

Our Ref: DOC19/894702

Andrew Rode
Resource Assessments
Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

By email: andrew.ode@planning.nsw.gov.au

Moolarben Coal Complex UG4 Ancillary Works Modification: Adequacy of the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE)

Dear Andrew,

I refer to the email dated 2 October 2019 inviting the Resources Regulator to provide advice regarding the adequacy of the Statement of Environmental Effects for Project **Moolarben Coal Complex UG4 Ancillary Works Modification**.

Development Details

The Moolarben Coal Complex (MCC) is located approximately 40 kilometres (km) north of Mudgee in the Western Coalfields of New South Wales (NSW). MCC comprises four open cut mines (OC1-OC4) and three underground mining areas (UG1, UG2 & UG4), including mine related processing and transport facilities approved under two separate Project approvals (PA05_0117 Stage 1 and PA08_0135 Stage 2).

Proposed changes to the approved Moolarben Coal Complex for the Modification are related to the following:

- construction and operation of a new downcast ventilation shaft and associated compound above the western extent of UG4;
- construction of a new access road (with appropriate surface drainage and sediment control infrastructure) and intersection with Ulan Road to access the new ventilation shaft compound;
- construction and operation of a new remote services infrastructure area above the UG4 mains, including a new internal access road that crosses Bora Creek;
- augmentations to the approved dewatering borefield, including relocating/expanding four of the ten approved dewatering sites above UG4, and construction of additional access tracks and infrastructure corridors; and
- other minor ancillary infrastructure to support the safe and efficient operation of the UG4 underground mining area, such as service dropholes.

The Modification would not involve any changes to the approved mining operations at UG4, including no changes to the approved mining layout, mining method, mine life, production limits or peak workforce numbers.

The additional surface infrastructure associated with the Modification would be decommissioned prior to mine closure and the areas rehabilitated with native vegetation unless otherwise agreed and required for future land management.

The Rehabilitation Management Plan would be reviewed and revised as necessary for the Modification for the additional disturbance areas. These changes would also be included in an updated version of the MOP for the Moolarben Coal Complex.

Environment and Rehabilitation

Compliance Operations within the Resources Regulator has responsibility for providing strategic advice for environmental issues pertaining to the proposed project in so far as they relate to or affect rehabilitation.

The Resources Regulator advises the Department of Planning and Environment – Resources Assessments rehabilitation requirements have been adequately addressed in the Statement of Environmental Effects for **Moolarben Coal Complex UG4 Ancillary Works Modification**, received 2 October 2019.

The Resource Regulator has determined that sustainable rehabilitation outcomes can be achieved as a result of the Project Modification and that any identified risks or opportunities can be effectively regulated through the conditions of mining authorities issued under the *Mining Act 1992*.

For enquiries regarding this matter please contact Amy McKenzie on 02 6360 9520 or nswresourcesregulator@service-now.com

Yours sincerely



Christine Fawcett
Manager Environmental Operations
Resources Regulator
NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

15 October 2019