Appendix B

Regulatory Correspondence

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application number	06_0202
Project	The proposed Drayton Coal Mine Extension project, which includes: • extending existing open cut mining operations to recover an additional 30 million tonnes of coal; • increasing production from 5.5 to 8 million tonnes of coal a year; and • modification and use of existing surface facilities and infrastructure to process and transport the coal to markets.
Location	Approximately 13 kilometres south of Muswellbrook, in the Upper Hunter Valley
Proponent	Anglo Coal (Drayton Management) Pty Limited
Date of Issue	25 January 2007
Date of Expiration	25 January 2009
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including the: – need for the project; – alternatives considered; and – various components and stages of the project, including the interaction between the proposed activities and existing operations; • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions; • a general overview of the environmental impacts of the project, identifying the key issues for further assessment, and taking into consideration the issues raised during consultation; • a detailed assessment of the key issues specified below, and any other significant issues identified in the general overview of environmental impacts of the project (see above), which includes: – a description of the existing environment; – an assessment of the potential impacts of the project including cumulative impacts (particularly on noise, air quality, surface water, and groundwater) that may arise from the combined operation of the project, together with the other existing and approved mines in the region; • a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset, manage, and/or monitor the impacts of the project; • a draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures; • a conclusion justifying the project, taking into consideration the environmental impacts of the project, the suitability of the site, and any social, economic and/or environmental benefits that may arise as a result of the project; and • a signed statement from the author of the Environmental Assessment certifying that the information contained in the report is neither false nor misleading.
Key Issues	• **Surface and Groundwater** - including detailed modelling of potential surface and groundwater impacts; a site water balance; a salinity balance; and a detailed description of final void management; • **Flora and Fauna** – including impacts on critical habitats (including riparian habitat), threatened species, populations, ecological communities and native vegetation; • **Rehabilitation, Final Landform and Final Void Management** – including a detailed Rehabilitation and Landscape Management Strategy that

	describes how the site would be progressively rehabilitated and integrated into the landscape, taking into consideration the rehabilitation plans of existing and approved mines in the Muswellbrook area, the Department of Primary Industry's Synoptic Plan, and any other relevant strategic land use objectives for the area. The strategy should also describe what measures would be put in place for the long term protection and management of the site following cessation of mining; • **Noise** – including operational and off-site road and rail noise impacts; • **Blasting and Vibration**; • **Air Quality –** including spontaneous combustion; • **Greenhouse Gases** - a greenhouse gas assessment (including a quantitative analysis of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the combustion of product coal, and a qualitative assessment of the impacts of these emissions on the environment); • **Heritage** - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal; • **Traffic and Transport**; • **Visual**; and • **Social and Economic.**
References	The Environmental Assessment should take into account relevant State government technical and policy guidelines. While not exhaustive, guidelines which may be relevant to the project are included in the attached list.
Consultation	During the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, you must consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth government authorities, service providers, community groups or affected landowners. The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment. In particular you must consult with: • Department of Environment and Conservation; • Department of Natural Resources; • Department of Primary Industries; • Australian Rail Track Corporation; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority; and • Muswellbrook Council. The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment.
Deemed refusal period	60 days

State Government Technical and Policy Guidelines - For Reference

Aspect	Policy /Methodology
Soil and Water	
	• *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction* (Landcom); • *Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality* (ANZECC); • *Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams* (Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation); • the various *State Groundwater Policy* documents (DNR); • *Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW* (DEC);
Flora and Fauna	
	• draft *Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment* (DEC); • *Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and Activities* (DEC); • *NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy* (DNR)
Blasting and Vibration	
	• *Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting and Ground Vibration* (ANZECC);
Noise	
	• *NSW Industrial Noise Policy* (DEC); • *Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise* (DEC); • *Environmental Noise Control Manual* (DEC);
Air Quality	
	• *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW* (DEC);
Greenhouse Gases	
	• *AGO Factors and Methods Workbook* (Australian Greenhouse Office);
Heritage	
	• draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC); • *Assessing Heritage Significance* (NSW Heritage Office); • *NSW Heritage Manual* (NSW Heritage Office); • *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* (NSW Heritage Office, 1996)
Traffic	
	• *Guide to Traffic Generating Development and Road Design Guide* (RTA); • *RTA Road Design Guide* (RTA); • relevant Austroad standards;
Rehabilitation	
	• NSW Department of Mineral Resources (1999) *Synoptic Plan: Integrated Landscapes for Coal Mine Rehabilitation in the Hunter Valley of NSW*;
Waste	
	• *Environmental Guidelines: Assessment and Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes* (DEC).

NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Our Reference: 06/1333
13 March 2006

Mr Mike Young
Manager, Mining & Extractive Industries
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Young

Conceptual Project Development Plan for the Drayton Mine Extension

Anglo Coal (Drayton Management) is proposing an extension to the Drayton Open Cut Coal Mine, south west of Muswellbrook. The Conceptual Project Development Plan (CPDP) for the proposal was presented to technical officers of the Department of Primary Industries, Mineral Resources Division (DPI MR) on 7 March 2006.

The proposed Drayton Mine Extension includes

- An increase in ROM coal production from 5.5 to 8 Mtpa
- An extension of mine life up to 2017
- An expanded footprint of the mine
- Upgrade of existing stockpile reclamation system and existing coal transport unit
- A new domestic product coal stockpile area; and
- Modifications to the mine's water management system.

The CPDP meeting did not highlight any significant issues with the proposed mine extension. If approved mining, in the extension area would use similar mining methods as currently used at the mine. Spontaneous combustion (spon com) has been an issue at the mine in the past, and the company now has systems in place to contain and reduce the occurrence of spon com.

Minerals Development
PO Box 344
Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310
516 High Street
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DPI MR supports the proposed extension as it will extend the life of the mine, is within Drayton's existing mining leases and is likely to have minimum additional environmental impact. Consequently it is considered that only a limited Planning Focus meeting should be required.

I understand that representatives from Anglo Coal (Drayton Management) have discussed the proposal with you and are now seeking to progress the proposal to a development application.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Julie Moloney, Senior Project Officer, Minerals Development on (02) 4931 6549.

Yours sincerely

J Moloney

Garth Holmes
Manager
Minerals Development

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Muswellbrook Shire Council

ENQUIRIES
PLEASE ASK FOR Chris Gidney
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OUR REFERENCE 240.000
YOUR REFERENCE

MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333
ABN 86 864 180 944

13 February.2007

The Manager
Mining and Development
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir

Re: Drayton Coalmine operations_ proposed extension

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) document for the subject development.

I wish to advise that Council at its meeting held on 12 February 2007 decided to support the draft EA for its use in the relevant development application subject to further information being included in the document which relates to the:

1. Spontaneous combustion issues relating to the operation
2. Identification of the location and management of final voids
3. How the reduction of the current and future noise and vibration impacts will be managed in relation to residences at Balmoral Road, Pamger Drive and Hassell Road.
4. Specifically identifying overburden emplacement areas.

Council looks forward to participating in the community consultative process and assessment of the formal planning application for this development.

Yours faithfully

CA Gidney
Director Environmental Services

Copy to. Hansen Bailey Consulting
6/127-129 John Street
SINGLETON NSW 2330

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