



Planning

Major Projects Assessment
Mining and Industry Project
Phone: (02) 9228 6283
Fax: (02) 9228 6466
Email: carl.dumpleton@planning.nsw.gov.au
Level 3 Room 306
23-33 Bridge Street
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Mr Danny Young
Environmental Manager
Whitehaven Coal mining Pty Limited
PO Box 600
GUNNEDAH NSW 2382

Our ref: S02/01497

Dear Mr Young

**Rocglen Extension Project (10_0015)
Director-General's Requirements**

The Department has received your application for this project.

I have attached a copy of the Director-General's requirements for the project. These requirements have been prepared in consultation with the relevant agencies, based on the information you have provided to date. I have also attached a copy of the agencies' comments for your information.

Please note the Director-General may further alter these requirements at any time.

If your proposal is likely to have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval is in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation. It is your responsibility to contact the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in Canberra (6274 1111 or <http://www.environment.gov.au>) to determine if the proposal requires an approval under the EPBC Act. If it is subsequently determined that an approval is required under the EPBC Act, please contact the Department of Planning immediately as supplementary Director-General's requirements may need to be issued.

I would appreciate it if you would contact the Department at least two weeks before you intend to submit your Environmental Assessment for the project. This will enable the Department to determine the:

- applicable fee (see Division 1A, Part 15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000); and
- number of copies (hard-copy and CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required for exhibition purposes.

Once it receives the Environmental Assessment, the Department will review it in consultation with the relevant agencies to determine if it adequately addresses the Director-General's requirements, and may require you to revise it prior to public exhibition.

The Department is required to make all the relevant information associated with the project publicly available on its website. Consequently, I would appreciate it if you would ensure that all the documents you subsequently submit to the Department are in a suitable format for the web, and arrange for an electronic version of the Environmental Assessment to be hosted on a suitable website.

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Carl Dumpleton on 9228 6283 or carl.dumpleton@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



David Kitto
Director
Mining & Industry Projects
As delegate for the Director-General

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application number	10_0015
Project	<p>The Rocglen Extension Project, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an extension of the approved mining operations at the Rocglen coal mine; • augmenting and upgrading the existing infrastructure on site; and • transporting coal to both the Canyon coal mine and the Whitehaven preparation plant for further processing.
Location	Wean Road, about 25 kilometres north of Gunnedah.
Proponent	Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Limited.
Date of Issue	March 2010
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment of the project must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary; • a detailed description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - existing and approved development on site; and - the existing environmental management and monitoring regime; • a detailed description of all aspects of the project, including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need for the project; - alternatives considered; - likely interactions between existing and proposed operations; and - plans of any proposed building works; • a risk assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the project, identifying the key issues for further assessment; • a detailed assessment of the key issues specified below, and any other significant issues identified in the risk assessment (see above), which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of the existing environment, using sufficient baseline data; - an assessment of the potential impacts of all stages of the project, including any cumulative impacts associated with the concurrent operation of the project with any other existing or approved mining operations in the region, taking into consideration any relevant policies, guidelines, plans and statutory provisions (see below); and - a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, and if necessary offset the potential impacts of the project, including detailed contingency plans for managing any significant risks to the environment; • a statement of commitments, outlining all the proposed environmental management and monitoring measures; • a conclusion justifying the project on economic, social and environmental grounds, taking into consideration whether the project is consistent with the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979</i>; and • a signed statement from the author of the Environmental Assessment, certifying that the information contained within the document is neither false nor misleading.
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – an accurate estimate of any vegetation clearing associated with the project; – a detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the project on any terrestrial or aquatic threatened species, populations, ecological communities or their habitats; – a detailed description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid or mitigate impacts on biodiversity; – a detailed assessment of impacts on the existing biodiversity offset

