

2 October 2020

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Re: SSD 7171 - Berrima Rail Project and SSD 7172 - Hume Coal Project: Amendment to development application under clause 55 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000

Dear Sir,

This letter acts as a notification to seek an amendment to the existing development application for State significant development SSD 7171 - Berrima Rail Project and (SSD) 7172 – the Hume Coal project (collectively 'the Project'). This amendment is being sought in accordance with clause 55 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* on behalf of Hume Coal Pty Ltd (Hume Coal).

1 Introduction

In accordance with the draft guideline for *Preparing an Amendment Report* dated June 2019 (the Guideline), this letter notifies the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) about Hume Coal's intention to formally amend the original development application. The letter has been prepared to reflect the requirements of the Guideline.

This letter seeks to facilitate the proposed amendment by demonstrating that:

- adequately detailed environmental assessment of the amendment has already occurred as part of Hume Coal's response to the Independent Planning Commission's (IPC) Independent Planning Assessment Report, submitted to the Department on 8 April 2020, in addition to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Response to Submissions (RTS); and
- the existing environmental assessments are adequately detailed to accommodate the proposed changes sought beneath the amendment.

This letter also seeks to demonstrate that a detailed 'amendment report' is not considered necessary to facilitate assessment of the proposed amendment in that:

- the proposed changes are of minimal environmental impact;
- the proposed changes result in substantially the same development as sought for approval in the original development application; and
- additional public notification of the proposed amendment is not required, as stakeholder notification and requisite consideration of submissions has already occurred through the EIS, RTS and IPC response phases already completed for the Project. The assessment process completed to date is demonstrated in Figure 4.1 and where relevant, further described throughout this letter.

2 Background and context to amendment

On 8 April 2020, Hume Coal lodged their response to the IPC Independent Planning Assessment Report. This 'IPC response' addressed and responded, with the aid of updated and revised technical studies, to the findings made by the IPC and all the recommendations within the IPC assessment report.

As part of the additional technical studies that were undertaken by Hume Coal in the IPC response, three refinements to the original project description were investigated and decided upon including:

1. the removal of the Water Treatment Plant;
2. changes to the design, capacity, management and temporal nature of the Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile; and
3. the selection of a single rail alignment option going forward. Within the EIS and RTS, two rail alignment options were proposed where the rail line crosses Berrima Road (a preferred option and alternative option) refer Volume 3A, EMM 2017 for detail. The previous 'preferred option' is now no longer under consideration and the 'alternate option' is now the only option being proposed.

These changes are a result of the evolution of: the mine planning process to improve mine scheduling; resource recovery; cost optimisation; and to avoid and minimise impacts on third parties including Boral Cement and Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC). Additional details and context about the proposed amendment sought by Hume Coal are provided in Section 5 of this letter.

3 Project summary

Hume Coal proposes to construct and operate an underground coal mine and associated mine infrastructure in the Southern Coalfield of NSW. Around 50 million tonnes (Mt) of run-of-mine coal (3.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa)) will be extracted from the Wongawilli Seam via a non-caving mining system, resulting in approximately 39 Mt of saleable coal over a 23-year project life which encompasses construction, mining and rehabilitation phases. Coal produced by the Hume Coal Project will be transported to port for export or to domestic markets by rail via a new rail spur and loop, constructed as part of the Berrima Rail Project.

The Project has been designed from the outset to avoid, where practicable, environmental and social impacts. The concept of 'mitigation by design' is a strategic approach to environmental management, which incorporates the avoidance (rather than management) of environmental impacts in the design of the Project. While the formal approval process commenced in 2015, the Project design and consultation commenced in 2012. Feedback from initial consultation was included in the Project design to allow potential impacts to be avoided and designed out of the Project and reducing the need for mitigation and management measures.

A full description of the Hume Coal and Berrima Rail Project is provided in Chapter 2 and Appendix D of the Hume Coal Project EIS (EMM 2017).

4 Assessment process completed to date

As DPIE is aware, extensive investigations, impact assessment and tailored mitigation methods have already been completed for the Project to date. Numerous detailed technical studies have been completed as part of the EIS, RTS and IPC response phases including independent peer reviews of the groundwater assessment, economics assessment, and the mine design.

This letter demonstrates that existing impact assessments have been sufficiently conservative to accommodate any potential changes to the predicted severity or frequency of impacts resulting from the proposed amendment without requiring any additional studies.

