

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Project	<p>The proposed Moolarben Coal project and associated infrastructure, which includes the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishment and operation of three open-cut coal mines & an underground coal mine, and associated infrastructure including a coal handling and preparation plant and rail facilities; • production of approximately 12 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal a year; and • rehabilitation of the site.
Site	Approximately 40km north-east of Mudgee and 25km east of Gulgong
Proponent	Moolarben Coal Pty Limited
Date of Issue	20 January 2006
Date of Expiration	20 January 2008
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be scientifically rigorous, and prepared in accordance with best practice; • be certified by the author; • include an executive summary; • describe all stages of the project in detail (including rehabilitation of the site); • describe the consultation that was carried out and the issues raised during this consultation; • include a general environmental risk analysis of the project; • focus on the specified Key Assessment Requirements, and in relation to them describe the existing environment, anticipated or potential impacts, and what measures would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset, manage and/or monitor these impacts; • include a draft Statement of Commitments; and • consider the benefits and impacts of the project (as a whole), and justify why it should be approved.
Key Assessment Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface and Groundwater – detailed project water balance and salinity budget, potential changes to the groundwater regime, stream and riparian impacts (particularly those associated with stream diversions and relocations), assessment of acid mine drainage risks, opportunities for nil water discharges; • Subsidence – impacts on surface streams; • Flora & Fauna – threatened species and endangered ecological communities, proposed native vegetation offsets; aquatic and groundwater dependent ecosystems, adjacent national park estate; • Noise, Blasting and Vibration – impacts on Ulan Village, rail transport noise; • Air Quality – dust impacts (particularly on Ulan Village), greenhouse gas emissions; • Roads, Traffic and Transport – in accordance with the attached comments from the RTA and the Mid-Western Regional Council; • Aboriginal and European Cultural Heritage; • Visual; • Soils and Land Capability; • Proposed Rehabilitation and Final Void Management – strategies, timing, proposed end uses, monitoring and completion criteria; • Mine Wastes – waste characterisation and emplacement; • Socio-economic – short and long term impacts on the local and regional community; and • Cumulative Impacts – potential cumulative impacts (particularly regarding groundwater, noise, dust and traffic) that may arise from the combined operation of the various open cut and underground elements of the project during the life of the mine, together with the Ulan Coal Mine and the proposed Wilpinjong Coal Mine.
References	<p>The Environmental Assessment must take into account appropriate State government technical and policy guidelines. While not exhaustive, guidelines which may be relevant to the project include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction</i> (Landcom); • <i>Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> (ANZECC); • <i>Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams</i> (Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation); • <i>Guidelines for Rehabilitation of Land for Agricultural End Use</i> (Department of Primary Industries); • <i>NSW State Rivers & Estuaries Policy</i>, the various <i>State Groundwater Policy</i> documents, and the relevant <i>Catchment Blueprint</i> (Department of Natural Resources); • <i>Guideline for Application for Subsidence Management Approvals</i> (Department of Primary Industries); • draft <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> and <i>Guidelines for Developments Adjoining Department of Environment Conservation Land</i> (Department of Environment and Conservation); • <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (Department of Natural Resources); • <i>Guidelines for Assessment of Aquatic Ecology in EIA</i> (Department of Planning); • <i>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings</i> (Department of Primary Industries); • draft <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (Department of Environment and Conservation); • <i>Assessing Heritage Significance</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting and Ground Vibration</i> (ANZECC); • <i>NSW Industrial Noise Policy</i>, <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i>, and the <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (Department of Environment and Conservation); • <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (Department of Environment and Conservation); • <i>Guide to Traffic Generating Development</i> and <i>Road Design Guide</i> (Road and Traffic Authority) and relevant Austroad standards; and • <i>Environmental Guidelines: Assessment and Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes</i> and <i>Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation</i> (Department of Environment and Conservation).
Consultation	During the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, you must consult with the relevant local and State government authorities, service providers, community groups, affected landowners and any affected Commonwealth government authorities.
Deemed refusal period	120 days