

DRAFT DPI SUBMISSION

Wilpinjong Coal Mine Project (MP 05_0021 MOD 6) Proposed Modification

I refer to your email dated 25 June 2014 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment by NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water appreciates the opportunity to review the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Wilpinjong Coal Production Optimisation Project.

The Office of Water has previously provided comments on the groundwater model, aquifer interference and monitoring plan for the modification 5 and the exploration program. Groundwater model MODFLOW-SURFACT developed by Hydro Simulations for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine satisfied NOW's requirements.

Hydro Simulations has provided a groundwater assessment report stating that the modification would have no additional impacts than its predictions for the modification 5.

Based on the information provided in the Environmental Assessment (EA), proposed modification would have minimal water supply requirements. This means that there would be no change to draw downs of water levels or total volume of groundwater take. The proposed modification 6 is estimated to have a marginally lower peak annual inflow than the existing modification 5.

The Office of Water notes that if the period of mining coincides with a wet sequence, the water balance indicates that the groundwater inflows as well as the licensed discharge to Wilpinjong Creek may increase slightly with modification 6 compared with modification 5. The proponent needs to be aware of this and should ensure that it does not exceed its licensed limits for inflow or discharge.

According to the NSW Office of Water records, the proponent holds access licences from the Wollar Creek Water Source and from the Alluvial Water Source under the Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009 and licences under part 5 of the *Water Act 1912* to extract water from hard rock aquifers.

The proponent should liaise with the Office of Water to ensure that its water access licences nominate the appropriate works.

Based on the information provided by the proponent, the Modification is unlikely to have any adverse impact on groundwater sources or their dependant ecosystems, beyond the effects of approved mining. NSW Office of Water Recommended Conditions of Approval are provided at Attachment A.

Crown Lands, Fisheries NSW and Agriculture NSW advise no issues.

Attachment A

**Wilpinjong Coal Mine Project (MP 05_0021 MOD 6)
Proposed Modification
Recommended Conditions of Approval NSW Office of Water**

1. Proponent is required to estimate to the satisfaction of NSW Office of Water the volumes of water taken from both the surface water and groundwater from the Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources, and maintain sufficient licensed entitlement to account for take from all water sources managed under the *Water Management Act 2000*.

(Note: Actual allocation may vary time to time due to changes in available water determination.)

2. The proponent is required to obtain all necessary licences under the *Water Act 1912*.

3. The proponent is required to hold the necessary proportion of the access licence shares required to cover the perpetual take of water flowing into the final void (and out of the evaporative sink) at the cessation of mining.

End Attachment A