



DOC21/680463-3, EF13/3770

Planning and Assessment Division
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Returned via Planning Portal

Attention: Tegan Cole

25 August 2021

Dear Ms Cole,

**Planning Referral – Advice Request
United Wambo MOD 1 – Coal Stockpiles**

I refer to your request for advice received on 9 August 2021 regarding State Significant Development Modification SSD-7142-Mod-1 (**MOD 1**) for United Wambo Open Cut Coal Mine Project –seeking to increase the existing run of mine (**ROM**) coal stockpile storage area from 6 hectares (**ha**) to 16 ha.

The EPA has reviewed the MOD 1 application and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment prepared by Umwelt Environmental & Social Consultants dated 13 July 2021 (**the EIS**) and provides the following comments and recommendations:

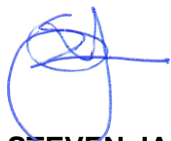
Water Management

The EIS states that the proposed modification is not expected to result in a material change to the water balance for the site, however there is no discussion regarding the impacts of increased turbid runoff generated from the increased stockpile footprint. The 'Water Management System' depicted in Figure 3 of the EIS shows water flow from the proposed ROM stockpile area at United directed to the process water dam on the Wambo site which is licensed to discharge at EPA Point 4 to the Hunter River under Environment Protection Licence No. 529. The EPA notes there was a total suspended solids exceedance at this point in April 2021 and uncertainty about whether water received from United was a contributing factor.

The EPA considers further review is required to support best practice water management of the MOD 1 proposal and requests information on how water will be managed prior to entering the Wambo catchment as well as dam water pollution controls, performance indicators and incident management protocols.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Hannah Schuchmann on 0419 905 137 or email info@epa.com.au (cc: Hannah.schuchmann@epa.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'STEVEN JAMES', written over a circular stamp or placeholder.

STEVEN JAMES
Unit Head Regulatory Operations Metro North
Environment Protection Authority