13 January 2020

Georgia Dragicevic
Senior Compliance Officer
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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Also submitted on DPIE Planning Portal

Dear Georgia,

Tahmoor Coal Pty Ltd
Submission of Independent Environmental Audit Report

We refer to Tahmoor Coal's Development Consent DA67-98 and, specifically, Conditions 50 and 51 that require an Independent Environmental Audit submission.

An Independent Environmental Audit Report of the development has been completed by SLR Consulting and an electronic copy is enclosed with this covering letter for your file reference. Table 1 below outlines the recommendations from SLR Consulting and the associated comments / actions from Tahmoor Coal. Tahmoor Coal will manage the actions outlined within Table 1 and will report back to the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment on completion of each action.

The next Independent Environmental Audit is scheduled for September 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the above on 0438 284 106 or zina.ainsworth@simecgfg.com.

Yours sincerely,

Zina Ainsworth
Manager Environment and Community
Tahmoor Coal
SIMEC Mining

Table 1: SLR Consulting Recommendations with Comments from Tahmoor Coal

Ref	Description	Risk	Tahmoor Coal Comment/Action	Timing
Non-Compliance Recommendations				
DA67/98				
12	**NC REC 1 - Groundwater** Groundwater quality data need to be presented in the form of tables which list all monitored parameters and graphs to show the changes in water quality.	**Administrative**	All groundwater quality data will be presented in the 2020 Annual Review and Six Monthly Subsidence Impact Report.	2020 Annual Review: 31st March 2021 Six Monthly Subsidence Impact Report: 15 May 2021
13H(c)	**NC REC 2 - Groundwater** It is recommended that: - groundwater quality data is reported fully ie all parameters that are sampled and analysed need to be reported along with trends in time. - any non-compliance and exceedance of triggers should be followed up and documented along with management measures reported as per TARP in WMP, 2015 and WMP, 2019 - while no auditing is required for groundwater resources in WMP (2019), the auditing in line with LW W1-W2 Extraction Plan should be undertaken to ensure that the water quality of the creeks does not further deteriorate.	**Administrative**	All groundwater quality data will be presented in the 2020 Annual Review and Six Monthly Subsidence Impact Report. The next Six Monthly Subsidence Impact Report will also document the progress of actions / management measures (if required) from previous or current non-compliance or triggers in accordance with the LW W1-W2 Water Management Plan TARP. Monitoring of water quality of creeks is reviewed and discussed by the Tahmoor Coal Environmental Response Group on a monthly basis in light of the the TARPs, and further investigations are complete where deemed necessary.	2020 Annual Review: 31st March 2021 Six Monthly Subsidence Impact Report: 15 May 2021

Ref	Description	Risk	Tahmoor Coal Comment/Action	Timing
40	**NC REC 3 - Recommendations** Provide notifications to relevant landowners of any monitored exceedances. If investigations have shown that it is not attributable to Tahmoor operations, provide evidence to the landowner.	**Administrative**	In the event of a monitoring value exceedance, Tahmoor Coal will log the exceedance via the Cority compliance software, investigate the cause for the exceedance, and provide evidence to relevant landholders where necessary.	Ongoing as required
44, 46	**NC REC 4 - Management Plans** Review the AQGHGMP and NMP required by this consent. The management plans should be updated to: - list all relevant statutory conditions (including consents and EPL) along with where they are addressed in the report, including this Management Plans condition 44. - a review of baseline data since the commencement of monitoring under this consent - include the real time monitoring TARPs within the management plans and not as separate procedures - include protocols for incident and complaints management and notifications	**Administrative**	Tahmoor Coal will implement these changes in the next review in accordance with Condition 46 of DA 67/98.	13th April 2021
48	**NC REC 5 - Notifications** Update PIRMP notification procedure to include DPIE and NRAR. Review any additional agencies which may require notification of incidents.	**Administrative**	Tahmoor Coal will implement these changes in the next PIRMP review.	30th April 2021

