



Department of Primary Industries

OUT16/43954

Mr Thomas Watt
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Thomas.watt@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Watt

Rix's Creek Coal Mine Extension Project (SSD 6300) Comment on the Response to Submissions Report

I refer to your email of 31 October 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant divisions of DPI. Views were also sought from NSW Department of Industry - Lands that are now a division of the broader Department and no longer within NSW DPI. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI has reviewed the Response to Submissions report and advises the following requirements be included as conditions of consent in any determination of the project:

- The proponent should expand their monitoring bore network. This should include nomination of a site for future drilling of clustered monitoring bores into the basement rock at a depth elevation that is lower than the final void base elevation and another into the regolith. These basement rock bores should target fractures or structural features e.g. fault, that may potentially transmit groundwater off-site. The location and screening depth of these bores should be nominated in consultation with DPI Water with all bores construction and lithology logs provided to DPI Water for information.
- The proponent should ensure that it has sufficient water for all stages of the development, and if necessary, adjust the scale of operations on site to match available water supply.
- Future model updates should occur in consultation with DPI Water. The proponent should plan future model updates that retract the southern and western boundaries to coincide with the Hunter River in a local scale model (to include predominantly the syncline and boundary being the Hunter River). The updates and enhancements should include a physics based method for determining recharge, to the satisfaction of DPI Water. As all the water on site is sourced from recharge there is the potential to investigate recharge through site mine spoils. This is important for DPI Water to understand the long term impact post-mining, of the void acting as an evaporative sink (rainfall dependent) and the risk of contamination being generated by the mine spoils. The model should be at a daily time step and higher resolution.

- The Water Management Plan (WMP) should be updated in consultation with DPI Water. The WMP should incorporate the following:
 - Water Management of the acquired Integra site.
 - A detailed Water Balance.
 - Pit water level measurements and volumes.
 - Changes to water source catchment area in the final landform.
 - A table containing all proposed water storages during mining and proposed for retention in the final landform, with details of capacity, stream order, purpose, proposed licence status (for example licensed, exempt, harvestable rights) and proposed nominated access licence (where applicable).

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs

Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice

15 November 2016

DPI appreciates your help to improve our advice to you. Please complete this three minute survey about the advice we have provided to you, here:

<https://goo.gl/o8TXWz>