



5 July 2019

Mr. Paul Freeman
Team Leader
Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Freeman

Re: Western Coal Services Modification (MOD 3)

Introduction

The Western Coal Services Project (SSD 5579) was granted development consent on 4 April 2014. The consent allows for:

- The operation and construction of infrastructure to facilitate the receipt, handling and processing of coal from the Springvale Mine, Angus Place Colliery and other Centennial Coal operations; and
- The transportation of this coal to local power stations or the Lidsdale Rail Siding.

The main components of the Western Coal Services Project comprises of:

- The Springvale Coal Services Site (SCSS) for run of mine (ROM) coal handling and stockpiling, ROM coal beneficiation (washing), reject material emplacement and water management;
- The Kerosene Vale Stockpile Area for stockpiling of excess coal;
- the overland conveyor system extending from Springvale Mine pit top to Mount Piper Power Station (MPPS) via the SCSS, and from SCSS to the Lidsdale Rail Siding;
- The Mount Piper Haul Road traversing between Angus Place Colliery pit top and MPPS;
- The Wallerawang Haul Road traversing between Angus Place Colliery pit top and Wallerawang Power Station; and
- A private Link Haul Road between Mount Piper Haul Road and the SCSS.

The SCSS is located off the Castlereagh Highway at Blackmans Flat, approximately 18 km north of the city of Lithgow.

Background

Maximum ROM coal that can be received by the Western Coal Services Project is 9.5 Mtpa consisting of:

- up to 5.5 Mtpa provided by the Springvale Mine;
- up to 4 Mtpa provided by the Angus Place Colliery; and
- up to 1 Mtpa provided from other sources.

In addition, the Western Coal Services Project authorises:

- up to 7.0 Mtpa of ROM coal to be beneficiated (washed) at the Springvale Coal Services Site;

- up to 6.3 Mtpa of product coal delivered to the Lidsdale Rail Siding; and
- up to 6.7 Mtpa of ROM coal delivered to the domestic power stations.

All coal received at the Springvale Coal Services Site is to be delivered via the Overland Conveyor system (extending from Springvale Mine pit top to Mount Piper Power Station via the SCSS) or via private haul roads.

Lidsdale Rail Siding Modification

Ivanhoe Coal, operators of the Lidsdale Rail Siding, are currently seek a modification to the Lidsdale Rail Siding development consent (08_0223) to enable the delivery of coal to the facility by train (once per day); coal unloading, handling and stockpiling; and coal dispatch using the existing overland conveyor network to the SCSS.

The modification seeks to undertake these activities during emergency situations when coal stockpiles at MPPS are forecast to decline below 400,000 tonnes (t) for an extended period.

The proposed modification will allow Ivanhoe Coal to provide an alternative source of coal of suitable quality to MPPS to supplement any future coal supply shortfalls which may occur for various reasons.

Proposed Western Coal Services Project Modification

To facilitate the supply of coal from the Lidsdale Rail Siding to MPPS via the Springvale Coal Services Site, Springvale Coal is seeking a modification to the Western Coal Services Project development consent to:

- Enable the transfer of coal from the Lidsdale Rail Siding back to the Springvale Coal Services Site using the existing overland conveyor system that operates between the Lidsdale Rail Siding and the Springvale Coal Services Site; and
- Increase the volume of coal that can be received at the Springvale Coal Services Site from other sources (other than the Springvale Mine and Angus Place Colliery) from 1 Mtpa to 1.5 Mtpa.

The transfer of coal from the Lidsdale Rail Siding to the Springvale Coal Services Site will utilise the topside strand of the existing overland conveyor and remain within the exiting transfer limits for the conveyor system.

The modification will not:

- Require any changes to existing infrastructure associated with the Western Coal Services Project.
- Require any additional infrastructure to be constructed or operated to enable the transfer and delivery of coal from the Lidsdale Rail Siding to the Springvale Coal Services Site.
- Increase the total volume of coal that can be received by the Western Coal Services Project above the previously assessed and approve limit of 9.5 Mtpa.
- Exceed the 6.3 Mtpa assessed and approved capacity of the overland conveyor system between the Lidsdale Rail Siding and the Springvale Coal Services Site.
- Change the current approved Project Application Area.

Approval Pathway

Section 4.55(1A) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 can be used to modify a development consent if:

- a) The proposed modification is of minimal environmental impact;
- b) The application is substantially the same development as the development for which consent was originally granted; and
- c) The application has been public notified.

Due to the minor nature and minimal environmental impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed modification, Springvale Coal considers the appropriate approval pathway to be a Section 4.55(1A) modification. The project, as modified would remain substantially the same development as originally approved being a development to facilitate the receipt, handling and processing of coal from the Springvale Mine, Angus Place Colliery and other Centennial Coal operations, and the transportation of this coal to local power stations.

Statement of Environmental Effects

Springvale Coal proposes to prepare a Statement of Environmental Effects to support a Section 4.55(1A) modification application that:

- Provides an overview of the current approved activities;
- Details the proposed modified activities;
- Provides a justification for the proposed activities and alternatives considered;
- Summarises the existing environmental compliance limits that the modified operations will operate within;
- Includes a description of the expected impacts of the modification; and
- Identifies the existing and proposed environmental management measures that will be implemented to manage environmental impacts.

Conclusion

Springvale Coal are seeking to modify the Western Coal Services Project to:

- Enable the transfer of coal from the Lidsdale Rail Siding back to the Springvale Coal Services Site using the existing overland conveyor system that operates between the Lidsdale Rail Siding and the Springvale Coal Services Site; and
- Increase the volume of coal that can be received at the Springvale Coal Services Site from other sources (other than the Springvale Mine and Angus Place Colliery) from 1 Mtpa to 1.5 Mtpa.

Due to the minor nature and minimal environmental impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed modification, Springvale Coal considers the appropriate approval pathway to be a Section 4.55(1A) modification. The proposed details of the Statement of Environmental Effects that would be prepared to support the modification application is outlined above.

Centennial Coal is seeking confirmation from the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment on the proposed approval pathway and level of assessment proposed.

Please contact me on my mobile if you have any questions or require any further information in regards to this matter.

Yours sincerely



James Wearne

Group Approvals Manager