



Department of Planning and Environment

Mr Shane Rily
Environmental Superintendent
Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd

Via email: SRily@whitehavencoal.com.au

7 May 2023

Dear Mr Rily,

Narrabri Coal Stage 2 (MP08_0144) Extraction Plan (LW203 - LW206)

I refer to your application for approval of an extraction plan for Longwalls 203 – 206 at the Narrabri Coal Mine, and to your requests dated 12 April 2023 and 14 April 2023 for a progressive approval to prevent a discontinuation of mining while you address the recommendations made by the Independent Advisory Panel for Underground Mining (the Panel) and DPE Water.

The Department acknowledges that addressing some of the recommendations is likely to require additional time and agrees that the extraction plan as presented is sufficient to address the key risks from mining longwall 203. On that basis, the Department considers it reasonable to allow mining to proceed in longwall 203, subject to addressing the recommendations within a reasonable timeframe.

I note in this regard that your letter dated 14th April includes an indicative action program with timings to address the recommendations. The Department agrees that 6 months is a reasonable timeframe for you to install additional monitoring bores and to address the recommendations in relation to Aboriginal heritage. However, the Department considers that the remaining actions should be completed within 3 months of the date of approval of the extraction plan.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Secretary, I approve the extraction plan for longwall 203 (only), subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to commencing secondary extraction in LW 203, Narrabri Coal must update section 6.2.4 of the extraction plan to remove the rainfall trigger (Panel conclusion 4(v)) and remove section 5.3 and Appendix J (greenhouse gas emissions management) (Panel conclusion 5(i)).
2. Within 3 months of this approval, apart from the installation of additional monitoring bores (Panel recommendation 6(ii)), Narrabri Coal must provide a detailed response to the Panel and DPE Water recommendations in relation to groundwater, surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems.
3. Within 6 months of this approval, Narrabri Coal must provide a detailed response to the Panel's recommendations in relation to Aboriginal heritage.
4. Within 6 months of this approval, Narrabri Coal must install and commission the additional monitoring bores (Panel recommendation 6(ii)).
5. Narrabri Coal must submit a revised Greenhouse Gas Minimisation Plan, including consideration of the Panel's recommendations, prior to 30 June 2023.
6. At least three months prior to the commencement of secondary extraction in LW 204, Narrabri Coal must provide a revised extraction plan that consolidates responses to the Panel and DPE Water recommendations.
7. Condition 22 Schedule 4 of the Stage 2 project approval (MP08_0144) applies to grinding groove site Mayfield GG1 – that is “the Proponent shall not destroy, damage or deface any known Aboriginal objects (as defined in the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974) without the written approval of the Secretary.” To be clear, the approval of this extraction plan does not constitute approval under Condition 22 Schedule 4 in relation to site Mayfield GG1.

The Department has prepared a report setting out its Reasons for Decision in respect of the application for approval of the extraction plan and the above conditions which will be made available on the Department's major projects website. You must publish a copy of the approved extraction plan and the Department's conditional approval on your project website in accordance with Schedule 6 Condition 10 of the project approval.

If you have any enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Philip Nevill on 8275 1036.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S O'D', written in a cursive style.

Steve O'Donoghue
Director Resource Assessments
as nominee of the Secretary