

APPENDIX 1 RECORDS OF COMMISSION MEETINGS

Notes of briefing from the Department

This meeting is part of the Determination process		
Meeting note taken by David Koppers	Date 31 March 2017	Time: 12:40pm
Project: Springvale Mine Extension Project MOD 1– D459/16		
Meeting place: Planning Assessment Commission (PAC Office)		
<p>Attendees:</p> <p><u>Commission Members:</u> Abigail Goldberg (Chair), Lynelle Briggs AO and Ross Carter (<i>by phone</i>) Commission Secretariat: David Koppers (Team Leader)</p> <p><u>Department of Planning and Environment:</u> Clay Preshaw (A/Director Resource Assessments) and Rose-Anne Hawkswood (Senior Planning Officer)</p>		
The purpose of the meeting: For the Department to brief the Commission on the Project.		
<p>Meeting notes:</p> <p>The Department discussed the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extension project approved by PAC in 2015 following two Review processes; - Short term closure of the mine occurred prior to approval of the extension; - Justification by Applicant includes Springvale being the only mine in the western coalfield that currently remains operating, and the only mine now supplying coal to Mt Piper Power Station; - Project will allow additional capacity and supply flexibility, improving regional energy security during periods of peak use as experienced earlier in 2017 during a summer heatwave with resultant unplanned load shedding at several power stations; - Proposing to utilise machinery from Angus Place Mine (currently in care-and-maintenance) until Springvale closes and Angus Place re-commences production; - Impacts on swamps as assessed and approved in 2015 are the same, however may occur more quickly due to increased extraction rate; - No impacts on swamps are permitted outside of the approved mining area; - Existing consent requirements, including introduction of an Independent Monitoring Panel as well as extensive monitoring and reporting requirements, has required the Applicant to keep the Department updated and informed of impacts that are occurring as extraction plans are updated. This regime was introduced by the PAC due to the unknown level of potential impacts of the longwall mining on both swamps and water quality, and the resultant necessity of adaptive management practices; - Actual impact levels are now significantly better known. In some situations impacts are higher than originally anticipated and, although within forecast and permitted levels, are triggering adaptive management actions; - Bonds and offset requirements are currently in place for swamp impacts. Bonds have been paid while like for like offsets are currently under investigation; - LDP009 is the current key water discharge point. The location of LDP009 was clarified; 		

- Low frequency noise investigations have been undertaken by the company subsequent to the PAC Review processes. These investigations show no evidence of this type of noise. The Department supports this conclusion on the basis of evidence provided.

Outcomes/Agreed Actions: Department to provide further information on current investigations into offset opportunities in relation to the Newnes Forest swamps.

Meeting closed at 1:30pm

Notes of meeting with Springvale Coal and site visit

This meeting is part of the Determination process		
Meeting note taken by Robert Bisley	Date 6 April 2017	Time: 5:00pm
Project: Springvale Mine Extension Project MOD 1– D459/16		
Meeting place: Springvale Mine Administration Building		
<p>Attendees:</p> <p><u>Commission Members:</u> Abigail Goldberg (Chair), Lynelle Briggs AO and Ross Carter Commission Secretariat: David Koppers, Robert Bisley</p> <p><u>Centennial Coal Representatives:</u> Brian Nicholls (Mine Manager), Peter Smith (General Manager – Health Safety and Environment), James Wearne (Group Approvals Manager), Nagindar Singh (Approvals Coordinator), Peter Corbett (Principal Technical Services Manager), Devon Roberts (Environmental Superintendent)</p> <p><u>Department of Planning and Environment representative:</u> Paul Freeman</p>		
The purpose of the meeting: For Springvale Coal (the Applicant) to brief the Commission on the Project.		
<p>Prior to the meeting, the Commission was taken by the Applicant to visit Carne West and Barrier swamps.</p> <p>Meeting notes:</p> <p>The following matters were addressed by the Applicant:</p> <p>Status of Springvale Mine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Modification is proposed to increase coal production from 4.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to 5.5 Mtpa, and increase the mine's workforce from 310 to 450 personnel. - Mining of Longwall 419 has finished with commencement of Longwall 420 scheduled to occur in late April. - The current schedule is however being re-evaluated in response to the findings of the Independent Monitoring Panel (IMP) and the Applicant's monitoring of the impact of mining on swamps in the project area, both of which have indicated that continuation of the current mine plan would have adverse environmental impacts. <p>Adaptive management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Springvale Coal has implemented an adaptive management approach to minimise the potential for impacts to standing water levels in swamps located within as well as beyond the current approved project area. This approach has led to the following considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Longwall 421 to be shortened by 288m to avoid mining through a significant linking fault that intersects the lineament which underlies Carne Central Swamp. o Longwall 422 to be deferred until the impacts of Longwalls 420 and 421 can be determined. o Longwall 423 to not proceed due to possible impact on Carne Central and Barrier swamps. o After completion of Longwall 420, mining of Longwall 424 to commence. o Narrowing mining voids (from 315m to 260.9m) and widening chain pillars (45m to 58m) for all Longwalls in SSD5594 approved area. 		

Water:

- Increasing coal extraction from 4.5 Mtpa to 5.5 Mtpa is forecast to result in an additional inflow of 0.4ML of water per day.
- Sensitivity modelling has identified that the predicted inflow rates identified will be within the maximum rates approved by the PAC for the original consent.
- Springvale Mine has approval to discharge up to 30ML of water a day. The Modification is not proposing to increase mine water discharge by more than this amount.

Equipment:

- To achieve the increased production identified within the Modification, the Applicant will utilise additional mining equipment, some of which is from the Angus Place mine, which is currently under care-and-maintenance.
- It is no longer proposed to introduce a second longwall machine in the short term.

Outcomes/Agreed Actions:

The Applicant to send a copy of the powerpoint presentation and correspondence confirming proposed amendments to the mine plan.

Meeting closed at 6:15pm

Notes of meeting with Lithgow City Council

This meeting is part of the Determination process		
Meeting note taken by Robert Bisley	Date 7 April 2017	Time: 8:30am
Project: Springvale Mine Extension Project MOD 1– D459/16		
Meeting place: Lithgow Council Office		
Attendees: <u>Commission Members:</u> Abigail Goldberg (Chair), Lynelle Briggs AO and Ross Carter Commission Secretariat: David Koppers, Robert Bisley <u>Lithgow City Council:</u> Clr Stephen Lesslie (Mayor), Clr Wayne McAndrew (Deputy Mayor), Andrew Muir (Acting General Manager), Paul Cashel (Team Leader, Development Planning), Lauren Stevens (Development Assessment Planner)		
The purpose of the meeting: For Lithgow City Council (Council) to brief the Commission on the Project.		
Meeting notes: Council discussed the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Council is unanimously in favour of the Springvale Mine Extension Modification;- Lithgow LGA is challenged by unemployment (particularly youth unemployment). Coal mining employment is very important for the Lithgow community. There were previously 13 active mines within the Region, whereas there are now only 3.- This Modification will allow for an additional 140 mine personnel, which will provide employment opportunities for Lithgow residents;- As Springvale Mine transports its coal by rail, there is minimal environmental impact on the road network;- A recent local phone poll indicated that 71% of Lithgow residents support coal power;- Council agrees with the Department's report and recommendations, and considers that a thorough assessment has been undertaken.		
Outcomes/Agreed Actions: None.		
Meeting closed at 8:55am		