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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING WITH APPLICANT

RE: GLENDELL COAL MINE MOD 4

PANEL: **STEPHEN O'CONNOR (CHAIR)**
 PROFESSOR ZADA LIPMAN
 PROFESSOR CHRIS FELL AM

ASSISTING PANEL: **BRAD JAMES**
 HEATHER WARTON
 STEVE BARRY

APPLICANT: **TIM WALLS**
 BRENDAN O'BRIEN
 GEOFF KELLY
 JASON DESMOND
 BRET JENKINS

LOCATION: **IPC OFFICES**
 LEVEL 3, 201 ELIZABETH STREET
 SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

DATE: **10.57 AM, THURSDAY, 23 JANUARY 2020**

MR S. O'CONNOR: Okay. Well, I might, um, kick off and just, ah, read these opening comments. Thanks, Taylor. Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. I would also like to pay my respects to their elders past, present and
5 emerging and to the elders from other communities who may be here with us today. Welcome to the meeting today, Mount Owen Proprietary Limited, the applicant, is seeking to modify the existing development consent to mine an addition 1.97 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal within the existing approved mining life of the Glendell Open Cut Mine located in the Singleton Local Government Area.

10 My name is Steve O'Connor. I am the Chair of this Independent Planning Commission Panel. Joining me are my fellow Commissioners, Professor Zada Lipman on my right, and Professor Chris Fell on my left. And we also have secretariat staff further to on my left, that's Heather Warton, Steve Barry and Brad
15 James, who are assisting us today. In the interest of openness and transparency and to ensure the full capture of information, today's meeting is being recorded and a full transcript will be produced and made available on the Commission's website. This meeting is one part of the Commission's decision-making process. It is taking place at the preliminary stage of the process and will form one of several sources of
20 information upon which the Commission will base its final decision.

It's important for Commissioners to ask questions of attendees and to clarify issues whenever we consider it appropriate. If you are asked a question and not in a position to answer, please feel free to take the question on notice, provide any
25 additional written information to us, and we will then place it on our website. I request that all members here today introduce themselves before speaking for the first time. And for all members to ensure they do not speak over the top of each other, to ensure accuracy of the transcript.

30 So as a mentioned a few moments ago, I will just start with Zada and we will each introduce ourselves as we go around the table, including our – our guests.

PROF Z. LIPMAN: Zada Lipman, Commissioner.

35 MR O'CONNOR: Steve O'Connor, Commissioner.

PROF C. FELL AM: Chris Fell, Commissioner.

MS H. WARTON: Heather Warton, from the Secretariat.

40 MR S. BARRY: Steve Barry, from the Secretariat.

MR T. WALLS: Tim Walls, approvals manager for Glencore.

45 MR B. O'BRIEN: Brendan O'Brien, technical services manager.

MR G. KELLY: Geoff Kelly, operations manager.

MR J. DESMOND: Jason Desmond, environment and community coordinator.

5 MR B. JENKINS: Bret Jenkins, project director with Umwelt.

MR O'CONNOR: Good. Thank you. As you know we, ah, have an agenda. Hopefully you've got a copy of it, in front of you. With those, ah, introductory comments and, um, and hopefully everyone now, um, having been properly
10 recorded, we might start with a project overview, which is where we hand over to, um, the proponent. And presumably, they're going to refer to the PowerPoint presentation.

PROF FELL: Yes.
15

MR DESMOND: So for starters, thank you for allowing ourselves to come and present here today. Um, I'm hoping this presentation, obviously, provides a good overview of the modification, in particular. So Glendell is located approximately midway between Singleton and Muswellbrook in the Hunter Valley of New South
20 Wales. The actual project itself, known as Glendell forms part of the Mount Owen Glendell Operations. So the operations itself comprises of Glendell Mine, Ravensworth East and Mount Owen Open Cut. In terms of those, um, mining areas, they're covered under two development consents. So one being the Glendell Development Consent, the other one being the Mount Owen Development Consent.

