

WCPL Responses to Public Submissions

Number	Issue Raised	Response
1	<p>Concerns regarding noise, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the NSW Industrial Noise Policy assessment requirements do not adequately reflect low background noise environments; existing operational noise levels; ongoing operational noise management and monitoring; and cumulative Wilpinjong, Ulan and Moolarben rail transport noise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSW Industrial Noise Policy states (EPA, 2000) (pp3): <i>The criteria in this document ... have been selected to protect at least 90 per cent of the population living in the vicinity of industrial noise sources from the adverse effects of noise for at least 90 per cent of the time.</i> As described in the Noise Impact Assessment (Heggies, 2010): <i>The assessment of (construction and) mine operating noise impacts has been undertaken in accordance the NSW Industrial Noise Policy (INP) (NSW Environment Protection Authority [EPA, 2000]) (and the associated INP Application Notes) (EPA, 2008) which provides non-mandatory procedures for setting acceptable LAeq(15minute) intrusive (and LAeq(period)) amenity noise levels for various receiver areas...</i> Wilpinjong Coal Mine noise monitoring and noise compliance results are described in Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of the Noise Impact Assessment (Heggies, 2010), including: <i>Operator-attended noise monitoring is used to assess for compliance against the approved and licensed noise limits.</i> ... <i>Operator-attended noise monitoring undertaken by independent acoustic consultants since 2006 (commencement of WCM mining operations) has demonstrated ongoing compliance with the noise criteria.</i> As stated in Section 4.2 of the EA: <i>A Noise Monitoring Programme (WCPL, 2009) was established in 2006 prior to the commencement of mining and has been revised a number of times in response to community feedback, technical issues, operational experience and the recommendations of an independent noise audit.</i> <i>In addition to attended monitoring, real-time noise monitoring is used as a noise management tool at Wilpinjong Coal Mine and involves the use of noise investigation triggers to assist in the implementation of pre-emptive management actions to avoid potential operational noise non-compliances.</i> <i>Real-time monitors are located adjacent to the mine at points indicative of local rural residential areas and are periodically relocated.</i> ... <i>During 2009, the use of the real-time monitoring, investigation trigger and response system at Wilpinjong Coal Mine resulted in 2,806 machine hours lost...with the majority of the lost machinery hours occurring in winter ...</i> As stated in Section 10.4 of the Noise Impact Assessment: <i>WCPL will continue to implement the current WCM noise monitoring programme which includes real-time noise monitoring and a validated active response plan leading to mobile plant shutdowns when trigger levels are exceeded.</i> As stated in Section 4.2 of the EA: <i>Peak Wilpinjong Coal Mine daily product train movements would be unchanged by the Modification ... and peak rail traffic noise levels would therefore also remain unchanged (Appendix A).</i> <i>The rail noise assessment found that there would be a negligible increase in average daytime/evening, night time and 24 hour rail traffic noise levels as a result of the Modification (Appendix A).</i>

WCPL Responses to Public Submissions

Number	Issue Raised	Response
2	Concerns were raised regarding land acquisitions to date by WCPL have not been undertaken via the Project Approval acquisition mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition 3, Schedule 3 of the Project Approval provides noise criteria that, if exceeded, can trigger a request from the relevant landholder for acquisition by WCPL. Land acquisition procedures under these circumstances are described in Conditions 10-12, Schedule 4 of the Project Approval. The land acquisition procedures provided by Conditions 10-12, Schedule 4 of the Project Approval do not relate to circumstances where WCPL directly approaches landholders to acquire their land on the open market.
3	Concerns were raised regarding the justification for the Modification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As described in Section 4.5 of the EA: <p><i>During the peak increase in ROM coal production (i.e. years 2013 and 2014) the following economic benefits for the MWRC LGA are estimated as a result of the Modification (i.e. the incremental increase in economic benefits when compared to the approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine) (Appendix E):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$179 million (M) in annual direct and indirect regional output or business turnover; \$106M in annual direct and indirect regional value added; \$13M in annual direct and indirect household income; and 137 direct and indirect jobs. <p>...</p> <p><i>The benefit cost analysis for the Modification indicates that it would have a net production benefit in the order of \$47M and hence is desirable and justified from an economic efficiency perspective (Appendix E).</i></p>
4	Concerns were raised regarding the management of spontaneous combustion events at the mine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of spontaneous combustion does not relate specifically to the proposed Modification as the extent of mining would be unchanged and outbreaks to date have been primarily associated with material in temporary waste emplacements. Notwithstanding, WCPL will work in consultation with the DECCW and DoP to improve the management of spontaneous combustion at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine.
5	Concerns were raised regarding the public consultation for the Modification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee (CCC) is in place and provides an effective mechanism for ongoing communication between WCPL and the local community. As described in Section 1.3 the EA, the CCC was briefed on the proposed Modification in March 2010: <p><i>In March 2010 WCPL provided an overview of the proposed Modification to the CCC.</i></p> <p><i>At this meeting members of the CCC requested that a public meeting be held in Wollar to inform the wider community regarding the proposed Modification, and in particular to provide an overview of the operational noise implications of the proposal. ...</i></p> WCPL made a commitment to further public consultation in Section 1.3 of the EA: <p><i>... WCPL will hold a public meeting in Wollar regarding the Modification in the second or third Quarter of 2010.</i></p> In accordance with the commitment in Section 1.3 of the EA, at a public meeting in Ulan on 31 May 2010 WCPL presented a summary of the proposed Modification and an overview of key assessment outcomes (including noise modelling) to the local community.