

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Western Coal Services Project

Residuals Emplacement Modification (SSD 5579 MOD 1)

1 BACKGROUND

The Western Coal Services Project is a coal storage, handling and processing site, located in the western coalfield of New South Wales, approximately 15 kilometres (km) northwest of Lithgow (see **Figure 1**). The project is owned by Centennial Springvale, and is operated by Springvale Coal.

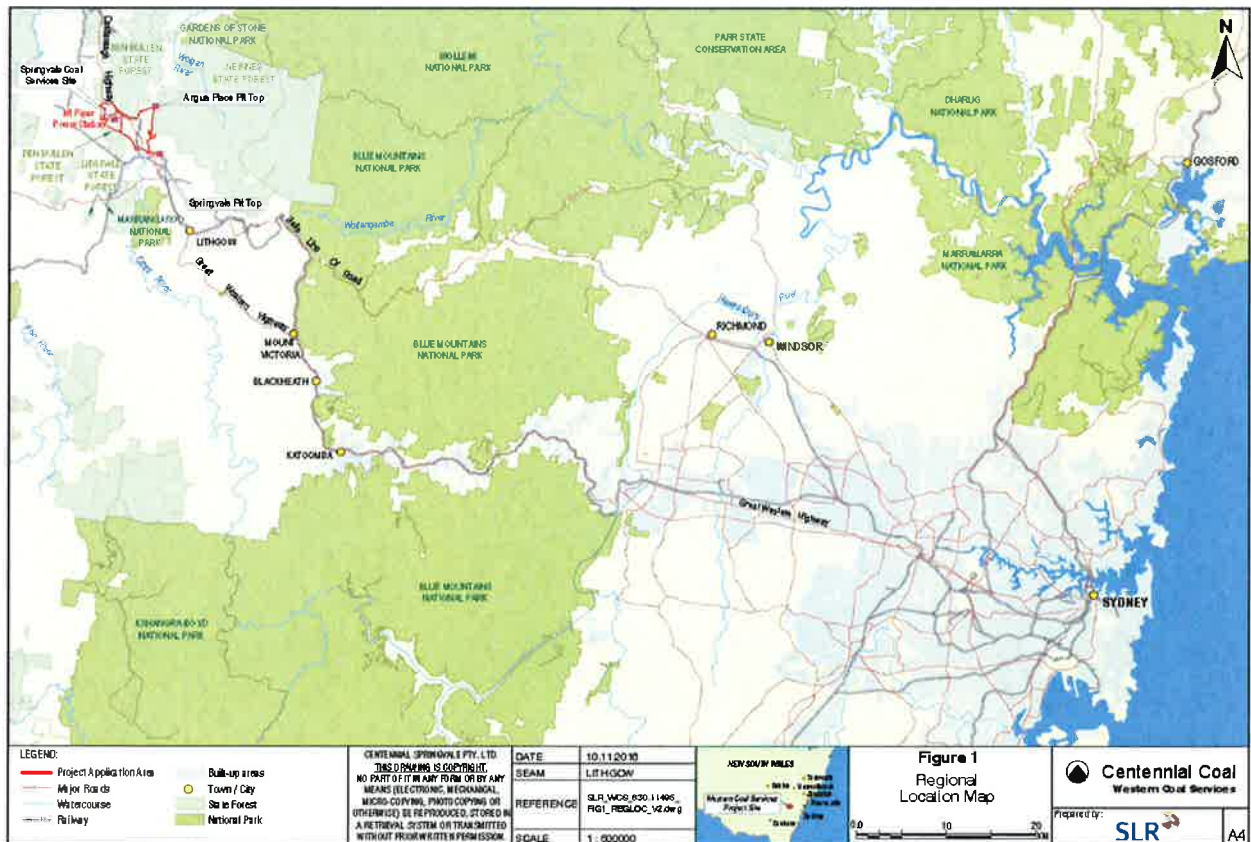


Figure 1: Regional Context

The main components of the Western Coal Services Project (see **Figure 2**) include:

- the Springvale Coal Services Site – for run-of-mine (ROM) coal handling, stockpiling, washing and reject material emplacement;
- the Kerosene Vale Stockpile Area – for stockpiling of excess coal;
- a coal conveyor system – from Springvale Mine pit top to Mount Piper Power Station; and
- the Mount Piper and Wallerawang Haul Roads.

