



DOC21/864176-5, EF13/3817

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

Attention: Mr Joe Fittell

26 October 2021

Dear Mr Fittell,

**Planning Referral – Advice Request
Warkworth Coal Mine – Lemington Underground Water Storage and Construction of Ultra Class Truck Workshop**

I refer to your request for advice received on 1 October 2021 regarding State Significant Development Modification SSD- 6464-Mod 2 (**MOD 2**) for the Warkworth Continuation Project for storage and sharing of water in the Lemington underground mine void and for the construction of an Ultra Class truck workshop.

The EPA has reviewed the MOD 2 application including the:

- ‘*MTW/HVO Lemington Underground Mine Water Storage Project Modification Report Main Text*’ prepared by the applicant;
- ‘*Lemington Underground Water Storage Groundwater Assessment*’ for Project No. G1468J prepared by Australasian Groundwater & Environmental Consultants dated September 2021; and
- ‘*Lemington Mod – MTW Site Water Balance Review 0605-16-B3*’ prepared by WRM Water & Environment Pty Ltd dated 16 September 2021.

The EPA provides the following comments and recommendations:

Mount Thorley Operation and Warkworth Mine

The MOD 2 reports describe Mount Thorley Operation and Warkworth Mine as being managed as one operation known as Mount Thorley Warkworth (**MTW**) with each mine having separate planning approvals. However, Mount Thorley Operations hold Environment Protection Licence (**EPL**) No. 1976 and Warkworth Mining hold Environment Protection Licence No. 1376. Consequently, they are regulated independently by the EPA.

The EPA understands that MOD 2 is related to the Warkworth development modification and there is no requirement to modify the consent for Mt Thorley (SSD -6465).

Workshop Infrastructure

The EPA has no further comments on the proposed construction of the Ultra Class Truck Workshop.

Groundwater Impacts

The EPA considers that the impacts to groundwater from the proposal are minimal and do not require special conditions of consent.

Surface Water Impacts

In the related Hunter Valley Operations development consent modification advice request for MP06_0261-MOD 7, the EPA has recommended further groundwater analysis in the Lemington workings following borehole completion to assess the accuracy of water quality modelling that was done based on median result data obtained from the currently operational 'LUG' bore.

The results from this analysis will assist in determining appropriate surface water monitoring requirements and discharge limits at the Mt Thorley premises and the Warkworth premises.

The EPA recommends that an updated Water Management plan be provided which identifies the water dams which will receive and send water to the Lemington Underground and includes any surface water discharge points, as specified on the related EPL's and delineated by the separate EPL boundaries.

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



STEVEN JAMES
Unit Head Regulatory Operations Metro North
Environment Protection Authority