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Dear Mr Turner

**EPA Comments on Wongawilli Colliery North West Mains Development – Modification 2**

The EPA refers to your request for comments on the above proposal to modify the North West Mains Development Consent MP09\_0161 issued for the Wongawilli Colliery.

The key aspects of the proposal are to modify the alignment of the western end of the mains and to extend the life of the mine by five years to 31 December 2025.

Aspects of the project relevant to the EPA 's regulation of the pit top include measures to mitigate noise such as:

- relocation of the crusher, sizer and screen underground; and
- various works to reduce noise from train load loading.

The EPA's has reviewed the modification report and provided comments in the attachment to this letter.

If you have questions regarding the above, please phone Andrew Couldridge on (02) 4224 4100.

Yours sincerely

*William Dove 24.02.2021*

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## Attachment

### Noise Impacts

The Wongawilli Colliery Modification Report (Report) has appropriately identified noise as a key concern given the recent development of residential areas close to the mine boundary and train loading area.

The revised noise impact assessment has followed the EPA's Noise Policy for Industry in developing project noise trigger levels for the project. These levels are lower than in the existing approved development.

To reduce noise emission, reasonable and feasible noise measures are proposed involving relocation of the crushing and screening facility underground, modification of the rail load out facility and mitigation packs for dozers and front-end loaders. The EPA notes that the proposed mitigation measures are standard techniques and have been used elsewhere with relative success.

The revised modelling shows that the number of moderately affected houses affected by residual noise under VLAMP definitions will fall from 6 to 1 with only one house marginally affected.

Based on the information presented, the EPA recommends that new noise performance criteria for any modification of the Approval take into consideration the achievable noise levels in table 10.2 of Appendix E.

### General Points of Clarification

Appendix D, table D1 showing updated mitigation measures mentions "improvements to screen/sizer and elevator enclosures" does not include relocation of the sizer/screening equipment underground - although it is included in table 9.1 of Appendix E which lists proposed reasonable and feasible measures. The other reasonable and feasible management measure not included in table D1 is to minimise the use of the coal stockpile area following implementation of noise mitigation in the train loading area.

In table D1 under the heading Surface Water, the EPA suggests including turbidity in the downstream monitoring program as follows "pH, EC, DO, *turbidity* and temperature during field analysis".

### Management Plans

The EPA recommends that any modification of the Development Approval require the proponent to prepare updated noise, air and water management plans.

The EPA should be consulted during development of the plans due to potential noise from the project and the expansion of water quality monitoring downstream of the pit top.

The EPA recommends that potential construction noise impacts, work practices to minimise those impacts and complaint management processes be addressed in the noise plan.

The EPA supports the additional water quality monitoring because discharges from Wongawilli Colliery points 2 and 4 (licence number 1087) now flow through restored creeks and water features in new residential developments immediately downstream. The discharges have more visibility and potential for human contact than previously when the surrounding area was farmland.