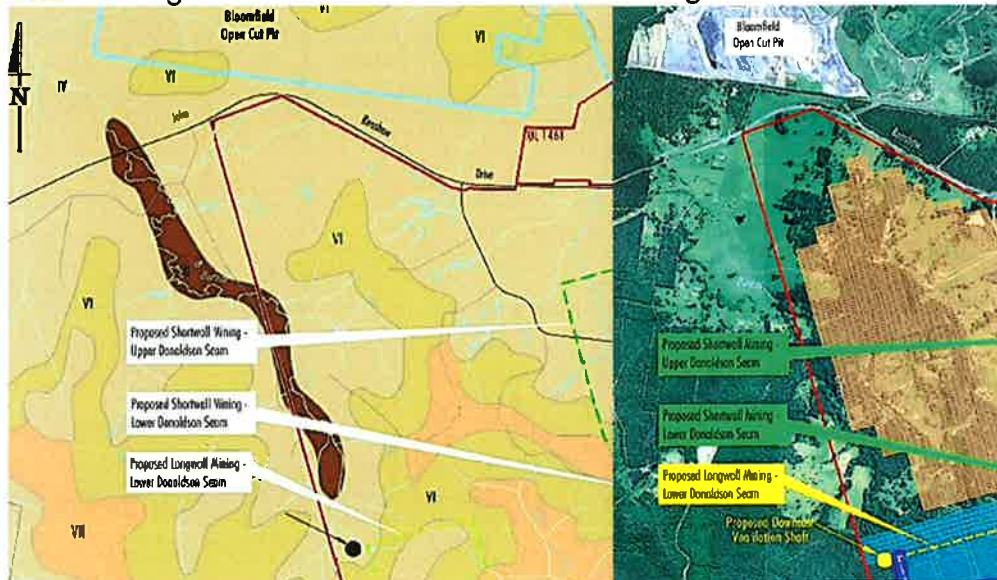


Figure: Showing overlying land class 2 (in dark brown) and proposed bord and pillar extraction area.

Should this proposal receive consent, the following is a suggested consent condition:

Mining activities remain outside the identified land capability class 2 land to limit the risk of reducing the value of the agricultural resource.