

## Stephen O'Donoghue - Clarification for Cobbora Coal - revised PPR

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**From:** Liz Webb <lwebb@emgamm.com>  
**To:** "Stephen O'Donoghue (stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au)" <stephen.o...>  
**Date:** Thursday, 26 September 2013 14:43  
**Subject:** Clarification for Cobbora Coal - revised PPR  
**CC:** "Trish McDonald (Trish.McDonald@cobbora.com.au)" <Trish.McDonald@cobbora...>

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Steve,

Tim Baker from the NSW Office of Water has requested clarification on two points from the revised PPR for Cobbora Coal that he raised in a phone call with me on 24 September 2013. The text below seeks to clarify these two matters.

### 1. *The use of groundwater during construction*

#### **In summary**

- The project as described in the EA and the PPR&RTS does not include the construction of new bores for sourcing construction water or seek their approval.
- The use of groundwater from existing groundwater bores is proposed, and approval to use existing test production bores and existing farm bores is currently being sought from the NSW Office of Water.
- If the use of these bores to supply construction water is not approved, then the sources described in the EA and PPR&RTS will be used.

### 1. *Details surrounding the turkey nest nature of the Raw Water Dam*

#### **Background**

- The Raw Water Dam described in the EA and the PPR&RTS has a small natural catchment area, and also an additional catchment area attributed to a diversion drain above the tailings storage facility. NOW has advised that dam storage capacity alone (1,000 ML) is the factor which determines the licence requirement for a dam of the type (ie. with 'natural' upslope catchment area). Based on the reliability factor of 1.17 for the locality, the Raw Water Dam will require a licenced entitlement of approximately 850 ML in the Lower Talbragar Water Source. In conjunction with the 799 ML required annually to offset river losses due to groundwater drawdown and enhanced recharge to spoil, a total entitlement of approximately 1,650 ML in the Lower Talbragar Water Source will be required.
- Under current licensing arrangements, both Woolandra West and Woolandra East dams would need to be decommissioned to relinquish sufficient entitlement. Decommissioning of Woolandra West dam is described in the EA and the PPR&RTS. The additional loss of Woolandra East dam has not been considered previously, and would result in the cessation of the existing crop irrigation development north of the Project Application Area.
- NOW has advised that clean water diversion drains constructed at approximate top water level at the Raw Water Dam would substantially reduce its required licensed entitlement. In this case surface runoff would be diverted around the storage and directed to the downstream waterway. CHC advises that construction of diversion drains is the preferred option to minimise the licence requirement of the Raw Water Dam. CHC will consult with NOW to establish the actual licence requirement. This approach appears to avoid decommissioning of Woolandra East dam and retention of the existing crop irrigation development.

#### **In summary**

- CHC will construct clean water diversion drains at the approximate top water level at the Raw Water Dam which will substantially reduce its required licensed entitlement. Surface runoff will therefore be diverted around the storage and directed to the downstream waterway. CHC will consult with NOW to establish the actual licence requirement.

If there is additional clarification required please let me know.

Regards,

Liz Webb  
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