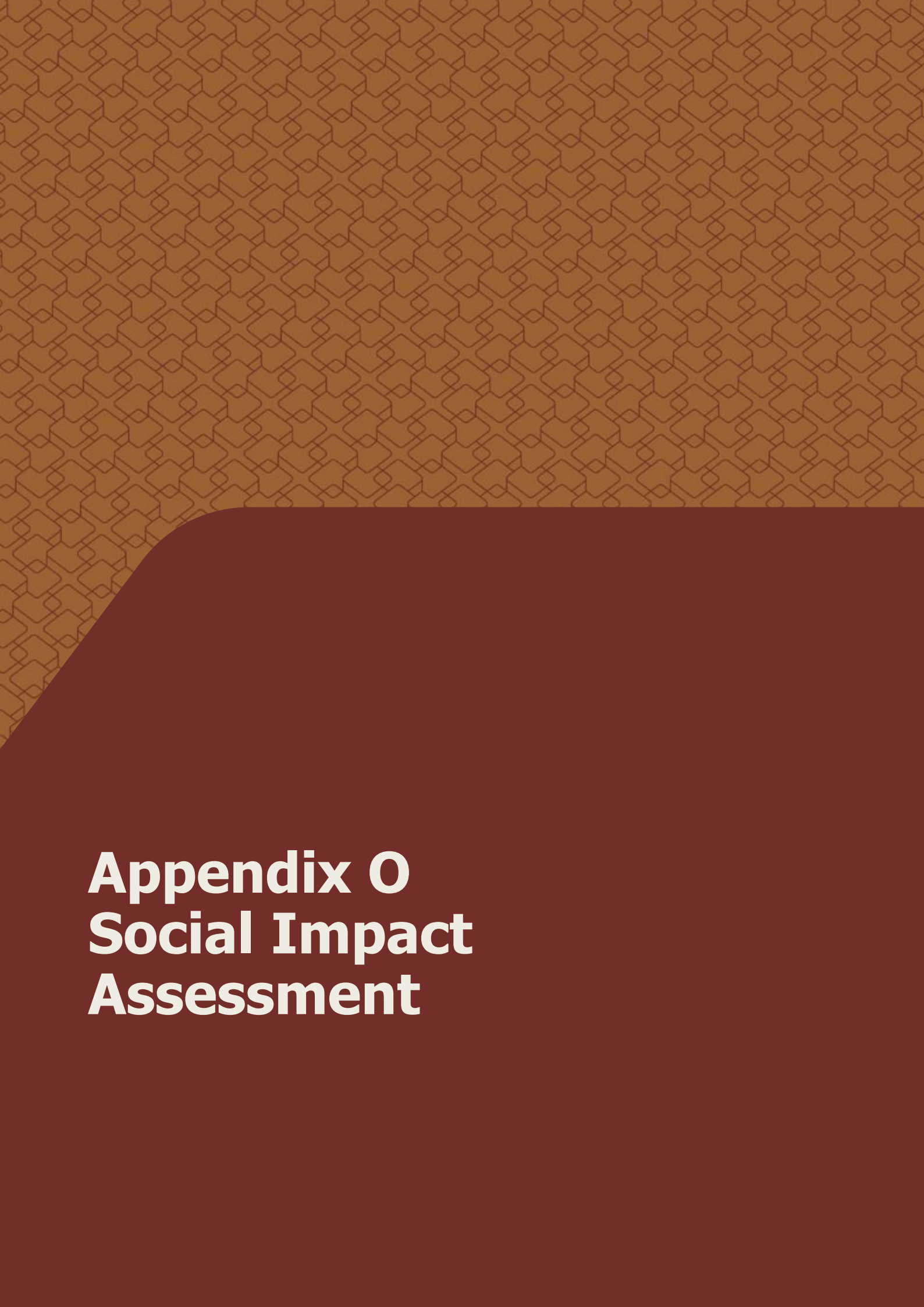




Appendix O

Social Impact Assessment



xenith

BOGGABRI COAL MINE MODIFICATION 10

**Social Impact Assessment
Boggabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd
May 2025**

Contents

1.	Introduction	3
1.1	Overview	3
1.2	Purpose and Scope	5
1.3	Assessment Requirements	5
1.4	Document Structure	5
2.	Modification Description	7
2.1	Modification Description	7
2.2	Key Modification Considerations for the SIA	9
3.	Existing Approved Operations	10
3.1	Boggabri Coal Mine Operations	10
3.2	Land Ownership	10
3.3	Workforce Arrangements	13
3.3.1	Operations Workforce	13
3.3.2	Workforce Residential Location	13
3.4	Workforce Training and Upskilling	14
3.5	Existing Community Consultative Committee Arrangements	14
3.6	Existing Social Impact Management Approach	15
3.6.1	Social Impact Management Plan	15
3.6.2	Other Approval Conditions	15
3.6.3	Existing Complaints Management	16
3.6.4	Contributions and Donations	17
3.6.5	Local Procurement	19
4.	SIA Methodology	21
4.1	Objectives	21
4.2	SIA Methodology	21
4.3	Assumptions and Limitations of SIA	23
4.4	Stakeholder Engagement	23
4.4.1	Purpose	23

4.4.2	Objectives	24
4.4.3	Stakeholder Identification and Engagement	24
4.4.4	Previous Modification 8 Assessment	24
5.	Social Baseline	26
5.1	Social Locality	26
5.1.1	Local Study Area	26
5.1.2	Regional Study Area	26
5.2	Policy and Planning Context	29
5.2.1	Regional Plan	29
5.2.2	Narrabri and Gunnedah Shire Council Plans and Strategies	32
5.3	Surrounding Land Use	34
5.3.1	Existing Zoning Land Use	34
5.3.2	Mining Development and Major Projects	35
5.3.3	Local and Regional Land Use Change	36
5.3.4	Built and Natural Features	37
5.3.5	First Nations Peoples of the Local Area	38