Ref	Description	Risk	Tahmoor Coal Comment/Action	Timing
DA57/93				
41	**NC REC 6 - REA Management Plan** Include additional detail in Table 1 of the REA Management Plan to address where each specific requirement of the plan has been addressed, and if not provide justification.	**Non – Compliant (Low Risk)**	The REA Management Plan will be updated to include how it addresses specific requirements.	30th April 2021
41	**NC REC 7 - REA Management Plan** Include detailed design drawings of the REA and stormwater management system within the management plan. The site water management plan for example does not show the water management at the eastern side of the REA.	**Non – Compliant (Low Risk)**	Design drawings of the REA will be included in the REA Management Plan in the next review/update.	30th April 2021
41	**NC REC 8 - Topsoil/rehabilitation** Complete cover crop seeding of topsoil stockpile areas.	**Non – Compliant (Low Risk)**	Tahmoor Coal intends to relocate a section of topsoil stockpile from the central section to the eastern batter of the REA by approx. July 2021. This section was noted during the audit as requiring reseeding due to lack of sufficient ground cover. Once relocated, Tahmoor Coal will commence seeding of the topsoil stockpile areas.	30th September 2021
41	**NC REC 9 - Topsoil/rehabilitation** Reduce topsoil stockpile height to <3m and ensure stockpiles resulting from future disturbance be a maximum of be 3m high and be seeded with a temporary vegetation cover.	**Non – Compliant (Low Risk)**	Topsoil stockpiles will be reduced to less than 3m by approx. July 2021 in conjunction with the works to be completed under NC REC 8 (movement of topsoil stockpile). Once relocated, Tahmoor Coal will commence seeding of the topsoil stockpile areas.	30th September 2021

Ref	Description	Risk	Tahmoor Coal Comment/Action	Timing
41	**NC REC 10 - Rehabilitation** Ensure future contour drains and other water management structures at the Reject Emplacement Area are constructed in accordance with approved designs and complete erosion repairs/rock lining of existing contour drain.	**Non – Compliant (Low Risk)**	Tahmoor Coal will continue to implement rock drainage lines where needed throughout the REA, and repair as necessary.	Ongoing as required
EPL1389				
A3	**NC REC 11 - Water Treatment Plant** Continue investigations to commission the water treatment plant in consultation with the EPA.	**Non – Compliant (Low Risk)**	Tahmoor Coal is required, under EPL1389 (2/12/2020) Special Condition E1, to install and test the Pilot Plant by 31/10/2021, and commission the Final Plant prior to commencement of secondary coal extraction in the Tahmoor South area (currently scheduled for September 2022).	Pilot plant: 31st October 2021 Final Plant: ~ September 2022
L1	**NC REC 12 - Water/incident management** Ensure all follow up actions proposed in the incident report have been implemented and are documented in the Water Management Plan. Update the Water Management Plan to include details of the implemented measures and to document the TARP for water turbidity levels. Report the status of the follow up actions in the next annual review.	**Non-compliant (Medium Risk)**	Actions will be implemented and documented in the next revision of the Soil and Water Management Plan, with results reported in the 2020 Annual Review.	Update of Soil and Water Management Plan: 13 April 2021 2020 Annual Review: 31 March 2021

Ref	Description	Risk	Tahmoor Coal Comment/Action	Timing
Improvement Recommendations				
DA 57/93 C46	**Improvement REC 1 - Reporting** Include reference to the requirements of Condition 46 of DA 57/93 into future iterations of the MOP and include a table to show where these conditions have been addressed.	**NA**	Future versions of the MOP will include reference to Condition 46. Note that the current MOP will expire 2024, and Tahmoor South approval is currently being sought with the Independent Planning Commission.	16 June 2024, or following Tahmoor South approval.
DA 57/93 C46	**Improvement REC 2- Rehabilitation** Develop a formalised Rehabilitation Quality Assurance Process throughout the life of rehabilitation to include verification of activities and procedures and tracking of key data at each phase of rehabilitation (ie topsoil depth, amelioration, seed mix, weather conditions). It is recommended that GIS may be incorporated into the QA process to track phases of rehabilitation. This will assist in identifying differences in rehabilitation and determining factors for success and failure.	**NA**	Future rehabilitation activities will incorporate these rehabilitation recommendations. A Rehabilitation Quality Assurance Process will be detailed in an updated version of the Annual Rehablitation and Land Management Plan, and results will be included in subsequent Annual Review.	30th April 2021
DA 57/93 C46	**Improvement REC 3 - Rehabilitation** Prepare a topsoil inventory to understand volumes of material available for rehabilitation.	**NA**	Tahmoor Coal will complete a topsoil stocktake and initiate a topsoil inventory.	30th April 2021
DA 57/93 C46	**Improvement REC 4 - Rehabilitation** Consider climatic conditions in rehabilitation timings and planning and utilise water carts or similar to assist in watering in of tubestock in dry conditions."	**NA**	Climatic conditions will be considered during future rehabilitation activities and will be tracked as per Improvement REC 2.	30th April 2021

