

Our ref: MP08_0149-PA-103

Mr Jon Degotardi
Manager – Project Approvals
Metropolitan Collieries Pty Ltd
Via email: jdegotardi@peabodyenergy.com

19 October 2024

Subject: Approval for Extraction of Longwall 311

Dear Mr Degotardi

I refer to the Extraction Plan (EP) for Longwalls (LWs) 311-316 (dated 3 July 2024) submitted in accordance with condition 6, Schedule 3 of the Metropolitan Coal Project (MP08_0149). I also acknowledge the Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Mining (the Panel) advice on the EP (dated 5 September 2024 and 16 October 2024) and Metropolitan Collieries Pty Ltd (MC) response to this advice (dated 23 September 2024 and 2 October 2024).

Note that the Panel and Department have agreed that a staged approach to assessment and approval of LWs 311-316 is suitable. Consequently, consideration of the EP to date has been restricted to LWs 311 and 312 only.

I also note that in its most recent advice on the EP, the Panel determined that it is now in a position to support the EP for LW311 if the conditions of approval include provisions for additional surveying of threatened species and their environment in order to better inform conformance with the revised Performance Measures.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the secondary extraction of LW 311 (only) as described in the EP, subject to the following conditions:

1. MC must complete the following surveys in accordance with the robust monitoring methods specified in Section 6 of the Panel advice (dated 5 September 2024):
 - a. targeted surveys for Littlejohn's Tree Frog (Jul-Nov) and Giant Burrowing Frog (Feb- May) in Tributary P and Tributary R;
 - b. suitable baseline surveys for pool and surface water levels, based on baseline frog surveys above, in Tributary P and Tributary R; and
 - c. targeted surveys for the Giant Dragonfly (Dec-mid Jan) and Ground Parrot in Swamp 92.

2. MC must confirm the Performance Measures and Performance Indicators for threatened species in accordance with Sections 6.3 and 6.6 of the Panel advice (dated 5 September 2024).
3. MC must revise the monitoring program for all threatened species in accordance with Section 6.5 of the Panel advice (dated 5 September 2024).

I confirm that this approval does not extend to secondary extraction of LW 312. It is suggested that MC carefully consider the further Panel advice on LW 312, particularly in relation to potential impacts to Swamps 77 and 92, and implications to the longwall stand-off distances and proposed Trigger Action Responses Plans.

You are reminded that if there are any inconsistencies between the EP and the conditions of approval, the conditions prevail. Please ensure you make the document publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Melanie Hollis on 02 8217 2043.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessie Evans".

Jessie Evans

Director

Energy and Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary