



Prepared for:
**THE NEWCASTLE WALLSEND COAL
COMPANY PTY LIMITED**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR
PROPOSED EXTENSION OF OPERATIONS
OF ELLALONG COLLIERY
INTO BELLBIRD SOUTH**

VOLUME 2 - APPENDICES

Prepared by

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(Offices also in Sydney Tamworth Brisbane Mackay Gladstone and Melbourne)

AUGUST 1995





VOLUME 2

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APPENDIX 1 :

EIS REQUIREMENTS

Cessnock City Council

Director, Department of Planning

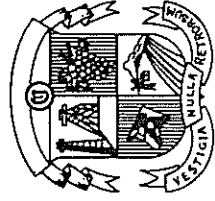


Council of The City of Cessnock ^{NS}

CONTACT:
OUR REF:
YOUR REF:

Mr. R. Sandell
118/694/120

MWS:CO



ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE TOWN CLERK
P.O. BOX 152
CESSNOCK, N.S.W. 2325
TELEPHONE: (049) 90 2044
FACSIMILE: (049) 90 2384

The General Manager,
Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company Pty. Ltd.,
P.O. Box 156,
CESSNOCK 2325.

Dear Sir,

ELLALONG COLLIERY - PROPOSED EXTENSION INTO BELLBIRD SOUTH

I refer to the above, your letter to Council dated 17th August, 1994, and your recent meeting with Council Officers to discuss the proposal.

In addition to those matters which may be raised by the Director of the Department of Planning and other relevant authorities, Council requests that the E.I.S. address the following matters:-

- (a) the proposed mine output;
- (b) total employment proposed, including details of whether it is new employment or relocated from existing operations;
- (c) details of likely surface subsidence and the impact that this will have on residences, existing flora or fauna, ephemeral or permanent streams, and whether or not a Fauna Impact Statement as required;
- (d) details of any upgrading, alteration or replacement of surface facilities to be used;
- (e) method of transport proposed, proportion anticipated and routes to be utilised;
- (f) proposals for transport and emplacement of any waste/refuse material;
- (g) water quality, air quality and noise impacts, and measures proposed to audit any impacts;
- (h) monitoring programs to be implemented;
- (i) details of any vibration which may effect residences or other structures off site, and monitoring programs to be implemented.

In regard to use of State Environmental Planning Policy No. 34, the nature, scale and employment level of the proposal are consistent with the requirements of the policy. However, as the proposal may largely be a replacement for existing operations, involving relocation of an existing workforce, it could be argued that it is a continuation of existing development, rather than "new" employment generating development, and therefore would not fall into the ambit of S.E.P.P. No. 34.

If you require any further information or clarification regarding the above, please contact Mr. Rod Sandell of Council's Environmental Services Department on (049) 91 0353.

Yours faithfully,



(C.L. COWAN)
GENERAL MANAGER

Per: *MS*

14th November, 1994
4.21



Department of Planning

Envirosciences Pty Ltd
PO Box 5348D
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302

Attn: B. Howe

Remington Centre
175 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000
Box 3927 G.P.O. Sydney 2001
DX. 15 Sydney

Telephone :(02) 391 2000 Ext: 2077
Fax No. :(02) 391 2111

Contact: V. Thomson

Our Reference N91/241/001

Your Reference E1210/BH:CW

14 DEC 1994

Dear Sir,

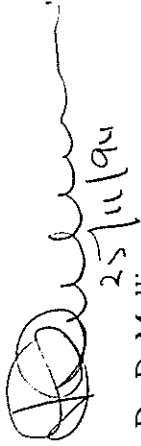
Proposed Ellalong Colliery Extension into Bellbird South

Thank you for your letter of 2 November, 1994 indicating that you are consulting with the Director with regard to the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the above development.

2. As development consent is required for the proposal and it is a designated development within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation, 1994, an EIS must accompany the development application. The EIS shall be prepared in accordance with clause 51 of the Regulation (see Attachment No. 1) and shall bear a certificate required by clause 50 of the Regulation.
3. Attachment No. 2 is a guide to the type of information most likely to be relevant to the development you propose; not all of the matters raised therein may be appropriate for consideration in the EIS for your proposal; equally, the guide is not exhaustive.
4. In addition, pursuant to clause 52 of the Regulation, the Director requires that the following matters be specifically addressed in the EIS:
 - Conceptual mining plans (indicating possible future expansion);
 - Implications for pit top land use, CW reject disposal, mine water disposal;
 - Subsidence effects;
 - Improvements to access roads to Cessnock No. 1 shaft;
 - Management and Protection of heritage items at Cessnock No. 1 shaft;
 - Water management, including water supply and mine water disposal at shaft site;

- Assessment of construction and operational noise;
 - Employment data relevant to proposal;
 - Offsite impacts including socio economic impacts.
5. In regard to the determination of the proposal, the proposal may fall under State Environmental Planning Policy No. 34 - Major Employment Generating Industrial Development. In these circumstances the Minister for Planning determines the development application and I have enclosed the relevant proforma and explanatory document on the Policy to assist you.
6. Should you require any further information regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Mullins', with a date '25 July 2014' written below it.

Dr. D. Mullins
Acting Manager
Assessments and Major Hazards Branch
As Delegate for the Director

Department of Planning
ATTACHMENT NO 1

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clauses 51 and 84 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation, 1994, the contents of an EIS must include:

SCHEDULE 2

1. A summary of the environmental impact statement.
2. A statement of the objectives of the development or activity.
3. An analysis of any feasible alternatives to the carrying out of the development or activity, having regard to its objectives, including:
 - (a) the consequences of not carrying out the development or activity; and
 - (b) the reasons justifying the carrying out of the development or activity.
4. An analysis of the development or activity, including:
 - (a) a full description of the development or activity; and
 - (b) a general description of the environment likely to be affected by the development or activity, together with a detailed description of those aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected; and
- (c) the likely impact on the environment of the development or activity, having regard to:
 - (i) the nature and extent of the development or activity; and
 - (ii) the nature and extent of any building or work associated with the development or activity; and
 - (iii) the way in which any such building or work is to be designed, constructed and operated; and
 - (iv) any rehabilitation measures to be undertaken in connection with the development or activity; and
- (d) a full description of the measures proposed to mitigate any adverse effects of the development or activity on the environment.
5. The reasons justifying the carrying out of the development or activity in the manner proposed, having regard to biophysical, economic and social considerations and the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
6. Compilation, (in a single section of the environmental impact statement) of the measures referred to in item 4 (d).
7. A list of any approvals that must be obtained under any other Act or law before the development or activity may lawfully be carried out.
8. For the purposes of this Schedule, **“the principles of ecologically sustainable development”** are as follows:
 - (a) The precautionary principle - namely, that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.
 - (b) Inter-generational equity - namely, that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.
 - (c) Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.
 - (d) Improved valuation and pricing of environmental resources.

Note: The matters to be included in item (4) (c) might include such of the following as are relevant to the development or activity:

- (a) the likelihood of soil contamination arising from the development or activity;
 - (b) the impact of the development or activity on flora and fauna;
 - (c) the likelihood of air, noise or water pollution arising from the development or activity;
 - (d) the impact of the development or activity on the health of people in the neighbourhood of the development or activity;
 - (e) any hazards arising from the development or activity;
 - (f) the impact of the development or activity on traffic in the neighbourhood of the development or activity;
 - (g) the effect of the development or activity on local climate;
 - (h) the social and economic impact of the development or activity;
 - (i) the visual impact of the development or activity on the scenic quality of land in the neighbourhood of the development or activity;
 - (j) the effect of the development or activity on soil erosion and the silting up of rivers or lakes;
 - (k) the effect of the development or activity on the cultural and heritage significance of the land.
-

**Department of Planning
ATTACHMENT NO 2**

**ADVICE ON THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT (EIS) FOR AN UNDERGROUND COAL MINING OPERATION**

The purpose of this paper is to outline various issues relevant to the preparation and consideration of an EIS for an underground coal mining operation. It is intended to assist preparation of the EIS. However, it is the applicant's responsibility to identify and address as fully as possible the matters relevant to the specific development proposal in complying with the requirements for EIS preparation (see Attachment No 1).

The matters nominated in this paper are not intended as a comprehensive identification of all issues which may arise in respect of an underground mining operation. Some of the issues nominated may not be relevant to a specific proposal. On the other hand, there may be other issues, not included, that are appropriate for consideration in the EIS.

Information provided should be clear, succinct and objective and where appropriate be supported by maps, plans, diagrams or other descriptive detail. The purpose of the EIS is to enable members of the public, the consent authority (usually the Council) and the Department of Planning to properly understand the environmental consequences of the proposed development.

1. Description of the proposal.

The description of the proposal should provide general background information on the location and extent of the works proposed, an indication of adjacent developments, and details of the site, land tenure, zonings and relevant forward planning proposals and any other land use constraints.

This section should provide specific information on the nature, intent and form of the development. It should, as far as possible, include such details as the location and extent of the underground mining of coal proposed, mine access works, ventilation shafts, and surface facilities involving proposals for coal handling, coal screening, crushing and washing, water management and treatment, disposal of wastes, and surface rehabilitation and landscaping. A description should also be provided of associated operations such as the transport of coal.

Particular details that may be relevant include:

- Characteristics and economic significance of the resource.
- Quantity of materials to be mined.
- Coal mining techniques, plans of operations.
- Type of machinery and equipment to be used.
- Coal handling at the pit head.
- Expected life of the operation.
- Number of persons to be employed.
- Hours of operation.
- Power requirements.

- Water management, including water supply, surface site drainage and erosion controls, proposals for dealing with interception of ground waters and containment of runoff, water reuse, treatment and discharge offsite.
- Disposal of coarse and fine coal washery reject and proposals for mechanical dewatering.
- Proposals for underground gas drainage and use of disposal.
- Proposals for rehabilitation and landscaping of surface features.
- Coal haulage on site and transportation offsite.
- Proposals for environmental monitoring, including mining induced subsidence.

2. Description of the Environment.

This should provide details of the environment in the vicinity of the development site and also of aspects of the environment likely to be affected by any facet of the proposal. In this regard, physical, natural, social, archaeological and economic aspects of the environment should be described to the extent necessary for assessment of the environmental impact of the proposed development.

3. Analysis of Environmental Impacts.

Environmental impacts usually associated with underground coal mining operations are listed below. Where relevant to the specific proposal, these should be addressed in the EIS and suitably quantified, taking into account the adequacy of safeguards proposed to minimise them.

- Dust emissions from surface facilities, and controls.
- Likely noise/vibration disturbance caused by the surface operations, including transportation, on any nearby residences.
- Other impacts of transport movements, including access on to highways.
- Water pollution potential.
- Disposal of coal washery rejects.
- Any effects on valuable fauna and flora.
- Effects of surface facilities on the visual environment.
- Potential effects on surface features and facilities due to mining induced subsidence.
- Rehabilitation and landscaping of surface features.
- Any likely affectation of sites of Aboriginal archaeological or European heritage value (including industrial heritage) if located in vicinity of operations.
- Socio-economic implications including effects on the nearby community facilities and services, and proposals with regard to Government's Infrastructure Financing Policy.

In addition, any potential for hazard or risks to public safety and proposals to monitor and reduce the environmental impacts of the proposal should be included.

4. Contact with relevant Government Authorities.

In preparing the EIS, it is suggested that authorities, such as those listed below, should be consulted and their comments taken into account in the EIS.

- The Environment Protection Authority in regard to air, water and noise impacts and relevant pollution control legislation requirements.

- The Department of Mineral Resources in regard to requirements under the Coal Mining Act.
- The Mine Subsidence Board with regard to relevant aspects of subsidence caused by the underground extraction of coal.
- The Department of Conservation and Land Management regarding appropriate erosion control and rehabilitation procedures.
- The Department of Agriculture if prime agricultural land may be affected by the proposal; and
- The Heritage Council of NSW if the proposal is likely to affect any place or building having heritage significance or if aboriginal places or relics are likely to be affected.

It is the responsibility of the person preparing the EIS to determine those Departments relevant to the proposed development.





HLA-Envirosiences Pty Limited
ACN 050 254 702
A subsidiary of Harding Lawson Australia Pty Limited
ACN 053 854 006

APPENDIX 2 :

PLANNING FOCUS RESPONSES

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

LIST OF RESPONSES

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

LETTER: THE NEWCASTLE WALLSEND COAL COMPANY PTY LIMITED
TO DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CESSNOCK

LAND INFORMATION CENTRE

SHORTLAND ELECTRICITY

MINE SUBSIDENCE BOARD

HUNTER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT TRUST

NSW NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

MINDARIBBA LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY





Department of Planning

Ms J Gouldstone
Envirosciences
122 Parry Street
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302

Remington Centre
175 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000
Box 3927 G.P.O. Sydney 2001
DX. 15 Sydney

Telephone : (02) 391 2000 Ext: 2077

Fax No. : (02) 391 2111

Contact : V Thomson

Our Reference : N91/241/001

Your Reference :

20 FEB 1995

Dear Ms Gouldstone,

ELLALONG COLLIERY EXTENSION RESPONSE TO PLANNING FOCUS MEETING

Thank you for the company's presentation of the proposed Ellalong Colliery Extension at the Planning Focus Meeting on 8 February 1995. The presentation by Dr Renzo Tonin was appreciated.

