



TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

RE: WESTERN COAL SERVICES MOD 6 - RESIDUALS
TRANSFER INCREASE (SSD-5579-MOD-6)

SPRINGVALE WATER TREATMENT PLANT MOD 9 - EXTEND
INTERIM WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY TIMEFRAME
(SSD-7592-MOD-9)

SPRINGVALE WATER TREATMENT PLANT MOD 10 -
RESIDUALS TRANSFER INCREASE (SSD-7592-MOD-10)

APPLICANT MEETING

PANEL: PROF NEAL MENZIES AM (CHAIR)
 PROF ALICE CLARK
 PROF SNOW BARLOW

OFFICE OF THE IPC: STEVE BARRY
 CALLUM FIRTH

APPLICANT RON BUSH
REPRESENTATIVES: CHASE DINGLE
 PETER CORBETT

LOCATION: ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

DATE: 11:00AM – 12:00PM
 FRIDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2024

<THE MEETING COMMENCED

PROFESSOR NEAL MENZIES: Okay guys. Good. Good to have you online and you couldn't hear but I just apologised to Peter for the delay in us letting you in. I was having Zoom problems too, Ron. So, you know, you're not unique in this one. Okay, so let's kick off. I have a formal statement to read at the outset, but then, like our field trip, we're happy for this then to be a, you know, a less formal interaction with you. So my formal statement to set the rules, I'd like to acknowledge that I'm speaking from the lands of the Turrbal and Jagera people, and I'm acknowledging the traditional owners of the various countries on which we're meeting from virtually today. And I'd like to extend our respects to the elders, past and present. So welcome to the meeting today. We intend to discuss the Western Coal Services Mod 6 - residuals transfer increase the Springvale Water Treatment Plant, Mod 9 - to extend the interim water management strategy time frame. And I'm not reading out the, you know, specific numbers and details but we know what they are. The Springvale water treatment plan Mod 10 - residuals transfer increase, which are currently before the Commission for determination. So my name is Neal Menzies.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: I'm the chair of the Commission panel. I'm joined today by my fellow commissioners, Professors Alice Clark and Snow Barlow. We're also joined by Steve Barry and Callum Firth from the office of the Independent Planning Commission. In the interest of openness and transparency and to ensure the full capture of information, today's meeting is being recorded and a complete transcript will be produced and made available on the commission's website. The meeting is one part of the Commission's consideration of this matter and will form one of several sources of information on which the Commission will base its determination. It's important for the commissioners to ask questions of the attendees and to clarify issues wherever it's considered appropriate. If you're asked a question and not in a position to answer, please feel free to take the question on notice and to provide any additional information in writing, which will then put up on our website. I request that all members here today introduce themselves before speaking for the first time, and for all members to ensure that they do not speak over the top of each other to ensure accuracy of the transcript. Okay, so now we can begin. And I think you guys wanted to begin by making a presentation to us.

MR RON BUSH: Yes. We have prepared a short presentation. Just to go through the applications, before the commission and also just to raise some of the comments that we've got. So, I'll just share my screen. So, can you see that presentation?

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Yes we can, Ron.

MR BUSH: Yep. So what we'd like to do is, just for the commission's information, we'll give you a little update on who Centennial Coal is, the water management system in our western operations. And then, just some detail on where Springville Mod 9 and stream water treatment plant, Mod 10, Western coal service Mod 6, attending today from Centennial Coal's myself Ron Bush. I'm the early phase project managers and principal after approvals. Chase Dingle, our General Manager of ESG.

Mick Nadalin. Unfortunately, he's a late scratching. So he's the Senior Project Manager, so he looks after a lot of the Western water projects. And Peter Corbett, who's our General Manager Technical. So Centennial Coal, just a quick overview. So Australian mining company, supplies domestic and export coal markets. Fuels about
5 30% of New South Wales coal fired electricity generation capacity. And as I said, we also have an export business which was established in 1999.

PROFESSOR SNOW BARLOW: Excuse me, Ron, Snow Barlow here. Just can you take that up to present a view rather than this? You know, the little sort of looks like a tree on the right of your screen. Down the bottom there.
10

MR BUSH: Sorry.

