

24 August 2018

David Kitto  
Executive Director, Resource Assessments and Business Systems  
Department of Planning & Environment  
320 Pitt Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear David,

**MOOLARBEN COAL COMPLEX – OPEN CUT OPTIMISATION MODIFICATION (05\_0117 MOD 14) AND (08\_0135 MOD 3) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Please find enclosed responses to the queries from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in regard to the Moolarben Coal Complex Open Cut Optimisation Modification (the Modification).

Please note that, following further consultation with DPE and the EPA in regard to the Modification, MCO proposes the following changes to controlled release volume and salinity limits:

- **Salinity limit:**
  - Maximum proposed salinity limit of 685 microSiemens per centimetre ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ) (a reduction in comparison to the currently authorised salinity limit of 900  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  in MCO's Environment Protection Licence [EPL] 12932).
  - This limit is consistent with the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile upstream salinity level of the Goulburn River (based on combined data collected from monitoring locations UMC SW01 and GS 210046).
- **Volume limits:**
  - Up to 10 megalitres per day (ML/day) (as currently authorised by EPL 12932) for the remainder of Moolarben Coal Complex mine life, with the exceptions below.
  - Up to 15 ML/day during operations in UG4.
  - As the site water balance for the Modification predicted releases greater than the proposed staged discharge limit (as set out above) would be required during prolonged wet periods, and consistent with discussions with the EPA, the ability to temporarily release greater than the staged discharge limit following prolonged wet periods would be required (to the satisfaction of the EPA and subject to the conditions of EPL 12932 as varied).

The effect of the above is that, when compared to the currently authorised limits of EPL 12932, there would be:

- A reduction in the salinity of controlled releases for the remainder of the mine life.
- A reduction in annual salt loads released to the Goulburn River for the majority of the mine life.
- No increase in the controlled release volume limit for the majority of the mine life.
- The ability for MCO to release water in a controlled manner following periods of prolonged wet weather to minimise the risk of uncontrolled releases of mine water.

Further to the above, to enable the collection of site-specific particulate matter <2.5 micrometres ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) ( $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ) concentration data, MCO proposes to install a real-time  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  monitor.

Relevant responses to DPE and EPA's queries (enclosed) reflect the proposed controlled release limits described above.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you have any queries or would like to discuss.

Regards,



**Mark Jacobs**  
Executive General Manager – Environment & Community  
Yancoal Australia Ltd

Enclosure 1	Responses to DPE Queries
Enclosure 2	Responses to EPA Queries