The development consent for the project (SSD 5579) was approved by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) in April 2014. It allows Springvale Coal to:

- receive up to 9.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of ROM coal;
- process up to 7 Mtpa at the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant;
- extend an existing reject emplacement area to sustain another 25 years of operations;
- construct a private haul road linking the site with the existing Mount Piper Haul Road; and
- upgrade the water management systems at the site by separating clean and dirty water prior to either reuse or discharge off site.

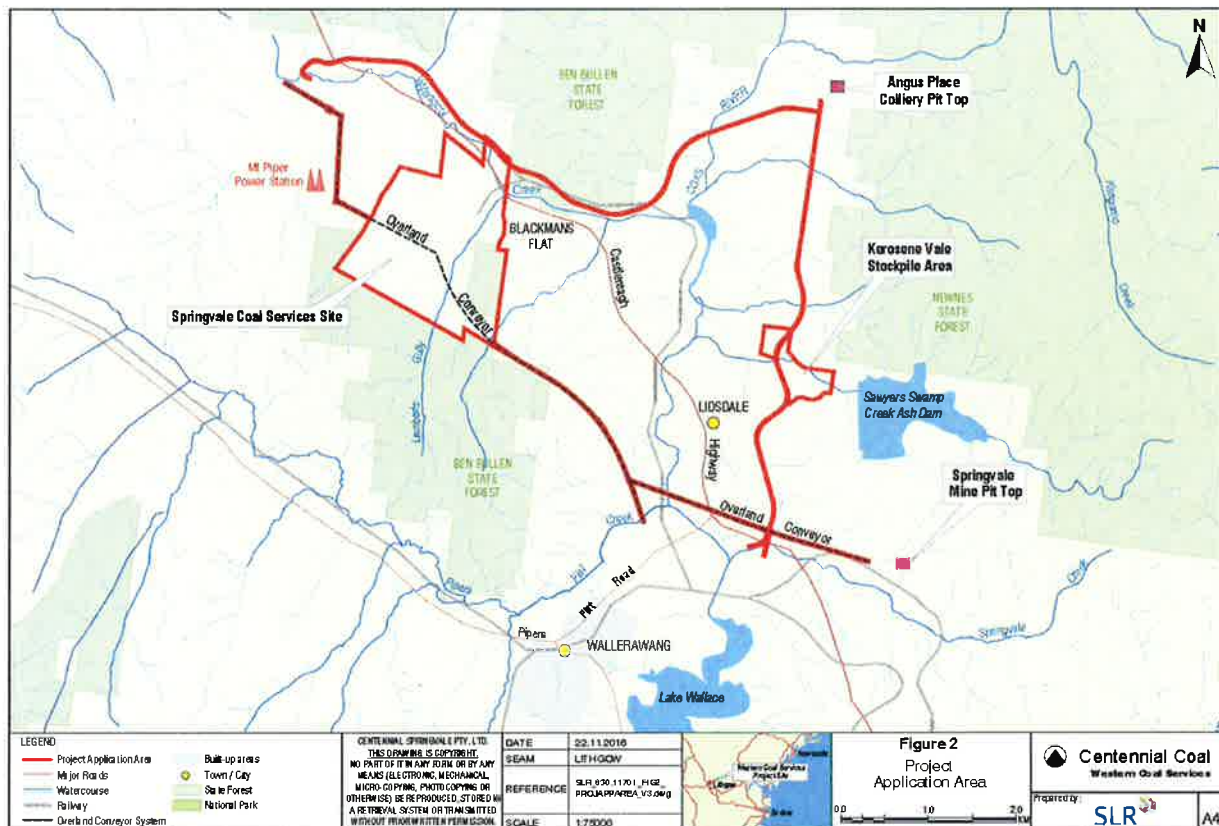


Figure 2: Western Coal Services Project

The project site has a long history of mining operations for over 70 years (both underground and open cut), with coal processing and reject disposal activities occurring for over 40 years.

Upstream of the site, the Ben Bullen State Forest catchment generates large volumes of clean runoff during rainfall events. Water on site drains from south to north, with the DML and Cooks dam being the key water management structures on site. Both dams and the reject emplacement area are former open cut voids, which are known to be connected to each other by flooded underground workings.

Due to the lack of a comprehensive clean and dirty water diversion system on site, the clean runoff is mixing with water in the dams, leading to frequent overflow events and discharges into Wangcol Creek via a licenced discharge point (LDP006). Wangcol Creek forms part of the Cocks River catchment, which ultimately feeds into Lake Burragorang in the lower reaches of Sydney's drinking water catchments.

