



ABN 76 000 106 972

17 November 2011
Our Ref: DOP171111HR

Manager – Mining Projects
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
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Attention: Howard Reed

Dear Mr Reed,

RE: BLOOMFIELD COAL PROJECT – MODIFICATION OF PA 07-0087

Bloomfield Colliery Pty Limited seeks to modify PA 07_0087 to facilitate an amendment to Schedule 3 Condition 26. Attachment 1 and 2 of this letter outlines the proposed modification to the consent condition.

Under the proposed modification the Project will remain the same as the approved development and there will be no environmental impact.


The Project was approved under Part 3A *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and Bloomfield Colliery Pty Limited requests that the Minister for Planning approve the proposed modification under Section 75W of the EP&A Act.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 4930 2689 if you should have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Lamb".

Greg Lamb
Environmental Officer
BLOOMFIELD COLLIERIES PTY LIMITED

 **(02) 49302689**
 **glamb@bloomcoll.com.au**

ATTACHMENT 1

ORIGINAL PROJECT

Approval for the Bloomfield Colliery Pty Limited (Bloomfield) was granted by the Minister for Planning on 3 September 2009. The Approval permits the staged completion of mining and progressive rehabilitation of the mine until 2021. Approved activities include the continued operation of the following mine infrastructure and related activities:

- the current and future open cut mine areas;
- the workshop;
- the road between the open cut pit areas and the run-of-mine (ROM) coal stockpiles at the washery; and
- the road that links the workshop, open cut pits and the washery.

The Approval provides for the extraction of approximately 14 million tonnes of ROM coal at a maximum extraction rate of up to 1.3 million tonnes per annum (mtpa).

Other mining infrastructure and activities at the Colliery were approved under Project Approval 05_0139 for the Abel Underground Mine. Project Approval 05_0139 was issued to Donaldson Coal and was granted in June 2007. It allows for the Abel Underground Mine as well as the continued use of the Bloomfield washery and rail loading facility, management of water associated with the washery, coarse reject and tailings disposal and coal handling.

MAY 2011 MODIFICATION

An application to modify PA 07_0087 was submitted by Bloomfield in September 2010 accompanied by an EA entitled Extension of the Project Approval Area for Out of Pit Overburden Emplacement and Rehabilitation, Alternative Haul Road and Powerline Relocation to facilitate alterations to the Project, specifically:

- To extend the approved Project Area to allow for some minor physical alterations and rehabilitation works to the mine;
- Upgrade and use of Wattle Tree Drive as an alternative haul route;
- Additional overburden emplacement and rehabilitation - east of Save a Mile Haul Road;
- Additional out-of-pit landform reshaping and rehabilitation – northern and south-eastern areas; and
- Construction of a corridor and overhead powerline from an existing powerline onto the open cut mine site.

PA 07_0087 was subsequently modified on 16 May 2011 by the Minister.

PROPOSED MODIFICATION

As an outcome of discussions with DTIRIS as part of the preparation of the Final Void Management Plan and the Mine Closure Plan, Bloomfield Colliery is seeking to modify PA 07_0087 to facilitate an amendment to Schedule 3 Condition 26. Condition 26 is as follows:

26 *The Proponent shall prepare and implement a detailed Landscape Management Plan for the project to the satisfaction of the Director-General and DII. This plan must:*

- a) *be prepared in consultation with DECCW by a suitably qualified expert/s whose appointment/s have been approved by the Director-General; and*
- b) *include a:*
 - *Rehabilitation Management Plan to be submitted to the Director-General for approval within 6 months of the date of this approval;*
 - *Final Void Management Plan to be submitted to the Director-General for approval by 31 December 2011; and*
 - *Mine Closure Plan to be submitted to the Director-General for approval by 31 December 2011.*

In accordance with Condition 26 the Landscape Management Plan is to be prepared to the satisfaction of DII (now DTIRIS). Bloomfield has been in discussions with DTIRIS regarding the preparation of the Final Void Management Plan and the Mine Closure Plan. In the course of these discussions DTIRIS raised their concerns with the required timing of submission of the plans for approval. DTIRIS stated that their preferred position was to delay the submission of the plans until after the finalisation of a new Mining Lease and the approval of a new Mining Operations Plan (MOP) for the Bloomfield Colliery.