Ref	Description	Risk	Tahmoor Coal Comment/Action	Timing
EPL1389 L1	**Improvement REC 5 - Erosion/Water management** Install temporary erosion and sediment controls at the drain between M4 and LDP1 until vegetation establishment is complete.	**NA**	Tahmoor Coal will implement erosion and water management controls to prevent degradation.	30th April 2021
EPL1389 L1	**Improvement REC 6 - Erosion/Water management** Complete repairs to erosion and sediment controls and eroded batter adjacent to LDP1.	**NA**	Tahmoor Coal will implement erosion and water management controls to prevent degradation.	30th April 2021
ML1308 3(f); ML 1376 Variation (f); ML 1539 3(a)	**Improvement REC 7 - Reporting** Include comparison with completion criteria in the Annual Reviews and rehabilitation reports. Review and implement Resources Regulator rehabilitation reform reporting requirements as required.	**NA**	Tahmoor Coal will include comparison with completion criteria in the 2020 Annual Review and rehabilitation reports. The RR rehabilitation reforms will be implemented into this Annual Review as required.	31st March 2021
DA 67/98 C40	**Improvement REC 8 - Incident reporting** All exceedances should be documented in the incidents/compliance register along with any investigations. The incidents register should include note of whether or not the incident is "notifiable" and document notification if it has occurred.	**NA**	In the event of an exceedance Tahmoor Coal will log via the Cority compliance software and investigate as necessary.	Ongoing as required
NA	**Improvement REC 9 - Reporting** Include reporting on GHG in the annual reviews.	**NA**	A summary of GHG performance will be included in the 2020 Annual Review.	31st March 2021
NA	**Improvement REC 10 - ML 1376** Undertake further consultation with RR regarding status of mining lease application and obtain confirmation of expected date of approval.	**NA**	Tahmoor Coal will consult RR regarding status of mining lease.	30th April 2021

Ref	Description	Risk	Tahmoor Coal Comment/Action	Timing
NA	**Improvement REC 11 - Hydrocarbons** Clean up hydrocarbon staining around diesel storage and associated workshops	**NA**	The area of concern will undergo a thorough clean and relevant Tahmoor Coal personnel advised house keeping standards.	30th April 2021
NA	**Improvement REC 12 - Reporting** Include table showing actual daily results in discharge volumes against the approved volumes in Annual Review (as a table) as per the Annual Return (ie min, max and average). Reporting of volume should be in the same units as the limit (KL) rather than ML. Also recommended to update discharge figure in the Annual Reviews to show the discharge limit of 15500 KL/day.	**NA**	Tahmoor Coal will include comparison results and discharge figure in the 2020 Annual Review.	31st March 2021
NA	**Improvement REC 13 - Weed management** Some evidence of weeds was noted around the pit top, ventilation shaft and in rehabilitation areas. Additional weed management recommended.	**NA**	Tahmoor Coal will review weed management practices and implement changes at the site to prevent areas of weed growth as required.	30th April 2021
NA	**Improvement REC 14 - Safety** Vegetation has been cleared to facilitate rehabilitation works at Myrtle Creek in accordance with the CMAP. It is recommended to install safety bunting at the top of the creek embankment until vegetation is re-established.	**NA**	Currently a farm fence has been installed at the top of Myrtle Creek where vegetation has been cleared. Native vegetation has been planted where vegetation was removed, and a hinge joint fence will be attached to the farm fence until vegetation has grown.	30th April 2021
NA	**Improvement REC 15 - Water take** Review water take reported in 2017-2019 Annual Reviews. Provide justification for inconsistencies in the reported numbers.	**NA**	Tahmoor Coal will review the reported water take in previous Annual Reviews and justify in the 2020 Annual Review.	31st March 2021

Ref	Description	Risk	Tahmoor Coal Comment/Action	Timing
NA	**Improvement REC 16 - Subsidence** Due to the recent amendment to the 1961 Mine Subsidence Compensation Act in 2017, all claims and compensation for impacts after 1 January 2018 will be directed by SA NSW to the operating mine responsible. It would therefore be in the best interests of the mine to ensure all development that is approved by SA NSW is compatible with the predicted subsidence effects at Tahmoor.	**NA**	Tahmoor Coal is given with an opportunity to provide advice on new developments by SA NSW, however the implementation of this advice is at the discretion of SA NSW and other regulators. Tahmoor Coal will continue to provide advice on new developments based on future mine planning and potential subsidence effects.	Ongoing as required