	<p>strategy for the mine;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – consideration of impacts on lands covered by the <i>Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005</i>; and – an offset strategy to ensure the project maintains or improves the biodiversity values of the region in the medium to long term (in accordance with NSW and Commonwealth policies); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface and Ground Water – a detailed assessment of surface and groundwater impacts including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a detailed site water balance, including a description of site water demands, water disposal methods, water supply infrastructure and water storage structures; – a detailed assessment of potential impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the quality and quantity of existing surface and ground water resources, over both the short and long-term; and ○ affected licensed water users and basic landholder rights; and – a detailed description of the proposed water management system and water monitoring program for the project and other measures to mitigate surface and groundwater impacts; • Soil – a detailed assessment of the likely impacts on soil and the proposed management measures to avoid, mitigate or offset those impacts; • Noise & Blasting – including a quantitative assessment of potential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – construction, operational and transport noise impacts; – offsite noise impacts; and – blasting impacts on people, livestock and property; • Rehabilitation, Final Landform and Final Void Management – including a justification of the revised final landform and any changes to the land use for the site; how the site would be progressively rehabilitated; or the measures which would be put in place for the long term protection and management of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the site following cessation of mining; and – any biodiversity offset areas; • Air Quality; • Visual; • Traffic and Transport – including a detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the project on the safety and performance of the road network; • Heritage – both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal; • Greenhouse Gases – a revised greenhouse gas assessment to account for the increased extraction of coal; and • Social and Economic.
References	<p>The Environmental Assessment of the key issues listed above must take into account relevant guidelines, policies, and plans. While not exhaustive, the following attachment contains a list of guidelines, policies and plans that may be relevant to the environmental assessment of this project.</p>
Consultation	<p>During the preparation of the EA, you should consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth government authorities, service providers, community groups or affected landowners. The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>In particular you must consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water; • Roads and Traffic Authority; • NSW Office of Water; • Industry and Investment NSW; • Country Energy; • Gunnedah Shire Council; and • Namoi Catchment Management Authority.
Deemed refusal period	90 days

Policies, Guidelines & Plans

Aspect	Policy /Methodology
Soil and Water	
	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2004 (NWQMS)
	National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC/ARMCANZ)
	National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (ANZECC/ARMCANZ)
	Using the ANZECC Guideline and Water Quality Objectives in NSW (DEC)
<i>Surface Water</i>	Namoi Catchment Action Plan (DPI)
	State Water Management Outcomes Plan
	NSW Government Water Quality and River Flow Environmental Objectives (DECC)
	Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW (DEC)
	Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction (Landcom)
	Managing Urban Stormwater: Treatment Techniques (DECC)
	Managing Urban Stormwater: Source Control (DECC)
	National Water Quality Management Strategy Guidelines for Groundwater Protection in Australia (ARMCANZ/ANZECC)
	NSW State Groundwater Policy Framework Document (DLWC)
	NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy (DLWC)
	NSW State Groundwater Quantity Management Policy (DLWC) Draft
<i>Groundwater</i>	Upper and Lower Namoi Groundwater Water Sharing Plan (DWE)
	Murray-Darling Basin Groundwater Quality. Sampling Guidelines. Technical Report No 3 (MDBC)
	Murray-Darling Basin Commission. Groundwater Flow Modelling Guideline (Aquaterra Consulting Pty Ltd)
	Draft Guidelines for the Assessment & Management of Groundwater Contamination (DECC)
	Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites (ANZECC & NHMRC)
<i>Soil</i>	National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 (NEPC)
	State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 – Remediation of Land
	Managing Land Contamination – Planning Guidelines SEPP 55 – Remediation of Land (DOP)
Noise	
	NSW Industrial Noise Policy (DECC)
	Environmental Noise Management – Assessing Vibration: a technical guide (DEC)
	Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise (NSW EPA)
	Interim Guidelines for the Assessment of Noise From Rail Infrastructure Projects (DECC)
	Technical basis for guidelines to minimise annoyance due to blasting overpressure and ground vibration (ANZEC)
	Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC)
	DIN 4150 Part 3 - Structural Vibration: effects of vibration on structures (ISO, 1999)
Biodiversity	
	Draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment under Part 3A of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (DEC)
	NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy (DLWC)
	Policy & Guidelines - Aquatic Habitat Management and Fish Conservation

Rehabilitation	
	Mine Rehabilitation – Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry (Commonwealth of Australia)
	Mine Closure and Completion – Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry (Commonwealth of Australia)
Blasting and Vibration	
	ANZECC Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance Due to Blasting Overpressure & Ground Vibration
	Assessing Vibration – A Technical Guide 2006 (DEC)
Air Quality	
	Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002
	Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (DEC)
	Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in NSW (DEC)
Traffic and Transport	
	Guide to Traffic Generating Development - Section 2 Traffic Impact Studies (RTA)
	Road Design Guide (RTA)
	Road and Related Facilities (Department of Planning EIS Guidelines)
	Relevant Austroad standards
Heritage	
<i>Aboriginal</i>	Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation (DEC)
<i>Non-Aboriginal</i>	NSW Heritage Manual (NSW Heritage Office & DUAP)
	The Burra Charter (The Australia ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance)
Social and Economic	
	Draft Economic Evaluation in Environmental Impact Assessment (DOP)
	Techniques for Effective Social Impact Assessment: A Practical Guide (Office of Social Policy, NSW Government Social Policy Directorate)
Risk Assessment	
	AS/NZS 4360:2004 Risk Management (Standards Australia)
	HB 203: 203:2006 Environmental Risk Management – Principles & Process (Standards Australia)