

BDAR waiver recommendation report template

Project Name: Tahmoor North MOD 5

SSD Application Number: DA67/98 MOD 5

Proponent: Tahmoor Coking Coal Operations - SIMEC

Date request received: 30 July 2020

| Biodiversity value | Meaning | Relevant (✓ or NA) | Potential impacts | |
|--|---|--------------------|---|--|
| | | | Applicant comment/ justification | BCD comment |
| Vegetation abundance - 1.4(b) BC Regulation | Occurrence and abundance of vegetation at a particular site | ✓ | <p>Where vegetation is present on the development site, provide a map on digital aerial photography or the best available imagery of the development site showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • native vegetation (including grasslands and other non-woody vegetation types) and non-native vegetation, and • the area of land that is directly impacted by the proposed development, including related infrastructure such as roads, pipelines, access tracks, temporary material stockpiles, asset protection zones and powerlines, if applicable. <p>Describe how the proposed development avoids impacts on native vegetation and identify the likelihood and extent of any remaining impacts including removal of isolated or cultivated native plants.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No surface clearing of native vegetation is proposed. • Existing vegetation is highly modified and unlikely to be impacted by proposed/predicted subsidence. • No groundwater-dependent ecosystems occur within the modification area. • End Of Panel reports submitted for Tahmoor North operations to date have not noted impacts to native vegetation resulting from subsidence. |
| Vegetation integrity 1.5(2)(a) BC Act | Degree to which the composition, structure and function of vegetation at a particular site and the surrounding landscape has been altered from a near natural state | ✓ | Describe the vegetation integrity and any impacts on vegetation integrity of identified plant communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remnant vegetation is disturbed, largely exotic and presents as scattered trees. • The majority of the modification area is otherwise cleared. • As detailed above, no clearing is proposed. |

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| Habitat suitability 1.5(2)(b) BC Act | Degree to which the habitat needs of threatened species are present at a particular site | ✓ | <p>Identify any threatened species or ecological communities or their habitat on the development site.</p> <p>Describe how the proposed development avoids impacts on habitat suitability and identify the likelihood and extent of any remaining impacts including the impacts of development on the following habitat of threatened species or ecological communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) karst, caves, crevices, cliffs and other geological features of significance, (ii) rocks, (iii) human made structures, (iv) non-native vegetation, <p>(prescribed under clause 6.1(1)(a) of the BC Regulation)</p> <p>Impacts may include the removal or modification (eg. noise, light etc) of the habitat of threatened species or ecological communities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site provides limited resources for fauna, and is unlikely to provide any significant resources for threatened species within the locality. • There are no records of threatened flora within the modification area. • Potential subsidence is highly unlikely to impact on threatened species habitat features, as discussed below. |
| Threatened species abundance 1.4(a) BC Regulation | Occurrence and abundance of threatened species or threatened ecological communities, or their habitat, at a particular site | ✓ | <p>Describe how the proposed development avoids impacts on threatened species abundance and identify the likelihood and extent of any remaining impacts including impacts of vehicle strikes on threatened species of animals or on animals that are part of a threatened ecological community (prescribed under clause 6.1(1)(f) of the BC Regulation).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No clearing is proposed. • Predicted subsidence is minimal and unlikely to impact on threatened species. |
| Habitat connectivity 1.4(c) BC Regulation | Degree to which a particular site connects different areas of habitat of threatened species to facilitate the movement of those species across their range | ✓ | <p>Identify whether the development site contributes to habitat connectivity.</p> <p>Describe how the proposed development avoids impacts on habitat connectivity and identify the likelihood and extent of any remaining impacts of development on the connectivity of different areas of habitat of threatened species that facilitates the movement of those species across their range (prescribed under clause 6.1(1)(b) of the BC Regulation).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As no clearing is proposed, habitat connectivity will not be impacted by the proposed modification. |

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| Threatened species movement 1.4(d) BC Regulation | Degree to which a particular site contributes to the movement of threatened species to maintain their lifecycle | ✓ | Describe how the proposed development avoids impacts on threatened species movement and identify the likelihood and extent of any remaining impacts of development on movement of threatened species that maintains their lifecycle (prescribed under clause 6.1(1)(c) BC Regulation). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As no clearing is proposed, there would be no impacts on movement corridors to proximate areas of native vegetation. |
| Flight path integrity 1.4(e) BC Regulation | Degree to which the flight paths of protected animals over a particular site are free from interference | NA | <p>Identify whether flight paths of protected animals occur over the development site. Protected animals are animals of a species listed or referred to in Schedule 5 of the BC Act. They include any species of birds, mammals, amphibians or reptiles that are native to Australia or that periodically or occasionally migrate to Australia.</p> <p>Describe how the proposed development avoids impacts on flight path integrity and identify the likelihood and extent of any remaining impacts.</p> <p>Note: The impacts of wind turbine strikes on protected animals are prescribed under clause 6.1(1)(e) of the BC Regulation. It is, therefore, unlikely that a BDAR waiver would be issued for a proposed wind farm.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No flight paths would be impacted by the proposed modification. The proposal would not impact on paths of protected animals. |
| Water sustainability 1.4(f) BC Regulation | Degree to which water quality, water bodies and hydrological processes sustain threatened species and threatened ecological communities at a particular site. | ✓ | Describe how the proposed development avoids impacts on water sustainability and identify the likelihood and extent of any remaining impacts of development on water quality, water bodies and hydrological processes that sustain threatened species and threatened ecological communities (including from subsidence or upsidence resulting from underground mining or other development) (prescribed under clause 6.1(1)(d) of the BC Regulation). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on watercourses are predicted to be negligible as a result of the additional 2.8 ha subsidence area, which is located within the rail corridor. No change to the approved longwall mining layout is proposed, and the modification incorporates an update to subsidence predictions only. Flood extents during the 1% AEP and PMF events are predicted to be similar for pre- and post-subsidence conditions, having negligible impacts. The modification is therefore unlikely to impact on hydrological processes sustaining threatened species and/or ecological communities. |

Recommendation

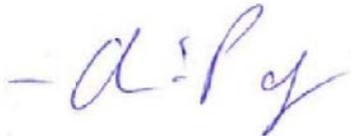
It is recommended that the delegated officer:

- Considers the matters set out in this report; and
 - Determines that the proposed development is not likely to have any significant impact on biodiversity values and therefore a BDAR is not required



Calvin Houlison, Senior Conservation Planning Officer

Date 10 August 2020



**Chris Page, Senior Team Leader Planning (Illawarra)
South East Branch
Biodiversity & Conservation Division
Environment, Energy & Science**

Date 10 August 2020