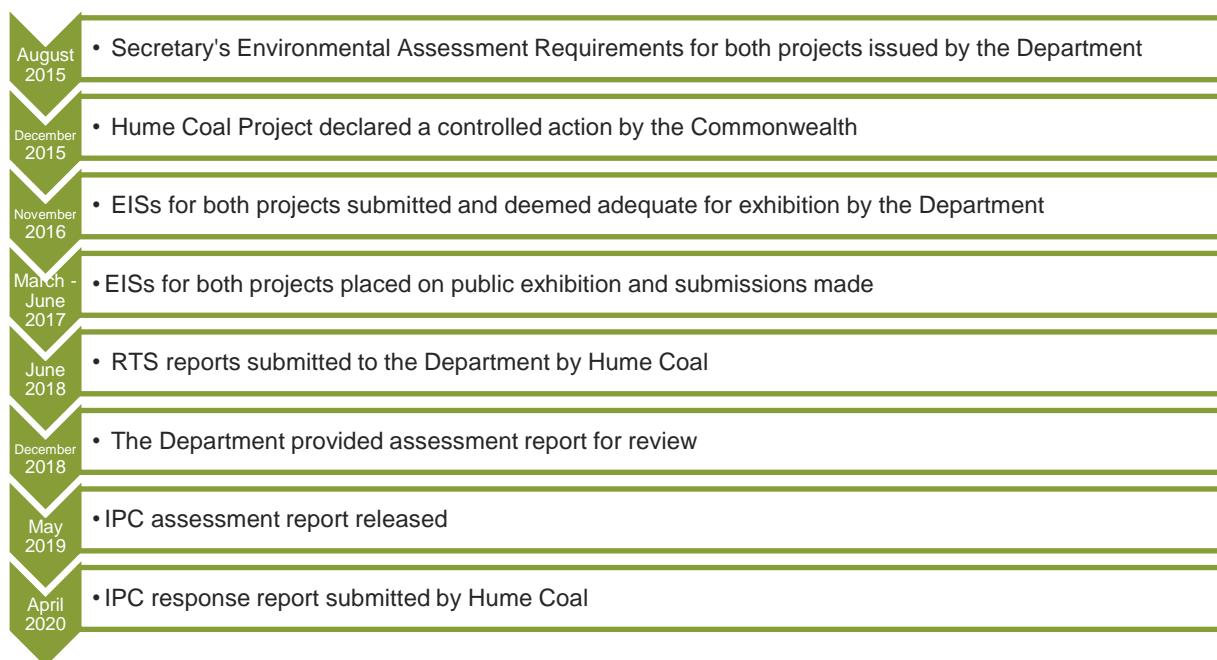


Figure 4.1 Assessment process to date

5 Description of proposed amendment

A summary of the proposed amendment sought beneath Clause 55 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 is provided below. All of the proposed changes to the Project summarised below were described within the IPC response submitted to DPIE on 8 April 2020 (EMM 2020).

Where it was determined that the changes could not be accommodated by the technical impact assessments performed as part of the EIS and RTS, additional impact assessment was performed (see Section 6 of this letter).

5.1 Removal of the Water Treatment Plant

The removal of the Water Treatment Plant from the Project was confirmed in Hume Coal's response to IPC Recommendation 7, contained within the IPC response report submitted to the Department on 8 April 2020 (EMM 2020).

As outlined in the RTS report (EMM 2018b) and reiterated in the IPC response (EMM 2020), excess water will be managed by storing it in the Primary Water Dam (PWD) and pumping to the void/underground behind the sealed bulkheads. A Water Treatment Plant was included in the RTS assessment as a 'provisional item' only. However, additional water balance investigations undertaken as part of the package of work to respond to the IPC have demonstrated that the PWD has adequate capacity to store excess water under all 107 assessed climate scenarios. The Water Treatment Plant is therefore no longer needed as part of the Project as surface discharges from the PWD would not be required.

A summarised assessment of the removal of the Water Treatment Plant as required by the Guideline is provided in Table 6.1.

5.2 Changes to Surface Level Rejects Emplacement characteristics

Changes to the design, capacity and temporal nature of the Surface Level Rejects Emplacement stockpile (temporary coal rejects stockpile) were included in Hume Coal's response to IPC Recommendation 9 contained within the IPC response submitted to the Department on 8 April 2020 (EMM 2020).

In the EIS and RTS, two temporary coal reject stockpiles were proposed, with one of these included for emergency (secondary) use only. Refinement of the temporary coal reject stockpiles undertaken as part of the IPC response included:

- updates to the designed angles of repose and a slight (4 metres (m)) increase in height to the main (eastern reject stockpile) requiring a total height of 19 m, resulting in a total capacity of 810,000 t. The footprint of the main (eastern reject) remains unchanged as presented in the EIS and RTS);
- the secondary (western reject) temporary stockpile would be removed from the proposed project (refer Figure 6.1);
- after the initial surface level emplacement is completed, which occurs for 18 months after the commencement of underground mining, the stockpile remains live and at varying states of capacity for the life of the mine;
- initial underground emplacement will commence in the 19th month of production, peaking initially at Month 27, falling to 80,000 tonnes (t) by Year 5. From this point, there are times when rejects produced are greater than underground emplacement capacity;
- storage peaks of rejects in the stockpile is anticipated to occur at the following intervals:
 - Month 27: 550,000 t (5% of total rejects produced);
 - Year 8: 530,000 t (4.8% of total rejects produced); and
 - Year 15: 720,000 t (6.5% of total rejects produced);
- the ultimate capacity of the main temporary reject stockpile has been designed to have a total capacity of 810,000 t, providing a 90,000 t (or 11% of total) contingency capacity over and above the predicted maximum storage required in Year 15; and
- the objective outlined in the EIS and RTS is for all the contents of the temporary coal reject stockpile to be permanently placed in mined out underground workings at the end of the operational phase of the mine's life remains unchanged.