2 PROPOSED MODIFICATION

Springvale Coal is proposing to modify the Western Coal Services Project development consent to allow the site to receive and emplace a residual waste material produced by the proposed Springvale Water Treatment Project.

The Springvale Water Treatment Project is a separate development application involving the transfer of mine water to the Mt Piper Power Station for treatment and reuse in the cooling towers.

The material that would be emplaced is a residual waste by-product from the proposed water treatment process at Mount Piper Power Station, resulting from the presence of suspended solid materials in the mine water. The residual waste material would be transferred from the proposed water treatment plant for emplacement in the reject emplacement area at the Western Coal Services Site (see **Figure 3**).

The modification application would also require minor changes to the Western Coal Services Project rehabilitation strategy, due to the physical installation of the raw water and residual transfer pipelines.

The modification is described in detail in the Statement of Environmental Effects (see **Appendix A**).



Figure 3: Western Coal Services Site and Springvale Water Treatment Project

3 RELATED APPLICATIONS

The separate development application for the Springvale Water Treatment Project is widely supported by both government and the community as it would significantly reduce discharges into the catchment. The concept of transferring mine water to the power station was recommended by the PAC and would achieve the long-term salinity reductions required under the mine's development consent.

However, given the large scale of this \$100 million project and the time required to construct and commission it, Springvale has also lodged a modification application (Springvale Mod 2), which seeks to defer the shorter-term salinity reductions until the Springvale Water Treatment Project is completed.

The Springvale Water Treatment Project, Springvale Mod 2 and Western Coal Services Mod 1 are fundamentally inter-related and have therefore been submitted to the PAC for determination as one package at the same time. Each of these three applications have a separate assessment report, however these reports are appropriately cross referenced throughout.

4 STATUTORY CONTEXT

The Western Coal Services Project was originally granted under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Section 96 of the EP&A Act allows for a development consent to be modified by the consent authority that granted the original consent.

The proposed modification does not seek to significantly alter the nature or scale of the development and would not significantly increase its environmental impacts. The reject emplacement area is already approved to receive coarse and fine reject materials.

While the emplacement of residual material from the proposed Springvale Water Treatment Project would add an additional waste stream into the reject emplacement area, no changes to the capacity of the reject emplacement area or increase to the footprint of the site are required.

Consequently, the Department is satisfied that the application can be characterised as a modification to the existing consent under section 96(2) of the EP&A Act as it would result in substantially the same development as the development for which consent was originally granted.

The Western Coal Services Project is State Significant Development under the EP&A Act, and the Minister for Planning is the consent authority for the development. However, as this modification application is fundamentally linked to the Springvale Water Treatment Project and Springvale Mod 2, the Department has forwarded it to the PAC for determination as one package.

5 CONSULTATION

The Statement of Environmental Effects was publicly exhibited from 29 November 2016 until 13 December 2016. During the exhibition period, the Department received 8 submissions comprising:

- 5 from public authorities;
- 2 from special interest groups; and
- 1 from the general public.

Springvale Coal provided a Response to Submissions document to address concerns raised in these submissions. The submissions and Response to Submissions are provided as **Appendix B** and **C**.

The Department forwarded the Response to Submissions to the relevant agencies and requested further comments. The agency comments on this document are provided in **Appendix D**. The Department also sought additional information about alternative treatment and disposal options considered for the residual material, which was provided on 28 March 2017 (see **Appendix E**).

Agency Submissions

The **Environment Protection Authority** (EPA) questioned whether further treatment to reduce the water content of the residual material could occur either at the Springvale Water Treatment Project or at the Western Coal Services Site.

Springvale Coal provided a detailed response that canvassed a range of options, which are discussed in detail in **section 6.1.2**.

WaterNSW advised that the water being pumped from the reject emplacement area to the Cooks Dam is likely the reason for the high salinity and water levels observed in Cooks Dam. It noted that the predicted salinity levels in Wangcol Creek were assessed based on average annual discharges and requested revised estimates taking into account short-term fluctuations. Additional modelling information was provided in the Response to Submissions.

WaterNSW also recommended that Springvale Coal undertake water quality or catchment improvement measures to compensate for the potential additional discharge impacts. While the Department does not believe there is any strict requirement for such an approach under government policy, these options have been closely considered and are discussed in **section 6.1.5**.

The **Division of Resources and Geosciences** (formerly the Division of Resources and Energy within the Department of Industry) had no objection to the proposed modification, noting the additional solid material component would be largely insignificant compared to the amount of coal reject to be emplaced on site. It advised that the Mining Operations Plan for the site would need to be reviewed and updated.

