



Ms Carly McCormack
Environment and Community Superintendent
Locked Bag 806
CESSNOCK NSW 2325

Dear Ms McCormack

Subject: Variation to Longwalls B5 – B7

I refer to your letter of 4 July 2019, seeking the Secretary's approval to reduce the finishing ends of longwalls (LWs) B5 and B6 and to reduce both the finishing end and width of LW B7, compared to the approved longwall layout in the Extraction Plan (EP) dated 20 September 2019.

The Department understands that these reductions are necessary to minimise potential operational safety risks due to fault displacement within the seam.

There are a number of surface features located above the proposed shortened finishing ends of LWs B5 - B7 including a road, watercourses, houses and rural structures, powerlines and telecommunication cables, farm dams and Archaeological sites.

The Department has reviewed the predicted subsidence effects of the proposed variation. The Department has carefully considered the predicted impacts on the above surface features and considers that the subsidence impacts and environmental consequences would be similar or less than compared to the approved layout. The Department also considers the management and mitigation measures described in the approved EP remain appropriate.

Consequently, in accordance with condition 2A of DA29/95 for the Austar mine, the Secretary approves the proposed variations to LWs B5 - B7.

If you have any questions in relation to the above matters, please contact Melanie Hollis on 8217 2043.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Reed
Director
Resource Assessments

as the Secretary's nominee