

D2016/94849

Rose-Anne Hawkeswood  
Planner  
Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

**Springvale Mine Extension Project Modification Request (SSD 5594 MOD 1)**

Thank you for your email received 29 July 2016 seeking WaterNSW's comments and recommended conditions on the Springvale Mine Extension Project modification request (SSD 5594 MOD 1).

WaterNSW has reviewed the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) prepared by Centennial Coal (dated July 2016) and has the following comments:

**1. *Potential additional mine inflows and changes to discharge water quality from the increased annual coal production***

The updated modelling results with the increased mining rate at Springvale Mine indicate a minor increase in mine water (10L/s or 0.86ML/day) to underground workings. This increase is predicted not to lead to changes in quality of mine water discharges to Sawyers Swamp Creek. However, no data on water quality has been provided with the SEE or Appendices to substantiate this prediction.

The SEE and Appendices specifies the requirement to reduce salinity of mine water discharges to the Cocks River to 500us/cm (90<sup>th</sup> percentile) by 30 June 2019 (as per Schedule 4, Conditions 12 and 13) however, there is no reference to the requirement to meet limits for salinity of 700 (50<sup>th</sup> percentile), 900 (90<sup>th</sup> percentile) and 1000 (100<sup>th</sup> percentile) us/cm by 30 June 2017 (as per Schedule 4, Condition 12). WaterNSW assumes Centennial Coal still intends to achieve the 30 June 2017 targets.

WaterNSW notes an error in Table 41. The total salt outputs for existing conditions is listed as 3,624 ML/year however, the actual total figure should be 3,924.

**2. *Potential impacts from the increased coal stockpile area (additional 0.3 ha)***

The coal stockpile footprint will increase by approximately 23% as a result of the proposed extension area, which falls within the existing clean water catchment. The SEE proposes a new diversion drain (designed for 100 year ARI) to be constructed around the stockpile extension area to divert run-off to the existing dirty water surface water management system. WaterNSW expects that the Surface Water Management Plan will be updated to reflect these changes.

### **3. Wastewater management to cater for proposed additional staff**

The SEE does not specify how the increased wastewater from the increased staff numbers will be managed at the site. However, WaterNSW notes that a development application was assessed and approved in 2015 for the Springvale Wastewater Transfer Scheme (DA 023/15) which has a design capacity for 450 staff, indicating the system can cater for the proposed additional staff and associated wastewater loads from the Modification (SSD 5594 MOD1).

It is not clear from the SEE whether the new sewage pump station required as part of DA 023/15 has been installed as yet, or whether it will be installed prior to the proposed modifications taking effect. WaterNSW would require the works approved under DA 023/15 to be completed prior to the modification taking effect, to ensure increased wastewater loads at the site can be appropriately managed.

### **4. Life of consent**

WaterNSW notes there is no proposal to amend the life of the consent notwithstanding that the production rate and size of the workforce is proposed to increase. WaterNSW requests the Department consider reducing the life of the consent.

In light of the above, WaterNSW does not recommend changes to any of the existing conditions (except that relating to the life of the consent). It is considered that Schedule 4, Condition 14 (d)(i), (ii) and (iii) related to Site Water Balance, Surface Water Management and Groundwater Management, should incorporate proposed changes as a result of the modification.

WaterNSW would appreciate being notified when the application is determined.

If you wish to discuss further, please contact Nicole Wallwood on 4724 2458.

Regards



**MALCOLM HUGHES**  
**Manager Environment and Planning**

23/2/16