

Director-General's Requirements

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

Application number	07_0055-1
Modification	<p>The proposed modification to the Glendell coal mine involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 10 year extension to the existing development consent for the mine (until May 2023); • an increase in run-of-mine (ROM) coal production from 3.6 to 4.5 million tonnes per year; • transport of ROM coal to the Mt Owen Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) via an approved internal haul road; • use of the Mt Owen CHPP and rail loading infrastructure to process and transport coal from the mine; • use of ancillary support facilities at the Mt Owen and Ravensworth East coal mines; and • various alterations to the approved mining plan including a reduction in the mine disturbance area, changes to the extraction sequence to north-south, and various changes to the operational mine fleet.
Location	Approximately 17 kilometres northwest of Singleton, NSW
Proponent	Xstrata Mt Owen Pty Limited
Date of Issue	21 April 2007
Date of Expiration	21 April 2009
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the proposed modification including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – need for the proposal; – various components and stages of the proposal; and – the likely inter-relationship between the proposed operations and the existing or approved mining operations at the Glendell coal mine and the Mt Owen mining complex; • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions; • a general overview of the environmental impacts of the proposed modification, 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 proposed modification (see above), which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a description of the existing environment; – an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed modification including potential cumulative impacts (particularly on noise, blasting and air quality) that may arise from the combined operation of the proposal, together with the other approved and existing 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 proposal, and how the existing environmental monitoring and management programs/plans at the Mt Owen Complex would be revised to accommodate the proposed modification; • a draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures; • a conclusion justifying the proposed modification, taking into consideration the environmental impacts of the proposal, the suitability of the site, and the benefits of the proposed modification; and • a signed statement from the author of the Environmental Assessment report certifying that the information contained in the report is neither false nor misleading.

Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise; • Blasting and Vibration; • Air Quality; • Greenhouse Gases – a greenhouse gas assessment (including a quantitative analysis of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the combustion of product coal, and a qualitative assessment of the impacts of these emissions on the environment); • Surface and Groundwater - including detailed modelling of potential surface and groundwater impacts, a site water balance, and a detailed description of any proposed creek diversions; • Flora and Fauna – including impacts on critical habitats, threatened species, populations, ecological communities and native vegetation; • Rehabilitation, Final Landform and Final Void Management – including a justification of the proposed final land form and land use for the site in relation to strategic land use objectives for the area including the Department of Primary Industry's Synoptic Plan; a detailed description of how the site would be progressively rehabilitated and integrated with the rehabilitation plans at surrounding mines; and the measures which would be put in place for the long term protection and management of the site following cessation of mining; • Heritage - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal; • Traffic and Transport; 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 proposed modification are included in the attached list.
Consultation	<p>During the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, you should 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.</p> <p>In particular, you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environment and Conservation; • Department of Natural Resources; • Department of Primary Industries; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority; and • Singleton Shire Council. <p>The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment.</p>
Deemed refusal period	60 days

State Government Technical and Policy Guidelines - For Reference

Aspect	Policy /Methodology
Noise	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NSW Industrial Noise Policy</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (DEC);
Blasting and Vibration	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting and Ground Vibration</i> (ANZECC);
Air Quality	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC);
Greenhouse Gases	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>AGO Factors and Methods Workbook</i> (Australian Greenhouse Office);
Soil and Water	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction</i> (Landcom); • <i>Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> (ANZECC); • <i>Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams</i> (Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation); • the various <i>State Groundwater Policy</i> documents (DNR); • <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC);
Flora and Fauna	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (DEC); • <i>Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and Activities</i> (DEC); • <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (DNR); • <i>Guidelines for Assessment of Aquatic Ecology in EIA</i> (DoP); • <i>Policy and Guidelines Aquatic Habitat Management and Fish Conservation</i> (DPI); • <i>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings</i> (DPI);
Rehabilitation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Department of Mineral Resources (1999) <i>Synoptic Plan: Integrated Landscapes for Coal Mine Rehabilitation in the Hunter Valley of NSW</i>;
Heritage	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (DEC); • <i>Assessing Heritage Significance</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>Archaeological Assessment Guidelines</i> (NSW Heritage Office, 1996)
Traffic	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guide to Traffic Generating Development</i> (RTA); • <i>RTA Road Design Guide</i> (RTA); • relevant Austroad standards;
Waste	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Guidelines: Assessment and Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes</i> (DEC).