The key issues which the Department suggests need an adequate discussion in the EIS include:

- * plan for management of stored waters, groundwater, mine waters involved in the extended Ellalong Colliery;
- * an account of existing and expanded coal washery rejects disposal operations, related to site water management noted above;
- * management plan for mining heritage items at Kalingo (and elsewhere) related to proposed surface facilities (including recommissioned facilities) and planned rehabilitation of mine infrastructure areas.
- * occurrence and management of spontaneous combustion in ROM and product coal.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Brown 15/2/95.

Stephen Brown
Acting Manager

Assessments and Major Hazards Branch





NSW DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES
Joint Coal Board Bldg 1 Civic Avenue
(P.O. Box 51), Singleton, NSW 2330, Australia
Phone (065) 72 1899 - Fax (065) 72 1201
DX 7071

Jane Gouldstone
HLA - Envirosciences Pty. Limited
122 Parry Street
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302

FILE NO: C94/2102

Dear Jane,

ELLALONG/BELLBIRD SOUTH PLANNING FOCUS MEETING

I refer to the recently held Planning Focus Meeting for the proposed extension of Ellalong Colliery into the Bellbird South area.

Our comments on the meeting are as follows:

GENERAL COMMENT:

Absence of key government agencies (EPA and NPWS) was notable. Focussed discussion on their administrative responsibilities and requirements was therefore lacking.

COMMUNITY LIAISON:

The Company has indicated that it is willing to pursue appropriate community information and liaison for this development - via, public meetings (on 1 March 1995), brochure letter drop, press advertisement and meetings with water user groups. As previously advised, the Department supports such an open and conciliatory approach.

WATER MANAGEMENT:

The current Water Management Plan for existing operations has been previously reviewed by DMR. This Plan does not address operational effects on predicted water balance and water management. The Water Management Plan should be reassessed for the EIS and environmental assessment. The EIS must also however include, in total water balance predictions and assessments, the contributions of;

- i) Pelton Open Cut's dirty water
- ii) Reject Emplacement Areas water management
- iii) De watering of Cessnock No. 1 Colliery shaft

Predictions of groundwater flows and quality have significant implications to Pelton's water management. The statement in Section 4.2 - "supplementary hydrogeological investigations may be necessary to predict future groundwater inflows" - is supported by the DMR, and advised as such in the Conceptual Mine Plan Presentation.

The EIS must address and validate regional groundwater predictions and specifically, that of Cessnock No. 1 Shaft quantity and quality.

Regional groundwater and hydrogeology study must be undertaken, either in support of the EIS or progressively over the next five years, prior to further ventilation (Cessnock No. 1 Shaft) requirements. The option for disposal of saline water (via underground reinjection to surrounding, abandoned underground mine workings) should be reviewed and examined in such hydrogeological study. Disposal of saline water by land application has potential for significant environmental impact and may not be accepted.

REJECTS MANAGEMENT:

Rejects management for the next 21 years of mine life must be addressed in this EIS/development application. Existing and future proposed emplacement areas must become part of the development application area for the extension. The capacity for continued long term disposal of tailings into abandoned underground mine workings at Pelton must be identified, quantified and validated in the EIS.

COARSE REJECT:

Coarse reject disposal to the existing Aberdare Open Cut emplacement must be addressed in the EIS - plans of final design level and rehabilitation techniques.

Future coarse reject emplacement in the north catchment at Pelton is apparently contrary to the Water Management Plan, which identifies clean runoff from this catchment for dilution (1 to 1) of saline water discharged from Pelton Main Dam. The DMR will not support nor approve future reject emplacement into clean catchments until all avenues of disposal into existing mine disturbed areas are reviewed.

The DMR requires that emplacement of coarse rejects progressively into the Pelton Open Cut pit be substantially assessed.. Such a proposal would:

- i) allow reject emplacement into a disturbed area without compromising final landform and rehabilitation.
- ii) provide inert overburden to cost effectively and progressively cap and rehabilitate the old tailings cells at Pelton.

The DMR will assess this proposal with the current application for variation/extension of Open Cut Mining Approval for Pelton.

MINE PLAN:

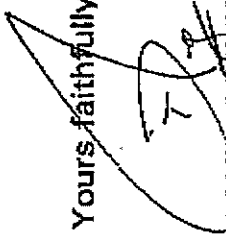
The DMR has approved the Conceptual Mine Plan for the Bellbird Extension. Details of the supporting infrastructure and operations (water management, reject disposal, ventilation shaft location) are yet to be fully addressed by the Company prior to approval for this EIS.

DRAFT EIS:

The Company is recommended to provide a draft EIS to the DMR for further subsequent review.

Should you have any further queries, please contact me.

Yours faithfully



DAVID AGNEW
REGIONAL MANAGER (NORTHERN)
COAL AND PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION BRANCH



The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company Pty Limited



A UNIT OF OAKBRIDGE LIMITED
INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES
ACN 000 245 901

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

PO Box 156, Cessnock NSW 2325
PHONE: (049) 91 2177

Wollombi Road, Pelton NSW 2325
FAX: (049) 91 2113

20 March 1995

MWS:CO
SIMESIELLEIS.DMR

Mr David Agnew
Regional Manager (Northern)
Coal and Petroleum Administration Branch
Department of Mineral Resources
PO Box 51
SINGLETON NSW 2330

Dear Sir

RE: ELLALONG COLLIERY EXTENSION - Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to your letter in response to the recently held Planning Focus Meeting for the proposed extension of Ellalong Colliery into the Bellbird South area (File No: C94/2102) and to the meeting held with Mr David Nichols and Mr Greg Summerhays on Friday 17 March 1995.

The matters of 'Water Management' and 'Rejects Management' as raised in your letter, were discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that the Department of Mineral Resources give support to the proposed development with the proviso that further investigations be carried out by the Company with respect to these matters.

It is the concern of the Company that a complete evaluation of future water management and refuse emplacement requirements will take a number of months to be finalised and that this would delay the development consent process. Development consent is required by early 1996 to enable underground roadways to be driven outside the existing approved areas.

From an operational point of view, answers are not required for some years to the questions of longer term water management and refuse disposal.

At the meeting, the following points were discussed:

- The present water management plan caters for the first longwall area proposed to be mined (Longwalls 13 to 22 on conceptual mine plan). This area is being developed now and there is no indication of any increased water make. Future panels in this area will be further away from the flooded Cessnock No 1 workings. The average daily pumping rate from the mine has been 0.8 ML over the past seven months. The water management plan allowed for 1.2 ML per day. It is expected that this first area will take about seven years to mine.
- The contribution of Pelton Open Cut's dirty water to the present water management plan is negligible. This will be quantified and commented upon in the EIS.
- The water management of the reject emplacement areas will also be discussed in the EIS. Emplacement Area 1 occupies approximately 15.7 Ha out of a total of 166 Ha of the northern catchment, or 9.6%. The effect of this small reduction in clean catchment on the water quality in the event of a wet weather discharge, as per the water management plan, is slight at the northern boundary of the colliery and nil at Lomas Lane.



- The decision as to whether or not to dewater the Cessnock No 1 Colliery workings does not need to be taken for some time from an operational perspective. It is planned that geohydrological investigations be undertaken to assist with this decision. Groundwater specialists (Mr Alan Thilo of NSW TAFE, Mr Laurie Cook, Hydrogeologist and Dr Bill Milne-Howe of Insearch) have been engaged to carry out some preliminary investigations, based on information obtained from a study for AGL in the mid to late 1980's. The results of this preliminary analysis will be presented in the EIS. Should the DMR wish, a presentation (or seminar) could be made to DMR people and, perhaps, other interested parties. The preliminary work is expected to be complete in about four weeks.
- The geohydrological study will also consider disposal strategies for dewatering Cessnock No 1, including reinjection into abandoned surrounding workings. Since answers on the longer term water disposal question will not be available in time for the EIS, it is suggested that a consent condition could be that this matter be addressed to the satisfaction of DMR plus other appropriate government bodies or departments at a later time.
- A plan was tabled showing future available tailings disposal areas in the old Pelton workings. An estimated total life of 58 years is available. Comments on tailings disposal and a plan will be included in the EIS.
- The coarse reject disposal to the existing Aberdare Extended Open Cut emplacement will be discussed in the EIS, including final design plan.
- It was agreed that the Company evaluate the possibilities of coarse reject emplacement within the Pelton Open Cut and the use of inert overburden material elsewhere, for example, capping and rehabilitation of old tailings dams on the Pelton site. A holistic examination of the existing and future requirements for the Pelton site will be undertaken. This will involve a review of refuse emplacement thinking, discussions and/or negotiations with the open cut contractor and the adjoining landowner and similarly with other government authorities. An environmental and economic evaluation is needed. The Company will report back to the DMR within one to two months on the outcome.
- The DMR will not delay giving support to the development proposal pending the outcome of this evaluation. It was noted that the DMR may be able to cater for possible coarse reject emplacement in the Pelton Open Cut in the current application for variation to the open cut approval. It was also noted that a Section 126 emplacement approval is required to establish any future reject emplacement areas.

To ensure that we deal with the concerns as raised in your letter in accordance with your expectations, we would ask that you confirm that our approach is as required by the DMR. This will enable the draft EIS to be completed as soon as possible. A copy of the draft EIS will be provided to the DMR for further review as you recommend.

Yours faithfully

M W Simes
Manager Mining Services

YOUR REFERENCE: F1210/JG:CW
OUR REFERENCE:
CONTACT OFFICER: Peter O'Kane
TELEPHONE: (049)269972
FAX NUMBER: (049)269605

HLA Envirosciences
PO Box 5348D
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302



Panorama Avenue
PO Box 143
Bathurst NSW 2795
Australia

Phone (063) 32 8200
Int 61 63 32 8200
Fax (063) 31 8095
Int 61 63 31 8095

22 February 1995.

27 FEB 1995

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding your Planning Focus Document for Ellalong Colliery Extension into Bellbird South, this office does have some concerns.

Two state survey marks will be disturbed by the proposed mining. State survey mark 43245 is one of these, but as it has not been precisely located it presents no problem. The other mark is a Trig. Station TS2519 Howard.

TS Howard is a concrete pillar that is a primary station in the State's geodetic network. It has been co-ordinated precisely as a control point in the area's mapping, etc.

I have spoken to Mine Surveyor Kevin Price about disturbance of TS Howard. He assured me that it will not be undermined until the year 2007. As such I would not expect action to be taken until that time.

Reinstatement of the Trig. after mining would be essential. This would cost about \$10,000 in 1995 values.

I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to planning in the area. Please keep me informed should the timing of LW25 be altered.

