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EPA Advice on Modification Report Angus Place Coal Mine – MP06_0021, Mod 6

Dear Mr Rode

Thank you for the request for advice, requesting the review by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Modification Report (Report) for the proposed Angus Place Coal Mine Water Transfer System (Application MP06_0021 – Mod 6) at Angus Place Colliery.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents:

Centennial and Energy Australia, Angus Place Coal Project (MP 06_0021) and Springvale Water Treatment Project (SSD 7592), Modification 6, Modification Report, November 2020 and associated Appendices.

The EPA understand the proposal is for:

- A new Angus Place water transfer system to allow mine water to be transferred from Angus Place Mine directly to MPPS, independently from the Springvale WTP Raw Water transfer Pipeline;
- Establishment of a water softening plant at Angus Place pit top to treat mine water for elevated hardness, potentially increasing the proportion of flow able to be transferred directly to the Springvale water treatment facility; and
- Treatment and reuse of mine water within the existing MPPS cooling water management system.

Based on the information provided, the proposal may be subject to an environment protection licence under sections 43, 47, 55 and/or 122 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act).

The EPA has reviewed the Report and has the following comments and recommendations:

1. Matters to be addressed prior to determination

i. Background noise

The report, *Centennial Coal and Energy Australia Alternative Water Management Strategy Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, November 2020* GHD states: “Noise monitoring was undertaken at Blackmans Flat from 20 February to 28 February 2012. This location is

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not significantly affected by noise from the overland conveyor system. Background noise levels are likely to increase for sensitive receivers closer to the conveyor however this location has been considered conservative for establishing noise criteria and has been used for this assessment."

The EPA has received ongoing recent complaints from a resident at Blackman's Flat who is alleging that he is being impacted by noise generated by operations at Springvale Colliery, including the overland conveyor system. The Report relies on background noise assessment that was developed as part of *Centennial Western Coal Services Project Noise and Vibration Assessment* (SLR, 24 July 2013). The EPA is concerned that this report was prepared some years in the past and may not be representative of the current situation.

The EPA recommends that justification about the use of a background noise assessment from 2012 is provided. The EPA further recommends that the proponent demonstrate why this 2012 assessment is representative of the current background noise situation in the affected area.

ii. Treatment Process

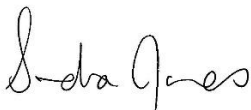
The report does not include specific information on the water treatment process, it's process, the quality of water that will be produced and the waste streams generated. The EPA recommends further information be provided about the water treatment process and in particular how the water treatment will be undertaken. The report states that lime, sulphuric acid and an unknown polymer will be part of the process, however it is unclear how this process will occur, whether conditions will need to be included on the environment protection licence for regulation of the process and how and which waste products will be generated and managed.

iii. Waste generation and management

The EPA recommends that further information be provided on the characteristics of the waste materials that will be generated through the water treatment process. This includes waste classification of the waste sludge and identification of suitable facilities which can lawfully accept this waste which will be generated at a rate of 35 trucks/week.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Dr Sandie Jones on (02) 6333 3801 via e-mail at EPA.Southopsregional@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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