25 In particular around the Mount Owen Development Consent, it's important to note that that's where the CHPP lies within, so the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant. Modification 4 will provide access to an additional 1.97 million tonnes of ROM coal at Glendell. This modification has no change to the workforce, no change to
30 operational hours, operational limits or the approval term. And the key part is, modification 4 lies wholly within an existing approval of mining lease boundaries. The modification itself has no additional noise or dust impacts for sensitive receivers, which are similar to the current approved operations. There is no additional water, or groundwater, impacts, as well. So it's, again, similar to the current operations.

35 There is a net increase in disturbance of 4.3 hectares. In terms of a summary around the project, it is very similar the existing current approved operation. As you'll see here, um, the main changes are quite minimal. There is a net increase of 4.3 hectares of approved disturbance. There is an additional 1.37 million tonnes of ROM coal
40 accessed. And water management is maintained under the current, existing, water management system. To also note, the CHPP operates under the Mount Owen Approval and changes to the coal processing is not subject to this modification. The coal processing is staying – stay the same – as the same – as the current approval.

45 In terms of assessments completed as part of this modification, there was ecology, heritage, noise, air quality and ground water. Further assessments were not completed due to there being no or negligible changes to the currently approved

operations. The statements of environmental effects that was submitted to the Department of Planning during November 2018. During the public exhibition phase, there was 36 submissions received, ah, from the community and special interest groups. Out of the 30 from the community, there was three located within the local community, being Camberwell. The rest were within the Hunter Valley, comprising of 16 submissions, and also 11 in the wider part of New South Wales.

The additional six submissions were provided by special interest groups. The focus of those were primarily around air quality, but they also included greenhouse gas emissions, health, and the final void. There was no objections throughout this period from the Department of Planning Industry and Environment; however they did request a revised air quality assessment. There was also no objections by the Biodiversity and Conservation Department. However, they also requested an, um, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to be undertaken.

In terms of the Mount Owen Glendell operations, as described in earlier slides, Mount Owen, um, continued operations or Mount Owen continued ops modification 2 was approved back in September 2019. In terms of this modification, it allowed for additional approximate 35 million tonnes run-of-mine coal and also an additional six years of mining in that area. The significance in terms of that modification in relation to this project is that there was approximately 12 properties that were provided acquisition rights. Moving on to the Glendell Continued Operations Project, so there has been an EI – Environmental Impact Statement, um, completed for this. And it's currently on public exhibition till the 31st of January 2020.

Terms of the Glendell Continued Operations Project, this will allow for the extension of operations to approximately 2044. As part of the studies completed for the statement of environmental affects, the ecology study showed there would be approximately 7.3 hectares of native vegetation disturbed. As part of that disturbance, the Biodiversity and Conservation Department provided a submission noting that the biodiversity assessment methodology was accepted, and the offset requirements would be captured via the proposed conditions in the draft consent. Those conditions in the draft consent would require 109 ecosystem credits to their satisfaction.

This slide here provided a bit of context around that native vegetation will be disturbed and this will plan to be visited during the site inspection. As part of the heritage studies completed, there was an artefact – an isolated find, sorry – that could be impacted, which was OS28. Which you can see on the slide here. I'm intent on visiting that site as part of the site inspection. There was another two sites identified that may be partially impacted. OS31 and OS1. Again, they will be viewed during the site visit. In terms of management measures around these sites, they plan to be managed in line with the existing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the site.

Moving on to the air study, no sensitive receivers will be impacted via this modification. As the modification is very similar to the existing operation. As you

can see here, the annual contours in line with the period that may be of highest potential impact in terms of air quality is very similar to the modification moving forward. To note there as well, is the modification is moving away from the sensitive receivers, being Camberwell.

5

MR O'CONNOR: Just while you're on that slide, Jason, can you point out where those sensitive receivers are? Is it just Camberwell or are there other rural residential properties?

10 MR DESMOND: Yes. Ah, majority sit within Camberwell themselves. And then there is also approximately two up in this area. So as part of the Mount Owen continued operations Mod 2, there was 12 properties in total that were subject to acquisition rights. I have got in a coming slide a more in-set map that shows the village of Camberwell and those properties, and I will have a little bit of an
15 explanation around that. Similar to the air quality, the noise modelling showed very minor impacts. And they align very closely to the existing operation. In terms of management of those noise impacts moving forward, that will be done in line with the existing noise management plan for the current approval.

