

OUT16/37866

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Dear Melanie

Springvale Water Treatment Project (SSD 7592) Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to your email dated 23 September 2016 inviting the Division of Resources & Energy (the Division) to provide comments on the Springvale Water Treatment Project EIS (SSD 7592).

The Division provides the following comments:

Rehabilitation

Section 5.6 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is very general and short on detail but does not contain any information considered to be inappropriate or incorrect, however further detail on rehabilitation within mining title areas will be expected in RMP/MOP documents to be subsequently submitted to the Division.

Mining leases are shown in Figure 2.3 of the EIS. A total of 4 leases are identified: MPL314, ML1448, ML1352 and ML1323. However, CCL733 which includes surface areas is also within the project boundary and is not identified in this section of the EIS as being relevant to the project. The Division notes that a section of the Treated Water Transfer pipeline passes across a surface area of CCL733. This appears to be an oversight by the proponent in preparing the EIS.

The EIS states that no new titles will be required for this project. ESU notes that the existing MLA497, currently being assessed by the Division, covers a section of the proposed Treated Water Transfer Pipeline at the Western Coal Services site.

The Division notes that key components of the project will not be located within a mining title, either at the Mt Piper Power Station (new water treatment plant) or off-title sections of the proposed new pipeline, and that the EIS does state (in Section 6.4.2) that Springvale Coal may apply for a mining lease in future for their Water Management Assets within State Forests on the Newnes Plateau.

Rehabilitation Management Plan/Mining Operation Plan issues

A condition of the Development Consent requires that activities within a Mining Title area must be covered in an approved Rehabilitation Management Plan/Mining Operations Plan (RMP/MOP) to be prepared to the satisfaction of the Division. A standard Rehabilitation Management Plan condition (in place for the Springvale Mine and Western Coal Services) would be appropriate.

This requirement may be addressed by modification to the existing RMP/MOP documents for

- Springvale Colliery (part MPL314, ML1323 and, if applicable, ML1326 – which is a subsurface only lease),
- Western Coal Services (part MPL314, CCL733, ML1448, ML1352 and any lease granted in respect of MLA497), and;
- Angus Place Colliery (if applicable).

The RMP/MOP, or modification to the existing MOP/RMP documents, is to be approved prior to commencement of the applicable surface disturbing activities.

It is recommended that rehabilitation of areas not within a mining title should be in to the satisfaction of the landowner.

The Division will hold a security bond to cover rehabilitation liabilities associated with the project in areas where mining titles are in place. Rehabilitation Cost Estimates will need to be submitted with MOP/RMP documents. As such, it should be clear in the Development Consent that the Division responsibility for rehabilitation is only applicable for these areas.

General comments

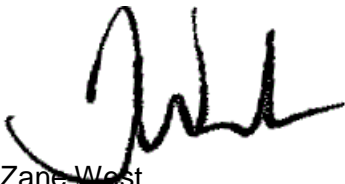
The Division should be given the opportunity to review proposed conditions prior to final approval.

For consistency with the Springvale and Western Coal Services Development Consents, the Division would support a section on Progressive Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Objectives

The Division has no objection to the project being approved.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Steve Cozens, Senior Project Officer, Royalty & Advisory Services on 9842 8573.

Yours sincerely



Zane West

Manager Royalties & Advisory Services