5.4	Statistical Geography and Data Sources	38
5.5	Population and Demography	38
5.6	Housing and Accommodation Profile	40
5.6.1	Short-Term Accommodation	43
5.6.2	Building Approvals	43
5.7	Employment and Industry	44
5.8	Health and Vulnerability	45
5.9	Social Infrastructure and Services	47
5.9.1	Community Programs and Investments	49
5.10	Emerging Regional Issues and Community Perceptions	49
6.	Social Impact Assessment	52
6.1	Stakeholder Engagement Findings	52
6.2	Workforce Survey	57
6.3	Scope of Impact Assessment	58
6.4	Approach to Management	59
6.5	Discussion of Social Impacts	60

6.5.1	Way of Life	60
6.5.2	Livelihoods	60
6.5.3	Accessibility	62
6.5.4	Community	62
6.5.5	Surroundings	63
6.5.6	Health and Wellbeing	66
6.5.7	Cultural	66
6.5.9	Cumulative	67
6.5.10	Consequences of MOD 10 Not Proceeding	67
6.6	Impact and Opportunities Assessment	68
6.7	Summary	88
7.	Monitoring and Reporting	89
8.	Conclusion	98
9.	References	100
10.	Abbreviations	104

Tables

Table 1	Residential Locality of BCOPL Employees and Contractors, 2024	13
Table 2	Breakdown of VPA Contributions (to end 2024)	18
Table 3	BCOPL Community Contributions 2012 - 2024	19
Table 4	BCOPL Local Spend 2013 – 2024	20
Table 5	SIA Approach and Methodology	22
Table 6	NENW Regional Plan Goals	29
Table 7	Narrabri and Gunnedah Council NENW Regional Plan Priorities	31
Table 8	Narrabri and Gunnedah Shire Council Plans and Strategies	32
Table 9	Key Socio-economic and Demographic Data in the Social Locality	39
Table 10	Key Family and Household Composition Data in the Social Locality	40
Table 11	Building Approvals – year ended 30 June	43
Table 12	Building Approvals Private Houses, 2021-2024	44
Table 13	Key Employment and Industry Data in the Social Locality	45

