

Kane,

Please find below responses to your queries.

Why it is reasonable to use fleet from older operations in the early stages (e.g. up to 3.5 Mtpa)

- During the commencement of construction/mining operations (e.g. box cut development) a contractor mine fleet may be used or fleet from Whitehaven's existing operations may be transferred to the site.
- The initial mining operations will occur in parallel to the construction of the CHPP and rail spur.
- Prior to the commissioning of the CHPP and rail spur, any extraction of coal will be limited to 3.5 Mtpa (<u>inclusive</u> of Tarrawonga) because of the road haulage limits to the Gunnedah CHPP (as per the Approved Mine).
- The commissioning of the CHPP and rail spur will facilitate the increase in coal extraction associated with the Project.
- As such, investment in new mining equipment for the increased throughput for the Project is related to the commissioning of the CHPP and rail spur.
- During these initial operations (as well as for the rest of the Project).
 - Whitehaven will comply with the noise limits set in any development consent and EPL for the Project.
 - The Noise Management Plan, prepared in consultation with EPA and to the satisfaction of DPIE, will outline the real-time and predictive noise and meteorological monitoring system to be used for the Project to maintain compliance with these limits.
 - In addition, compliance with noise limits will be demonstrated via attended noise monitoring.

2. Key stages of the operation when the use of attenuated fleet would be adopted and when non-attenuated fleet would be phased out

- When output from the mine is no longer constrained, that is, when the CHPP and rail spur are fully commissioned.
- 3. How/why the overall noise from the operations during this phase would meet the relevant criteria, and if the initial operations would comply with the noise criteria under the Approved Project consent, including proposed management and/or monitoring
- The size of the fleet will be limited by the production level.

 As above, the Noise Management Plan will specify how the operation will be conducted to comply with the noise criteria, including with real-time and attended noise monitoring.

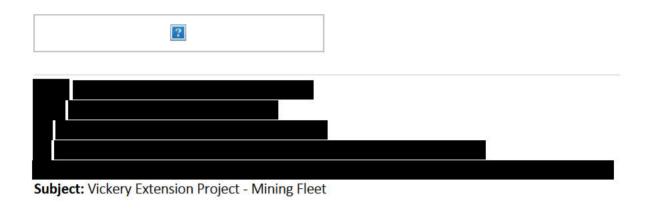
Regards,

Brian Cole

Consultant

Whitehaven Coal Limited

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Brian,

Noting your recent advice that Whitehaven intends to use some of the mining fleet from other operations in the region during the early stages of the Vickery Extension Project, would you please provide information to address the following:

- 1. Why it is reasonable to use fleet from older operations in the early stages (e.g. up to 3.5 Mtpa)
- 2. Key stages of the operation when the use of attenuated fleet would be adopted and when non-attenuated fleet would be phased out
- How/why the overall noise from the operations during this phase would meet the relevant criteria, and if the initial operations would comply with the noise criteria under the Approved Project consent, including proposed management and/or monitoring

It would be appreciated if you could provide this as soon as possible.

If you have any questions please contact me or Steve.

Regards,

Kane

Kane Winwood

Principal Planner