The **Office of Environment and Heritage** (OEH) noted the proposal would require changes to the rehabilitation strategy for the reject emplacement area, the haul roads and overland conveyor system.

The **Department of Primary Industry** (DPI) raised no objection to the proposal.

Lithgow City Council supports the modification.

Community and Special Interest Group Submissions

The three community and special interest group submissions raised concerns about the effectiveness of the clean and dirty water diversion systems. The groups suggested that further consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts resulting from interactions between reject and ash emplacement areas across Springvale Coal's operations.

The Department agrees that further work is warranted in this area and has recommended a condition of consent for the Springvale Water Treatment Project requiring a detailed investigation and analysis of the potential impacts of residual waste, brine and ash across Springvale's various sites. This is discussed in detail in the assessment report for that Springvale Water Treatment Project.

The **Colong Foundation for Wilderness** raised concerns about the contamination issues between the Cooks Dam and Wangcol Creek, and the need to treat water discharged from LDP006. The **Blue Mountains Conservation Society** suggested that the salinity and toxicity of Wangcol Creek should be addressed.

The Department agrees and notes that the EPA intends to implement a Pollution Reduction Program on the EPL to improve discharges at LDP006 over time. The Department has also recommended that Springvale Coal undertake catchment improvement measures (see **section 6.1.5**).

The Colong Foundation also requested that this modification application is assessed together with the Springvale Water Treatment Project.

6 ASSESSMENT

In assessing the merits of the proposed modification, the Department has considered the:

- modification application and accompanying Statement of Environment Effects
- government agency and community submissions;
- the Response to Submissions and additional information dated 28 March February 2017;
- existing conditions of consent;
- relevant environmental planning instruments, policies and guidelines; and
- relevant requirements of the EP&A Act.

The Department considers the key issues are the potential impacts on surface water in the catchment, which are discussed in **section 6.1**.

The Department has also assessed all other potential impacts, which are summarised in table format in **section 6.2**.

6.1 Catchment Impacts

The proposed Springvale Water Treatment Project includes a clarifying process that would remove the suspended solids from raw mine water prior to desalination. This would result in a separate residual waste stream that would be transferred to the Western Coal Services Site at a maximum rate of 0.43 ML/day (and a typical rate of 0.35 ML/day).

The residual waste stream would have a dry solids content of up to 2%, and is classified as liquid waste in accordance with the EPA's *Waste Classification Guidelines*. The salinity of the waste stream would typically be approximately 1,200 µS/cm and the maximum salinity would be 2,500 µS/cm.

The special interest groups, EPA and WaterNSW raised concerns about whether the emplacement of residual waste material would increase the existing discharge rate at the Western Coal Services Site or further reduce the water quality of the receiving environment in Wangcol Creek.

6.1.1 Background

Mining has been undertaken at the Western Coal Services Site for over 70 years with a series of underground mine workings and open cut pits.

The site is located within the Wangcol Creek catchment, which is a highly modified environment that drains into the Coss River. Water quality in the Wangcol Creek catchment upstream of the site shows evidence of impacts from historical mining, with elevated salinity and heavy metal concentrations.

Surface water runoff from both clean and dirty water catchments are currently intermixing prior to discharge into Wangcol Creek via LDP006. It is also likely that the historic underground mine workings provide pathways for water to move within the voids and fractured zones, and ultimately into the key water management structures (i.e. DML and Cooks Dams), which contribute to discharges at LDP006.

Springvale Coal has committed to undertaking design and construction works to separate clean and dirty water flow paths at the Western Coal Services Site. The aim of these works is to reduce the volume of surface water runoff reporting to the groundwater environment (by approximately 117 ML/year).

These works are expected to be completed by December 2018, which is before the targeted operation date of the Springvale Water Treatment Project.

6.1.2 Alternative Options

The Department requested that Springvale consider all potential options to avoid the need for the transfer to, and emplacement of, residual waste at the Western Coal Services Site.

The Department and EPA suggested a number of options for consideration, including:

- further treatment or storage at the Springvale Water Treatment Project site;
- the removal of the liquid component of the residual waste stream to form a 'dry' waste product; or
- lining the reject emplacement area at the Western Coal Services Site to prevent infiltration into the groundwater system.

Springvale Coal investigated all of these options and provided a detailed response dated 28 March 2017 (see **Appendix E**), which outlined the likely success and difficulties associated with each option. Springvale Coal considered four main options and each had a variety of associated constraints, which are summarised below.

