



OUT21/15819

Jarrod Blane
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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Dear Mr Blane

**Mandalong Southern Extension (Mod 10) - Additional longwall (SSD-5144)
Modification Report**

I refer to your email of 18 October 2021 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter.

Since the approval of MOD 9 in April 2021, Centennial Mandalong has reviewed the progression of underground mining within the Mandalong Southern Extension Area. This has identified that further amendments to Mandalong's approved mine plan (primarily, the addition of Longwall 34 (LW34)) are required to maintain coal production and improve the financial viability of Mandalong.

DPIE and NRAR provide pre approval and post approval recommendations in Attachment A.

Any further referrals to DPIE Water and NRAR can be sent by email to water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au, or to the following coordinating officer within DPIE Water:

Donna Priestley – Senior Project Officer
E: donna.priestley@dpie.nsw.gov.au
M: 0456 738 727

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'E. Priestley'.

Manager, Assessments, Knowledge Division
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment: Water
1 December 2021

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPIE Planning & Assessment regarding the Mandalong Southern Extension (Mod 10) - Additional longwall (SSD-5144)

1.0 Groundwater Modelling

1.1 Explanation

The proponent advises the numerical groundwater model has been updated to assess the groundwater impacts of this modification. The proponent concludes that the peak predicted groundwater inflow for the proposed modification is slightly lower than the groundwater inflow assessed as part of the approved MOD 9. If this is the case, an assessment against the AIP minimal impact considerations remains within Category 1 criteria. The proponent also states there is to be no additional water take or interference.

The AIP states that for any mining or CSG production activity not subject to the Gateway, the impacts of the activity and predicted take of water are to be based on a complex modelling platform that is: (i) calibrated and validated; (ii) consistent with the Australian Modelling Guidelines; and (iii) independently reviewed.

The proponent has not submitted the groundwater modelling report nor an independent review of the model to demonstrate the model remains 'fit for purpose'.

1.2 Recommendation – Pre Approval

That the proponent:

- provide an independently reviewed numerical groundwater model to confirm if there will be additional water take or groundwater interference from the proposed modification.

2.0 Site Water Demand

2.1 Explanation

The proponent advises that the water demands for the site include underground operations, machinery washdown, firefighting and staff amenities and that it is sourced from potable water, rainfall, runoff and groundwater inflows. It is not clear if there will be any change to the site water demand. Prior to approval, the proponent should confirm and provide details of any change to the water demand for the site.

2.2 Recommendation – Pre Approval

That the proponent:

- confirm if there will be any changes to site water demand due to the modification and provide details of where the water will be sourced, should there be a change.

3.0 Water Access Licence (WAL) for relevant water sources

3.1 Explanation

The modification requests amendments to Mandalong's approved mine plan (primarily, the addition of LW34) to maintain coal production and improve the financial viability of Mandalong (following the removal of LW33 and shortening of LW30 through MOD 9).

Throughout the report the proponent advises that no additional entitlement will be required. However the modification report states there will be some impact on baseflows due to subsidence. Should subsidence cause a decrease in base flow of a watercourse, this is classified as surface water take and must be appropriately licenced unless an exemption applies.

There are three water sources mentioned in the report. Dora Creek Water Source is under allocated with potential shares available pending assessment. However, the South Lake Macquarie Water source is over allocated (trade may be available), and Wyong River Water Source is fully allocated. As such the proponent should demonstrate that a WAL can be obtained in the relevant water source.

3.2 Recommendation – Pre Approval

That the proponent:

- demonstrate that the required surface water entitlements can be obtained from an appropriately authorised and reliable supply in accordance with the operating rules of the relevant Water Sharing Plan.

3.3 Recommendation – Post Approval

That the proponent:

- ensure sufficient water entitlement is held in a water access licence/s to account for the maximum predicted take for each water source prior to take occurring.

End Attachment A