The timescale for predicted stockpile volume is dependent on when the underground reject emplacement operation can commence or is halted. This timing is largely dependent on the sequencing of underground mine development. Mined out voids (panels) need to be made available for underground emplacement to commence, emplacement then occurs until the particular panel has reached capacity. Should another panel not be immediately available for underground emplacement, rejects will need to be temporarily stored on the surface until the next panel is made available and so forth for the life of the mine. As panels are made available, permanent underground emplacement of the rejects stored in the temporary stockpile will occur along with rejects that are being generated by routine mining activities.

It is also reiterated that:

- a detailed monitoring and management plan will be developed to specifically document the methodology applied to the surface and permanent underground storage of coal reject materials. The plan will identify the specific monitoring requirements that will be implemented. The coal reject

management and monitoring plan will also include a section detailing the Trigger Action Response Plan associated with coal reject management; and

- at the completion of mining, no reject material will remain permanently above ground and the surface emplacement area be rehabilitated to integrate with the natural landform.

To determine potential changes in stockpile volume over time, a number of surface level and underground emplacement scenarios were modelled. Additional details about the proposed changes to the design, capacity and temporal nature of the Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile are contained in the Palaris Australia Pty Ltd, 2020 report titled 'Hume Coal Project – Temporary Rejects Stockpile' (Palaris 2020).

An assessment of the proposed changes to the Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile as required by draft guideline for *Preparing an Amendment Report* is provided in Table 6.2.

5.3 Selection of a single rail alignment option

In the EIS (EMM 2017) two rail alignment options were proposed and assessed. These alignment options are depicted in Figure 6.3:

1. original - Preferred option: This alignment option was depicted on supporting figures within the EIS and RTS with blue colouring; and
2. original - Alternative option: This alignment option was depicted on supporting figures within the EIS and RTS with orange colouring.

At the time of preparing the EIS, two alignment options were required to allow flexibility around a proposed upgrade to approximately 700 m of Berrima Road between Taylor Avenue and Stony Creek by WSC to: replace the intersection at Berrima Road and Taylor Avenue with a roundabout; and to replace the existing rail level crossing into the Berrima Cement Works with a rail overbridge. These works had previously been commenced by WSC. However, progress on these upgrades has stalled. Hume Coal is committed to working with WSC post approval to ensure the concept and detailed design phases of the Berrima Rail Project incorporate necessary design elements of the Berrima Road upgrade (please refer Volume 3A, EMM 2017 for additional detail).

The selection of a single rail alignment; the original 'Alternative option', was documented within Section 2.3 of the IPC response submitted to DPIE on 8 April 2020 (EMM 2020). On all supporting figures within the IPC response, the selected alignment option (the original 'Alternative option') was labelled as 'New rail line' and depicted with blue colouring. The selection of original 'Alternative option' as the only option going forward is depicted in Figure 6.4.

An assessment of a single rail alignment; the original 'Alternative option', as required by the draft guideline for *Preparing an Amendment Report* is provided in Table 6.3.

6 Assessment of amendment

Underpinning the summary assessment provided within this letter is the depth and extent of technical environmental impact assessments that have already occurred as part of the EIS, RTS and IPC phases. Of particular relevance to the proposed amendment are the impact assessments performed as part of the recent IPC response for water balance and water quality, air quality, noise and vibration, and visual impact.

The existing assessments referred to in Table 6.1, Table 6.2 and Table 6.3, demonstrate that effects to water balance and water quality, air quality, noise and vibration, and visual impact were sufficiently conservative to accommodate the proposed changes. The effects described in the EIS, RTS and the IPC response generally presented impact durations and frequencies greater than anticipated for real world scenarios (ie the 'worst case').

6.1 Removal of the Water Treatment Plant

As demonstrated in information referred to in Table 6.1, the proposed removal of the Water Treatment Plant from the Project presents no material change to already assessed environmental impacts, nor does it result in the Project being *substantially different* from the Project that was proposed at the time of preparing the EIS or RTS and sought beneath the existing development application.