PROFESSOR BARLOW: Sorry. There you go.
15

MR BUSH: Sorry, we just had a few technical issues ourselves, so. Yeah. Hopefully it doesn't jump up on another screen.

PROFESSOR BARLOW: That's the one.
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MR BUSH: I think they're still seeing...Sorry. (indistinct) just different screen. Stop sharing. Try to share again.

MR BUSH: How do you get out? Sorry. Try to share again. Sorry. It dropped onto a
25 different screen. They're running multiple screens here.

PROFESSOR BARLOW: Oh, look, if it's too difficult, then we'll just go back to the other one if that's easier.

MR CALLUM FIRTH: If it helps guys, I can share from my screen. I've got the presentation.
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MR BUSH: Look, that might be...

PROFESSOR MENZIES: That'd be brilliant, Callum.
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MR BUSH: Thanks, we're having some very slow connection here. So the mouse can't keep up with the direction. Thank you, Callum. Thank you.

MR FIRTH: All right. Just let me know when to switch.
40

MR BUSH: It was listed on the stock exchange in '94. And then it was taken over by Banpu which is a Thai company in 2010. At that point, it had a market capitalisation of 2.5 billion. Currently we run four underground mines in the western
45 region and three underground mines in the northern region. And both regions are supported by a coal processing and associated coal transport infrastructure. So next slide please. So Banpu was established in 1983 at a listed company on the Thai Stock

Exchange, listed on 89. It's been an operation for 40 years. And basically it has three core businesses. So energy resources, which the Centennial coal business fits within, energy generation, and also energy technology. So it's sort of got that full gamut of extraction coal, coal and gas extraction, generation. And then, it's lately been getting into more renewables and technology for energy. So, and Centennial Coal's one of the core business units within in the business. Next slide please. So that just gives you a bit of an overview of who we are and where we're coming from. So the water management system out at Springvale. So it receives and treats water from the underground mine de-watering facilities at both Springvale Colliery and Angus Place Colliery, for industrial reuse at the Mount Piper Power Station, which is operated by Energy Australia. So all water from Angus Place and Springvale Mine that's not able to be reused on site is transferred to the water treatment plant. It was a beneficial reuse project was developed to use treated mine water in the Mount Piper Power Station's cooling towers. Instead of Energy Australia having to extract water from the Coxs River catchment to use for cooling purposes, but also to minimise untreated mine water discharge into Coxs River catchment for improved environmental outcomes.

So the establishment has allowed the mine water discharges to cease in the Coxs River, and it has enabled up to 42 megalitres of water of treated mine water in place of fresh water from the Coxs River. So groundwater inflow into Springvale Colliery and Angus Place Colliery mine workings needs to be rewatered. And that's to prevent the mine filling with water, which impacts obviously on mining operations and can sterilise coal reserves. So that was the bit on the Springvale Water Treatment plant. So next slide please. So Springvale Water Treatment Plant Mod 9. So Mod 9 was approved originally with modified modification number 3. And then it's been tweaked with modification 4, 7 and 8. And in those modifications what was developed was what's called the interim water management strategy for the Springvale Water Treatment Plant. And that consent allows for those modification approvals, allowed for the transfer and storage of up to 5,760 megalitres of filtered mine water to Thompson Creek Reservoir up to, the last mod allowed up to the 31st of October 2023. So approximately at that date 2,693 megalitres had been transferred. So Mod 9 seeks to extend that interim water management strategy up to 31st of October 2026 to enable the full originally approved allocation of 5,760 megalitres to be transferred. So an extension is required to manage the threat of flooding, of the underground infrastructure associated with the Angus Place Colliery in the Springvale coal mine. Next slide please.

