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Manager - Environment
Narrabri Coal Limited
Via email: ██████████

7 March 2025

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**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 your request dated 7 March 2025 for a progressive approval to prevent a discontinuation of mining while you address the recommendations made by the Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Mining (the Panel).

On 7 May 2023, approval was granted for the extraction plan for longwall 203 only, subject to several conditions relating to recommendations received from the Panel, including advice on the protection of Aboriginal grinding groove site Mayfield GG1 and the management of groundwater, surface water and greenhouse gas emissions.

Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd (Narrabri Coal) has since addressed the relevant conditional approval requirements and provided a revised extraction plan for review.

On 3 March 2025, the Panel provided its advice on the revised extraction plan, which included several recommendations for the revision of management plans for groundwater, surface water and heritage, including review of the proposed management and slotting trial mitigation program and protective measures for the Mayfield GG1 Aboriginal grinding groove site. The Panel's advice is provided as **Attachment 1**.

Importantly, the Department notes the Panel's conclusion that it considers the extraction plan for longwall 204 is acceptable with appropriate controls. However, decisions for the extraction plans for longwalls 205 and 206 should be deferred until the proposed slotting trial mitigation results can be reviewed.

The Department considers it would be reasonable to allow mining to commence within longwall 204 only while the slotting trial mitigation program is evaluated and the extraction plan is updated to address all the Panel's recommendations, including further updates to management plans.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Secretary, I approve the extraction plan for longwall 204 (only), subject to the following conditions:

1. Narrabri Coal must update and submit the revised Mayfield GG1 action plan with the updated slotting trial mitigation program by 30 June 2025.
2. Narrabri Coal must update the groundwater and surface water management plans to address the recommendations made by the Panel. The updated management plans must be completed and submitted by 31 December 2025.
3. Narrabri Coal must provide a technical report on the findings of the slotting trial mitigation program, including a comprehensive analysis of the findings and recommendations for the protection of the Mayfield GG1 Aboriginal grinding groove site during the proposed secondary extraction of longwall 205. The report must be provided by 31 December 2025.
4. At least three months prior to the commencement of secondary extraction in longwall 205, Narrabri Coal must provide a revised extraction plan that consolidates responses to the Panel recommendations and the findings of the slotting trial mitigation program. It is also noted that Narrabri Underground Stage 3 approval may have commenced prior to commencing extraction in longwall 205 – in which case any extraction plan would need to be prepared to meet the Stage 3 condition requirements. In this case, consultation in accordance with Stage 3 would be required along with further consultation with the Mining Panel.
5. 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.

You must publish a copy of the approved extraction plan and the Department’s conditional approval letter 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 (02) 8275 1036.

Yours sincerely,



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