



DOC16/385637
SSD 5594 MOD 1

Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood
Planner, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
rose-anne.hawkeswood@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

Springvale Mine Extension Project Modification (SSD 5594 MOD 1)

I refer to your email dated 29 July 2016 requesting advice from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on a Statement of Environmental Effects (SOEE) for a proposed modification to the Springvale Mine Extension Project (SSD 5594).

OEH understands that the proposed modification would enable an increase in workforce, coal production and run-of-mine coal stockpile (increasing the coal stockpile footprint by 0.3 ha).

The increase in coal production would be through the increased workforce, installation and operation of additional underground mining equipment and improved equipment utilisation and availability.

OEH considers that, prior to making a decision on the proposed modification, the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) needs to be fully satisfied that the current operations of Springvale Mine have been conducted in full accordance with the current Project Approval for SSD 5594. In particular, DP&E should ensure that all requisite management plans are finalised to an adequate standard, and all required monitoring has commenced.

OEH has concerns regarding a statement in section 1.6 of the Statement of Environmental Effects (SOEE),

Additional equipment to be installed will comprise longwall equipment (increased from one to two longwalls) and continuous miners (increased from three to five). While there will be two longwalls underground some of the time, only one longwall equipment will be operated at a time. Similarly, while five continuous miners will be located underground, only four will be operated at a time.

Installation of an additional longwall equipment underground means the changeover period between longwalls, approximately six weeks, will be eliminated. The next longwall to be extracted can be pre-installed with the additional longwall equipment prior to the completion of the current longwall being extracted

It is understood from the above that, while two sets of longwall equipment may be located in two adjacent longwalls at one time, only one will be operational (so that only one longwall will be extracted at a time). However, there is no indication in the SOEE regarding whether there are additional impacts or planning requirements associated with the elimination of changeover periods. This may have implications for monitoring and management of sensitive features such as Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps.

OEH recommends DP&E ensures that adequate management plans, baseline monitoring and adaptive management procedures are in place prior to installation of longwall equipment.

If you have any queries, please contact Liz Mazzer, Conservation Planning Officer on 02 6883 5325 or email liz.mazzer@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Christie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PETER CHRISTIE
Manager, North West
Regional Operations

Date: 23 August 2016

Contact officer: LIZ MAZZER
02 6883 5325