MR BUSH: So obviously, the modification was developed, submitted, went on exhibition. The department of planning have done their assessment and recommended approval and provided draft conditions. So the draft conditions are noted there. So, that's what the Department of Planning, recommended approval for. So we go to the next slide, please. So we had some comments on that. And what we have suggested is that, conditions, draft conditions, 6c be amended to, just to clarify, where that water quality criteria is located at so we've suggested, be clarified that it's within the consequent reservoir and also the limitations. The department's made some recommendations. But we suggest that they be aligned to more of the original

modelling, in Mod 4 that was approved in 5th of November 2019, which allowed the...The whole approval was based on salinity within the reservoir of 741 micro-siemens. So we've suggested that that be the limit that that condition set at and also conditions six D a notification, be provided at 700 micro-siemens. Next slide please.

5 So the justification for that was the water quality assessment was prepared for mod 9, which provided statistical analysis for the water quality data from the reservoir to identify statistically significant changes. With the water quality before and after the transfer of the filter water to Constant Creek Reservoir, which commenced in 2019. The before data sets based on water quality data reported between May 2016 and
10 October 2018. And the after-data set was based on water quality reported between June 2019 and July 2023. The assessment concluded that the EC was the only water parameter above the default guideline value where statistically determined increase before and after data set was evident. And so the table next to it just shows you, those limits for Mod 3 and Mod 4, and they align to that, 742 and the 700 that was
15 recommended that those conditions be changed to. And next slide, please.

MR BUSH: So now just a summary on Mod 10, Mod 6. So the initial process at the Spring Valley Water Treatment Plant is a pre-treatment process that aims to reduce the suspended solids of the raw water before the water passes into the following
20 desalination sections of the water treatment plant including the reverse osmosis sessions. So the pre-treatment process consists of a settling sludge pond and a solid contact clarifier. And that pre-treatment process removes solids from the raw mine water. And the residual waste stream remaining a solid content of about 2%. The residual was approved to be pumped via a pipeline to the Western Coal services area.
25 And during the mining operations, we experienced different geological lithologies within the long walls, where the mine coal seam has some geological changes where deposition or coal washouts have occurred and replaced by shales and mudstones. So the washout areas are sort of known. They're mapped, as we develop the mine. And they'll continue, up to our proposed longwall wall, 32, which is proposed to be mined
30 till the end of 2026. So being a natural system, the geological conditions can change and vary during the progression of the mining operations. At times, the geological lithology can result in mine water being transferred to the Springvale Water Treatment Plant that has higher than anticipated mine turbidity. And those higher than anticipated turbid water can present difficulties for the Springvale water
35 treatment plant pre-processing system process such that the sludge can build up within the pre-treatment settling ponds.

MR BUSH: During periods when the Springvale Water Treatment Plant experiences high, turbid water. The water treatment plant capacity has to be managed generally
40 by reducing the mine processing water throughput to enable the pre-treatment system to operate within the design parameters. Next slide please. So, as, similar to the other one, the modification report was prepared. It's been on public exhibition. And the department's done their assessment and recommended approval and provided draft conditions. So we've just outlined the current condition and the proposed condition.
45 So, that's there, so the next slide, if we go to that, and that's for the two mods, two consents that the modifications were referred to. So again, the current condition and the proposed condition for both the water treatment plant and the Western Coal

Services. So we go to the next slide. So we have some issues with the time limitation on that. Both those recommended conditions. So, the department's recommending that that increase in residual transfer be time limited to the 30th of April, 2024. We have provide, submissions that we realistically, we need to the 30th of June 2025, to be able to cope with these geological sort of lithology changes in our forward mine plan, to give us time to sort of come up with a negotiated outcome with the EPA for, sort of, additional, pre-treatment sort of works to the water treatment plant. If we go to the next slide. So, the proposed draft conditions, as I said, they're time limited to the 30th of April 2024, which is really only two months away.

