

MANGOOLA OPEN CUT

GLENCORE

30 March 2021

Commissioner Prof. Snow Barlow
Commissioner Peter Cochrane
Office of the Independent Planning Commission
201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2001
Via email to: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Response to Question on Seam Methane Content - Mangoola Coal Continued Operations (MCCO) Project (SSD-8642)

On the 24 March 2021 the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) Panel via an email from Brad James (IPC Planning Officer) asked Mangoola Coal Operations Pty Limited (the Applicant) the question “*What is the methane content of each of the individual coal seams to be mined in the Northern Extension Area?*” This correspondence addresses this question.

Response

The data from the testing undertaken on the methane content of the seams proposed to be mined in the Northern Extension Area is presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Methane Content of Coal Seams in the Northern Extension Area

Seam	Methane Content (m ³ /t)
Wallarah [^]	Not detected*
Great Northern	0.0037
Fassifern	0.0044
Upper Pilot	0.2430

[^]Limited presence across the Northern Extension Area and represents less than 5% of the total MCCO run of mine coal production

*Not detected in gas testing completed in the Northern Extension Area. See further explanation below.

Comment on Gas Environment

The deposit mined at Mangoola is a low gas environment in both the current mining area and the proposed Northern Extension Area north of Wybong Road. This is evidenced by previous exploration holes, gas testing results and the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting scheme (NGERs) assessment and reporting in the existing approved area and gas desorption testing on two exploration holes drilled in 2017/2018 in the MCCO Project, Northern Extension Area.

The Wallarah seam has limited presence across the Northern Extension Area and represents a small portion (less than 5%) of the total run of mine coal production profile. Due to the limited and largely weathered extent of the Wallarah seam in the Northern Extension Area there was only one intercept of the Wallarah seam (at 40m depth) and this did not yield any methane.

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The samples tested from the MCCO Project, Northern Extension Area are well below what are considered to be detectable gas levels, with the Low Gas Zone defined as 0.5m³/t gas or less under NGERs.

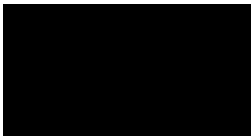
Further to the above, Section 3.2 of the MCCO Project Environmental Impact Statement (Umwelt, 2019) contains information on the seams to be mined by the MCCO Project.

Correction

As part of this submission, I take the opportunity to correct an error in Item 3 in the letter provided to the IPC Panel on the 5 March 2021 and shown on the MCCO Project IPC website as *2103 IN Applicant Response to Questions on Notice_redacted*, where within Item 3 the letter stated, "... further gas testing results of coal samples (three cored holes/43 samples) from all coal seams to be mined...". The statement should have read "... further gas testing results of coal samples (two cored holes/46 samples) from all coal seams to be mined...".

We welcome the opportunity to discuss any aspects in this letter with you further, should you require.

Yours sincerely



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