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12 September 2018

Department of Environment and Science
Jeremy Wheeler
PO Box 3028
EMERALD QLD 4720

Attention: Jeremy Wheeler

Dear Jeremy,

RE: Middlemount Coal Mine Western Extension Project

DES Comments

Thank you for the comments on the Middlemount Coal Mine Western Extension Project Environmental Assessment Report. Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd (MCPL) has revised the relevant documentation in light of the Department of Environmental Science's comments. MCPL's responses to your comments are provided in Attachment A. Attachment B provides a memo from WRM Water and Environment (WRM) which explains some changes made to the Surface Water Assessment, provided in Appendix B of the Environmental Assessment Report.

Minor Changes to the Application Form

I refer to Shane Flints letter dated 25 July 2017, which requested an amendment of the Middlemount Coal Mine Environmental Authority (EA) (EPML00716913) on behalf of Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd (MCPL) in accordance with section 224 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) (EA Amendment Application).

I note that the amendment to the EA is sought to authorise the Western Extension of the Middlemount Coal Mine, to include continuation of the existing open cut to the north-west resulting in a four to five year increase in mine life.

In accordance with section 236 of the EP Act, MCPL hereby gives the Department notice of the following changes to the EA Amendment Application form:

- Page 1 – '*Resource Activity*' only should be checked;
- Page 3 – Please disregard the responses at Section 2. The EA Amendment Application is not for a prescribed ERA, and therefore Section 2 should not be completed;
- Page 8, item 2 – '*Background Information*' should include reference to the Middlemount Coal Mine Western Extension Section 226 Consideration Report dated July 2017, prepared by MCPL and attached to the EA Amendment Application;
- Page 15, item 8 – The box identifying supporting information being attached should be checked; and

- Page 17, item 11 – The box identifying supporting information being attached should be checked.

I would be grateful if the Department would confirm that the above changes are considered minor changes of the EA Amendment Application, for which the assessment of the EA Amendment Application does not stop under section 237(1) of the EP Act.

I enclose the prescribed fee of \$399 in respect of this notice.

It would be appreciated if the Department could please continue with the assessment of the EA Amendment Application and MCPL will arrange for public exhibition of the documentation.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned 0408 898 939.

Yours faithfully,



Leeanne Pattinson
Senior Environmental Advisor
Middlemount Coal