MR BUSH: So we request that that time limitation be extended until the 30th of June 2025. Which is in line with what we provided to the department during the assessment period. The main time frame is for increased residual transfer to provide sufficient time for operationally accommodate the current issues experienced that the treatment plan requiring increased residual transfer. Also it allowed a sufficient time for an alternative residual managed system to be developed in consultation with the EPA to address their concerns. The time period will provide sufficient time for that alternative residual managed system to be designed, approved, installed and commissioned. And it's anticipated that the alternative residual management system will require further modification of both those consents. And we're currently in the middle of a longwall move. So that's currently underway now that's anticipated to commence, the new longwall, the next longwall in April 2024. And in that new longwall, we're anticipating, we'll encounter the geological, lithologies that result in generally, increased residual generation in June and November of this year and, beyond further in the future long walls. So the draft condition time limit to the 30th of April, we believe is operationally inefficient and unproductive. And it doesn't really achieve the outcomes that we required for the purpose of lodging the modification. So, that's sort of the end of the short presentation.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Headset microphone on before I start talking. So thanks for your presentation, guys. We don't have a structured set of questions, so this will be fluid. And answers that you give will evoke different questions from us. So, please bear with us as we pursue things that we're interested in, worried about. And I'll kick this off. The water quality in Thompson's Creek Reservoir. You're asking for permission to have that set at 740, and I'm interested the pre disposal of treated water into Thompson's Creek Reservoir. It appeared it sat somewhere in the 5 to 600, mostly around 550. So 740 is a reasonably large bump up. I'm wondering why we shouldn't be concerned about that.

MR BUSH: Yeah. So the original modelling for that original concept which come in model three. Basically all that modelling was done on the basis of the interim water strategy having predicted EC at 741 so that's the original, basis for that consent.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Ron, I understand the answer you're giving, but it's not an answer to my question. So the modelling was predicting what would happen when you discharge water into the reservoir, as opposed to what the environmental impact of doing that would be. So I'm concerned about the environmental impact and

whether you've done any work to, not say this is what it's going to end up at, but say if it does end up at this, that won't cause a problem to the environment.

5 **MR CHASE DINGLE:** Directly in front of me, Chase here, Sorry. The
environmental impacts were considered as part of that Mod 3 application. Being the
activities of interim measure as an interim water management strategy would see the
water quality being EC get to the at that proposed level of 740 for a period, but not
be sustained at that level. And that would be consistent with what the modelling has
10 shown is that that receiving environment will, over time, will respond in seeing a
declining EC level. I hope that helps, Neal.

15 **PROFESSOR MENZIES:** Well, it does. But you know, we're going to keep
pursuing this line for a little bit longer. We've got a whole slew of salt questions for
you, Alice.

MR BUSH: The other thing, maybe Peter can elaborate on the purpose of Thomson
Reservoir with, it's a storage, of the water and is drawn back into the (indistinct).

20 **PROFESSOR ALICE CLARK:** Sorry, Ron. You're dropping out there. It's difficult
to hear you.

MR BUSH: I was just suggesting Peter might elaborate on the purpose, of the
Thomson Reservoir transfer. It's actually a storage, mainly with some from time to
time discharges.

25 **MR PETER CORBETT:** Yeah. I mean, there's, ultimately, there's a bit of an
imbalance in inflows and outflows to Thompson's Creek. But, the way it's set up
there is riparian release from Thompson's Creek. And I think that's 10 to 20
megalitres a day, as I understand it. So I guess that's the basis of the question.

30 **PROFESSOR MENZIES:** But now the environmental release, I think, is point
eight of a megalitre through part of the year and point three of a megalitre through a
drier part of the year. So my reading of the earlier mod was it's 0.8 megalitres a day,
September to April and 0.3 May to August. Not 20.

35 **MR CORBETT:** I think that's a minimum environmental flow. Must be maintained.
I think they're permitted to go higher, I believe.

40 **PROFESSOR BARLOW:** I think I think we were told, and probably by you, of
course, That they're the minimum flows, Neal, the .3.8. But the 20 is the maximum.

MR CORBETT: Yeah, that's my understanding, yeah.

45 **PROFESSOR BARLOW:** So the, sort of, if you like, the window of tolerance,
there is, what, 8 to 20 per day.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Alice, you were going to ask a question. Let's move on to you.