Table 6.1 Assessment of Water Treatment Plant removal

Criteria	Summary response	Detailed impact assessment
<i>The proposed amendments are of minimal environmental impact</i>	<p>Additional water balance modelling and investigations demonstrated that under the 107 climate scenarios assessed, there is sufficient capacity in the Primary Water Dam to accommodate water generated as part of mining operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average duration (over the 107 data sequences) for the PWD to reach capacity (without reinjection) decreases throughout the life of the mining operation. For example, if reinjection were to cease in the first year (Year 1) of mining operations and water collected in the underground mine sump is diverted to the PWD, the average time to fill the PWD is estimated to be 14 years. This average duration to fill the PWD reduces to approximately 8 years if reinjection ceases in the seventh year of mining, and declines further to approximately 0.8 years if reinjection is ceased in the final year of the 19-year period of operations. The longest duration for the PWD to reach capacity is estimated to be 16.5 years, if reinjection were to cease in the first mining year. However, it is important to note that this only occurs for one of the 107 climatic data sequences. As detailed above, the average duration to reach the PWD capacity if the reinjection ceases at the start of the first year (based on the 107 climatic sequences) is 14 years. The shortest duration for the PWD to reach capacity is estimated to be 0.5 years, if reinjection ceases at the start of the last year (Year 19) of mining. Once again, it is important to note that this minimum duration only occurs for one of the 107 climatic data sequences. As detailed above, the average duration for the PWD to reach capacity if reinjection ceases at the start of the 19th year of mining (based on the 107 climatic sequences) is 0.8 years. The decreasing trend of the duration for the PWD to reach capacity reflects the relative influence of the changes in the water supply-demand balance over the life of mine. Net water deficits exist during the earlier years of mining which transitions to a net water surplus dominant situation over the later years of mine operation. <p>Based on the results of the updated water assessment contained within the IPC response, the removal of the Water Treatment Plant from the Project presents no material change to potential environmental impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018a, Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project Response to Submissions report to Hume Coal 2018b, Hume Coal Project – Response to submissions revised water impact assessment report, Appendix 2. Report J14136RP2, 27 June 2018 2020, Hume Coal Project – IPC Response Report, Appendix B, 8 April 2020
<i>Development is substantially the same development</i>	<p>The removal of the water treatment plant from the Project does not materially change the project description: the construction and operation of an underground coal mine and associated mine infrastructure to produce around 50 Mt of run-of-mine coal (3.5 Mtpa).</p>	<p>A full description of the Hume Coal Project, is provided in Chapter 2 of the Hume Coal Project environmental impact statement (EIS) (EMM 2017).</p>

6.2 Changes to Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile characteristics

As demonstrated in information referred to in Table 6.2, the proposed changes to the design, capacity and temporal nature of the Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile do not result in the Project being substantially different from the Project that was proposed at the time of preparing the EIS or RTS and sought beneath the existing development application.

Supplementary environmental impact assessments performed as part of Hume Coal's IPC response incorporated the proposed changes to the design, capacity and temporal nature of the Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile as appropriate. Table 6.2 summarises and compares the findings of these supplementary assessments to the water balance and water quality, air quality, noise and vibration, and visual impact findings of the EIS and RTS.

Table 6.2 further demonstrates that the environmental impacts identified in the EIS and RTS are commensurate with the supplementary impact assessments performed in Hume Coal's IPC response and that the proposed changes to the design, capacity and temporal nature of the Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile are of a minimal environmental impact.

Table 6.2 Assessment of Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile changes		
Criteria	Compliance assessment	Additional information sources
<i>The proposed amendments are of minimal environmental impact</i>	<p>Noise</p> <p>As part of the IPC response report, noise modelling was updated to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.</p> <p>The results of these updated assessment confirm that the proposed changes to the stockpile design and operation do not create any additional impacts from those already assessed as part of the EIS and RTS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020, Hume Coal Project – IPC Response Report, Appendix C, 8 April 2020
	<p>Air</p> <p>The air quality impact assessment modelling performed as part of the EIS and RTS were conservative enough to accommodate the proposed change in stockpile characteristics. Revised air quality impact assessment was not recommended by the IPC in their assessment report and was therefore not undertaken as part of Hume Coal's IPC response.</p> <p>The air quality impact assessment completed for the Hume Coal Project EIS incorporated particulate matter emissions from the temporary reject storage area. These emissions included reject conveyor transfer points (two), unloading of rejects from the conveyor, handling of rejects by front end loader and dozer, paste plant loading and transfers and wind erosion of the storage area. The material throughput activity rate for the temporary rejects area adopted for all sources was 500,000 tpa.</p> <p>As noted in Section 7.3.1 of the air quality impact assessment in the EIS, the inclusion of temporary reject storage area emissions coincident with peak run-of-mine (ROM) extraction and processing operational emissions was considered conservative as the two were unlikely to occur at the same time under the planned mining schedule. In the event that temporary reject storage area activities were extended beyond the first 18 months of operations commencing, the modelled scenario in the air quality impact assessment is considered to be representative, rather than conservatively representative, of peak ROM extraction and processing operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017, Hume Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement, Air Quality Impact Assessment, Appendix K • 2018a, Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project Response to Submissions report to Hume Coal

Table 6.2 Assessment of Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile changes

Criteria	Compliance assessment	Additional information sources
	<p>Water</p> <p>The project water balance and water quality assessments were updated as part of the updated and supplementary work required to respond to recommendations made by the IPC. These updated assessments incorporated the changed stockpile characteristics as required.</p> <p>The results of these updated water assessment confirm that the proposed changes to the stockpile design and operation do not create any additional impacts from those already assessed as part of the EIS and RTS.</p> <p>It must be noted that the change to stockpile design and operation characteristics, do not require or result in any corresponding changes to the mine water management system, including any alterations to sediment basins and/or mine water dams.</p> <p>Water balance</p> <p>The mine water balance was updated as part of the IPC response. The updated mine water balance assessment was principally undertaken to respond to IPC requests to determine the duration that the mine can operate under normal conditions before the PWD reaches capacity. This updated assessment utilised the RTS GOLSIM water balance model and was refined to accommodate changes to climate scenarios.</p> <p>The volume of water required for the stockpile is incorporated in the water balance model. The model was configured to simulate the daily operations of all major components of the water management system.</p> <p>Water quality</p> <p>Surface water quality (and quantity) will continue to be managed in accordance with the mine water management system as described in Section 2.3.2 of the EIS Water Assessment Report (EMM 2017) and commitments made in the RTS. Surface water runoff from the stockpile will continue to be captured in SB01.</p> <p>As outlined in the RTS, a detailed monitoring and management plan will be developed to specifically document the methodology applied to the surface and permanent underground storage of coal reject materials. The plan will identify the specific monitoring requirements that will be implemented. The coal reject management and monitoring plan will also include a section detailing the Trigger Action Response Plan associated with coal reject management.</p> <p>Surface water flow and geomorphology</p> <p>The proposed changes to stockpile design and operational characteristics do not fundamentally alter the methodology and findings of the Surface Water Flow and Geomorphology Assessment completed for the EIS and revised for the RTS.</p> <p>Fundamentals in design characteristics of the mine water management system have not changed (eg catchment area sizes, sediment dam volumes, etc).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017, Hume Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix E • 2018a, Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project Response to Submissions report to Hume Coal • 2020, Hume Coal Project – IPC Response Report, Appendix B, 8 April 2020

