



DOC21/596631-10

Ms Rose-Anne Hazelwood
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Dear Ms Hazelwood

EPA Comments on MOD 3 - Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project (MP08_0150-Mod-3)

The EPA refers to your request for comments on the above modification of the Development Approval issued for the Bulli Seam Operation Project Approval 08_0150.

The EPA has reviewed the proposal and has prepared comments in the attachment below.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'William Dove'.

02.08.2021

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ATTACHMENT

Proposed Changes to Project Approval

The modification report recommends changes to Project Approval conditions in table 3.4.

One proposed change is to remove schedule 4, condition 15 which states: "The Proponent shall ensure that all surface water discharges from the site (including from the Brennans Creek Dam) comply with the discharge limits (both volume and quality) set for the project in any EPL."

The EPA does not object to removal of the condition as it duplicates existing legislation.

Licensing Requirements

The modification report proposes construction of a sediment basin, a sewage treatment plant and an associated irrigation scheme at the new vent shaft site.

If the modification is approved, the proponent will have to apply to the EPA for a variation to amend Environment Protection Licence number 2504. The application should be to attach discharge points for overflow(s) from the sediment basin, discharge to the irrigation area and overflow(s) from the treated effluent wet weather storage basin. Information required to support the application such as water balance, site suitability assessment and land area requirements can be found in the EPA Guideline "Use of effluent by irrigation, October 2004".

The EPA also recommends that a condition of approval or statement of commitment be included stating that connection of the facility to a centralised sewerage system will be undertaken when it is available in the area.

Noise Management

The noise impact assessment follows general considerations in the guideline "Noise Policy for Industry, October 2012" and the "Interim Construction Noise Guideline, July 2009".

The assessment states that there is potential for noise and vibration impacts from construction of the vent shafts and mine access facilities. The effectiveness of proposed controls rely on best management practices and ongoing assessment and review of the effectiveness of controls (adaptive management).

The EPA recommends that if approval is given, a detailed noise management plan containing construction noise management measures is required as a condition of approval. The plan should include a blast management strategy that contains specific monitoring and mitigation measures. The EPA requests to be consulted during government agency review and approval.

Odour Management during Vent Shaft Operation

The operation of vent shafts in the Southern Coalfields have generated offensive odours during operation from time to time. Section 129 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act (1997) '*Emission of odours from premises licensed for scheduled activities*' makes it an offence to cause or permit offensive odours from a premises to which a licence applies.

The EPA recommends that if approval is given, a detailed odour management plan is required as a condition of approval.