Yours faithfully

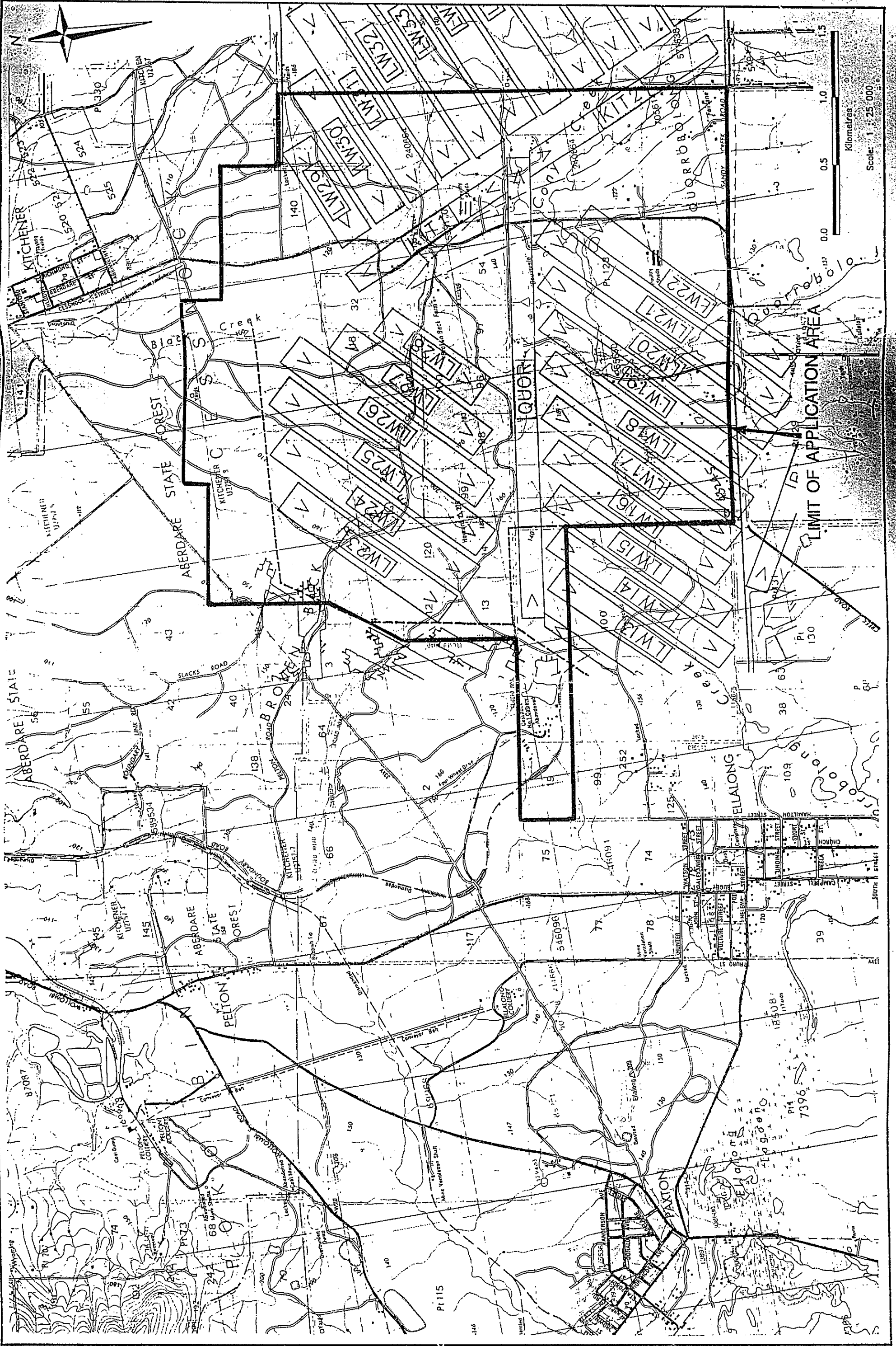
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.O'Kane'.

PETER O'KANE
ACTING CHIEF SURVEYOR.

MARK CO-ORDINATE LISTING FROM SURVEY CONTROL BRANCH, NEWCASTLE, FROM SCIMS AS AT 7TH FEB, 1995.

DATE: 17/2/95

TYPE	NO.	NAME	STAT	HEIGHT	EASTING	NORTHING	ACC.	H	V	H.ADJ	V.ADJ	ZONE
SSM	43245				331660	1356130		8		999	561	
TS	2519	HOWARD [P]		227.98	332105.619	1358174.588		1	5	265	900	561



PROPOSED MINE PLAN **FIG. 3**







Shortland Electricity

Head Office: 145 Newcastle Road, Wallsend.
Telephone: (049) 51 9555. Facsimile: (049) 51 9320

14 FEB 1995

Please quote this reference:

MACS 0880/95-133

The Manager
Envirosciences Pty Ltd
PO Box 5348D
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302

Contact:
Telephone No:

Customer Supply
(049) 34 9146
Please Quote Job No 9 950621
13th February 1995

Dear Sir

**Shortland Electricity Response to
Proposed Ellalong Colliery Extension
into Bellbird South**

Issues raised at the Planning Focus meeting on 8th February 1995 indicate that no Shortland Electricity assets will be affected by the proposed extensions.

As far as we can determine, and from the history of our existing assets located over the existing underground workings, no problems should be encountered.

Any repair or replacement of our assets resulting from damage attributed to subsidence or vibration could be charged to the Colliery.

The reopening of the shafts and other associated works at the disused Cessnock No.1 Colliery may necessitate the upgrading of our existing mains into the site to accommodate the anticipated increased load.

The Colliery would be required to submit a formal application for electricity supply to us as soon as a decision was made to proceed. Adequate notice of their requirements would be necessary as considerable time may be necessary for negotiations and construction.

Alternatively, the Colliery may consider extending their own private electricity supply to the disused site. Shortland Electricity would be pleased to carry out this contract work.

.../2

If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me on
(049) 3491140.

Yours faithfully,



E Belcher
Customer Supply Engineering Officer
Central Region

CC Mr Michael Simes

In reply please send to: Singleton

Our reference: 6:80:77:01

Your reference:

23 FEB 1995

Contact: Garry Moore

The Manager,
Enviro Sciences Pty. Limited,
122 Parry Street,
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302

22nd February, 1995.

Dear Sir,

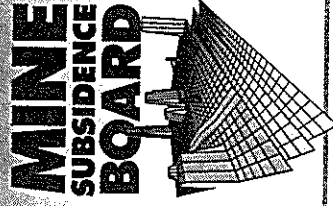
PLANNING FOCUS DOCUMENT FOR ELLALONG COLLIERY EXTENSION INTO
BELLBIRD SOUTH

From the Planning Focus Meeting attended by me on 8th February, 1995, the following are items the Board would like to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement:--

1. The number or properties that will be directly affected by the proposed longwalls.
2. The amount of predicted subsidence under these properties.
3. A map showing the location of properties in relation to the proposed longwall panels.
4. The type of structure that will be affected e.g. brick veneer, weatherboard etc. dwelling, chicken shed and garages etc. on each property.

The following are some of the improvements covered under the Act should they be damaged by mining, private and public roads, bridges, power lines, fences, service pipes and lines, dams and contour banks, rural sheds, dwellings and associated structures. Should there be a danger from surface cracking or subsidence holes then the Board would carry out rectification to eliminate the danger.

Examples of some items not covered under the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act are loss of water, the affects on or damage to creeks and rural land including ponding of water and consequential damage.



The Mine Subsidence Board
OFFICES:

NEWCASTLE:

Ground Floor,
NSW Government Offices,
117 Bull Street,
Newcastle West 2302
Postal Address:
PO Box 488G,
Newcastle 2300
Telephone: (049) 26 9750
Facsimile: (049) 29 1032
DX 4322 Newcastle West

SPEERS POINT:

143 Main Road,
Speers Point 2284
Postal Address:

PO Box 9, Boolaroo 2284
Telephone: (049) 50 8088
Facsimile: (049) 50 8101
DX 7820 Newcastle

WYONG:

Suite 3 Feldwin Court,
30 Hely St,
Wyong 2259
Postal Address:

PO Box 157, Wyong 2259
Telephone: (043) 52 1646
Facsimile: (043) 52 1757
DX 7317 Wyong

SINGLETON:

Joint Coal Board Building
1 Civic Avenue,
Singleton 2330
Postal Address:

PO Box 524, Singleton 2330
Telephone: (065) 72 4344
Facsimile: (065) 72 4504

PICTON:

RE Middleton
Admin. Centre,
Picton 2571
Postal Address:

PO Box 40, Picton 2571
Telephone: (046) 77 1967
Facsimile: (046) 77 2040

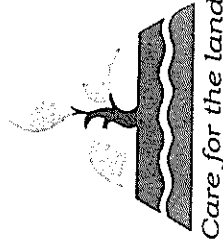
Please direct any enquiries to the Board's Singleton Office.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Garry Moore".

Garry Moore,
District Supervisor

Hunter Catchment Management Trust



HLA - Envirosciences Pty Ltd

122 Parry Street

NEWCASTLE WEST 2302

PO Box 204
Maitland NSW 2320

Telephone: (049) 335 455
Facsimile: (049) 335 164

Our ref: 1490

Your ref:

15 FEB 1995

Dear Sir

Re : Proposed Ellalong Colliery Extension into Bellbird South

The Trust was represented at the recent Planning Focus for the above proposal and wishes to make the following comments :

1. The use of existing surface facilities will minimise site disturbance from the extension and is to be commended.
2. All effort should be made to eliminate the discharge of saline water into the Black Creek system during dry and average rainfall years in the shorter rather than longer term. As noted in the Planning Focus document, the Trust has been active in the Black Creek Salinity Management Committee and is keen that all dry/average year saline mine water discharges cease so that water quality improvements in the Hunter Valley can be achieved.
3. Of the options listed for ventilation and man riding from 2001, re-opening of Cessnock No. 1 Colliery Shafts by land application disposal of mine water is not considered appropriate given the high salt loads, approximately 5-6000 tpa, onto land with high infiltration rates, such that saline water would be likely to flow as groundwater into Quorrobolong Creek.

Comments in 2. above apply to the option for discharge on a controlled release basis into either Quorrobolong or Black Creeks.

Desalination and holing in above current water levels in the shafts are options which appear to involve less environmental impact.

4. It is noted that existing mining operations have not resulted in subsidence-induced damage to farm dams or Quorrobolong Creek. The Trust encourages that monitoring continue and Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company take action to reinstate water supplies should damage occur. I also note that preventative measures to protect structures are increasingly being used and commend this proactive approach.

5. Design of coarse reject emplacement in new areas, outlined in the Planning Focus document, appears to deal with the main environmental factors associated with the reject material, however I would make the following points :

- The "perimeter drain" (ii, p.23) could be constructed to simulate a natural watercourse with appropriate vegetation which would provide an enhanced habitat for post-mining landuse.



Total Catchment Management

Community And Government Working Together

HLA Envirosciences Pty Ltd
Newcastle West 2302

14 February 1995

- Revegetation of emplacement areas with forest may be difficult if topsoil is used as the growing medium and seeded with both grasses and trees/shrubs. Experience in other areas of the Hunter Valley suggest that tree/shrub seedlings cannot compete with grasses in direct seeded areas and that tree/shrub seed needs to be sown separately from grasses for best results.
- Species (grasses, shrubs and trees) used in revegetation should be indigenous and seed collected locally.
- 6. It is noted that the flora and fauna survey did not identify any rare or endangered species. Given that the survey was undertaken in the middle of a severe drought and following a bushfire this is not surprising. The Trust considers that further survey work should be carried out to provide a more representative sample of the flora and fauna.
- 7. The commitment to community liaison is noted and the Trust encourages continuation and enhancement of this approach.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposal. The Trust will make further comment, as necessary, on the EIS.

Yours faithfully



Sharon Vernon
for Glenn Evans
Chief Executive Officer

14 February 1995



21 March 1995

**NSW
NATIONAL
PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
SERVICE**

Ms Jane Gouldstone
HLA Envirosciences
PO Box 5348D
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302

27 MAR 1995

Our reference: CR/1082

Your reference:

Dear Ms Gouldstone

**RE: PLANNING FOCUS DOCUMENT FOR ELLALONG COLLIERY
EXTENSION INTO BELLBIRD SOUTH**

Reference is made to the facsimile received from David Agnew dated 15 March 1995 in which you request comments from the National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding the above-mentioned matter.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible for the care, control and management of all lands dedicated national parks, nature reserves, Aboriginal areas, historic sites and game reserves under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974. In addition, the Service is responsible for the protection of native flora and fauna throughout New South Wales and for the protection and care of Aboriginal sites and relics.

The information present in the planning focus document is not detailed enough for the Service to make a comprehensive assessment on the flora, fauna and Aboriginal relics which may occur on or adjacent to the development area. It is understood that a flora and fauna survey was undertaken during December 1994 and that an archaeological survey has also been undertaken, however these reports were not provided to the Service for comment.

The mine site is predominantly underground with surface structures including a washery reject replacement area, carpark and bath-house being located in predominantly cleared areas. Mine subsidence is also expected to be minimal due to the depth of the coal seam (300 to 500 metres below the surface) and the relative stability of overlying substrata.

It is expected that the flora and fauna survey would include descriptions of:

- all vegetation communities known to occur in the study area;
- all fauna habitats within the study area;
- the faunal assemblage known or expected to occur in the area, with special consideration of the occurrence of rare or endangered (Schedule 12) fauna species;
- mapping and location of all vegetation communities and fauna habitats and plant species that are within the area to be impacted and which are likely to be of local, regional or statewide conservation significance;

Head Office
43 Bridge Street
Hurstville NSW
Australia
P.O. Box 1967
Hurstville 2220
Fax: (02) 585 6555
Tel: (02) 585 6444

- an assessment of the significance of the above;
- prediction of the likely impact of the proposal; and
- measures proposed for the mitigation of any expected impacts.

Of particular importance to this proposal is any remnant vegetation which may be present in the study area and the impact of the proposal on flora or fauna of Aberdare State Forest.

You are also advised to consider the requirements of the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act, 1991 with regard to the "taking or killing" of endangered fauna. It should be noted that the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 defines "take" as including "significant modification of the habitat of the fauna which is likely to adversely affect its essential behavioural patterns". Endangered fauna are those species listed on Schedule 12 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974.