The first option is to construct a series of 'sludge lagoons' or 'drying beds' at the Springvale Water Treatment Project site, which would require an additional two hectares of disturbance at the site and an estimated additional cost of approximately 8 to 12 million dollars. The thick sludge would require transfer via a new separate conveyor or vehicle haulage route, which would likely cause a considerable amount of further vegetation disturbance.

The second option is to use a set of 'geotextile dewatering bags' that could filter the solid component of the waste with water flowing out of the fabric of the bags gradually. This process would involve continual replacement of bags and would require the addition of an artificial polymer to encourage coagulation, which may present an environmental hazard risk. It would also require further disturbance on the Springvale Water Treatment Project site, including the construction of a sludge storage pond.

The third option is to introduce a mechanical dewatering system such as filter presses, belt presses or centrifuges. This would require a substantial amount of additional infrastructure and surface disturbance on the Springvale Water Treatment Project site, including a building to store equipment, a storage area and a storage pond. It would also require the addition of a chemical that is not otherwise used on site to assist in flocculation, which may also present an environmental hazard risk.

The fourth option is to install lining into the existing unlined pits at the existing reject emplacement area on the Western Coal Service Site. These pits are currently in operation and any lining activities would require Springvale Coal's various mining operations to cease, which would cause substantial interruptions to the business. The existing coal rejects would also need to be excavated to allow the lining activities, and there are currently no other pits for storing rejects available on site.

Ultimately, the Department is satisfied that none of these options are reasonable or feasible due to the uncertainty around their likely success, the lack of space available on either site without significant disturbance, and the potential requirement to halt operations for an extended period.

6.1.3 Drinking Water Catchment SEPP

Under clause 10 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011* (the Drinking Water Catchment SEPP), the consent authority must "*not grant consent to carrying out of development*" in the drinking water catchment unless it would have a 'neutral or beneficial effect' on water quality (the NorBe test).

While the consent authority must apply the NorBe test in "*grant(ing) consent to the carrying out of development*", section 96(4) of the EP&A Act provides that the modification of a development consent is "*taken not to be the granting of development consent*" (emphasis added).

The Department has therefore sought legal advice about the applicability of the Drinking Water Catchment SEPP and the NorBe test to this modification application.

The legal advice confirms that the SEPP as a whole must be considered as part of the broader considerations required under section 79C of the EP&A Act.

However, it also confirms that the specific clause in the SEPP containing the NorBe test (i.e. clause 10) does not strictly apply to the modification of a development consent in the same way as it does to the granting of a development consent. As a result, the NorBe test does not operate to constrain the determination of a modification application as it does for the granting of development consent.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the intention behind clause 10 of the SEPP is to protect Sydney's drinking water catchment, and the Department accepts the application of the NorBE test is an important merit consideration for this application. The Department has considered this in **section 6.1.4** below.

Furthermore, the modification of a development consent must be substantially the same development as the development for which consent was originally granted, and the Department believes that the nature of scale of the proposed changes should be given significant weight in considering whether to approve the modification application.

Consequently, the Department has carefully considered whether the proposed emplacement of residual materials at the reject emplacement area would result in site water discharges that are substantially the same as those that were originally assessed and approved.

In summary, there are currently no limits on discharge volumes, salinity levels or heavy metal composition in the EPL for LDP006, and the other relevant limits of the EPL would continue to be met under the proposed modification.

There would be a potential minor decrease in water quality near the discharge point in Wangcol Creek, however the proposed modification would allow the Springvale Water Treatment Project to go ahead, which would result in a significant benefit to the catchment as a whole (as discussed in detail below).

6.1.4 Predicted Impacts

Springvale Coal has simulated a full-scale water treatment process of the mine water to model the chemical parameters of the residual waste material, and provide predictions of salinity at various locations in the water catchment.

Modelling results

The predictions compare four different scenarios, including:

- Existing Conditions (no changes i.e. no management works);
- Future Conditions (water management works complete and no residuals emplacement);
- Scenario 1 (conservative scenario based on maximum rate of 0.43 ML/day; 2,500 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$); and
- Scenario 2 (typical scenario based on typical rate of 0.35 ML/day; 1,200 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$).

The results of the water quality modelling are illustrated in **Figure 4**.