20 Touching on the nearest sensitive receivers which is part of the itinerary for the site visit, this map here highlights that there is six in total in the Camberwell village, as discussed earlier, for that greater area is around 12 in total.

MR O'CONNOR: So when you say "six," what, are there six dwellings that haven't
25 been acquired by mining companies in the Camberwell village that will be impacted? Is that what you're referring to?

MR DESMOND: That's correct. So the key note, I guess, around this image is that those six private properties haven't been acquired. But at the moment, they currently
30 have acquisition rights other – under other mining approvals. In terms of the groundwater assessment. Again, there will be minimal impacts in line with the existing operation. The proposed mining extension is located outside the alluvium, which is as highlighted in this figure, on the slide. And as per the assessment completed, the existing groundwater-monitoring network will be sufficient. In terms
35 of groundwater licensing entitlements, they will also be sufficient for this modification. In terms of management of the groundwater aspects moving forward, that will also be done in line with the existing groundwater monitoring and management plan for Glendell.

40 In terms of surface water impacts, again, these are going to be very minor when compared to the existing operation. And again, it will be managed in line with the existing site water management system. During the site tour, we plan on, um, having a bit more information available around that water management system and how it's actually maintained throughout that Barrett Pit. In summary, the modification is a
45 small extension of the existing approval. And it's within the duration also, of the existing approval, which currently expires on the 30th of June 2024. As per the studies undertaken, and also the department's report, this modification is believed to

have minimal social environmental impacts, subject to minor amendments in the draft conditions of the Draft Development Consent.

5 In terms of Glendell's economic contribution in 2018, the mine had direct
employment of approximately 300 personnel, there was over 34 million paid in
wages and salaries and the site purchased over \$157 million of goods and services
from approximately 414 suppliers. I apologise that those figures are from 2018, as
the 2019 figures weren't available at the time of this presentation. The other thing to
10 note is that these figures relate purely to the Glendell Operation, not to the Mount
Owen Glendell Operation as a complex.

As provided yesterday, there is a draft itinerary which closely aligns to the request of
the Commissioners, in terms of the site visit. So we're hoping that this site visit
actually provides clarification around those areas requested. And if there's any other
15 areas, um, you'd like to visit as a part of that site inspection, feel free to let us know,
obviously prior.

MR DESMOND: Just again, on that slide you've got up there, it appears there's a
small amount of water in the bottom of the pit. Is that currently the case? Or - - -
20

MR O'CONNOR: I think - - -

MR JENKINS: Yes. There's still a small amount of water there.

25 MR O'CONNOR: Still a small amount of water there.

MR DESMOND: So as per that draft itinerary, the site tour route at the moment is
proposed to go along the modification route. So we have actually got a light vehicle
access road here, which should highlight such things as the additional disturbance,
30 the actual Barrett mining, active mining area, currently. The actual impacted artefact
site, and also then go to the nearest receivers at Camberwell, as part - - -

MR O'CONNOR: Again, while you've got that slide there, could you just explain
the logic of why if you're looking for an extra eight months' worth of coal
35 extraction, why you selected that "L" shape? Why not some other part of the mining
operation? Or some other shape? Can you just expand on that?

MR O'BRIEN: So that'll be the next extension or the next strip, in line with our
current mining. And the "L" – the reason for the "L" shape is it provides for a
40 haulage road on the, ah, western side of the pit.

MR JENKINS: It might help, Brendan, just to explain the sequence that the mine
has progressed in. Because - - -

45 MR O'BRIEN: Yes.

MR JENKINS: - - - if you're not familiar with that, all of that area has been mined in the north-east corner there. So - - -

MR O'BRIEN: Yes. So everywhere under - - -

5 MR O'CONNOR: Maybe, if you use the pointer.

MR DESMOND: Yeah.

10 MR O'BRIEN: Yeah

MR O'CONNOR: Just to walk us through it.