With regards to the Aboriginal heritage of the study area, it is understood that there were no significant archaeological findings. It is expected that the archaeological report will document the methodology used during survey as well as mapping and description of all Aboriginal sites and relics in the area to be impacted. An assessment of the significance of any such sites or relics, the impact of the development and any proposed mitigation measures for the protection of sites and relics should be included.


The National Parks and Wildlife Service has three GIS databases which may provide information which would be of use in your study. These are:

- Wildlife Atlas listing of fauna records in New South Wales;
- ROTAP Database of rare and threatened Australian plants; and
- Aboriginal Sites register.

The material from each of these databases is available upon written application and receipt of the appropriate fee. Contact officers are Ms Annie Etheridge (Wildlife Atlas and ROTAP) on (02) 585 6423 or Mr Bill Eilwood (Aboriginal Sites register) on (02) 585 6471.

The Service would appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement when it is released. If you have any questions concerning issues raised in this letter, please contact Lisa Mitchell, Environmental Planning Officer, Sydney Zone on (02) 585 6676.

Yours faithfully


Russell Couch
Manager Sydney Zone



HLA - Envirosciences Pty Ltd
122 Parry St.
NEWCASTLE WEST 2302

106 John St
PO Box 4
Singleton NSW 2330
Phone (065) 72 1707
Fax (065) 72 1592

28 FEB 1995

Attention: Mr. B. Howe

24 February 1995

Dear Sir,

ELLALONG COLLIERY EXTENSION INTO BELLBIRD SOUTH
Comments on Planning Focus Document

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the recent Planning Focus meeting. As an extension to an existing operation which will be mining the same seam as at present it is obvious that there should be minimal new impacts of significance to this Department.

Issues that were raised and are of significance to us are:

Subsidence.

Subsidence of up to 1.6 m will have the potential to cause significant surface instability, particularly in drainage lines. The Company's monitoring procedures and response to subsidence induced surface instability and resultant erosion should be addressed.

Cessnock No 1 Shaft dewatering

The possible need to dewater the old shaft has been acknowledged as a possible environmental impact. The Planning Focus document lists surface application as a possible means of disposing of this moderately saline water. There are concerns that such a strategy could result in soil and/or water degradation. If this option is to be retained the EIS will need to develop a substantial case proving that such degradation will not eventuate.

Rejects Emplacement

The proposal outlined for the creation of the reject emplacements appears to minimise the risk of long term effects. However, the locations indicated for such emplacements to the south of Pelton Colliery do appear to have limitations and to cover substantial areas. In particular, a couple of possible areas infill drainage lines draining substantial catchments. It would be preferable for the rejects to be confined to the Pelton Colliery site if possible.



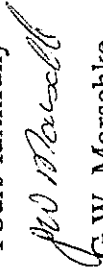
The Department of Conservation and Land Management incorporates: the Soil Conservation Service, Crown Lands Service, Land Information Centre, Valuer-General's Office, Land Titles Office and Forestry Policy Unit.

Land Management Plan

It is becoming standard practice for a Land Management Plan for all Company controlled lands to be prepared. This usually includes such aspects as vegetation management, fire control, noxious plant and animal control, etc. While not suggesting that such a plan be included in the EIS, it will be requested that such a Plan be a DA condition.

Should you have any questions on the above please contact the under signed at our Singleton Office.

Yours faithfully



G. W. Marschke
Mining Industries officer



**GENERAL MANAGER
HLA-ENVIROSCIENCES P/L
PO Box 5348D
Newcastle West 2302**

Facsimile: (065) 43 4164
Telephone: (065) 42 1222
Ext:
Contact Name:
Our Reference:

F. Hancock

17 MAR 1995

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Extension to Ellalong Colliery

The Department has examined the information supplied at the Planning Focus meeting held on 8 February, 1995. It recommends that the following water-related issues be addressed in the proposed Environmental Impact Statement.

1. Erosion Control
 - Design criteria and capacity details on all earthworks, including main minewater dam system, sediment traps, diversion channels, batter slopes and all new water storage bodies. Details should be provided relating to proposals to rehabilitate the soils of the site, and preventative measures proposed to minimise erosion on watercourses and minimise siltation of Congewai Creek.
 - Containment of runoff and details on surface site drainage.
 - Control of runoff from overburden dumps.
 - Stockpiling of topsoil.
2. Rehabilitation
 - Details and plans of progressive rehabilitation measures.
 - Details of proposed tree and pasture species to be used.

3. Water Management

- Detailed information on surface water and groundwater requirements, including quality of groundwater, disposal and storage of surface and groundwater.
- Control of groundwater accessions into the mine pit.
- Details of new water storages to meet greater contaminated water flows from new workings.
- Effects on downstream water quality associated with discharges into Congewai Creek or Black Creek. This should include details of groundwater chemistry, especially with reference to SAR chemistry in groundwater. Total salt loads should be indicated in mine water, particularly in discharge waters.
- Details on the storage and disposal of contaminated groundwater, particularly as groundwater disposal is potentially a serious problem on the water resources of the Wollombi Brook and Black Creek catchments.
- Details of methods to dispose of tailings from the development and detailed water balance of the use of water in the tailings emplacement area and the other waste management areas.
- Long term effects of leaching of overburden dumps or groundwater movement through tailings and overburden. Particularly, the potential for contamination of the existing fresh water storage bodies from overburden dumps should be identified in the EIS and ameliorative measures detailed.

4. Abandoned pit water

- Proposed methods to dispose of pit water from the abandoned Cessnock No. 1 pit should be explained in detail. In particular, salinity impacts to Congewai Creek should be detailed, both from point source discharges and from seepage and runoff from proposed land irrigation disposal of mine water.
- Salinity loadings should be detailed for Congewai Creek and Black Creek resulting from the discharge of pit water resulting from the use of the abandoned pit should be provided.

I am enclosing a copy of the Department's "General Requirements for Environmental Impact Statements", which may be used as a guide for preparing the EIS. This guide is not exhaustive and not all matters raised would be relevant to your proposal. The attachment with the guidelines explains the Department's specific requirements for coal mines.

Yours faithfully,



**EDDIE HARRIS
MANAGER, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
HUNTER REGION**

28 February, 1995

Impartment@interford



COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CESSNOCK

Mr. M.W. Simes,
Manager Mining Services,
Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company Pty. Ltd.,
P.O. Box 165,
CESSNOCK. 2325

Contact:
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Mr. R. Sandell
118/694/120

Dear Sir,

Ellalong Colliery Extension into Bellbird South

I refer to your request for comment on the abovementioned proposal following the Planning Focus Meeting held on February 8, 1995 and the presentation of the Planning Focus Document prepared by H.L.A. - Envirosciences Pty. Ltd. The following information should be provided in any Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared:-

1. Predicted volumes of coal to be transported by road from proposed mining operations. Details should include the route of proposed haulage, times of haulage and weight of loaded vehicles to be used.
2. Details of reject disposal into natural gullies owned by the company to be provided within the Environmental Impact Statement.
3. The continued disposal of reject material into the Old Aberdare Extended Open Cut should be controlled by a rehabilitation management plan if one is not already in place.
4. The timing of the establishment of the new water management strategy as indicated on P16 of the report should be provided as well as a determination on the method of disposal of the Cessnock No. 1 mine waters.
5. Details of the assessment of the likely impact of ground vibration caused by the proposed extension of underground mining conducted by Renzo Tonin & Associates Pty. Ltd., should be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.
5. Noise nuisances have occurred from the ventilation shaft fans in the past. Any new installations or the re-equipping or re-use of any fan shafts should be undertaken under the supervision of an accredited acoustical consultant with regular testing and monitoring being undertaken and results of such testings being available to Council and as public information. Details of ventilation shaft fan testing should be provided in Environmental Impact Statement.

In addition to the abovementioned matters, the company's involvement in public participation during the process of the formal development application and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement is supported and should be continued as indicated on P27 & 28 of the report. In particular, the ongoing liaison with the local community, Wollombi Landcare Group and Black Creek Water Users Committee should ensure that all issues associated with the environmental impact of the proposal will be addressed and appropriate solutions found.

Council will now await the submission of the formal development application and associated Environmental Impact Statement for its consideration.

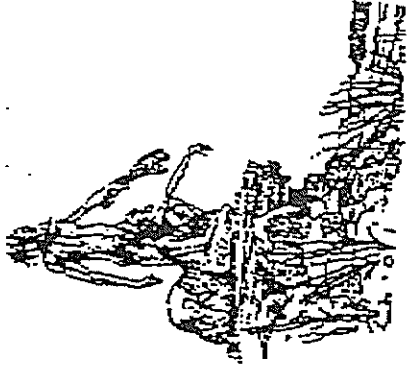
Yours faithfully,



C.L. COWAN,
GENERAL MANAGER

per: *MS*

February 24, 1995
1.25



**MINDARIBBA LOCAL
ABORIGINAL
LAND COUNCIL**

SUITE 12, 420 HIGH STREET, MAITLAND, 2320
P.O. BOX 453 MAITLAND

Phone: (049) 34 3390

Fax: (049) 34 3393

Jane Gouldstone
M.A. Ginnoscinne

Re: Ellalong Battery Extension
 wanted to our discussions regarding the
 share project.

The main concerns of Mandaribba
 N.L.C. are:

- * There has been very little work
 as surveys conducted in the area.
- * Seemed that in the proposed area
 the impact as effect erosion will
 have and sites along creek bed.

- * Because there has been ~~the~~
 very few surveys conducted is the
 obvious reason N.P.S. don't have
 any information regarding the area.

- * What type of plan will be put into
 place when work starts in terms
 of Downy sites.

- * Will they consider that haven't
 been excavated as test pits done.

2

then on page (12) 5:0 Management
and 5:1.1. Waste Rock Deposition.

They contradict each other.

* Also while there is only (1) known
sites, because of the area it is

possible other sites haven't been located
as yet.

- when you read page 13 5:1.5
Site reference. will identify several

and expect other sites they suggest it
should be monitored. (Recommended.)

* Also often with this happen.
then a development, control plan,
should be established.

* Manitoba CAHC recommend no
further work take place without
consultation with some
exceptions.

Rob Griffiths
SO coordinator
M.A.R.L.C.

17.3.95.

EPA



Environment
Protection
Authority
New South Wales

Ms J Gouldstone
HLA-Envirosiences Pty Ltd
PO Box 5348D
NEWCASTLE WEST 2302

NSW Government Offices
117 Bull Street Newcastle West NSW 2302
PO Box 488G Newcastle NSW 2300
Tel 049. 26 9971 Fax 049. 29 6712

Our Reference: 270896A1 CC:TS

Your Reference: F1210/JG:cw

Contact: Colin Charters

20 MAR 1995

17 MAR 1995

Dear Ms Gouldstone

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF ELLALONG COLLIERY INTO BELLBIRD SOUTH AREA

The following comments relate to a proposal by Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company Pty Ltd to extend Ellalong Colliery's underground mining operation into an adjoining lease area. They are based upon information provided at a meeting at Newcastle on 20 February 1994.

Possible environmental implications of the proposal which we believe should be covered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are:

- (a) verification of what, if any, changes to the mine's water make are anticipated due to, for example, inflow from adjacent flooded mine workings and Quorrobolong Creek. Any variation to the water balance or water pollution control systems must be addressed in an ungraded minewater management plan;
- (b) stormwater and leachate controls to be implemented at the refuse disposal areas. Particular attention must be given to methods of disposal of collected (and possibly contaminated) water;
- (c) dust controls to be utilised at the refuse disposal areas;
- (d) a prediction of any likely increase in, and impacts on residents of, noise as a result of the extension including, for example, new air or entry shafts, refuse haulage, and reshaping/rehabilitation works on refuse areas; and

(e) rehabilitation proposals, particularly for the refuse disposal areas. Because mined land and reject dumps are prone to wind and water erosion and may be subject to contaminated runoff or leachate problems, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) expects rehabilitation to be properly planned and carried out promptly and progressively. We recognise however that rehabilitation will be subject to consultation with, and oversight by, the Department of Conservation and Land Management's, Soil Conservation Service so the EPA will not directly involve itself in this facet of the operation.

If development consent is granted, the company is required, pursuant to the Clean Air, Clean Waters and the Noise Control Acts, to obtain Pollution Control Approval from the EPA prior to any change to the existing operation or pollution control facilities.

A licence under the Pollution Control Act, which is renewable annually, is already held by the company for the premises.

Inquiries regarding the above may be directed to Mr C Charters at this office, telephone (049) 269701.

