

Notes of Briefing from the Department

This meeting is part of the determination process	
Meeting note taken by: Jorge Van Den Brande	
Date: 26/06/2018	Time: 10:00 am
Project: Mount Pleasant Coal Mine – MOD 3 Extension of Mine Life	
Meeting Place: IPCN Offices at 201 Elizabeth Street, 2000 Sydney, NSW	
<p>Attendees: Commission Members: Alan Coutts (Chair); Peter Williams and Prof. Zada Lipman Commission Secretariat: David Koppers (Team Leader) and Jorge Van Den Brande (Planning Officer)</p> <p>The Department Howard Reed – Director Resources Assessment 2A Matthew Sprott – Senior Case Manager</p>	
Meeting Purpose: The purpose of the meeting was for the Department to explain the proposal and brief the Commission on the Department's assessment report.	
<p>The Department briefed the Commission on the matters below:</p> <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project has undergone two modifications prior to being sold to MACH Energy. • Modification 1 sought to provide an optional conveyance/service corridor between Mt Pleasant and Bengalla as an alternative to building and using the approved rail loop. • Modification 2 changed the alignment of the internal haul road to minimise lighting impacts from truck headlights on receivers in North Muswellbrook. <p>Modification Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modification 3 seeks six years extension to make up for the capital investment on the project. • The extension will allow time for the proponent to prepare an SSD application which is expected to be lodged in two years. • Proposal aims to mitigate the visual impacts early in the process to reduce the impacts on the Muswellbrook township. • The modification includes changes to the final landform to make it blend with the natural landscape as it allows better visual and micro reliefs and revegetation of heavy woodlands to the east of the dump. <p>Submissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions on the proposal came mostly from the employees of the neighboring mine of Bengalla, who were concerned about the potential impact on employment and the local community if Bengalla ceased operations due to the interaction of both mines. However, these objections were later withdrawn. 	

- Remaining submissions raised concerns that the EIS should be updated to reflect the changed environment since the project's original approval.
- Hunter Thoroughbred Association and Upper Hunter Sustainability Committee lodged an appeal in the LEC to stop Mount Pleasant operations due to alleged lapsing of consent. This appeal was subsequently discontinued.

EIS and Conditions

- Proponent has updated elements of its EIS and provided an Environmental Assessment that reflects the project will not cause additional impacts than those already approved.
- The air quality and noise assessment were updated in 2011, and again for the current proposal. The Department mentioned that there are separate studies being conducted that will consider a combined data set from Bengalla and Mount Pleasant operations, however these are not part of the current modification.
- The Department has recommended updates to conditions of consent to reflect cumulative impact, current practice and changes to the industry as well as updates to the project's management plans.

Documents: NA

Outcomes/Agreed Actions: DPE will come back with the status of the VPA and confirm EPA and DPI final positions on the project.

Meeting closed at: 11:30 am