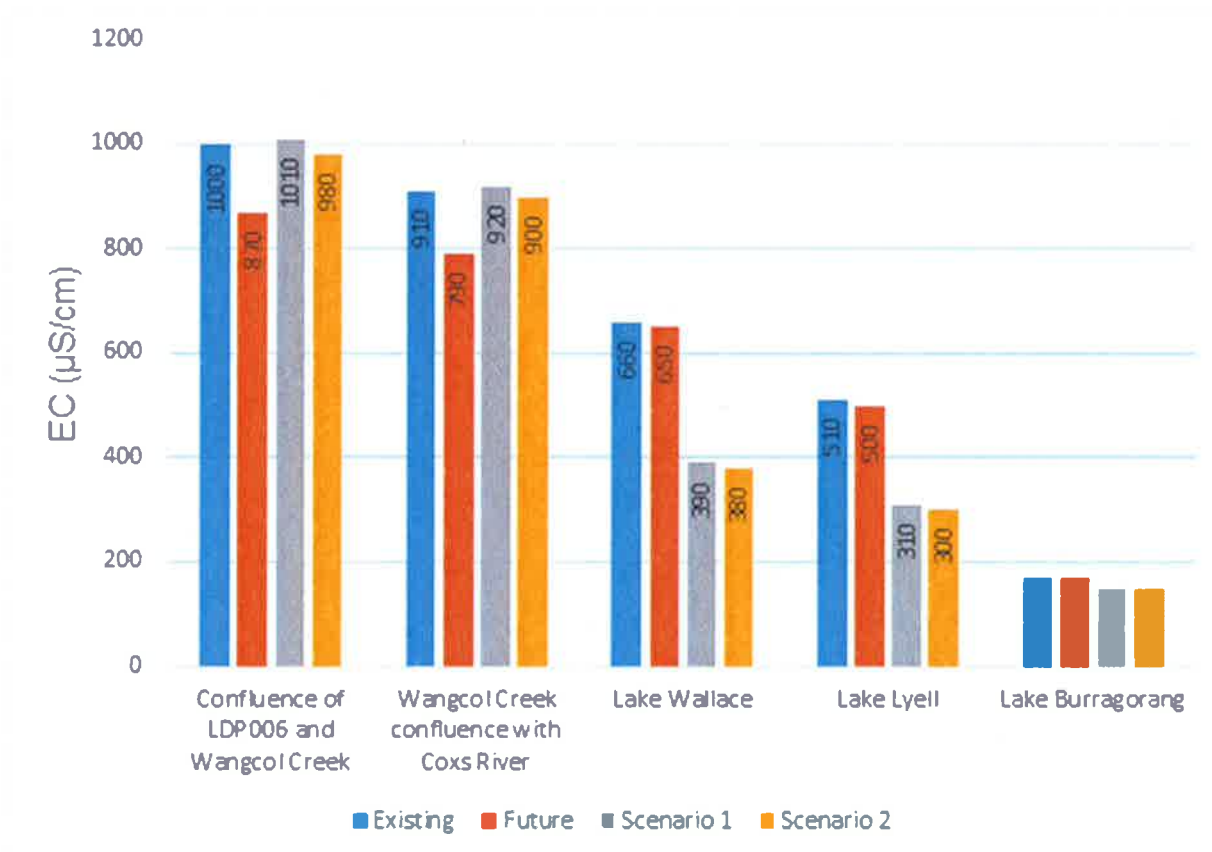


Figure 4: Predicted impacts at various locations in the catchment

Substantially the same development

The 'Existing Conditions' are included in Figure 4 as a reference point to the current conditions at the site, which allows a comparison against the discharges that were originally assessed and approved.

The water modelling shows that the predicted levels of salinity are similar or less to the current (and historical) levels at all points within the catchment. There would be large reductions in salinity downstream sources and only a negligible increase of 10 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ within Wangcol Creek. The relevant limits of the EPL for LDP006 at Wangcol Creek would therefore continue to be met.

Consequently, the Department is satisfied that the proposed emplacement of residual waste material would result in site water discharges that are substantially the same as those that were originally assessed and approved.

Neutral or Beneficial Effect

However, the proposed water management works to separate clean and dirty water have already commenced and would likely be completed regardless of whether this modification is approved. These works would result in better water quality in Wangcol Creek when compared to the 'Existing Conditions'.

Therefore, in order to consider whether the proposed modification would result in a 'neutral or beneficial' effect on the catchment, it is necessary to undertake a comparison between the 'Future Conditions' scenario against the proposed modification scenarios (i.e. Scenarios 1 and 2).

This comparison shows that under the conservative, worst-case modification scenario (Scenario 1), there would be a minor increase in salinity within Wangcol Creek (between 110 and 130 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$), when compared to the Future Conditions scenario (i.e. water management works complete and no residuals emplacement).