MR O'BRIEN: So the mine started in this location up here - - -

15 MR O'CONNOR: Yes.

MR O'BRIEN: - - - which was only mining down to the Arties Pit. It progressed in this direction, taking it down to Barrett. This was the old pit high wall. We kept on

20 mining down in this direction and then turned a corner. And now it's starting to mine back towards the north.

MR O'CONNOR: And how recent is that aerial photograph? Is – is there significantly more mining taken place since then?

25 MR O'BRIEN: That's a photo from 2008 – '18, sorry. Yeah – 2000, December 2018.

MR O'CONNOR: Right.

30 MR KELLY: So look - - -

MR O'BRIEN: So – yes, there has been another strip and a half taken out of there.

35 MR KELLY: So that mining is progressing up the page?

MR DESMOND: Yes.

MR O'BRIEN: Yep.

40 MR KELLY: Towards that block?

MR DESMOND: Towards that spot - - -

45 MR O'CONNOR: And just, it's not – I know it's not a part of this application – just, just while again you've got that overhead there, the current application that's on

public exhibition, the one that required SSD, the EIS, can you show us where that mining happens?

5 MR WALLS: It might be easier on the – if you’ve got the - - -

MR O’CONNOR: Yes.

10 MR WALLS: - - - the other figure. So on this particular, the zoomed out. So that’s the application, the pink is the application area for this - - -

MR O’CONNOR: Sure.

15 MR WALLS: - - - project. And the orange is the application area for the SSD which is on foot.

MR DESMOND: So which is that - - -

PROF LIPMAN: Oh, it’s this one here. This one here. The orange.

20 MR DESMOND: - - - map near here, that plan there next to you.

MR O’BRIEN: The orange outline. So north, being up the page, is further north

25 MR O’CONNOR: Yes. Yep. Okay. That’s good. Thank you. Okay. Any – anything further you want to say to us before we get to a few questions?

MR WALLS: No. No.

30 MR O’CONNOR: No.

MR O’BRIEN: No.

35 MR O’CONNOR: Okay. On our agenda, we have got listed the Department’s Assessment Report. I – obviously, you have had a good chance to read through that. Is there anything you want to draw to our attention or any comments you want to make about that report?

MR DESMOND: Yep.

40 MR O’CONNOR: Okay. Use of the Coal Prep Plant under SSD5850, you have gone through - - -

MR DESMOND: Yes.

45 MR O’CONNOR: Yes. How that – that relationship. So there’s no need for any modification to that current approval. If this mod were approved to be able to accept

that coal and deal with it, it's basically anticipated that – the potential for that to happen.

MR WALLS: Yes.

5

MR O'BRIEN: Yes.

MR O'CONNOR: Okay.

10 MR DESMOND: Yes. Covered under the existing SSD5850.

MR O'CONNOR: Okay. And again, you've run through the relationship with the Glendell and the continued mining application, the SSD application which is currently on public exhibition. We might go to the recommended conditions. Are
15 there any comments you want to make to us? Are you comfortable with the conditions that the department has recommended, or do you have any concerns?

MR WALLS: Yeah. We're comfortable with those conditions.

20 MR O'CONNOR: Sorry?

MR WALLS: We're comfortable with those conditions.

MR O'CONNOR: You're comfortable with those conditions. Okay. I note one of
25 the suggestions from the Department, in terms of the conditions, is to delete condition 51, which is your existing, ah, energy and greenhouse gas emission condition, which relates to having to prepare a management plan and replace it with a condition 23A which is a combined air quality and greenhouse gas emission condition, requiring, again, a management plan to be prepared. And I have had a
30 look at the management plan which has been prepared in accordance with, well, it's currently condition 51 of your consent. And noted in that report, there is mention of a ceiling of greenhouse gas emissions that the mine aims not to go above, annual emissions. I'm just interested how that number was derived? And what your current performance is against that target?

35

MR WALLS: Target and against the baseline? We might have to come back to you and give you those, give you that information.

MR O'CONNOR: Okay.

40

MR WALLS: Yes.

MR O'CONNOR: So are you clear about the questions I am asking, then?

45 MR WALLS: I think in relation to the – the baseline calculation for the operations

- - -

MR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

MR WALLS: - - - and, like, the annual return on – on that. So – yeah.

5 MR O'CONNOR: Okay.

MR WALLS: Yeah.

10 MR O'CONNOR: And I guess, a supplementary question in the Department's assessment report, they make mention of Glencore's global cap on greenhouse gas emissions. And that this expansion, if it's approved would fit within that global cap. Again, I was just wondering whether the number mentioned in your management plan, your current management plan, addressing condition 51, whether that's – is that all part of that global cap? Or is - - -

15 MR WALLS: It's a global cap on – on – on the tonnage mined. But we – we can come back to you on that one, as well.

MR DESMOND: Yeah. We can firm that up.

20 MR O'CONNOR: Okay. Fine. Any questions, Zada?

PROF LIPMAN: Yes. I just had a question on the – the Aboriginal aspects and what your plans are in relation to that? Because I note that AusArc carried out, well, 25 produced a report and made certain recommendations on what actions you're proposing in relation to that.

MR DESMOND: Yes. So with that, that will be covered under the draft conditions in the proposed consent.

30 PROF LIPMAN: Right.

MR DESMOND: And that'll mean we will need a revision to existing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan. But those areas impacted will actually fall, and 35 do fall, under the existing management plan.

PROF LIPMAN: And that will be carried out prior to any - - -

40 MR WALLS: Disturbance.

PROF LIPMAN: - - - disturbance of the site?

MR WALLS: Yes.

45 MR DESMOND: Yes. It will. So that will be done within three months of acceptance and approval of the development consent for this modification.

PROF LIPMAN: And that will include all of the conditions required by BCD, OEH previously? And AusArc recommend - - -

5 MR DESMOND: Yes. Because that will have to be prepared in consultation with the Biodiversity and Conservation Department.

PROF LIPMAN: Right. Yes. Okay. Thank you.

10 PROF FELL: I have a couple of questions if I might, Stephen.

MR O'CONNOR: Yes. Thank you, Chris.

15 PROF FELL: My first relates to operations. Particularly with respect to air quality and noise. I realise you only contribute, say, nine per cent of total air quality problems. To what extent is there cooperation amongst the other mines in that area under adverse atmospheric conditions, to actually minimise it? Because it's a total impact that the residents, etcetera, complain about. If you could give me a handle on the operations?

20 MR DESMOND: Yes. So in terms of the operation, there's a protocol amongst the nearby mines. With that protocol, there is meetings held quarterly, and issues such as air quality and noise are discussed at those meetings. Those meetings and the actual protocol are either in management plans for those development consents and those subsequent mines, or are in the process of being included in the management
25 plans associated with air quality and noise in order to manage those cumulative impacts.

PROF FELL: Could you give me an example where the management plan, overall, has had an impact on say, Glendell? You've taken certain action because of this
30 management plan?

MR DESMOND: I can provide some information now. And then I'll have to come back to you on that one.

35 MR WALLS: Yeah.

MR DESMOND: With, for example - - -

40 PROF FELL: I'm not looking for great detail. I'm just - - -

MR DESMOND: Yeah. For example - - -

PROF FELL: - - - trying to get a feel. If a plan doesn't work well - - -

45 MR WALLS: Yeah.

MR DESMOND: That's fine. So for example, around blasting. So prior to any blast - - -

PROF FELL: Oh, yeah.

5

MR DESMOND: - - - we actually have a cumulative model run. And that includes the nearby mining areas, as well. And then a contribution that we can provide towards those receptors based on the met' conditions or the forecast met' conditions can then help us make a decision as to prevent a blast. And that's also reflective, for the other nearby mining operations.

10

PROF FELL: Okay. Thank you. My second question relates to water. And I notice that the modelling suggests about 1.2 megalitres a day taken out from the pit. And this gets evaporated, and there's really none left over under normal conditions. My concern is the CHPP. Now, it has a high security water license, if you like. We had little rain the last time. And it could be that the local management plan doesn't have water available. And your - your requirement is simply not able to be met. What, in fact, happens? Would it be that you would decide on a, one particular mine to be the principle source of coal during that period, if you have to turn down? Could you give me some overlay of that?

20

MR WALLS: The - I could come back if you wanted, I guess, detail on that. But eventually, if there was no water left, we wouldn't be able to operate a particular mine. So that - that would have to occur. What we have got set up for Glendell, Integra which is the underground neighbouring mine, for Mount Owen, Ravensworth and Liddell, which is our neighbouring operations, we actually have, like, a reticulation system to allow us to manage water and transfer water between all our operations there. We call it the Greater Ravensworth Water Sharing Scheme. And that allows us to, at least, move our water around to where it's needed, so - to reduce our reliance on the Hunter River.

25

30

PROF FELL: Is there any water from Glendell to that central requirement?

MR WALLS: Yes. So Glendell is - is attached to - to Mount Owen, and there is - so there is water sharing between Glendell and Mount Owen. Yep.

35

PROF FELL: Presumably, you have looked at the future and what's happened in the last year or so. Do you see a problem with being able to provide sufficient water to run the CHPP?

40

MR WALLS: Currently, we don't have that. But we are - we are evaluating that water system.

MR KELLY: It's regularly, and it's a - - -

45

MR WALLS: Yes.

MR KELLY: - - - a – an area of focus for us. And there's regular meetings and – on water sharing and what those needs would be.

PROF FELL: I know it's hard to predict the future.

5

MR WALLS: Yes.

PROF FELL: But you're asking us to say, give you 18 months extension.

10 MR DESMOND: Yep.

PROF FELL: Have you reasonable certainty that in that 18-month period you'll be able to send your coal to the CHPP?

15 MR JENKINS: Yeah, definitely - - -

MR WALLS: Yes.

MR JENKINS: - - - and if I could jump in there, Tim. With the, um, the greater, um, Glendell Project that's not currently on exhibition, we've run a water balance and prediction for that out to 2044. And it relies on multiple sources of water from mines, underground mines, an old underground mine at Liddell, as well. And as Tim said, with the linkage of all of those mines, it provides Glencore with a greater opportunity to efficiently move water from - - -

25

PROF FELL: I understand that.

MR JENKINS: - - - mine to mine. There's a couple of large storages, like, over at Ravensworth, with a couple of thousand megalitres in them. And the scenarios that we've run are, you know, dry condition scenarios and wet condition scenarios, where they're both likely to occur. And there's adequate supply in dry periods for about 90 – 90 to 95 per cent scenarios.

30

PROF FELL: Okay. That's helpful. So there's - - -

35

MR JENKINS: Yep.

PROF FELL: - - - a measure of comfort there in that - - -

40 MR JENKINS: Yes.

PROF FELL: - - - study you've done.

MR JENKINS: Yep.

45

PROF FELL: Thank you. That does me.

MR O'CONNOR: Okay. Any questions from the Secretariat?

MR B. JAMES: No questions from me.

5 MS WARTON: No.

MR O'CONNOR: Okay. If – I don't think there's anything further. So you'll –
you'll be getting back to us with a couple of additional pieces of information.
Whether, if – you could get that to us before we do the site visit. So if we've got
10 further questions, that might be, um, useful in terms of - - -

MR KELLY: Yep.

MR O'CONNOR: - - - just the timing. I – yes, I want to thank you for allowing us
15 to invite representatives from other groups to attend the site visit. That just helps us
with our, sort of, transparency and openness. So we appreciate it's your property and
you've been kind enough to allow not only us, but others to attend that meeting. I
don't think there's anything further we want to ask. Any questions from your end?

20 MR KELLY: You've got nothing further?

MR DESMOND: No.

MR WALLS: No.
25

MR O'CONNOR: Okay. Thank - - -

MR KELLY: No. I'd just like to say, yeah, thank you to the Commission for the
opportunity to meet today.
30

MR O'CONNOR: Thanks for coming down.

MR KELLY: Okay.

35 MR O'CONNOR: Much appreciated. Thanks, Taylor. That finishes the
transcription.

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[11.29 am]