



MANNERING COLLIERY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX E **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION**

MANNERING COLLIERY CONTINUATION OF MINING

NEWSLETTER

Centennial Coal Company Limited (Centennial) currently operates the Mannering Colliery Underground Coal Mine (Mannering). Mannering is located approximately 40 kilometres (km) South of Newcastle. The surface infrastructure facilities, including administration, workshops and a coal crushing facility are located adjacent to Vales Point Power Station, 3 km South of the township of Mannering Park.

Mannering has been operating for over 45 years under existing use right provisions utilising various mining methods, firstly by the government owned company Powercoal and then by Centennial since 2002. At peak production the mine has produced over 1.7 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of coal. Mannering currently employs around 90 full time personnel and in the 2005-06 financial year produced over 492,000 tonnes of Run of Mine (ROM) coal that was transported via overland conveyor to the Vales Point Power Station for electricity generation.

The Project

Due to amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Mannering requires approval from the Department of Planning (DoP) for its surface facilities by August 2007 and to continue current mining operations beyond August 2010.

Mannering propose to continue mining coal from the Fassifern seam by bord and pillar mining methods producing up to 1.1 Mtpa of coal over a 10 year period. This form of mining is specifically designed to ensure no noticeable surface impact. The coal that is produced at Mannering will continue to be supplied to Vales Point Power Station via existing conveyors across Vales Point Power Station land. As part of this project Mannering's existing surface facilities and underground conveyor system will need to be included as part of the assessment. The plan overleaf presents the proposed 10 year conceptual mine plan for Mannering.

The Approval Process

Mannering propose to submit a Project Application under Part 3A of the EP&A Act to DoP in February 2007 (refer to Figure 1).

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to support this application. The EA is being prepared by Hansen Consulting and will include detailed environmental impact assessments from relevant specialists on (at least):

- Surface and Groundwater
- Noise and Air Quality
- Subsidence
- Socio-economics
- Traffic
- Stakeholder Consultation

The EA approval process for this project is outlined in Figure 1 below.