Yours faithfully



COLIN HALVERSON
A/Regional Manager, Hunter
for Director-General



APPENDIX 3 :

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Department of Planning, Department of Mineral Resources and Cessnock City Council have issued lists of requirements to ensure the adequate assessment of environmental impacts of the proposal. Major areas of investigation include: water management, surface subsidence effects, vibration, reject disposal, and noise. Flora and fauna, heritage and archaeology are also being studied.

It is expected that the Environmental Impact Statement 1995. At this time, formal submissions from residents, community groups and statutory authorities will be encouraged.

Should the development application be successful, it is envisaged that mining would extend into the Bellbird South area early in 1996, and mining would continue until 2017 and then beyond with new development consents.

THE APPROVAL PROCESS

The decision whether to approve the Development Application for the proposed Bellbird South extension of Ellalong Colliery will be made by the NSW Minister for Planning. A thorough procedure of evaluation of the proposal must be followed in order to gain development consent.

Currently, an environmental impact assessment is being made. Once finalised, The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company will submit an Environmental Impact Statement to the Department of Planning and the Department of Planning will arrange for public exhibition of the EIS. Government departments, statutory authorities and members of the public may make submissions to the Department of Planning which in turn reports upon these submissions to the Minister.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A public meeting is to be held on 1 March 1995 at 7.00 p.m., Lyceum Hall, Cumberland Street, Cessnock. At this meeting, relevant maps, aerial photographs and plans will be on display. Company personnel and independent consultants will be available to discuss the project and to answer questions from members of the public.

If you have any questions regarding the proposal to mine the Bellbird South area, or wish to express your opinions, please contact either:

Mr M. Simes

Mining Services Manager

The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company Pty Ltd

PO Box 156

Cessnock NSW 2325

Phone (049) 905958

Fax (049) 912113

Mr B. Howe or Ms J. Gouldstone

Senior Consultants

HLA-Envirosiences Pty Limited

PO Box 5348D

Newcastle West NSW 2302

Phone (049) 262600

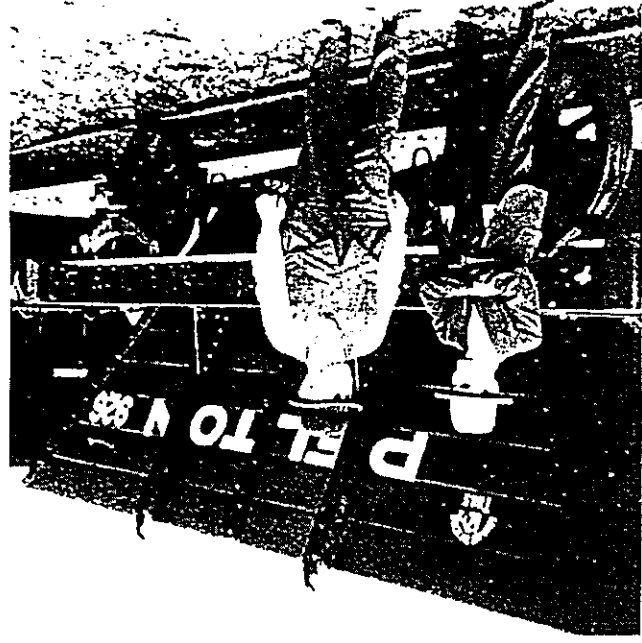
Fax (049) 264532

PELLTON/ELLALONG COLLIERY
BELLBIRD SOUTH EXTENSION

Community Information Sheet

Pelton Colliery 1926

THE NEWCASTLE WALLSEND COAL
COMPANY PTY LTD



FEBRUARY 1995

PURPOSE OF THIS BROCHURE

The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company intends to apply to the Department of Planning for development consent to extend underground mining operations from Ellalong Colliery into the Bellbird South area.

An Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed development is being carried out by HLA-Envirosciences Pty Limited. The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company wishes to provide local residents with accurate information regarding the planned development, and values feedback it receives from residents. The purpose of circulating this brochure is to provide you with preliminary information concerning the proposed extension of Ellalong Colliery.

CURRENT MINING AT ELLALONG

The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company has been producing coal continuously in the Hunter Valley for more than 130 years. Between 1916 and 1992, the Company mined the Greta Seam at Pelton Colliery. Since 1978 coal has been mined at Ellalong Colliery. 360 workers are currently employed.

Longwall mining methods have been in use at Ellalong Colliery since 1983. Coal mined at Ellalong is transported by overland conveyor to Pelton Colliery for processing and dispatch via rail to the Port of Newcastle for export, with a small proportion being transported by road.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED

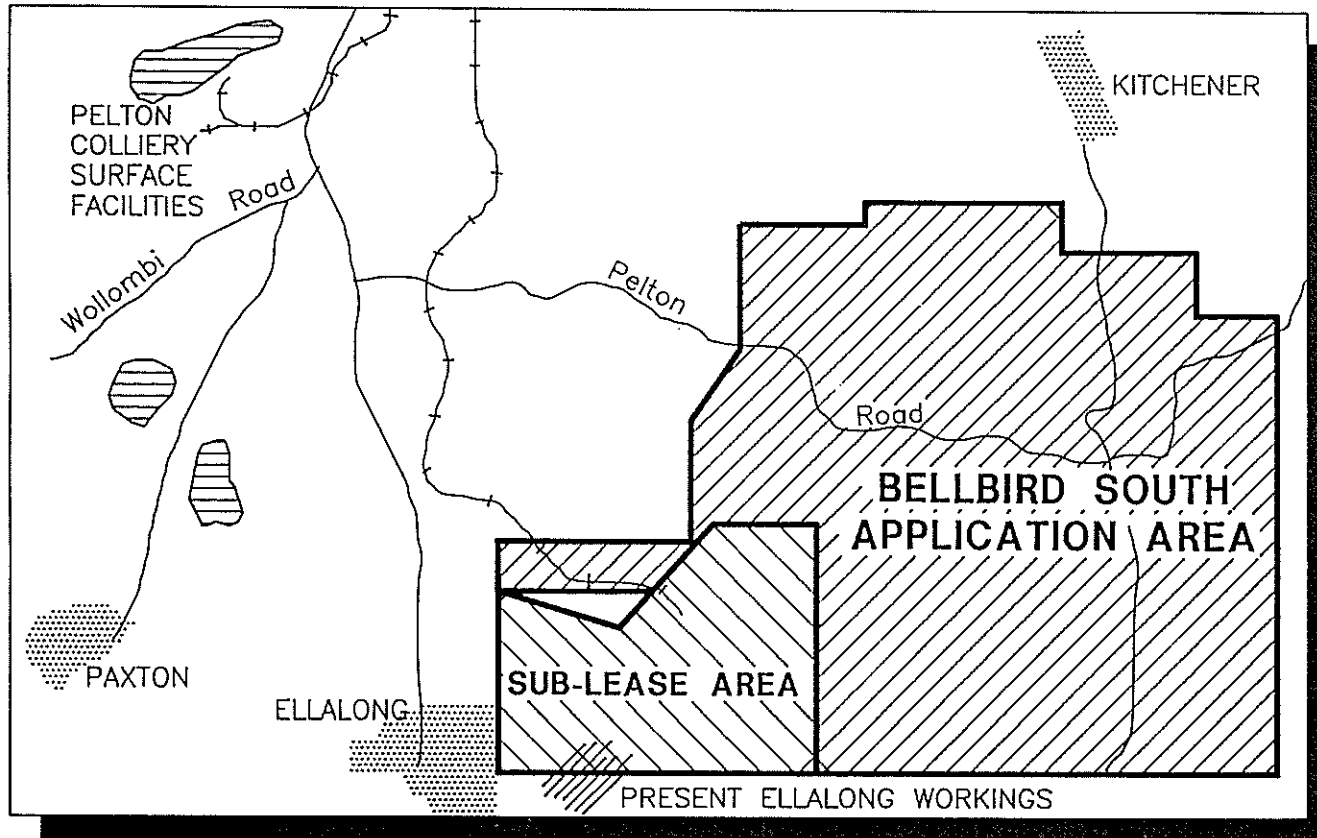
The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company is restricted in continuing its mining operations at Ellalong Colliery because of high levels of carbon dioxide encountered in the area previously planned for mining between 1994 and 1998 which makes safe mining there difficult and uneconomic.

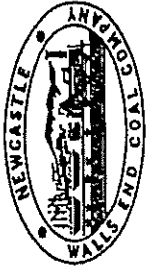
An area of virgin coal exists in the Bellbird South area, northeast of the Ellalong Colliery Holding in Consolidated Mining Lease No. 2. The Company has obtained consent to mine a small portion of this coal resource under a sub-lease arrangement. The current proposal is to extend mining into Bellbird South for a period of up to 21 years.

Under this proposal, the existing surface infrastructure at Pelton/Ellalong would continue to be used. In future years it is possible that the old Cessnock No. 1 (Kalingo) shafts could be re-equipped and used for ventilation fan(s), bathroom, carpark and winder.

The extension of mining into Bellbird South will not alter the scale of operations already taking place at Pelton/Ellalong. Employment will be maintained at around current levels.

The longwall mining method will continue to be used. Reject material from coal processing will be disposed of into abandoned workings (fines) or in surface emplacements to be created upon company-owned land (coarse reject). A thorough system of water management will be employed to protect water quality in local watercourses.





The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company Pty Limited

A UNIT OF OAKBRIDGE LIMITED
INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES
ACN 000 245 901

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

PO Box 156, Cessnock NSW 2325
PHONE: (049) 91 2177

Wollombi Road, Pelton NSW 2325
FAX: (049) 91 2113

16 February 1995

SIMES\MINCHING.LTR
SIMES\MINCHADD.1

1~

Dear 2~

We are writing to let you know that Ellalong Colliery plans to transfer its underground mining operations from the current area east of Wallaby Gully Road to an area north east of Ellalong Village.

Further information is contained in the attached leaflet. As part of our community liaison programme, we are holding a public meeting on:

<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>1 March</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>7.00pm</i>
<i>Venue</i>	<i>Lyceum Hall, Cumberland Street Cessnock</i>

A presentation of the proposal will be made and Company personnel and consultants will be available to answer questions. You are invited to attend this meeting.

Yours faithfully

M W Simes
Manager Mining Services



MEDIA STATEMENT

COLLIERY TO TALK WITH COMMUNITY ABOUT MINE EXTENSION

The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company has invited the community in the Ellalong Colliery area to a public meeting on 1 March to talk about proposed extensions to the mine.

The invitation keeps a promise made to the community in January.

General Manager, Mr Sean Egan, said today that a small leaflet explaining the proposed extension was being distributed to all residents in the Ellalong, Pelton and Bellbird South area.

The leaflet gives brief explanations of present mining at Ellalong, what is being proposed, assessment of environmental impact of the extension and the approval process.

The Company has held comprehensive discussions with all involved official bodies including Cessnock City Council and Government departments, including Mines Subsidence Board and Mineral Resources.

Mr Egan said that the Company hoped to gain approval to mine in a lease, known as Consolidated Mining Lease No 2 in the Bellbird South area, north-east of the Ellalong Colliery Holding.

Ellalong Colliery employs 340 full time people and their continued employment and the future of the mine depended on the extension.

"Our mining potential in existing leases is restricted by high levels of carbon dioxide in the area which had been marked for mining between 1994 and 1998. Safe mining there is difficult and this extension would provide for mining for about 20 years", Mr Egan said.

He said that almost all the area to be mined under the extension plan was beneath rural and forestry areas.

An environmental impact statement being developed under the guidelines of the Department of Planning, Department of Mineral Resources and Cessnock City Council should be available for exhibition about the middle of the year.

The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company has been producing coal continuously in the Hunter Valley for more than 130 years. Coal has been mined at Ellalong since 1978 and the longwall method of mining has been used since 1983.

Mr Egan said he hoped that residents would find the leaflet informative and useful. *"At our meeting we will present the information to the community about our proposed extension and answer any questions people might have", Mr Egan said.*

For further information contact:

Michael Simes
Manager Mining Services
and Project Co-ordinator

Phone: 905 958



NOTICE

Residents in the Ellalong and Bellbird South areas, and other interested persons are invited to meet with The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company to talk about proposed extensions to the mine.

THE MEETING WITH BE HELD AT THE -

LYCEUM HALL, Cumberland Street, Cessnock

ON

Wednesday 1 March 1995

AT

7.00pm

Leaflets explaining the proposal have been posted to residents in the Ellalong and Bellbird South area. The leaflet gives brief explanations of present mining at Ellalong, what is being proposed, assessment of environmental impact of the extension and the approval process.

The Ellalong Colliery employs 340 full time people and their continued employment and the future of the mine depends on the extension.

We look forward to your comments.

(Map to be inserted here)

The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company Pty Limited
Telephone: 905 958

ELLALONG COLLIERY EXTENSION



Residents in the Ellalong and Bellbird South areas and other interested persons are invited to meet with representatives from The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company to talk about proposed extensions to the mine.

