

Please see below the Panel's edits to the questions take on notice:

Question 1 - The Modification Application proposed to extend the placement of ash. Referral agencies and stakeholders have raised the matter of 'sterilisation of resources' as an matter of concern. With regard to the seismicity assessments – In addition to natural seismicity (earthquake) impacts did the assessment also consider potential impacts on the dam stability (including the dam wall) from subsurface mine blasting?

After consideration, the panel has decided to withdraw the second question.

The Panel would also like to request a second site visit. Based on comments received during its submission period, the Commission feels that it should see the existing Dam area as previously requested prior to its determination. If there was a logistic or protocol issue with getting down to that area of the site with a large group, the Panel is happy to reduce the size of the group to consist of just the two commissioners and a member of the secretariat.

Regards,

Callum Firth | Student Planner

Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

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From: [Davies, Matt](#)
To: [Callum Firth](#)
Cc: [Barnaby, Lauren](#)
Subject: FW: Update from Panel
Date: Wednesday, 4 December 2019 2:02:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[Ltr_IPC_Origin \(MOD1 - Ash Dam Augmentation Project\) \(For IPC issue\).pdf](#)
[Ltr_Long_Term_Ash_Management_Strategy_v1.pdf](#)
[2019_LTMS \(DPIE issue\).pdf](#)

Hi Callum

Please see attached a letter responding to the question from the IPC and our engagement with Council regarding air quality that was discussed at our meeting on 20 November 2019.

I also attach our Long Term Ash Management Strategy (LTAMS) that was submitted to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 22 November 2019.

Regards
Matt



Matt Davies
Senior Environmental Business Partner
Eraring Power Station, PO Box 5044 NSW 2264



Origin



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From: Callum Firth [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 8:16:24 AM
To: Barnaby, Lauren [REDACTED]
Subject: Update from Panel

Hi Lauren,



4 December 2019

Attention: Peter Duncan
Commissioner
Independent Planning Commission (IPC)

Dear Peter

Re: Eraring Power Station Ash Dam Augmentation Project (MOD1)

We thank the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for your engagement to date associated with the above-mentioned project.

In an email received on Wednesday 27 November 2019 from Callum Firth, you clarified the following question taken on notice by Origin at our meeting on 20 November 2019:

Question 1 - The Modification Application proposed to extend the placement of ash. Referral agencies and stakeholders have raised the matter of 'sterilisation of resources' a matter of concern. With regard to the seismicity assessments – In addition to natural seismicity (earthquake) impacts did the assessment also consider potential impacts on the dam stability (including the dam wall) from subsurface mine blasting?

Origin interprets your reference to seismicity assessment as being assessment of the Southern Embankment stability by Origin's Engineer of Record (EoR) Stantec, in March 2019. In short, the stability assessment by Stantec did not consider impacts from subsurface mine blasting as no mining was proposed in the area of the ash dam at the time the assessment was conducted.

We can also confirm that the March 2019 stability assessment by Stantec was specific to the Southern Embankment and not works associated with the Ash Dam Augmentation Project (MOD1) which is the subject of assessment by the IPC. Origin subsequently advised the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in August 2019 that the MOD1 project has no bearing on Southern Embankment stability, and this is supported by further technical assessment by Stantec.

In terms of sterilisation of resources - we assume the IPC is referring to coal resources associated with the Newstan Extension Project proposed by Centennial Coal. At the time the MOD1 Environmental Assessment (EA) was submitted to the Department in August 2018, and in responding to submissions on the EA in December 2018, Centennial had not made any public notification of future plans for mining in the vicinity of the ash dam including the augmentation (MOD1).

We are aware that Centennial are seeking approval for the Newstan Extension Project which includes mining under the Eraring Power Station (EPS) and ash dam assets including the MOD1 project area. We are also aware that Secretary Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued to Centennial in September 2019 (as revised) for their project and these require consideration of potential impacts on the power station and ash dam and specifically with respect to subsidence,

stability and safety - a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts to the existing Eraring Ash Dam, as proposed to be modified (see PA07_0084 MOD 1).

Origin are engaging with Centennial on the Newstan Extension Project so they are able to meet their obligation for assessment of potential subsidence impacts on Origin assets.

Additionally, Origin are engaging with Centennial with regards to remediation of mine voids within the former Awaba mine workings which are in the MOD1 project area. The remediation works are considered as part of the MOD1 EA and an independent review of the proposed works by the Department's geotechnical expert confirmed that stabilisation of the mine workings is considered feasible.

In our meeting with the IPC on 20 November 2019 it was requested that we engage with Lake Macquarie City Council regarding a question they had regarding air quality assessment for the MOD1 project. Origin contacted the Council and discussed their query on 27 November 2019. In the discussion Origin confirmed that the air dispersion modelling assessment which was the subject of the Council query was an internal report not originally completed for the MOD1 project but rather for the purpose of developing dust management strategies for the ash dam as a whole. It was explained that the existing dust management strategies including monitoring will be extended to the MOD1 project area during construction and operations.

We also understand that the IPC have expressed an interest in obtaining a copy of Origin's Long-Term Ash Management Strategy (LTAMS) which details the ongoing management of the ash dam including ash recycling and rehabilitation. The 2019 update of the LTAMS which has recently been finalised and submitted to the Department is attached for the information of the IPC.

If you would like to discuss the information contained within, please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Barnaby, on [REDACTED].

Yours Sincerely,



Lauren Barnaby
Manager Environment and Community – Energy Supply and Operations

[REDACTED]