



TAHMOOR MINE RECEIVES CONDITIONAL APPROVAL TO EXPAND SUBSIDENCE FOOTPRINT

Monday 15 October 2018

An underground coal mine in the NSW Southern Highlands has received strict conditional consent from the Independent Planning Commission to increase its subsidence footprint.

Tahmoor Coal Pty Ltd sought approval to modify its development consent for its Tahmoor North mine to allow mining-related subsidence over an additional 11-hectares. It comes after revised modelling revealed the area, south of Picton, could experience subsidence of between 20mm and 70mm but with no significant tilts or strains.

The Department of Planning and Environment referred the matter to the Commission for determination because the mine's former owner, Glencore Coal, had previously declared reportable political donations. Chair of the Commission, Professor Mary O'Kane AC, appointed a two-member Panel, comprising Mr Andrew Hutton (Chair) and Professor Alice Clark, to decide the modification application.

Following meetings with the applicant and the Department and having carefully considering all the evidence before it, the Commission has today (Monday 15 October) determined to approve the modification application, subject to strict conditions of consent. The Commission found:

- the modification application represents a reasonable expansion of the anticipated subsidence footprint for the Tahmoor North mine
- the modification would not result in any significant environmental impacts, subject to the adoption of subsidence-related management, monitoring and mitigation measures
- subsidence within the modification area is likely to result in nil to negligible impacts on the land surface, natural and built features and on existing land uses
- subsidence-related issues within the Modification 4 area can be addressed through the continued implementation of existing subsidence monitoring, management and mitigation measures required by the consent
- the modification application meets the objects of the EP&A Act, and is in the public interest

In its Statement of Reasons for Decision, the Commission explained the conditions of consent imposed seek to:

- prevent, minimise, and/or offset adverse environmental impacts including economic and social impacts
- set standards and performance measures for acceptable environmental performance
- require regular monitoring and reporting, and
- provide for the ongoing environmental management of the development

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