As discussed at the recent Public Meeting, a display will be set up in the

ELLALONG HALL
Olney Street, Ellalong

between the hours of 10.00am and 2.00pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for four weeks, commencing 20 March 1995.

A Company representative will be available to answer questions and material will be on display for your perusal.

For further information contact Mr Michael Simes, Mining Services Manager (049) 905 958.

Mining jobs safer

Lease should extend life of Ellalong Colliery

Story: David Quick

The mine's management say there are still some hurdles to overcome, particularly over operations into an area which is still going to be a heavy financial commitment, but a lot cheaper than if we had to build or re-vented to slower explosive techniques of coal recovery," said the company's general manager, Mr. Sean Egan.

"We needed to produce around 2 million tonnes of coal a year and start bringing out coal early next year. A bonus is the move will make little if any difference to carbon mental issues which currently arise from the existing mine. Ellalong colliery is so-called the permanent operation force of Pelton-cum-Ellalong. Pelton-cum-Ellalong has been a consistent employer of Cessnock's mining manpower for nearly 80 years. But it has been no secret that production levels in the only mine left in Cessnock, this year fell beneath viable levels following the decision of unacceptably high concentrations of CO₂ gas.

"In fact we could still mine the coal, but safety is more important which is why we suspended manned machines systems and re-explosive techniques of coal recovery," said the company's general manager, Mr. Sean Egan.

"All being well, the relocation is scheduled to start bringing out coal starting a new mine, simply an extension of the existing one," said Ellalong mining operations by at least another 20 years.

The new deal with Southland means the lease owned by Southland, Newcastle Wallesend Coal, and its quiet neighbour, Southland. Under the deal, NWC will operate mining activities on an adjacent lease owned by Southland.

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▲ Pelton Colliery Manager, Michael Stimes and Newcastle Wallesend Coal Company, General Manager, Sean Egan look over the planned coalface extensions.

"Relocating the mine-operations into an area which is still going to be a heavy financial commitment, but a lot cheaper than if we had to build or re-vented to slower explosive techniques of coal recovery," said the company's general manager, Mr. Sean Egan.

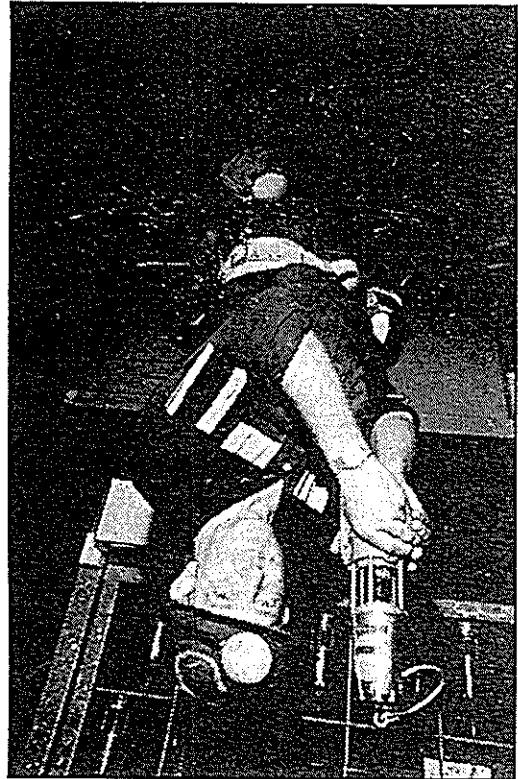
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▲ Ellalong Mine Deputy, John Bridge, one of 300 plus miners with increased job security.

Community meeting

According to Pelton Colliery manager, Michael Stimes, the extensive environmental impact report required for development application is already in draft form.

The indications are that effects will be little or no different to those which prevail from the existing operations.

"We will be having a planning focus meeting in February when all the involved official bodies will be brought together in a discussion group.

"This will be followed by a community liaison meeting in March when the people of the area will have a chance to see full details of the scheme and voice an opinion," Mr Stimes said.

NEW
TRAINING

Mine expansion meeting

"The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company has invited the community in the Ellalong Colliery area to a public meeting at the Lyceum Hall on March 1 to talk about proposed extensions to the mine.

"The invitation keeps a promise made to the community in January.

General Manager, Mr. Sean Egan, said that a small leaflet explaining the proposed extension was being distributed to all residents in the Ellalong, Pelton and Bellbird South area.

"The leaflet gives brief explanations of present mining at Ellalong, what is being proposed, assessment of environmental impact of the extension and the approval process.

"The Company has held comprehensive discussions with all involved official bodies including the Cessnock City Council and Government departments including Mines Subsidence Board and Mineral Resources.

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He said that almost all the area to be mined under the extension plan is being developed under the guidelines of the Mineral Resources and Cessnock City Council should be available for exhibition about the middle of the year.

"The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company

Continued Page 2

"I expect that the Minister has accepted an invitation from the Member for Hunter, Mr Eric Fitzgibbon, to meet and talk with war veterans in the Hunter Electorate.



Mr. Sciacca.

guest speaker at a dinner being hosted by the Cessnock RSL Sub Branch and those interested in attending Mr Fitzgibbon's office on 911022.

"The dinner will be held at the Cessnock Ex-Services Club at 6.30pm. A charge of \$10 will apply to cover costs.

ABERMAIN QUALITY PET FOOD CENTRE

THIS WEEKS SPECIALS

- 20kg bags of dry dog food.....\$19.90
- Foam bag beds.....\$6.50
- Kennel mix.....\$1.10
- Grooming mits.....\$5.50
- 25 lt kennel wash bubble gum flavour..\$33 (ONLY WHILE STOCKS LAST)

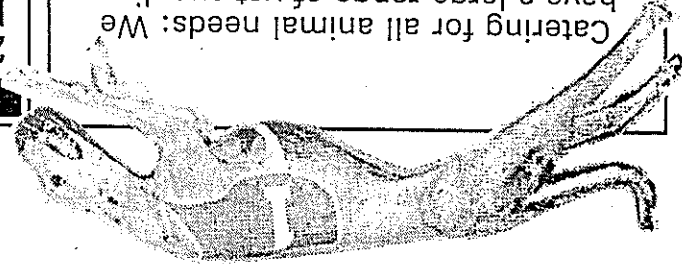
- Defax form guides available — order early to avoid disappointment.
- Trampoline beds 3 sizes.
- Bird seeds and chook mix 40kg and wheat bix 20kg

ALL MEAT IS FRESHLY PROCESSED DAILY

193 Cessnock Road, Abermain (just over the bridge at Abermain) ● PHONE 304433
 Remember — There is no price on quality — if we haven't got it we'll get it!
 ALL ORDERS CATERED FOR — DELIVERY CAN BE ARRANGED

TRADING HOURS:
 Mon-Fri 8am-5.30pm, Sat 8am-noon
 Plenty of off street parking

Catering for all animal needs: We have a large range of vet supplies, dry foods, quality meats, fresh bones, bulk tonics and powders, bulk flea and kennel washes. So call on in, we have plenty of off street parking.



Major upgrades at city schools

"Funding for education has increased every year since 1988, and funding per capita in public schools is now at a record high of \$4,239," Mrs. Chadwick said.

"Since 1990, the NSW Government has announced the addition of almost 3500 teachers to the public education system, and the latest 1466 new teachers will bring down class sizes in early primary and in senior secondary classes.

From 1995 NSW public schools will have Australia's largest and best qualified teaching accommodation and will find the new NSW Government will provide a library and tiered learning space and a covered link to existing buildings. Construction at Nulka Public School will include a library, two homebases, toilets and covered walkways to existing buildings. The schools and Government's commitment of the NSW Schools are further enhanced and opportunities for students," Mrs. Chadwick said.



● Mrs. Chadwick

"The NSW education system is world class and the Fahy Government is committed to further strengthening the resources, facilities and opportunities for students," Mrs. Chadwick said.

Kurri Careshare seeking helpers

"The project at Nulka Public School will include a library, two homebases, toilets and covered walkways to existing buildings. The schools and Government's commitment of the NSW Schools are further enhanced and opportunities for students," Mrs. Chadwick said.

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More than \$849,000 has been approved for the extensive upgrade of facilities at Cessnock and Nulka Public Schools, announced Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Mrs. Virginia Chadwick.

"The announcement was welcomed by John Jobling MLC who has a strong interest in education in the Cessnock area.

"Richard Crookes Constructors are undertaking this work at a cost of \$849,437 and all works should be completed by end of September 1995," Mr. Jobling said.

"The project at Cessnock Public School will provide a library and tiered learning space and a covered link to existing buildings. Construction at Nulka Public School will include a library, two homebases, toilets and covered walkways to existing buildings. The schools and Government's commitment of the NSW Schools are further enhanced and opportunities for students," Mrs. Chadwick said.

Kurri Kurri Public School's Careshare Program

Lucky Valentine Day cinema winners

Fifteen lucky readers will be treating themselves to a movie outing at Cessnock Cinema 3.

The readers, June Lockyer of Cessnock, Rachael Horne of Belbird, Mrs. C. Denise Towley of Aberdare, Christine Barton of Ellalong, Miss Kerr of Cessnock, E.J. Crossley of Cessnock, D. Towley of Aberdare, Mandy Stewart of Aberdare, Mrs. C. Whitfield of Cessnock, Jackie Preston of Cessnock, Jean Lockyer of Cessnock, R. Naysmith of Cessnock, G. Hipwell of Cessnock and Ruth Murray of Kurri Kurri entered our popular Valentine's Day Cinema 3 competition. The winners receive double passes to Cessnock Cinema 3. They will be notified of their prize by mail.

NEWS

The winds of change were set in motion just over three years ago and in 1995 what was known as Kurri Kurri Public School's Careshare Program

Homelink growing

The Homelink program has welcomed the opportunity to work in two more schools in the area this year, the Homelink program. With more schools now involved in the program, more volunteers are also needed. The next Volunteer Training Course will start on Friday, March 3 and will run for six weeks for one day per week between 10am and 2.30pm at the Teachers Centre at Cessnock Primary School, Aberdare Road, Cessnock.

The course prepares volunteers to work with students and families and increase their access to community support and allow them to benefit both educationally and socially. The program has been successful in over 20 other schools throughout the Hunter, including several schools in the Hunter and Kurri area.

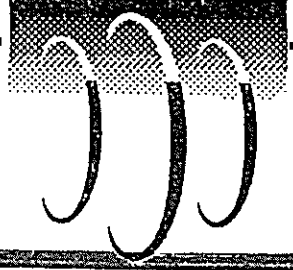
The introduction of the course into Bellbird Public and Mount View High Schools has seen the employment of a new co-ordinator, Ms Karen Bischoff, who will work with students for the course, phone Irene Smith or Ruth Gresham on 21-6841.

Mr Egan said he hoped that residents would find the latest information to be useful. "At our meeting (starting at 7pm) we will present the information to the community about our proposed extension and answer any questions people might have," Mr Egan said.

From Page 1

has been producing coal continuously in the Hunter Valley for more than 130 years. Coal has been mined at Ellalong since 1978 and the longwall method of mining has been used since 1983.

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL EXHIBITION OF DRAFT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



Council has prepared a draft Local Environmental Plan which



Notes on Public Meeting - ELLALONG COLLIERY - Transfer of Operations - Bellbird South

Present -

By Invitation:

Mr Milton Morris (Chairman)	
Dr Renzo Tonin	- Renzo Tonin & Associates
Mr Greg Cole-Clark	- Mines Subsidence Board
Mr Graham Hanson	- Mines Subsidence Board
Prof. Konrad Moelle	- Newcastle University

Envirosciencess:

Mr Brian Howe
Ms Jane Gouldstone

NWCC/Oakbridge

Sean Egan	Michael Simes	Norm Gow
Lorraine Sturgeon	Robert Lenton	
Jonathan Römcke	Kevin Price	

Public:

Approx. 30

◆ INTRODUCTION

Mr Morris introduced himself to the meeting and declared the meeting open.

Mr Morris then handed proceedings over to Mr Sean Egan for his welcoming introduction.

◆ WELCOME

Sean Egan welcomed people to the meeting on behalf of NWCC. He explained that the public meeting had been called to discuss the company's proposal to extend underground workings of Ellalong Colliery to the Bellbird South area.

He advised that it is also the company's plan to establish an INFORMATION CENTRE, which will run out of the Ellalong Community Hall, probably around three days per week. This centre will display plans of the new mining area and a representative from the company will be available at the centre for any questions/explanations.

Sean explained to the meeting the reasons for moving to the Bellbird South area to mine, such as -

- Ellalong Colliery is a difficult mine to work as its workings are very deep.
- In 1994 things become considerably worse with a steep increase in CO₂. This necessitated a different method of mining to protect the workforce.
- This had a severe impact on the mine's viability - \$16M loss.
- Consequently the operations are being relocated.