5 **PROFESSOR CLARK:** Okay, Neal, I didn't want to stop the train of that. So if it's important to come back to that, please pull me up, Neal. But my question is more of a more general nature here. And it's, from the information that I've read, it appears very much that water quality and in particular salt, which is of interest to the panel, the preferred approach is based on the impact or the total impact of that water quality in, as it's measured at the point at which it it finishes up. And that's the reservoir, as
10 opposed to, or in contrast to the different points along the path to get to the reservoir and the changes and the quality of the water, both in groundwater and in the creeks that flow into it. And so I'm just wondering when I look at the changes that you've put in, in particular there on slide nine, around the approach that you seem to be taking is that let's deal with this when it hits the reservoir. And I'm just seeking, you
15 know, confirmation if this impression I've got is correct.

MR BUSH: Yes, that's our, suggestion. And that's based on, you know, the work that was done in 2019 with the original consent of that interim water management board.
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PROFESSOR CLARK: Okay. So, just to make sure, for the avoidance of all doubt, the different points at which salt is collected and re dissolved and re-enters the environment are all dealt with by dilution in the reservoir.

25 **MR BUSH:** I say again, sorry, I don't think I quite understand the question.

PROFESSOR CLARK: If the condition that you're proposing to have changed to is to measure the total impact only at the point of the reservoir, there's no real need, I think, is what you're proposing, to be measuring salt or a salt balance as it enters
30 groundwater or as it enters the creeks that flow into it. Is that correct?

MR BUSH: No. It's our understanding that those related impacts are monitored as part of the licensing of that facility, through Energy Australia.

35 **MR CORBETT:** The inputs are largely from the water treatment plant as well. There's some limited capture of rainfall, but, there's not really creeks. It's off watercourses. I don't know whether that's helping, but so the input, I guess, the original way the condition was worded made it unclear as to whether the EC of the water that was being transferred was an issue, or whether it was the quality in the
40 reservoir. And I think we're saying that the quality of the water in the reservoir is the key determinant here, and the quality of the water that's coming through. Bearing in mind that the point of the modification is to filter the water and then transfer it directly to the reservoir. So that would be coming in at an EC of around 1000 to 1200. And, obviously that would increase the EC of the water in the reservoir to
45 some extent. But what was potentially problematic about the condition, as it was worded when I read it first, I thought it meant that the water input, from the water treatment plant was going to be limited to whatever the number was before. So that

was why we sought to clarify that it was being measured in terms of the creek reservoir.

5 **PROFESSOR CLARK:** As opposed to the entry point to Thompson Creek's reservoir. Yeah. Okay. Thank you. Neal, I didn't have anything else I wanted to pursue there, but I do have another question around, some of the turbidity issues. So, back over to you, Neal.

10 **PROFESSOR BARLOW:** Can I..

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Please do, Snow.

15 **PROFESSOR BARLOW:** ...Jump in with a question. And I suspect this may be where you may go. Alice. I'm interested in the source of the salt, which, you know, I think is clear, is from the mines effectively, it's either coming through as mine water or from the cleaning of the coal. And it turns out. But it's from the mine. So my question is and we have this, and what you are requesting is, an extension of the capacity to effectively continue to transfer water, effectively bypassing the R.O. plant. And as Peter has just said, so, which leads to water going into the reservoir of, you know, somewhere between 12 1500 EC. So my question really is, you were originally requested to have this capacity to October 26th, I believe, and now are following the draft condition. You pulled it back to October 25th, but what's ahead of you in the Springvale Mine? You must have an idea of where next you're going to mine. And will this input of turbidity at salt into the water system continue post 20 October 25 and post October 26?

25 **MR CORBETT:** So we do consider these aspects, I suppose the water treatment plant is designed to deal with most of the issues with respect to turbidity and EC. There will certainly be, and we flagged it in the presentation, there will, you know, 30 we expect higher turbidity events through to, probably the end of 2026. Now, we've moved on a little bit in terms of, you know, which mod we're referring to now, but I guess we're planning other, other contingency measures, outside of these modifications, which will help us deal with those issues. So really, these modifications are very much contingency measures to allow us to work within the 35 constraints of the water treatment plant as it is right now, without any additional, release points if you like, because at the moment we are literally confined to, all water, all mine water going by the water treatment plant.

40 **PROFESSOR BARLOW:** Can I ask you, you know, what those contingency... Well, this is a contingency plan. But what those plans post October 26, you know, might be and what they you would hope they would achieve?

