



**Planning &
Environment**

**Planning Services
Resource Assessments & Compliance**

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Mr Michael Alexander
Director Projects and Technical Services
Wambo Coal Pty Ltd
PMB 1
SINGLETON NSW 2330

Our ref: 10/16005-11

Dear Mr Alexander

North Wambo Underground Mine Extraction Plan Approval

I refer to the Extraction Plan, dated April 2015, for Longwalls 8 - 10A at the North Wambo Underground Mine, submitted in accordance with condition 22C of Schedule 4 of the Wambo Coal Mine consent (DA 305-7-2003). I note that Longwalls 7 - 10 were previously approved by the Department on 16 May 2013, 24 September 2013 and 4 September 2014, and that the submitted Extraction Plan has been updated to include Longwall 10A.

The updated Extraction Plan includes the following components:

- Water Management Plan;
- Biodiversity Management Plan;
- Land Management Plan;
- Heritage Management Plan;
- Built Features Management Plan;
- Public Safety Management Plan;
- Subsidence Monitoring Program;
- Coal Resource Recovery Plan; and
- revised Rehabilitation Management Plan.

I note that under condition 22C(g) of Schedule 4 of the consent, the last five of these components must be prepared to the satisfaction of the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) of the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services.

The Department has reviewed the Extraction Plan and has consulted with a number of other relevant agencies regarding its content. The Department notes that the NSW Office of Water (NOW) raised a number of concerns with the Ground Water Monitoring Program (GWMP) required under condition 34 of Schedule 4 of the

consent, upon which the Water Management Plan component of the Extraction Plan is heavily reliant.

The Department considers that there are a number of concerns raised by NOW that require addressing. Consequently, the Department requires further review (and revision, if necessary) of the GWMP, in consultation with NOW as soon as possible, and in any event by 30 September 2015.

The Department also notes that the revised Rehabilitation Management Plan component of the Extraction Plan is currently being finalised, in consultation with the Environmental Sustainability Unit within DRE. The Department understands that this matter is ongoing and is being managed by DRE under its Mining Operations Plan requirements.

Nevertheless, I would like to advise you that the Secretary grants interim approval for the Extraction Plan, subject to satisfactory finalisation of your consultation with NOW and review of the GWMP.

Please note the requirement under condition 12 of Schedule 6 to make copies of all approved plans, programs and strategies publicly available. If you require any more information, please call Jessie Evans on 9228 6419.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'O. Holm', followed by the date '24/6/15'.

Oliver Holm
Executive Director
Resource Assessments and Compliance
As nominee for the Secretary