Table 6.2 Assessment of Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile changes

Criteria	Compliance assessment		Additional information sources
	<p>Visual</p> <p>As part of the IPC response report, an updated detailed visual impact assessment was completed that assessed the change in stockpile design characteristics, along with other matters recommended by the IPC.</p> <p>The updated visual impact assessment demonstrated that the proposed amendments do not materially alter the visual impact from the Project on surrounding publicly and privately accessible viewpoints. A detailed viewshed analysis was completed in the updated visual impact assessment (Appendix E of the IPC Response Report) that determined the change in stockpile design would not be any more visible than what was assessed in the EIS. Furthermore, the updated visual impact assessment included additional visual impact mitigation measures to better integrate the mine into the landscape and screen the surface infrastructure area.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020, Hume Coal Project – IPC Response Report, Appendix E, 8 April 2020 • Refer Figure 6.2 overleaf.
Development is substantially the same development		EIS/RTS	IPC
	Capacity	~510,000 t	~ 810,000 t.
	Timing	<p>The timescale for predicted stockpile volume is dependent on when the underground reject emplacement operation can commence or is halted. This timing is largely dependent on the sequencing of underground mine development. In the event that rejects are not able to be pumped underground at any time from the start of the project, it is expected that the stockpile would be full after 28 months of operation. This date equates to 10 months beyond the initial 18 months reported in the EIS.</p> <p>To assess potential changes in stockpile volume over time, a number of surface level and underground emplacement scenarios were modelled. The results of this modelling is contained in the Palaris Australia Pty Ltd, 2020 report titled 'Hume Coal Project – Temporary Rejects Stockpile' (Palaris 2020).</p>	
	Footprint	See Figure 6.1 overleaf	See Figure 6.1 overleaf
	Height	14m	19m
	Rehabilitation	<p>The commitment for post mining landform rehabilitation remains unchanged.</p> <p>At the completion of mining, no reject material will remain permanently above ground, and the surface emplacement areas will be rehabilitated to integrate with the natural landform.</p>	
		IPC Response:	
		<p>Palaris Australia Pty Ltd, 2020. Hume Coal Project – Temporary Rejects Stockpile. Prepared for Hume Coal Pty Ltd, March 2020. Reference HUME5178-15</p>	