45 **MR CORBETT:** They're outside the scope of these mods, as I explained. But they're, I guess, proposals, which are in consultation for discharge of mine water to a limited extent into, different catchments etc.. Obviously going through approved environmental assessments.

PROFESSOR BARLOW: Thank you, Peter. Over to you, Neal.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Well. Oh, Alice. Alice, you're indicating that something tweaked your interest here.

5

PROFESSOR CLARK: Yes. And again, sorry if this is taking a bit of a step back, I just want to make sure that I understand the process here. I believe, Ron, you said that, you know, you've geologically modelled in advance of where these washout areas are that link directly to the turbidity that you expect to get that sludge build up. I'm guessing that this must be similarly predictable, because you have this modelling in advance for your longwall to be able to operate. And so, if this ends up being that the pre-treatment plant then slows down that, you know, just taking a simple linear view of it, please, please help me here, that you would be able to predict some time in advance that you're going to have these slowdowns. And my question is, I guess with that kind of foreknowledge of what's coming and when it's coming and the impact of your downline infrastructure, it just seems to me that that that there's this, this sort of, you know, short termism in dealing with that from a production perspective. And I don't want to get the wrong impression here. So can you, can you help me understand, I guess how you can have quite a long-term view of where these are, yet be so immediately impacted by a key bottleneck, which is your water treatment scenario here.

MR CORBETT: Well, there's a couple of points, I suppose. We've been dealing with them through the water treatment plant, throughout the life of the project at lower throughputs we've been able to tolerate the inefficiencies generated within the plant. So if we have to turn the water down, we've had excess capacity to enable that. I guess the core issue is that the water maker has increased and it increased in an unpredicted way which is a separate issue. But at the end of the day, what it means is that we need the plant to be running at full efficiency, and getting the throughput, and then when you get a slowdown due to high turbidity now it's problematic. And, hence, you know, the needs for these contingency modifications. So obviously, you know, we're looking at options to increase throughput and any and other measures that we can come up with to manage the higher inflows into the mine.

35 **PROFESSOR CLARK:** Thanks, Peter.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Yeah. Thanks, Peter. That's helped me. I guess I'm, and this is speaking as an individual rather than as the panel, Snow and Alice will have their own views, I think what you're doing with the sludge residue, I'm not going to say I'm relaxed about it, but it all makes sense. And so my concern lies much more with the salt that I remain worried about. You made a statement earlier, that the preferred release, the ideal is that any of the mine water is discharged via the treatment plant. So not just filtered, but reverse osmosis treated. And that at the moment, that's beyond your means. And I'm struggling with the transfer of water to Thompsons Creek or transfer of salt. Actually, let me just say salt. Okay. Understanding that means salty water because I think the discharge of water to Thompson's Creek Reservoir and out of Thompson's Creek Reservoir is not a

concern to me. It's the salt that is going with your water. So, you know, I look at Mod 4 and I just quickly had a scan back through while we've been talking. I read it as saying, we want to transfer some salty water in there, and we've got to maintain a base flow out to the creek. I can't find anywhere that it says, you know, we can
5 discharge up to 20 megalitres a day. And so, you know, in due course, when you can come back to us with where that is, I'd just like to be able to read about that, to get the context. But the stuff I'm reading is really saying at base flow levels having 740 micro-siemens is fine. I'm meandering here. I'll try and be more succinct. It's not just the concentration of salt. It's the mass of salt that's being discharged. That's also a
10 problem. And so with a small baseflow less than one megalitre a day, the amount total amount of salt being released is quite small. If you're releasing 20 megalitres a day, you know that number becomes substantial. And so I guess I'm concerned about the permission you're actually asking for is to pump salty water, to pump salt to
15 Thompsons Creek Reservoir, and then release it, rather than just storing it in Thompsons Creek until you've got the latitude to treat it and discharge it as clean water or use it as clean water. So to me, there's a profound difference between we'd like to transfer water into Thompsons Creek Reservoir. And we'd like to transfer water to Thompsons Creek Reservoir and discharge it. Okay. And one of them is the explicit request we want to transfer water to Thompson's Creek Reservoir. The other
20 is an implicit request of, we'd like to then let it go down the creek. And so I'm really struggling with this. You're asking for permission to discharge a lot of salt down the creek. And I know, you know, and you just told us that, you know, you have other water that you're going to have to deal with in this, you're going to have to deal with, and you'd like to deal it with it in the same way of filtering it so it's clean, but then
25 discharging it with its salt into the creek system. So Peter, can you can you give me some context for this and what the company, you know, what the company could do about this, maybe not in the immediate, but in the longer term. We realise you have an immediate problem and that something has to be done to help you with the immediate problem. But I'm very concerned about the longer-term problem and what
30 you have in mind to deal with that longer term problem.