However, there would still be large reductions in salinity in the downstream sources, including Lake Wallace, Lake Lyell and Lake Burragorang. Importantly, the predicted salinity levels would still be substantially lower at both Lake Wallace (270 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ or 39% lower) and Lake Burragorang (20 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ or 12% lower).

The Department notes that Lake Wallace and Lake Burragorang are the key points downstream of the discharge points that WaterNSW have advised should be used to assess impacts in the drinking water catchment.

The reason for a significant benefit at the key points in the drinking water catchment is that both modification scenarios take into account the removal of mine water discharges from the transfer and treatment of water that would occur under the Springvale Water Treatment Project.

The Department acknowledges that there may be a slight reduction in water quality close to the Western Coal Service Sites from the proposed modification. However in this instance, the Department does not believe that a narrow application of the NorBE test is appropriate as the proposed modification is necessary to facilitate the Springvale Water Treatment Project, which would make substantial improvements to the catchment as a whole, and thereby achieve the aims of the Drinking Water Catchment SEPP.

Summary

The Department considers that any minor increase in salinity levels in Wangcol Creek from LDP006 is likely to be within historical levels and would comply with the existing EPL. Consequently, the Department is satisfied that the proposed modification is not likely to result in any increase in discharges beyond what was originally considered and approved.

If the NorBE test is considered in isolation for this proposed modification, there may a minor decrease in the water quality of Wangcol Creek. However, the Department notes that the NorBe test does not operate to constrain the determination of a modification application as it does for the granting of development consent.

Furthermore, it is important to emphasise that water quality is predicted to improve in the broader catchment, particularly at Lake Wallace and Lake Burragorang. The Department strongly believes that a potential minor decrease in water quality in a stretch of one upstream creek should not prevent the Springvale Water Treatment Project from going ahead, given the significant benefits it would have on the drinking water catchment downstream.

6.1.5 Catchment Improvement Works

While there are likely to be significant benefits to the catchment downstream, the Department has also considered whether further work could be done to improve the condition of Wangcol Creek resulting from existing and future discharges at LDP006.

The Department understands that Springvale Coal are already working with the EPA to address the LDP006 discharge issues. The EPL at the site has been specifically identified by the EPA for future improvements, and the EPA has advised that a Pollution Reduction Program will be implemented to improve discharges at LDP006 over time.

Following discussions with various government agencies, Springvale Coal has also offered to undertake a range of water quality and catchment improvement measures, particularly in Wangcol Creek. The Department has adopted a recommendation from EPA and WaterNSW to include these commitments as conditions of consent, including a requirement to spend at least \$250,000 on these measures as part of a Riparian Habitat and Catchment Improvement Plan.

In addition, the Department considers that further work should be undertaken on the potential cumulative impacts of residual waste, brine and ash across Springvale's various sites. Consequently, the Department has recommended a condition of consent for the Springvale Water Treatment Project requiring a Brine and Residual Waste Disposal Plan, including a detailed investigation and analysis of further options to decrease the quantity of brine and residual waste over time.

6.2 Other Issues

The Department has assessed other issues relating to the proposed modification in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act, and summarised the findings of this assessment in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Assessment of Other Issues

Issue	Consideration and Assessment
<i>Aquatic Ecology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to disturbance from past land-use activities, the in-stream habitat of Wangcol Creek immediately downstream of LDP006 is already heavily degraded, with the lowest level of macroinvertebrate diversity of the current four aquatic ecology monitoring sites within the creek. Ecotoxicology assessments of the existing LDP006 discharge has been shown to be toxic to aquatic biota. Significant dilution of the discharge would be required to attain the species protection levels described in the ANZECC (2000) guidelines. Aquatic habitat immediately downstream of LDP006 would continue to be impacted by the discharge regardless of whether this modification application proceeds. However, significant improvements in water quality and aquatic habitat is predicted in the sections of Sawyers Swamp Creek and Coxs River that are downstream of LDP009 at the Springvale Mine site. The Department considers expanding the scope for restoration works to include Wangcol Creek is appropriate and agrees with WaterNSW's recommendations requiring further catchment improvement works. The Department considers the implementation of catchment improvement works recommended in section 6.1.5 of this report would improve the aquatic habitat within Wangcol Creek. Springvale Coal has also committed to undertake restoration works within the Coxs River Catchment as part of Springvale Mine Modification 2.
<i>Flora and Fauna</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed modification will not require changes to surface infrastructure at the Western Coal Services site. As such, there will be no additional ground disturbance or clearing of native vegetation. OEH raised no concerns about heritage impacts.