Sean advised that Devex Limited own the lease where the company intends to mine. Development Approval is to be obtained and before that an Environmental Impact Statement needs to be established. This is essentially for the mine's continual operation. At the moment the mine employs 340 people - 80% of whom reside in the local area, therefore, the mine is important to both workforce and company.

Sean then introduced members of NWCC management who are involved in some way with the move to the new mining area to the meeting.

◆ **OUTLINE OF PROJECT - APPROVAL/CONSULTATION -
PROCESS - ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (M W Simes)**

Michael Simes, Manager Mining Services (NWCC) introduced personnel who were in attendance at the meeting who would be available to the meeting for answering questions/queries:

- Mr Brian Howe and Ms Jane Gouldstone of Envirosciences (firm preparing EIS for the company)
- Dr Renzo Tonin,
- Mr Greg Cole-Clark, Chief Executive Officer, and Mr Graham Hanson, also of MSB
- Professor Konrad Moeller, Newcastle University (expertise in geology structure with coalfields in NSW, in particular, and has also been responsible for researching investigation of the Newcastle earthquake).

● **BACKGROUND TO DA:**

- Mining problems in 1994 which caused a revamp of the mining plan.
- We are now developing the sublease area in Bellbird South. There was development approval given in June of last year to progress into the sublease area.
- We have continuous miners driving development roadways now. Longwall extraction is expected to start about October 1995.
- Residents in the Glennie Street area will be advised when we are about to commence longwall extraction.
- The EIS is for the remainder of the Bellbird South lease.

The application process and timetable that is ahead of us -

- There was a Planning Focus Meeting held on 8 February 1995 (where a presentation was made to Government and Statutory bodies who need to respond to the EIS).
- We have received some responses from these government/statutory bodies, however, some are yet to respond.
- Draft EIS is expected to be completed by April and go on public display in May or June 1995. There will be an opportunity for people to make written responses at this time.

Michael then displayed an overhead of the Location and Lease Plan.

He advised

- that the new application area is expected to take about 18-20 years to mine.
- The company's very long term plans include mining further to the East of the application area which will be subject to a further DA down the track.

● **BRIEF HISTORY:**

- Extraction commenced at Ellalong in 1983 in the northern part of the lease.
- 1983-93 - Longwalls 1 - 9 were extracted.
- 1993-94 - Longwalls 10, 11 and 12, were/are being extracted. This is the area where we struck CO₂.

Approvals:

Michael pointed out approvals previously obtained in relation to Pelton/Ellalong operation:

- 1988 - Southland Coal Pty Limited, who are the holders of the Bellbird Lease, proposed a new mine in the Bellbird area and at that time they held a planning focus meeting to present their plan. For various reasons that has not gone ahead.

Michael displayed overhead of Surface Features.

- The company's proposal is to extend existing mine operations from where we are now mining. Our existing surface facilities will be continued to be used. The fan at Ellalong No 1 shaft will continue to be used at least in the early years.
 - Cessnock No 1 or Kalingo shafts are in our long term plan and it is may be that these shafts are re-used or that new shafts will be sunk.
- Possible shaft sites were explained, ie the one close to Cessnock No 1 (this shaft is on company land). Also looking at possibly sinking a further shaft to assist in the ventilation of the new area. This shaft site is within a MPL which is an area set aside for mining use.

- 1995 - Longwall 12 & Longwall 12A between now and September to be extracted.
Longwall 13 - new area - latter part of this year and early next year.
Development commencing outside the sublease area sometime early in 1996.

Areas Undermined:

- Commenced longwall extraction underneath the township of Ellalong. Land undermined has been largely rural with some forestry land.

• **CONCEPTUAL MINE PLAN:**

Timing is based on the present scale of operation of the mine at around 2 Mt/a. Our current infrastructure is capable of 3 Mt/a and we are seeking to mine within the constraints of our infrastructure. We are therefore asking for development consent for 3 Mt/a production.

• **OVERALL PROPOSAL:**

- Longwall extraction in the southern area from middle to late 1995 and then up to Bellbird South area.
- Use of existing infrastructure, ie coal via Ellalong drift and overland conveyor to Pelton.
- Stockpiling, washing, rail loading at Pelton.
- Fans at No 1 Shaft at least for early years.
- Possibility of new shaft(s) and/or
- Re-use of Kalingo shafts in about 7 years time.

- **CONSULTATION**

We have been involved with water users' groups concerning Wollombi Catchment area as well as the Black Creek Salinity Committee. We have also had school groups visit our operations. This liaison was intended to keep interested groups and the community informed of our plans.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Michael advised the meeting that the company has moved forward in quite a big way in the last 3 - 4 years environmentally speaking. Prior to 1992 the company did not have a policy on the environment.

He informed people that the company has a real commitment to improving operations. As part of that process we conduct environmental audits (both internal & external) on our operations. Site committee meetings are held monthly with corporate meetings held four times per year. This commitment begins at Oakbridge Board level and flows right through to site level.

A full time environmental engineer is employed. A heavy focus, particularly on training and education of all our people is in place.

- **Environmental Issues:**

These are issues that are associated with the Development Approval itself. Major issues identified have been:

- subsidence
- vibration
- water management
- refuse emplacement

and to a lesser extent

- noise

Other areas addressed have been flora, fauna, etc.

1. Water Management

Our licence was changed from mid 1994. Prior to this date we had two discharge points, one at Eilalong Drift area where the dam is located and the other at the Pelton site. We now have one discharge point, ie on the Pelton site. Following changes a new water management plan was developed and in developing this plan the company had ongoing consultation with the Black Creek Committee. Parties involved in this committee are representatives from - Cessnock Council, Hunter Catchment Management Trust, EPA, DMR, DWR, Dept of Agriculture, HWC, Water Resources, HV Vineyard Association, water users representatives.

These bodies have been involved and kept informed of the water management plan. Detailed presentations were made to the Black Creek Committee and Cessnock Council.

The outcome of the plan is that in dry weather conditions there should be no requirement for us to discharge. We have not discharged from late June, July last year. We have something like 140 ML storage capacity at the moment. In wet weather conditions when we do have to discharge the plan is such that the quality should be acceptable to the Black Creek by changing our Pelton Dam into a fresh water dam and by the dilution effects of rainfall runoff.

The present plan should suffice for the early years in the extension area because we are now mining as close as we are going to mine to the flooded Cessnock No 1 workings for a number of years.

Various options are available in later years, ie

1. Dewater Cessnock 1
2. New shafts

We are in the process of gaining information from a person who was involved in the AGL project.

Options being considered for disposal of water from Cessnock No 1 are:

1. Land application.
2. Desalination
3. Reinjection of water into some of the underground workings.

2. Noise

Monitoring has been in compliance with our licence conditions.

We are monitoring every three months.

If the fans are relocated to Cessnock No 1 Envirosiences studies indicate a better situation.

3. Refuse Emplacement

This has also been found not to be a problem in the new area.

Emplacement area No 2 has been discarded because of noise which is close to the Pelton village.

We require DMR approval for the design of each emplacement area.

4. Other Issues - Flora/Fauna, etc

No problems are envisaged.

5. Socio-economic

We have 340 full time employees presently at Pelton/Eilalong, 80% of whom reside in the local area. Annual expenditure equates to \$80M.

To mine elsewhere is not possible in the short term.

6. Subsidence

We monitor at each of the areas where we extract. Depths of 325 to 520 m in the areas where the subsidence lines are -

Subsidence max.	1.16 m
Stress	1.0 mm/m
Tilts	4.0 mm/m

Predictions have been prepared for the new mining area by G E Holt & Associates as follows:

Depth of cover is -	400 - 600m
Subsidence	1.0 to 1.4 m
Strains	1.0 to 1.6mm/m
Tilts	3.0 to 6.5mm/m

In summary, it has been determined that the mine will have minimal impact in terms of subsidence and experience will be what we have experienced in the past.

◆ VIBRATION

Dr Renzo Tonin, Renzo Tonin & Associates addressed the meeting. He advised that he was involved in assessing claims from Ellalong residents from about September to November 1994. In all he advised he visited 20 homes and asked residents to point out vibration damage and I also analysed vibration data that was collected by the MSB and Ellalong Colliery.

He advised he had a Structural Engineer and Geotechnical Engineer to assist in his work. The Geotechnical Engineer took crack samples at many of the homes.

Mr Tonin advised he was asked by Envirosiences to look at vibration at the Bellbird South area to predict what might happen in regard to vibration. He was to assume that the vibration levels would be of the same order that has been experienced at Ellalong.

There is some evidence to state that the vibration could be lower or that there may be no vibration events at all. However, in my report I have reported vibration events could be expected as is now the case.

He informed the meeting what they may be asking themselves as individuals, ie -

- What is going to happen to me?
- How will vibrations affect me?

He advised he collected information of damage that he witnessed at Ellalong and charted the results.

- Difficulties ranging from cracks in plasterboard walls - 17 of the 20 houses had that particular difficulty.
- Cracks in ceilings and cornices - about 15 of the 20 homes visited had this difficulty.
- Cracks in cement paths and slabs
- About ½ of the houses I visited I saw cracks in masonry walls and dwarf walls.
- Tiles popping off - about 7 of the 20 homes were affected.
- Other difficulties found were -
 - Cracks in architraves
 - Cracks in chimneys and fireplaces
 - Cracks in water tanks
 - Cracks in roof tiles and
 - Misplaced ground pipes

Not all of these were due to vibration, but there is an indication of things you will notice in your

home.

- How can you know if the damage is caused by vibration?

Our experience at Eilalong, where we have people who have formulated a methodology which involves three key steps:

1. Determine level of vibration.
 2. Could the major vibration levels have caused this damage.
 3. If levels are not high enough explain damage.
- How can you know what vibration levels you have experienced at your home?

We monitor vibration levels at a number of points so that we can determine where the centre of the vibration comes from and thereafter determine the vibration levels at your house.

- How can you know what vibration levels produce damage?

We know this from studying many Australian and International standards. We have looked at these standards and we have selected the lowest number for damage assessment.

In summary, I think that we have the monitoring experience and methods to predict damage to homes from these events and I am sure that the MSB and Colliery do put these tools to good use.

◆ MINES SUBSIDENCE BOARD

Greg Cole-Clark, Chief Executive of the MSB spoke to the meeting.

He advised that it is important to point out that the Board is an independent State Government body. Our main role is to manage the scheme to assist people with damage that has occurred to their surface improvements as a result of mine subsidence; this includes houses, sheds, etc.

If there is genuine damage you are entitled to compensation. The MSB is there to look after that interest.

He advised that both himself and Mr Graham Hanson were quite happy to assist people with any questions, either throughout or after the meeting.

Mr Cole-Clark commended the colliery for holding public meetings and involving parties, whether they be government, local bodies or residents of their plans and intentions for mining in the future.

The MSB has a policy of doing pre-mining surveys. He advised that officers of the MSB go out to inspect properties prior to undermining to determine existing damage in the area. Monitors are installed to give the Board the best indication of where the vibration may be coming from.

The Board will continue to consult and pay consultants to provide more information on longwall mining and longwall subsidence levels.

He advised that the Board is there to listen to concerns and encouraged members of the meeting to use the services of the Board in this regard. Literature is available on mine subsidence, as well as brochures on how to go about making a claim in respect to mine subsidence.

The official presentation concluded at approximately 8.10pm and Mr Morris then advised the meeting that he felt the meeting had been very informative and invited people to ask questions.

◆ QUESTIONS

Q1.

John Jones -

What sort of filtration system is on the fans?

Answer:

Sean Egan replied -

There are no filters on the extraction fan at all. The air is circulated throughout the workings of the mine. There is a small percentage of dust which does not exhaust out but generally we have had no complaints.

John Jones -

Is there any way this air can be filtered?

Sean Egan -

We can look at this in respect of the dust. We can do some tests.

Q2.

Jim Muxlow - Poultry Farmer - Quorrobolong:

All poultry sheds are built exactly level. He advised that his shed is 408' in length. How can the mine prevent my sheds from falling? Will I be compensated if my water disappears from my dams due to subsidence?

Answer:

Michael Simes replied -

Our experience has been that we cause no problems to dams and likewise to creeks. We undermined Quorrobolong Creek for 10 years (1983-1993) with no problems. We can only quote our record as far as water situation is concerned.

In respect to the question in regard to Mr Muxlow's shed, Michael asked Greg Cole-Clark from the MSB to reply.

Greg Cole-Clark -

There is a couple of areas that we would have to look at.

He advised Mr Muxlow that in his case the Board would have to look at some mitigatory work. He advised Mr Muxlow that poultry sheds had been undermined down south with no problems.