6.3 The selection of a single rail alignment option

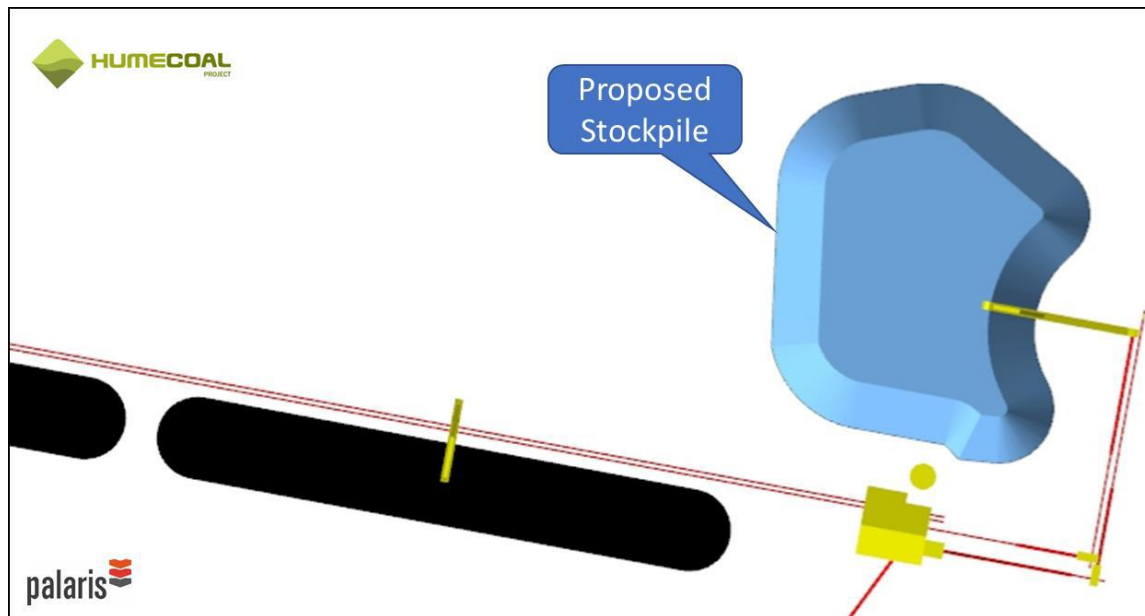
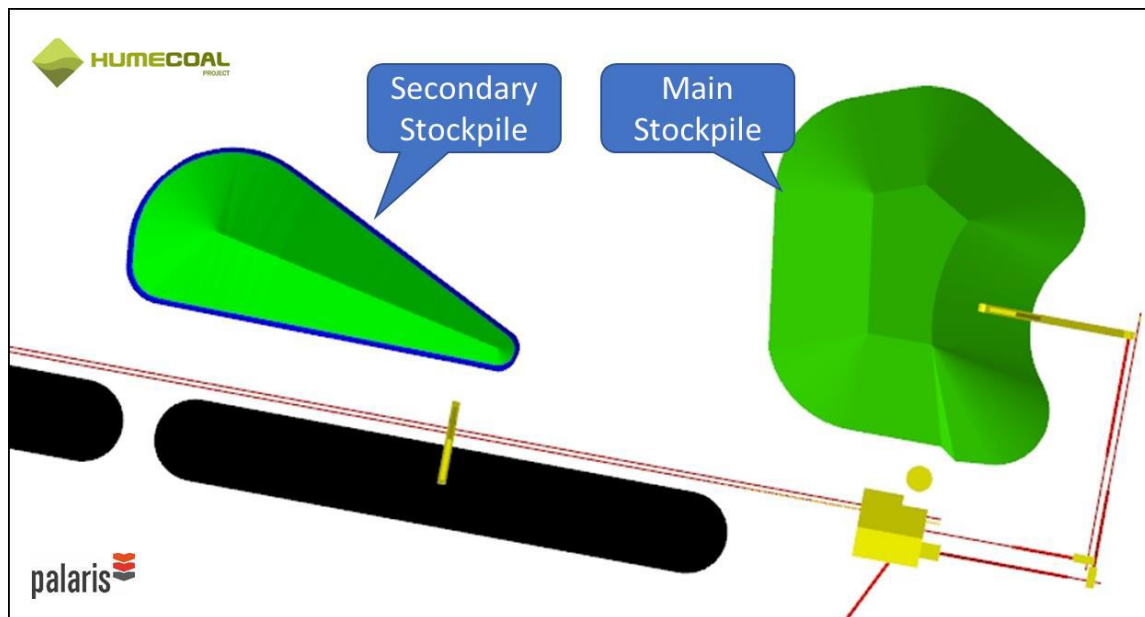
As demonstrated in information referred to in Table 6.3 below, the selection of the a single rail alignment; the original 'Alternative option' as the only rail alignment going forward does not result in the Project being substantially different from the Project that was proposed at the time of preparing the EIS or RTS and sought beneath the existing development application.

Given both rail alignment options were assessed in detail during the EIS and RTS, and that the IPC assessment report did not include any recommendations directly related to either of the rail alignment options, the supplementary environmental impact assessments performed as part of Hume Coal's IPC response reflected the selection of the "New rail line - alternative option" only where necessary (eg the Updated Visual Impact Assessment, the Cultural Landscape Assessment and the Updated Statement of Heritage Impact).

Table 6.3 further demonstrates that the environmental impacts identified in the EIS and RTS are commensurate with the supplementary impact assessments performed in Hume Coal's IPC response and that the selection of a single rail alignment; the original 'Alternative option' as the proposed rail alignment going forward, does not result in any environmental impacts that were not previously identified and mitigated.

