

# MAULES CREEK COAL MINE



## MANDATORY ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT (NOISE)

An independent Mandatory Environmental Audit of noise management at Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) was undertaken by EMM Consulting Pty Ltd in December 2016. Overall findings of the Audit confirmed a good level of compliance with the Project Approval and Licence conditions and that MCCM is operating in a manner consistent with good industry practice.

The Audit required under the MCCM Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) was extensive and included site inspections, interviews with the company, complainants and neighbouring landholders, auditing of systems, procedures, data, equipment and management processes.

Key findings of the Audit indicate that MCCM is undertaking a range of activities which would be expected to satisfy project approval and good practice in respect of systems, procedures and control measures. Daily operations, training, supervision, monitoring and maintenance activities were considered to be industry good practice and satisfying MCCMs licence conditions.

The auditor found that pit and maintenance operations meet good industry practice and are effective in terms of ensuring plant are in good working order and noise emission specifications are likely to be met.

The auditor also found that MCCMs noise monitoring systems, including real time unattended and attended noise monitoring, are being undertaken in accordance with the site's EPL and the methods and communication procedures used to control the site's emissions are consistent with good industry practice. The Environmental Assessment Acoustic Impact Assessment (AIA) (Bridges 2011) completed for the approval was reviewed as part of the audit

and was found to have been prepared in general accordance with the relevant noise policies and guidelines at the time of the assessment.

The audit found that the environmental improvement programs reviewed are considered effective and appropriate in reducing offsite noise and meet good industry practice and states *'There is evidence that MCCM is continuing to implement improvements, including additional noise monitors, beyond those nominated in the approved NMP.'*

MCCM continues to implement strategies to minimise noise impacts and this is confirmed by the results of the audit. Actions associated with the small number of recommendations identified in the Audit are already in progress, or have been completed, providing community confidence that potential noise impacts are constantly being considered and mitigated.

Additional details on the audit report can be found on the EPA website.