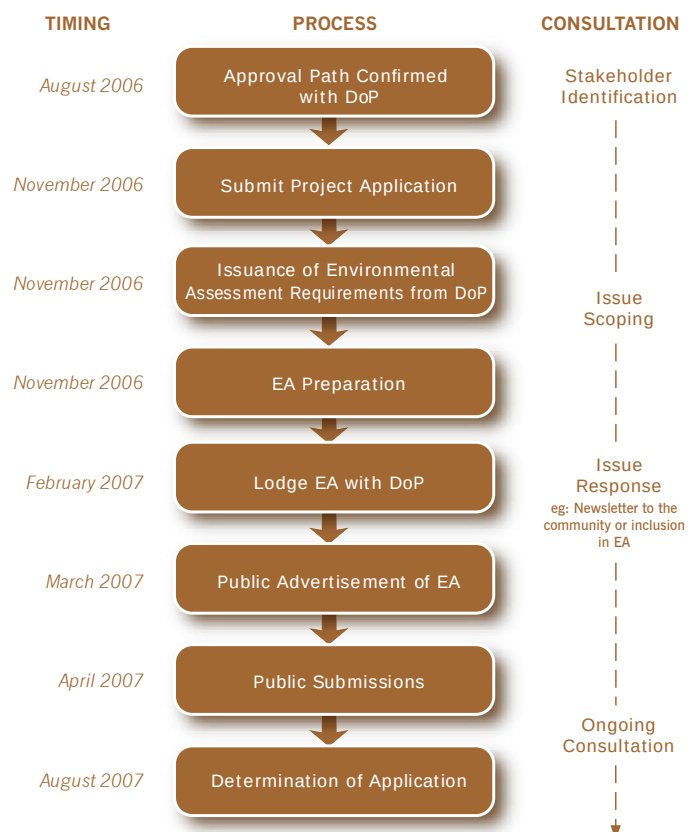


Figure 1 - Part 3A Approval Process



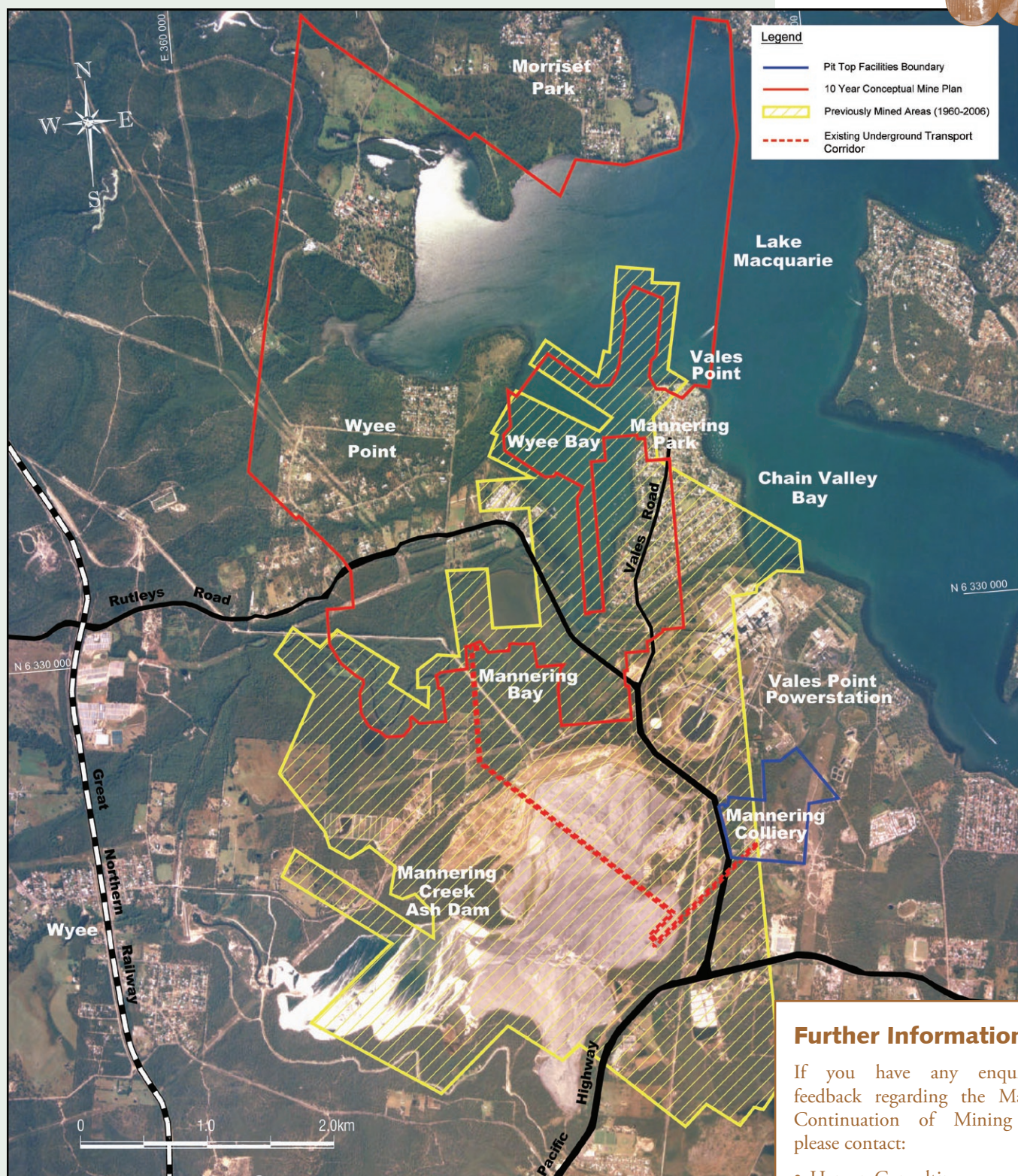


Figure 2 - Mannering Continuation of Mining

Community Consultation

Mannering are committed to striving for best practice environmental management while maintaining open, two-way communication with its neighbours and other stakeholders.

Preliminary consultation is being undertaken with various authorities in relation to the continuation of mining including: DoP, the Department of Primary Industries - Mineral Resources (DPI), Lake Macquarie City Council and Wyong Shire Council.

Hansen Consulting has been appointed by Mannering to conduct an independent Community Consultation program for inclusion in the EA. Community Consultation will take the form of regular newsletter updates to stakeholders and ongoing discussions with government.

The main purpose of the Community Consultation program is to ensure the community is well informed on the Project and to provide a two-way mechanism for communication between Mannering and its neighbours.

Further Information

If you have any enquiries or feedback regarding the Mannering Continuation of Mining Project please contact:

- Hansen Consulting;
Daniel Sullivan
Environmental Scientist
Hansen Consulting
PO Box 473 Singleton NSW 2330
Phone: 02 6575 2000
email: dsullivan@hansenconsulting.com.au
or

- Centennial Coal directly;
Paul Williams
Project Manager
Centennial Coal Company Limited
PO Box 1000 Toronto NSW 2283
Phone: 02 4358 0507
email: paul.williams@centennialcoal.com.au