The Board would have to assess this in some detail and make sure that it meets your needs, ie make sure we kept the shed level.

Michael Simes -

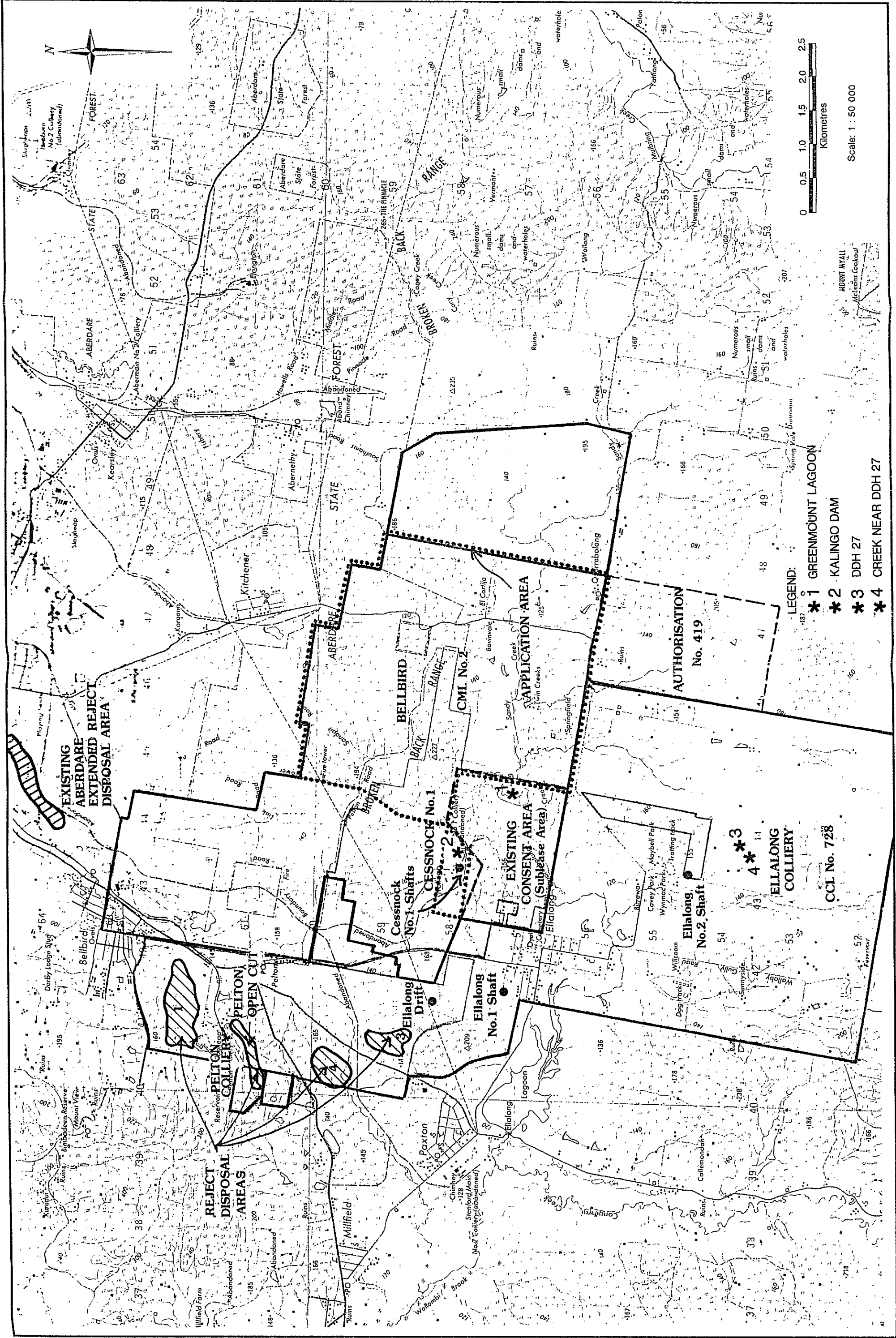
Prior to the company mining in that area we need to make an application to the DMR dealing with the issues of mining in a particular longwall block. If your shed is above where mining is intended, we would need to ensure that you were OK. One or two longwall blocks are approved at a time by the Department.

Jim Muxlow -

What about my resale prospects? Will this reduce value of our assets?

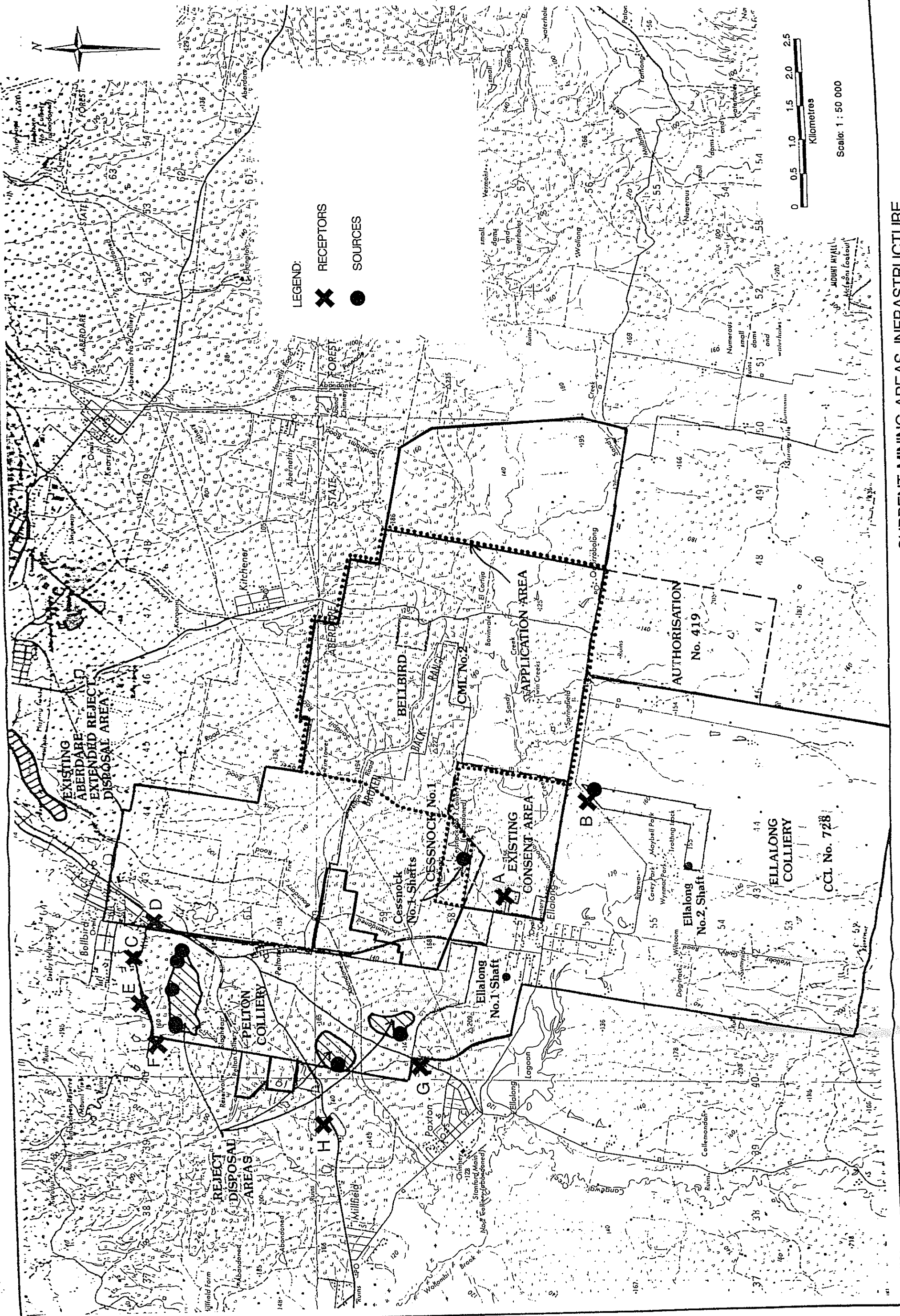
Greg Cole-Clark -

We will need to make sure that your interests are protected, that is mitigatory work would be done to make sure your shed remains level.



- LEGEND:
- * 1 GREENMOUNT LAGOON
 - * 2 KALINGO DAM
 - * 3 DDH 27
 - * 4 CREEK NEAR DDH 27

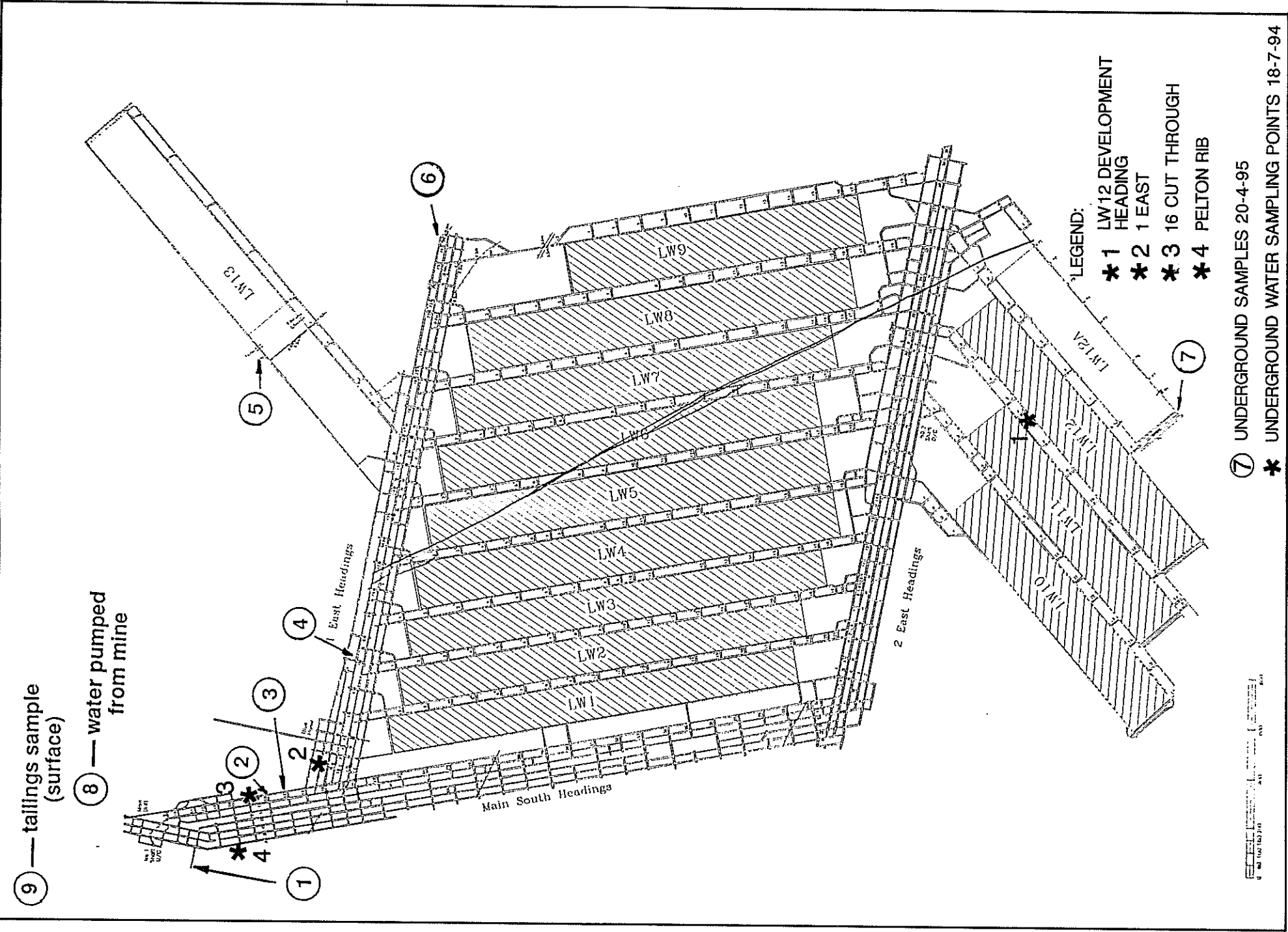




CURRENT MINING AREAS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPOSED MINING AREAS NOISE SOURCES AND RECEPTORS

FIG. 1





⑨ — tailings sample (surface)
 ⑧ — water pumped from mine

- LEGEND:
- * 1 LW12 DEVELOPMENT
 - * 2 LW12 HEADING
 - * 3 1 EAST
 - * 4 PELTON RIB

- ⑦ UNDERGROUND SAMPLES 20-4-95
- * UNDERGROUND WATER SAMPLING POINTS 18-7-94



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 PROJECT No. 1 F1210

UNDERGROUND
 WATER SAMPLING POINTS

FIG. 2