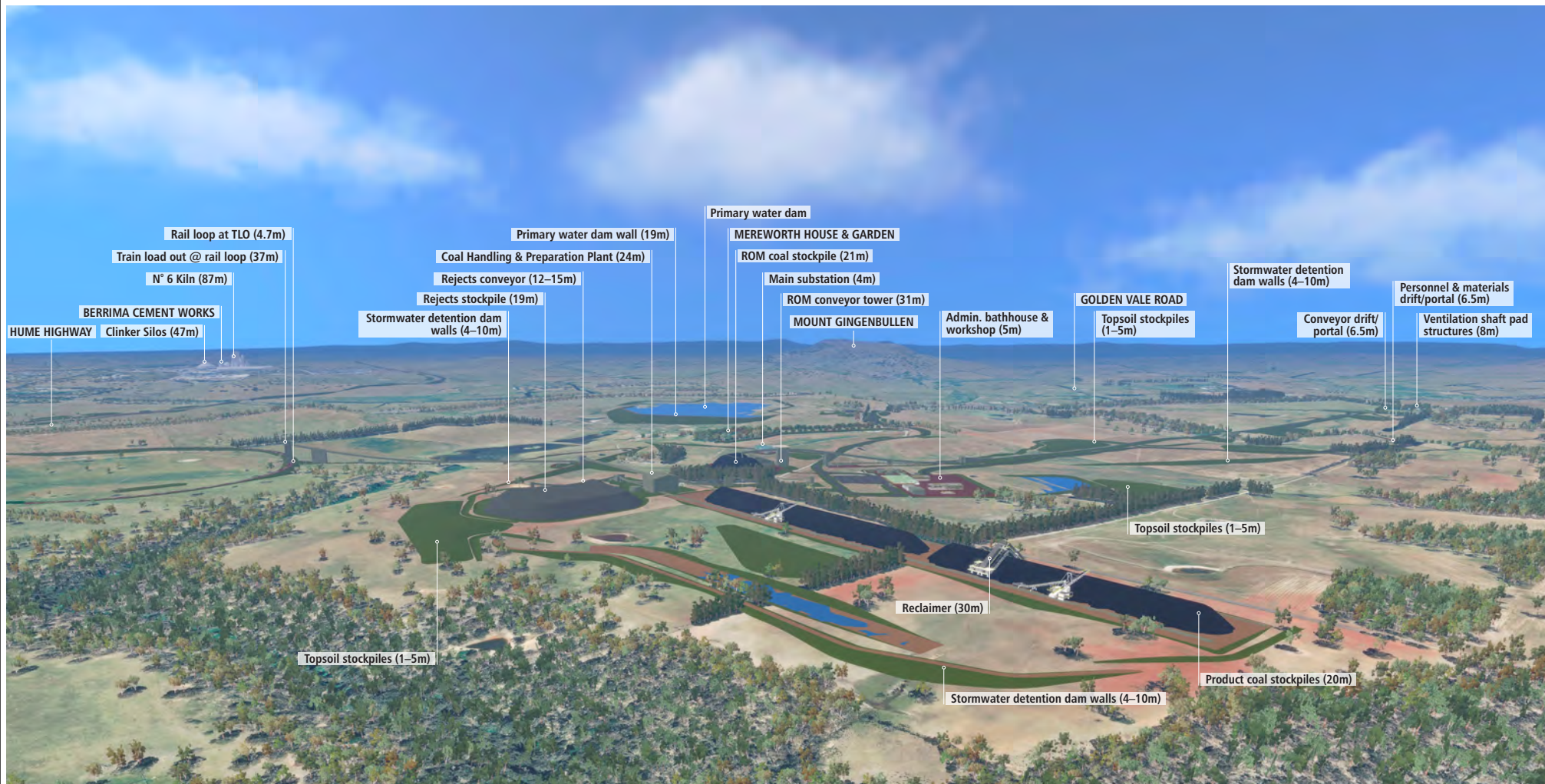
Table 6.3 Assessment of "Original - alternative option"

Criteria	Summary response	Detailed impact assessment
<i>The proposed amendments are of minimal environmental impact</i>	<p>The assessments performed and commitments made within the EIS and RTS were based on both alignments being sought for approval. Accordingly, the removal of the original 'Preferred option' from the project description and the selection of a single rail alignment; the original 'Alternative option' as the proposed rail alignment going forward does not result in any additional environmental impacts that have not previously been assessed.</p> <p>Furthermore, the selection of the original 'Alternative option' as the proposed rail alignment going forward removes potential impacts to the Paul Sorensen designed industrial garden located on the eastern side of the Berrima Cement Works and one Paddy's River Box tree (<i>Eucalyptus macarthurii</i>).</p> <p>It is therefore considered that the selection the original 'Alternative option' as the proposed rail alignment going forward, results in less cumulative historic heritage and ecological impacts than the original proposal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017, Hume Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix D • 2018a, Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project Response to Submissions report to Hume Coal • 2020, Hume Coal Project – IPC Response Report, 8 April 2020
<i>Development is substantially the same development</i>	<p>The selection of the original 'Alternative option' as the proposed rail alignment going forward does not materially change the project description proposed in the EIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction and operation of a new rail spur and loop; and • In addition to the construction and operation of the new rail spur and loop, the Berrima Rail Project also involves upgrades to the Berrima Branch Line and use of the upgraded rail infrastructure. 	<p>A full description of the Berrima Rail Project, is provided in Volume 3A, Appendix D of the Hume Coal Project environmental impact statement (EIS) (EMM 2017).</p>



Note – i) previously the Secondary Stockpile has been referred to as the 'emergency stockpile', ii) the footprint of the Redesigned Main Rejects Stockpile remains the same as proposed in the EIS, with alterations to the angles of repose now rendering the stockpile 4m higher (ie a 19m maximum height).

Figure 6.1 Comparison of EIS/RTS and IPC Response Surface Level Rejects Emplacement Stockpile footprint design



Oblique rendering with heights of mine elements

Hume Coal and Berrima Rail Project

DA Amendment Notification Letter

Figure 6.2



Figure 6.3 The original rail alignment options proposed within the EIS. The preferred (in blue) and alternative alignment (in yellow) options.

