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EPA Advice on Submissions Report

Dear Mr Nevill

Thank you for the request for advice from Public Authority Consultation (PAE-21182854), requesting the review by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Submissions Report for the proposed Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project (Application SSD-10269) at 10 Kurrajong Creek Road, Baan Baa NSW 2390.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents:

- *Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project Submissions Report and associated attachments and appendices* – Whitehaven Coal, undated.
- *Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project Amendment Report* – Whitehaven Coal, undated.

The EPA understands the proposal is for:

- The extension of the underground mining areas at the Narrabri Mine to access additional coal reserves within Mining Lease Applications 1 and 2.
- Increase of total coal production from 170 million tonnes to 252 million tonnes.
- Construction of additional gas drainage, mine safety pre-conditioning, mine ventilation systems, services corridors, boreholes, access tracks and electricity transmission lines.
- Disposal of exploration drilling waste in the reject emplacement area, including receipt of exploration drilling waste products from off-site.
- Development of a Southern Mine Water Storage.

The EPA notes that after the lodgement of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the proposal has been amended to include:

- Removal of some components of the Surface Development Footprint.
- Incorporate flaring of pre-drainage gas in particular parts of the underground mining area.
- Relocation of some components of the Surface Development Footprint.

Based on the information provided, the proposal is subject to an environment protection licence under sections 43, 47, 48, 55 and/or 122 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) for Coal works (clause 10), Mining for coal (clause 28) of Schedule 1 of the POEO Act.

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The EPA has reviewed Submissions Report and notes it has addressed the EPA's submission on this project on the 8 December 2020. The EPA's comments and recommendations provided in it's previous submission remain unchanged.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact the undersigned on (02) 6773 7000 or via email at EPA.Westopsregional@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Fulloon', written over a horizontal line.

LINDSAY FULLOON
Manager Regulatory Operations
Regulatory Operations Regional West