MR CORBETT: So you raise a couple of things. I mean, one of them was, you know, where is the permission to let the water...

35 **PROFESSOR MENZIES:** And I'm sure, I'm sure you've got it. I'm just wanting to sort of see that and understand the context of, you know, maybe there's some good thinking in there that will inform us. So I can just point to that.

40 **MR CORBETT:** I think it's with, Energy Australia, to be honest, in one of their approvals, I don't have it, but that's my understanding of what their limit is.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Yeah. And as you said, you can chase it down and come back to us, just so we can be...

45 **MR BUSH:** Just, from what I understand, any discharges out of Thomson reservoir's, controlled by the Energy Australia approvals. So our approval just allows us to transfer water to there under that interim water management strategy.

MR CORBETT: With respect to your other question, this is very much a contingency plan. And not necessarily related to... Day to day operations would involve, transfer of water at less than 500 EC, which is the limit that's allowable under the consent, currently. So that says that that's normal. Now, the difference between the 500 and the 741, which was contemplated in Mod 4 or Mod 3 and what we're asking for is relatively small. The, you know, the discharges from Thompson's Creek Reservoir are required to stop it from overtopping and even with those provisions in place there, there is still supplementary discharges that have been occurring too, because there's an imbalance between the demand from the water from the power station and the supply of mine water, or treated mine water. So, that needs to be understood as well. So your question regarding the future, as I said, you know, we're looking at options, and we certainly understand the imperative, and we're not really at liberty to provide those, or we might be able to do it in some sort of commercial in confidence basis or something like that. I'm not sure, Ron, you might have some thoughts on that, but, we are absolutely looking at the future and alternative strategies because the water treatment plant as constructed will not be suited to the life of mine for Springvale and Angus Place. Ron, did you have any thoughts on, I mean, you know, perhaps we can provide more information.

MR BUSH: We'll take those on notice, and we'll get back to the commission.

MR CORBETT: Okay.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Yeah. And, Peter, we would need advice from James. It might not be possible for us to have a commercial in confidence. You know, the commission works on, everybody knowing, the public knowing what we know. So it may not be possible for you to tell us so just, you know, don't send us something that we're all going to later regret. Okay.

MR CORBETT: Okay. I mean, I guess, there's just things that are, you know, currently, there's consultation going on, but they're not in the public sphere, so I'm just cautious about what we can release. So, anyway, we'll take that question on notice and we'll get back to you on that.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Yeah. Callum, I think we're at time, aren't we? Yeah. And frankly, we could continue asking questions and discussing this for quite a while. But let me wrap it up by saying, once again, it's been really useful to talk to you. And once again, thanking you for the field visit that we did and the information, we gained a great deal from that, which has helped us a lot. And once again today, our discussion has been useful and your answers clear and helpful to us. Alice? No. Any last thing that's really pressing and you want to ask before we close this one down?

PROFESSOR CLARK: Not from me, Neal, thank you for the answers that you provided.

PROFESSOR BARLOW: Yeah. Thank you to the participants in this, and again, the field trip, we've enjoyed your willingness to address the questions we ask. So thank you all.

5 **MR BUSH:** And thank you for the opportunity to present our position on the draft conditions. And we'll endeavour to get you back the information required, requested during this conversation.

PROFESSOR MENZIES: Thank you very much, guys.

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PROFESSOR BARLOW: Thank you.

<THE MEETING CONCLUDED