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Major Development Assessment
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Your Ref: 10_0001
Our Ref: S12/0021
DA12100485008 PC

8 November 2012

ATTENTION: Stephen O'Donoghue



Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

Cobbora Coal Project (10_0001)

I refer to your e-mail dated 2 October 2012 seeking comments and recommended conditions of approval from the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for the above project.

The RFS has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for the Cobbora Coal Project prepared by EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Ltd and provides the following comments and conditions in relation to bushfire protection for the proposed development.

The RFS raised no specific objection to the proposed development and generally supports the bushfire protection measures outlined in Project Bushfire Assessment (Chapter 11 and Appendix J of the Environmental Assessment report), subject to the following.

The RFS recommends that the following conditions be included to any approval granted for the project.

1. A Bushfire Management Plan that details measures to prevent fires igniting and spreading during construction and operation of the development be prepared prior to the commencement of construction and be implemented over the life of the development. The Bushfire Management Plan shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - contact person / details for emergency management;
 - schedule and description of works for the construction of asset protection zones and their continued maintenance;
 - strategy for hazard reduction, including undeveloped areas where vegetation may regenerate across the site;
 - communication strategy for coordinated response to bushfires with the RFS;
 - operational measures identified in section 3.4 of the Bushfire Assessment included as Appendix J of the Environmental Assessment prepared by EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Ltd;
 - work involving risk of ignition should not be carried out during total fire bans;
 - availability of fire suppression equipment;

- fire fighting water supply for the Temporary Construction Accommodation Village;
 - storage of fuels and other flammable materials; and
 - evacuation procedures for staff (including the Temporary Construction Accommodation Village) in case of bushfire emergency in accordance with the RFS Guidelines for the Preparation of Emergency / Evacuation Plan;
2. The Temporary Construction Accommodation Village shall be constructed in accordance with AS 3959-2009 'Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas'. Detailed design of the Temporary Construction Accommodation Village shall provide asset protection zones to ensure that construction is no greater than BAL 29 (AS 3959-2009). Asset protection zones around the Temporary Construction Accommodation Village shall be managed as an inner protection area (IPA) as outlined within section 4.1.3 and Appendix 5 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 and the NSW Rural Fire Service's document 'Standards for asset protection zones'.
 3. At the commencement of building works and for the life of the development, asset protection zones shall be provided around the site infrastructure as outlined in Table 3.1 of the Bushfire Assessment included as Appendix J of the Environmental Assessment prepared by EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Ltd. The asset protection zones shall extend around the entire infrastructure building / facility for the nominated distances and shall be managed as an inner protection area (IPA) as outlined within section 4.1.3 and Appendix 5 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 and the NSW Rural Fire Service's document Standards for asset protection zones.
 4. Access to the mine infrastructure buildings and facilities shall provide access for fire fighting vehicles in accordance with the requirements of section 4.1.3(2) of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006'.
 5. Electricity and gas services are to comply with section 4.1.3 of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006'.
 6. Landscaping to the site is to comply with the principles of Appendix 5 of 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006'.

It is also noted that:

- the Bushfire Assessment indicates that the switching yard, substation and pump station on the Cudgegong River have not been assessed for bushfire as they are greater than 100 metres from bush fire prone land. These site may contain grassland that can present a bushfire hazard and as such, the area surrounding these facilities for a distance of not less than 20 metres should be maintained as an asset protection zone to minimise the potential for regeneration of a bushfire hazard.
- the asset protection zones proposed around the dangerous goods depot and refuelling / fuel storage areas are based on potential radiant heat exposure of 29kW/m². While 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006' does not specify asset protection zone distances for such hazardous facilities, greater protection could be provided through an increase in the nominated asset protection zone.

For any enquiries regarding this correspondence please contact Paul Creenaune on 8741 5175.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Bawden', with a large, stylized 'A' and 'B'.

Alan Bawden

Team Leader – Development Assessment and Planning

The RFS has made getting additional information easier. For general information on *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006*, visit the RFS web page at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au and search under *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006*.