Monday, 18 August 2025

REF: Blackwater - 05

Sahar Donner,
Superintendent – Group Approvals,
Whitehaven Coal Limited,
Level 31, 12 Creek Street,
Brisbane, Queensland 4001.

Dear Sahar,

Re: Auguring Ramp 8.

In an email dated 8 August 2025, you supplied more details of some auguring conducted by South Blackwater Mine in Ramp 8 (Figure 1). Their location indicates that this augering was not highwall augering as it is understood nowadays but was conducted for other purposes early in the pit development – possibly to obtain large samples for coal quality testing.

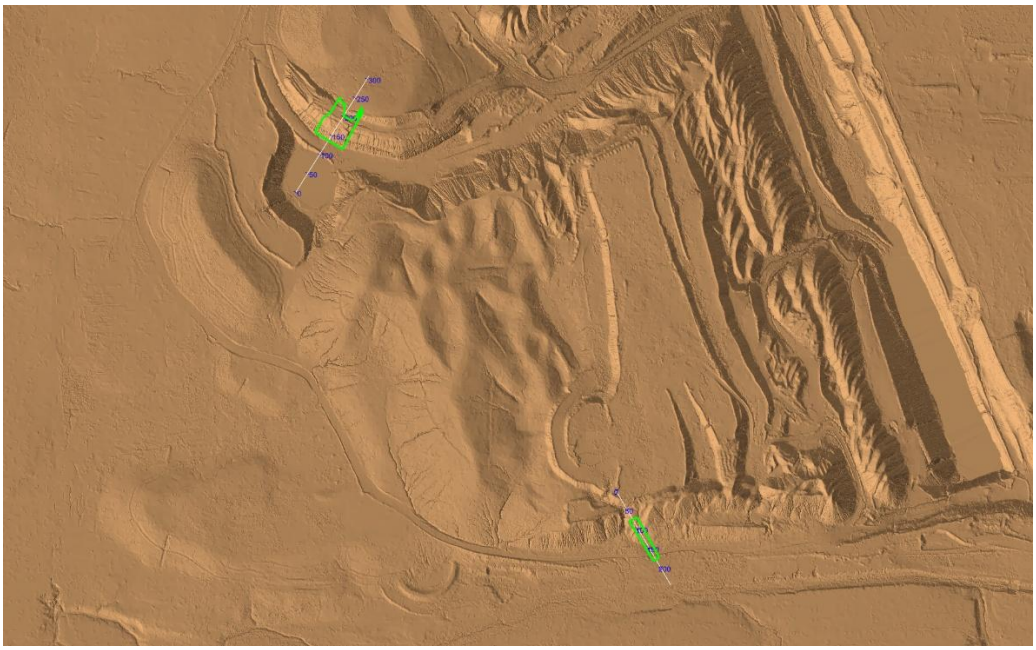


*Figure 1 Location of augering in Ramp 8 - in access ramp or side wall, not highwall*

Your surveyors and mine planners have determined that the augering was conducted at about 25 m – 30 m below the pre-mining surface and hence very early in the mining operation. The augering was in the Pollux Seam. The geometry of the 2 areas is summarised below.

| RLs | Floor of coal | Top of coal | Premining topo | Current max topo |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern R82 | 247.1 | 250.6 | 283.7 | 302.1 |
| Southern R84S | 224.2 | 229.0 | 260.4 | 289.7 |

Figure 2 is the R82 area reproduced at a larger scale. I interpret the steps and peaks in the green line as indicating the extent of each auger and this indicates that the augers were located at 4.5 m centres. Given the likely age of the augering, I assess that the auger diameter would have been 1.2 m.