A new Mining Lease has been applied for by Bloomfield to adequately cover the open-cut operations. Under advice from DTIRIS Titles Branch submission of this application was held over until the May 2011 Modification was approved by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. The Mining Lease application has since been submitted by Bloomfield and has been agreed to by the Coal Allocation Committee and is currently before the Minister for approval.

DTIRIS have requested that a new MOP be submitted by Bloomfield for approval after the Minister has approved the new Mining Lease. It is DTIRIS preferred position that the MOP be finalised before they receive the Final Void Management Plan and the Mine Closure Plan as it is their view that the plans arise from and must be integrated within the Bloomfield MOP.

Attachment 2 provides a record of correspondence between Bloomfield and DTIRIS outlining DTIRIS's position on the timing of the submission of the Final Void Management Plan and the Mine Closure Plan.

In order to facilitate the finalisation of the Mining Lease and approval of the MOP prior to completion of the Final Void Management Plan and Mine Closure Plan Bloomfield requests a 6 month extension to the date for submission of the plans. A modification to Schedule 3 Condition 26 of PA 07_0087 is requested to amend the submission date of the Final Void Management Plan and Mine Closure Plan to 30 June 2012.

ATTACHMENT 2

DTIRIS CORRESPONDENCE

Simon Grassby

From: greg.summerhayes@industry.nsw.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2011 4:36 PM
To: Simon Grassby
Subject: Re: Bloomfield Mine Closure Plan

Simon,

I confirm that the circumstances, as identified in your email under and from our recent conversation, of the respective process of Project Approval modification, subsequent mining lease application, MOP preparation lodgement and assessment is such that these must transpire prior to the completion of Final Void Management Plan and Mine Closure Plan to the satisfaction of DTIRIS (I&I) for the Bloomfield Project. It is DTIRIS view that the Final Void Management Plan and Mine Closure Plan fundamentally arise from and must be integrated within the Bloomfield MOP application. In these circumstances therefore, an extension of time of 6 months appears warranted and DTIRIS would advise DoPI in support of such an application by Bloomfield.

regards

Greg Summerhayes | Principal Environmental Officer | Resources & Energy
NSW Trade & Investment | 516 High St | Maitland NSW 2320 | PO Box 344 | Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310
T: 02 4931 6705 | F: 02 4931 6750 | E: greg.summerhayes@industry.nsw.gov.au
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From: Simon Grassby <SGrassby@bloomcoll.com.au>
To: "greg.summerhayes@industry.nsw.gov.au" <greg.summerhayes@industry.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 16/11/2011 11:57 AM
Subject: Bloomfield Mine Closure Plan

Greg,

Bloomfield Collieries Project Approval dated 3rd September 2009 has a Specific Environmental Condition (condition 26) which stipulates that a Final Void Management Plan and a Mine Closure Plan is to be submitted to the Director General by 31 December 2011. Both plans are to be to the satisfaction of I&I and DoPI.

Since the Project Approval in September 2009 Bloomfield has subsequently modified the Project Approval on 16th May 2011. A part of the process Bloomfield started in 2008 that included the Project Approval, was to gain a new Mining Lease that embraced the surface at Bloomfield. Under advice from I&I Titles branch Bloomfield held off applying for this Lease until the Modification was approved. Once the Modification was approved Bloomfield then applied for a new Mining Lease. At the same time we also needed to create a new MOP for Bloomfield, our advice on the MOP was that we needed the new Lease granted before we could start on it.

The situation now is that I&I has approved the new Lease for Bloomfield and the MLA is currently waiting Ministers approval. Given the progress on the new Mining Lease for Bloomfield, I contacted you recently to see when we should start the MOP. Your advice was that we are now in a position to start work on the MOP. Your advice was also that the Mine Closure Plan should come out of the MOP so the MOP should be completed before the Mine Closure Plan is started.

Given that the Mine Closure Plan is due at the end of December this year would you support Bloomfield applying for an extension of 6 months to the due date of the Mine Closure Plan and Final Void Management Plan so that Bloomfield can complete the MOP and then subsequently complete the Mine Closure Plan and Final Void Management Plan as you are advising us.

Regards
Simon

Simon Grassby
Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd