



Mr Gary Mulhearn
Environment and Community Manager
Austar Coal Mine Pty Ltd
Locked Bag 806
CESSNOCK NSW 2325


Dear Mr Mulhearn

**Austar Coal Mine
Extraction Plan Approval
Longwalls B1 – B3**

I refer to the Extraction Plan, dated May 2016, for Longwalls B1 – B3 at the Austar Coal Mine, submitted in accordance with condition 3A of Schedule 3 of the Austar Coal Mine Bellbird South development consent (DA 29/95). The Extraction Plan includes the following components:

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

The Department has reviewed the Extraction Plan (see **Attachment A**) and has consulted with a number of other relevant agencies regarding its content. The Department notes that the Department of Primary Industries – Water (DPI Water) made a number of comments on the Water Management Plan component of the Extraction Plan. The Department does not consider these comments significant enough to delay second workings. Consequently, I would like to advise you that the Secretary grants approval for the Extraction Plan.

Nevertheless, the Department considers that DPI Water's comments should be addressed via a revised Water Management Plan, which should be submitted to the Department by **31 July 2016**.

Please note the requirement under condition 12 of Schedule 5 to make copies of all approved plans, programs and strategies publicly available. There are a number of minor editorial comments in **Attachment A** which should be fixed prior to the document being publicly available.

If you require any more information, please call Jessie Evans on 9228 6419.

Yours sincerely

Howard Reed

Howard Reed 4.7.16
Director
Resource Assessments
As nominee for the Secretary

**Austar Coal Mine
Extraction Plan Longwalls B1 – B3**

<i>Extraction Plan - condition 3A, Schedule 3</i>	Satisfactory (Yes/No)	Comment	Action Required
<i>The Applicant shall prepare and implement an Extraction Plan for all second workings in the Longwalls B1-B3 mining area to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:</i>			
a) be prepared by a team of suitably qualified and experienced experts whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary, and be approved by the Secretary prior to the commencement of any secondary workings covered by the Extraction Plan;	Yes	Experts approved on 8 February 2016. Same experts have prepared the Extraction Plan.	-
b) include a detailed plan for the second workings, which has been prepared to the satisfaction of DRE, and provides for adaptive management;	Yes	Detailed plans included in Volume 2.	-
c) include detailed plans of any associated surface construction works;	N/A	No associated surface construction works are proposed.	-
d) include the following to the satisfaction of DRE:			
• a coal resource recovery plan that demonstrates effective recovery of the available resource;	Yes	Appendix K - Estimated resource recovery is only 33%	-
• predictions of the subsidence effects and subsidence impacts of the proposed second workings, incorporating any relevant information that has been obtained since preparation of EA (MOD 6):	Yes	Appendix C – updated MSEC report with shortened longwalls as previously approved by the Department on 29 April 2016	-
• a Subsidence Monitoring Program to: - validate the subsidence predictions; and - analyse the relationship between the subsidence effects and subsidence impacts of the proposed second workings and any ensuring environmental consequences.	Yes	Appendix J	-
e) include a:			
• Water Management Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with OEH and DPI-Water, to manage the environmental consequences of second workings on water resources (including flooding, ponding and alluvial aquifers);	Yes	Appendix E	Note DPI Water's comments and amend the plan accordingly.
• Biodiversity Management Plan, which has been	Yes	Appendix G	-

prepared in consultation with OEH, to monitor and manage the potential environmental consequences of second workings on aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna, with a specific focus on threatened species;			
• Land Management Plan, to manage the potential environmental consequences of second workings on steep slopes and land in general;	Yes	Appendix F	-
• Built Features Management Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with the owner of the relevant feature, to manage the potential environmental consequences of second workings on any built features; and	Yes	Appendix H	-
f) include a Public Safety Management Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with DRE, to ensure public safety in the mining area.	Yes	Appendix I	-
Other Comments			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages 7 and 8 of the Coal Resource Recovery Plan contains an "error reference source not found". • Page 21 of main body of Extraction Plan – 'tam though' should be 'team thought'. 			