



Site Verification Certificate – Tahmoor South Coal Project

Purpose: To determine an application from Tahmoor Coal Pty Ltd for a Site Verification Certificate.

Analysis: Tahmoor South coal mine has applied for an additional Site Verification Certificate (SVC) preceding the determination of a development application outside of its current mining lease. The Office of Environment and Heritage advised that the land does not contain Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land and a SVC can be issued.

Reason for deadline: Department of Planning and Environment benchmark timeframes.

Recommendation

1. **Approve** SVC 9666 for the Tahmoor South Coal Project and sign the attached Site Verification Certificate.

Approval

<p>Jessie Evans A/Director Resource Assessments</p> <p><i>J Evans</i></p> <p>Date: 22.10.18</p>	<p>Oliver Holm Executive Director Resource Assessments and Compliance</p> <p><i>O Holm</i></p> <p>Date: 23/10/18</p>	<p>Marcus Ray Deputy Secretary Planning Services</p> <p><i>Marcus Ray</i> Noted Approved Not approved</p> <p>Date: 23/10/2018</p>
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Key reasons

SVC Required prior to Development Application

State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 (Mining SEPP) identifies that development applications involving mining activities outside an existing mining lease must be accompanied by a Gateway Certificate or Site Verification Certificate (SVC).

The certificate must verify that the land on which the proposed development is to be carried out is not Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL).

Background

Tahmoor Coal Pty Ltd (Tahmoor Coal) owns and operates the Tahmoor Mine, an underground coal mine between the townships of Tahmoor and Bargo, approximately 80 kilometres south-west of Sydney in the Southern Coalfields of NSW. Tahmoor Mine produces up to 3 million tonnes per annum of run-of-mine coal.

Tahmoor Coal is seeking approval for the Tahmoor South Project (the proposed development), being the extension of underground coal mining at Tahmoor Mine to the south and east of the existing Tahmoor Mine surface facilities area. The proposed development seeks to extend the life of underground mining at Tahmoor Mine until approximately 2035. The proposal will enable mining to be undertaken within the southern portion of Tahmoor Coal's existing lease areas and for operations and employment of the current workforce to continue for approximately a further 13 years.

The Tahmoor South Project Area comprises an area adjacent to, and to the south of, the existing Tahmoor approved mining area. It also overlaps a small area of the existing Tahmoor approved mining area comprising the surface facilities area, historical workings and other existing mine infrastructure.

As part of the proposed development, additional mining leases will be required to accommodate a proposed expansion of the existing reject emplacement area over Crown Land and additional ventilation shafts. Tahmoor Coal therefore applied for a Site Verification Certificate (SVC) for these areas, which was granted by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment on 5 February 2018.

Since the SVC was granted, Tahmoor Coal has undertaken a review of the project design, and subsequently moved the proposed location of two new ventilation shafts associated with the Tahmoor South Project.

On 8 October 2018, Tahmoor Coal lodged an application for an additional Site Verification Certificate covering 35 ha of land outside of its approved project boundary (SVC 9666).

The Department subsequently referred this application to OEH for expert advice on whether BSAL is or is not present within the subject land.

On 19 October 2018, OEH advised the project area is unlikely to contain BSAL (see Attachment A).

This conclusion is supported by all of OEH's available data on the area and reflects the absence of mapped BSAL in the Strategic Agricultural Land maps in the Mining SEPP. The Department agrees with this advice and considers that the application can be determined.

The Department has prepared a recommended Site Verification Certificate for the Secretary's endorsement (see Attachment B).

Attachments

Attachment	Title
A	Office of Environment and Heritage Advice
B	Site Verification Certificate