Issue	Consideration and Assessment
<i>Rehabilitation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the Springvale Water Treatment Project raw mine water and residual transfer pipelines are located within the Western Coal Services Site, the proposal will result in some changes to the rehabilitation strategy relating to Domain 2 (Reject Emplacement Area) and Domain 7 (haul roads and overland conveyor system). Decommissioning and rehabilitation of the raw mine water and residual transfer pipelines will be undertaken as part of the Springvale WTP. At the end of the Springvale WTP life, the trenched pipelines will not be removed, whilst above ground infrastructure will be removed. No changes for the Additional Rehabilitation Initiatives required under condition 26 of Schedule 3 at Lamberts Gully Creek catchment outlined in condition 26 of Schedule 3 are proposed. The final landform planned for the site is not proposed to change. The Department is satisfied that the Western Coal Services Project Rehabilitation and Closure Plan can be updated accordingly if the Springvale WTP and this modification are approved. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) raised no concerns about rehabilitation.
<i>Aboriginal and Non-Indigenous Heritage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed modification will not require changes to surface infrastructure at the Western Coal Services site. As such, there will be no additional ground disturbance or clearing of native vegetation. OEH raised no concerns about impacts to Aboriginal or non-indigenous heritage.
<i>Waste</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant will be required to formally classify the waste as per the EPA guidelines, and apply for a licence variation from the EPA to permit the receipt of waste from off-site.
<i>Economic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Springvale mine is the only local mine currently supplying coal to the Mt Piper Power Station, which provides approximately 15% of NSW's electricity. The Springvale mine and Mt Piper Power Station are now the main employers locally. The modification is required before the Springvale Water Treatment Project can operate and would allow for the ongoing viability of the mine. Continued mining at Springvale mine and future mining at Angus Place mine would contribute to royalties and taxes paid to the NSW government.

7 CONCLUSION

Springvale Coal is seeking to modify its development consent to allow the Western Coal Services Site to receive and emplace residual material from the proposed Springvale Water Treatment Project.

The Department considers that many of the issues raised in submissions relate to the existing surface and groundwater issues occurring on the site, particularly in relation to the quality of discharge already coming through LDP006 into Wangcol Creek.

However, the Department must consider the proposed modification before it and has therefore focused on the additional environmental impacts from the modification. The key issue for consideration is whether there would be any additional impacts on water quality in the catchment.

The Department considers that any minor increase in salinity levels in Wangcol Creek from LDP006 is likely to be within historical levels. More importantly, water quality is predicted to improve in the broader catchment, particularly at Lake Wallace and Lake Burragorang, which WaterNSW has advised are the key points downstream that should be used to assess impacts in the drinking water catchment.

The Department considers that the potential impacts on water quality in the drinking water catchment from discharges would be within historical measurements. Consequently, the Department is satisfied the potential impacts on Sydney's drinking water catchment would remain substantially the same as those that were assessed and approved by the PAC under the original project.

From a strategic perspective, the Springvale Mine is now the only local mine currently supplying coal to the Mt Piper Power Station, which provides approximately 15% of NSW's electricity and is extremely important to the State's energy security. The Springvale Water Treatment Project would allow the mine to continue operation and ensure that the power station can continue to operate.

Consequently, the Department is satisfied that the proposed modification is in the public interest and recommends that it is approved, subject to the proposed changes in the conditions of consent.

8 CONDITIONS

The Department has prepared a Notice of Modification and Consolidated Development Consent for the proposed modification (see **Appendices F and G**). The Department's proposed conditions mainly relate to the implementation of water quality or catchment improvement works.

The Department considers that the construction and operational impacts of the residual materials emplacement could be appropriately managed within the existing management regime of the project, with additional conditions to address water quality discharge issues, and with appropriate updates to the various management plans under the development consent.

The Department has also taken the opportunity to update the names of government agencies and references.

Springvale Coal has reviewed and accepted the recommended conditions of consent.

9 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Planning Assessment Commission, as delegate of the Minister:

- **considers** the findings and recommendations of this report;
- **determines** that the modification falls within the scope of section 96(2) of the EP&A Act;
- **approves** the application under section 96(2), subject to conditions; and
- **signs** the Notice of Modification in **Appendix F**.


28/4/17
Clay Preshaw
A/Director
Resource Assessments


28/4/17
David Kitto
Executive Director
Resource Assessments