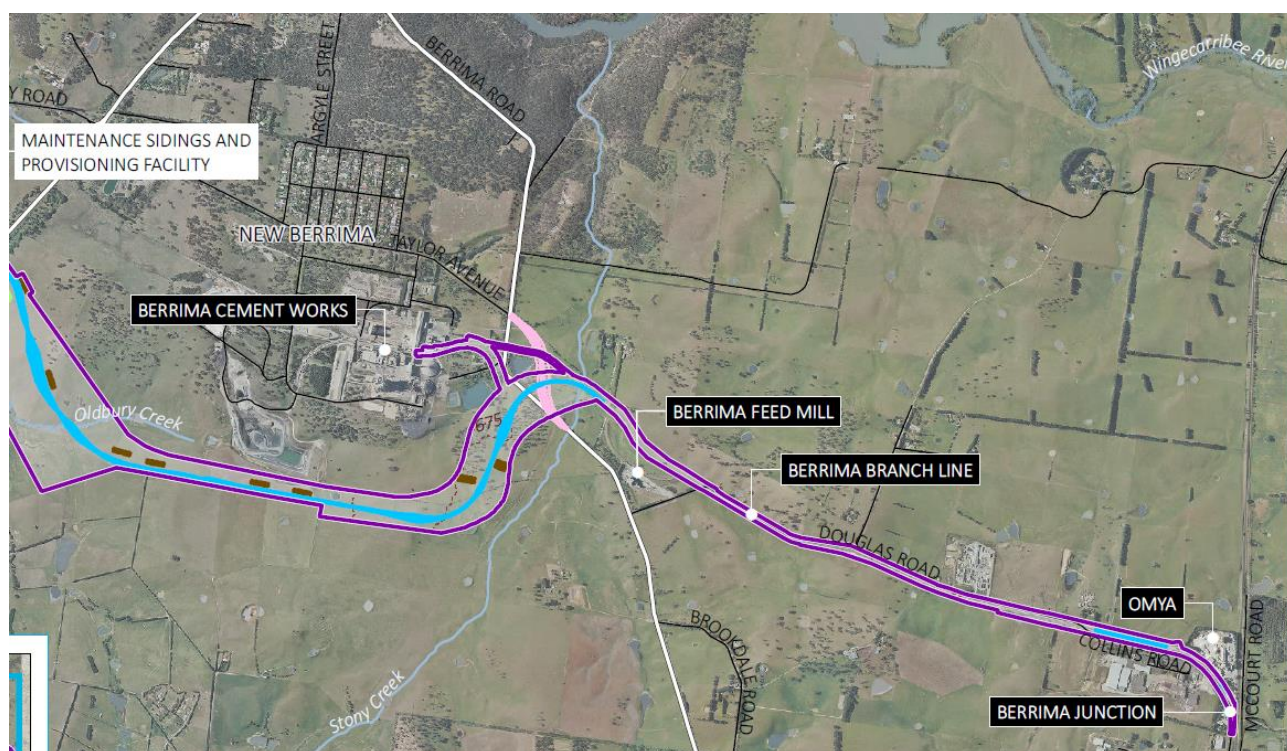


Figure 6.4 The selection of a single rail alignment; the original 'Alternative option', as documented within Section 2.3 the IPC response submitted to DPIE on 8 April 2020

7 Mitigation measures and commitments

Mitigation measures and commitments to ameliorate identified impacts remain unchanged from the EIS, RTS and IPC response, summarised in Chapter 3 of the IPC response (EMM 2020).

8 Changes to statutory context

There have been no material changes to the regulatory framework since the submission of the EIS, RTS or IPC response that directly affect the three items being removed from the Project as part of this amendment.

9 Engagement

Additional notification of the proposed amendment is not considered necessary as the nature and scale of the proposed changes are not anticipated to materially change predicted impacts already communicated to the wider community and associated stakeholders through the EIS, RTS and IPC response phases.

Furthermore, a public meeting/hearing may be convened by the IPC where the wider public will have the opportunity to comment on the amendments.

10 Evaluation of merits

The amendments to the existing development application proposed herein further supports the conclusions reached within the IPC response report and reaffirms the overall outcomes of the EIS and RTS.

As exemplified by the technical impact assessments referred to in this amendment notification letter, the changes sought herein do not constitute a material change to the overall project description and the potential environmental effects resultant from the proposed changes have been assessed and adequately mitigated through commitments already made during the EIS, RTS and IPC phases.

It is therefore concluded that the description of the Project, and project evaluation and justification, as presented in the EIS, RTS and IPC response remains a true and accurate reflection of the Project for which approval is sought.

11 Conclusion

Hume Coal consider that the summarised assessment within this notification letter provides sufficient detail to avoid the need to prepare a stand-alone 'amendment report' justifying the proposed amendments. However, Hume Coal is happy to provide any further information deemed necessary by DPIE to facilitate assessment of the proposed amendments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rod Doyle', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Rod Doyle
Project Manager

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References

EMM 2017, Hume Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement, report to Hume Coal

EMM 2018a, Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project Response to Submissions report to Hume Coal

EMM 2018b, Hume Coal Project – Response to submissions revised water impact assessment report, Appendix 2, 27 June 2018

EMM 2020, Hume Coal Project – IPC Response Report, 8 April 2020

Palaris Australia Pty Ltd (Palaris), 2020, Hume Coal Project – Temporary Rejects Stockpile. Prepared for Hume Coal Pty Ltd, March 2020. Reference HUME5178-15