

**Contact: Mary-Anne Crawford**  
**Our Ref: M7-6**

26 August 2021

Mr Joe Fittell  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
Resource Assessments - Planning Services  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Joe

**DPIE request for Advice – Hunter Valley South MOD 6 – Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion Plant (MP06\_0261-Mod-6)**

I refer to your request via the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal for advice from Singleton Council on the proposed modification to the Hunter Valley South Mine. The proposed modification is seeking approval for the installation of one of two ammonium nitrate emulsion plants.

Council staff have undertaken a review of the Statement of Environmental Effects provided and submits this letter as its response to the Department's request.

**The Proposed Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion Plant (the Project)**

The Project is seeking approval for the construction and operation of an ammonium nitrate emulsion (ANE) plant at one of two locations within the existing mine disturbance area at Hunter Valley South. The Project will continue to enable storage of raw products (ammonium nitrate (AN), diesel) used in the production of ammonium nitrate emulsion and explosives, at already approved limits.

The Statement of Environmental Effects states that:

*Storage of AN, ANE and Diesel is already approved at HVO and the use of an onsite ANE emulsion facility instead of the use of imported ANE will not exceed the existing storage licence or exceed volumes under the Major Hazard Facility Threshold, as identified by the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017. It is further noted that mines and petroleum sites are exempt from the major hazard facility provisions, in accordance with Chapter 9 of the WHS Regulation (NSW Resources Regulator, 2020).*

Location A is the existing storage facility and is located closest to sensitive receptors in Maison Dieu. Location B is within the approved disturbance footprint of the Lemington Coal Handling Plant. The modification is seeking approval for both locations, however only one will be constructed. Should an extension to the mining

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operations be approved and the Lemington Road be re-aligned as part of that Project, the facility will be re-located to Location B.

### **Impacts to Singleton Community**

Council notes that the regulatory authority for explosives in NSW is the Explosives Regulator, and that subsequent approval from the Regulator will be required in order for the facility to be operational. Council notes that Location A is closer in proximity to residents in the Maison Dieu area of Singleton, and as such is not the Council's preferred location for the facility.

The most significant impact to the community of Singleton is the transportation of materials used in the manufacture of ANE, including diesel and ammonium nitrate. Under the existing operations materials in the production of ANE are transported through Singleton to an ANE manufacturing facility at Liddell. Should the Project be approved, the materials used in the production of ANE for the Hunter Valley Operations will be transported directly to the site, bypassing the township of Singleton. Council considers this to be a positive outcome of the proposal. Should the Project be approved, Council would like conditions to be imposed that prohibit the transport of materials through Singleton.

The Project proposes to construct new and augment existing buildings. In order to do so, the Applicant will require, amongst other things, construction certificates, fire safety certificates and an approval to install and operate on site sewerage management systems. These post approval requirements should form conditions of approval, should the Project be approved.

### **Concluding Comments**

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide advice into the Project's Statement of Environmental Effects. Please contact me on 02 6578 7290 if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mary-Anne Crawford  
**Manager Development and Environmental Services**