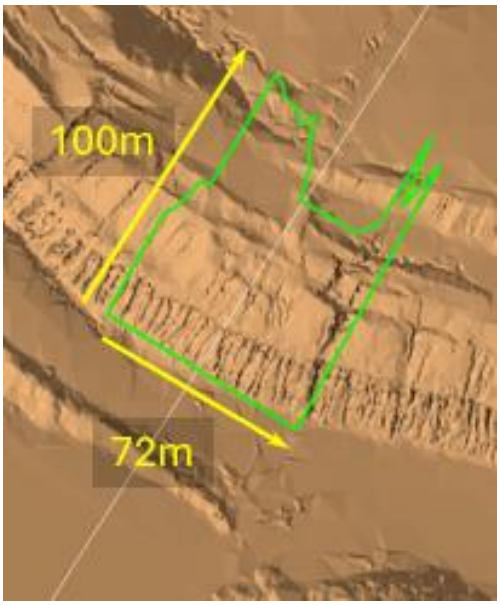



*Figure 2Enlargement of the R82 area*

A simple geotechnical model for "pillar stability" is shown in Figure 3. The coal "pillars" would be 1.2 m high and 3.3 m wide and the maximum depth is now 50-60m. Stability analysis indicates a pillar strength of 8.5 MPa and a pillar load of 2 MPa giving a factor of safety in excess of 4. Collapse of the auger holes themselves would induce bulking in the immediate overburden such that caving would progress to a maximum of about 5 m above the base of the auger.

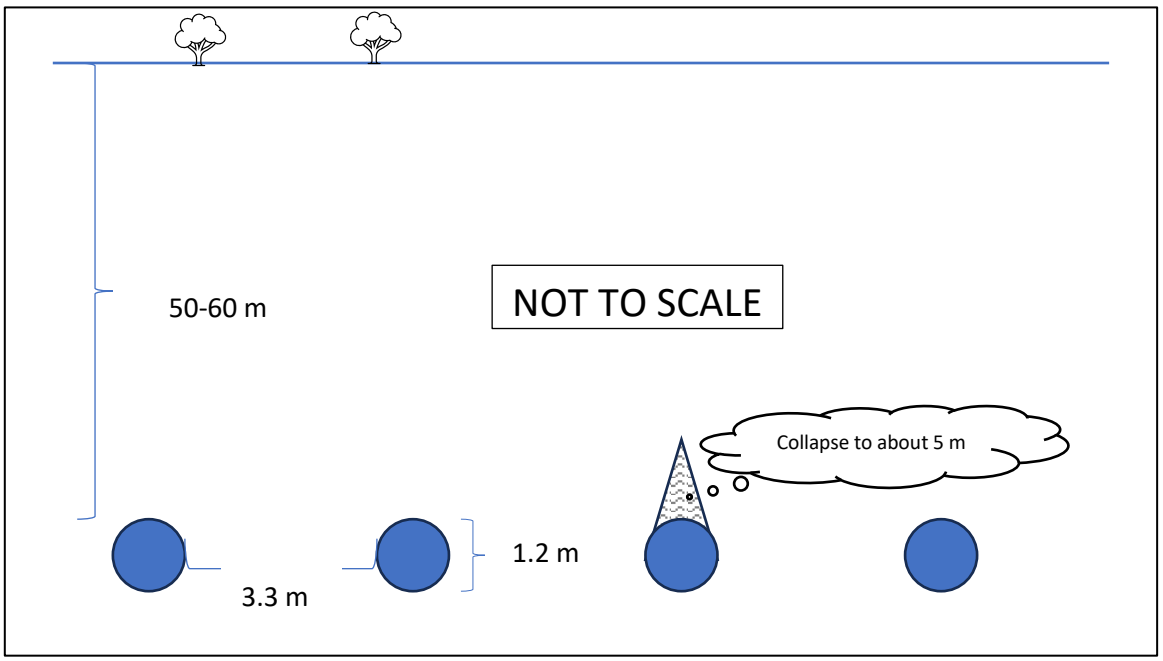



*Figure 3 Geotechnical model for stability of the augering.*

On the basis of these comments, I make the following assessments

1. The auguring in Ramp 8 was not highwall augering – it was not in a highwall and was not designed for high resource recovery.
2. The auger layout involved holes at 4.5 m centres resulting in high levels of overall stability.
3. Any collapse of the auger holes will extend to a maximum of 5 m height.

From this I conclude that this augering does not present a surface subsidence hazard for mine closure.

Yours truly



Ross Seedsman
FAusIMM, CP, RPEQ.