Table 14	Key Health and Vulnerability Data in the Social Locality	46
Table 15	Key Social Infrastructure and Services Data in the Social Locality	47
Table 16	Regional Issues and Community Perceptions	50
Table 17	Stakeholder Engagement Summary	52
Table 18	MOD 10 Engagement Summary	54
Table 19	Perceived Modification Benefits	56
Table 20	Perceived Modification Impacts	57
Table 21	Summary of Workforce Survey	57
Table 22	Defining Likelihood Levels of Social Impacts	68
Table 23	Dimensions of Social Impact Magnitude	68
Table 24	Defining Magnitude Levels for Social Impacts	69
Table 25	Social Impact Significance Matrix	69
Table 26	Social Impacts and Opportunities Assessment	70
Table 27	Monitoring and Mitigation Measures	90
Table A-1	Scoping Worksheet	107
Table B-1	Nearby Existing Operations and Approved Projects	109
Table B-2	Projects in the Development Approvals Process	111
Table B-3	Population Growth, 2011-2021	112
Table B-4	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population - 2011-2021	112
Table B-5	Population Projections, 2021-2041	112
Table B-6	Age and Gender Indicators, 2021	113
Table B-7	Population Mobility, 2016 – 2021	113
Table B-8	Household Composition, 2021	113
Table B-9	Family Composition, 2021	114
Table B-10	Housing Available for Sale, October 2024	116
Table B-11	Rental Housing Availability, October 2024	117
Table B-12	Median Rent, 2011-2021	117
Table B-13	Rented Dwellings by Selected Landlord Type, 2021	118
Table B-14	Dwelling Type, 2021	119
Table B-15	Implied Dwelling Projections, 2021-2041	119
Table B-16	Population Diversity and Vulnerability Indicators, 2021	122

Table B-17	Major Offences in Gunnedah and Narrabri LGAs, 2015-2024	123
Table B-18	SEIFA, 2021	124
Table B-19	ICSEA Rating Trend Data for Selected Schools	124
Table B-20	Median Weekly Income, 2021	126
Table B-21	Low Income Households, 2023	126
Table B-22	Welfare Dependant Families, 2023	126
Table B-23	Early Childhood Services in Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA	129
Table B-24	Services and Organisations in the Regional Study Area	130
Table D-1	Review Questions	

Figures

Figure 1	Regional Locality	4
Figure 2	Conceptual Modification Layout	8
Figure 3	Approved Operations	11
Figure 4	Land Ownership	12
Figure 5	Complaints Analysis 2011-2024	17
Figure 6	SIA Methodology	21
Figure 7	Social Locality	28
Figure 8	Stakeholder Consultation Issues Summary	55
Figure 9	Electronic Survey Issues Summary	56
Figure 10	Social Impact Categories	59
Figure B-1	Median House Prices (past 12 months)	114
Figure B-2	Median Unit Prices (past 12 months)	115
Figure B-3	Median Weekly Rent for Houses (past 12 months)	115
Figure B-4	Median Weekly Rent for Units (past 12 months)	116
Figure B-5	Housing Tenure, 2021	118
Figure B-6	Change in Labour Force Size, 2011-2024	120
Figure B-7	Unemployment Rate, 2011-2024	121
Figure B-8	Industry of Employment, 2021	122
Figure B-9	Regional High School Enrolments, 2008-2024	127
Figure B-10	Small Local School Enrolments, 2008-2024	128

Figure B-11	Workforce Residence Summary	131
Figure B-12	Workforce Age Summary	132
Figure B-13	Workforce Cultural Background Summary	132
Figure B-14	Narrabri Service Access Summary	133
Figure B-15	LGA Service Access Summary	133
Figure B-16	Respondent's Opinions on MOD 10	134

Appendices

Appendix A	Scoping Worksheet
Appendix B	Baseline Data
Appendix C	Curriculum Vitae
Appendix D	SIA Guideline Requirements Review

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Approved by	James Bailey	Manager		28/05/2025

Distributions				
Organisation	Attention	Hard copies	Electric copies	Actioned
BCOPL	Amanda OKane	0	1	FB

To be initialled and dated by the person who actions the issue of the documents.

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Any operating or capital cost estimation (as relevant) is current as at the date of estimation only. The estimation assessed herein may change significantly and unexpectedly over a relatively short period (including as a result of general market movements and factors specific to the particular mine, project or deposit). We do not accept responsibility or liability for losses arising from such subsequent changes in cost.

Report Declaration

This report has been prepared by Xenith Consulting Pty Ltd (Xenith), Senior Environmental and Social Scientist Fiona Bailey. Fiona holds a Bachelor of Science and has also completed additional studies in community engagement and social impact assessment. Fiona is a professional member of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc. (EIANZ) and the International Association and Public Participation (IAP2) scheme. Fiona has more than 25 years' professional experience, including 12 years with James Bailey and Associates (JBA). Fiona has provided community engagement, social impact assessment, environmental impact assessment and management services for a range of major projects in New South Wales (NSW). A copy of Fiona's curriculum vitae is provided in **Appendix C**.

The SIA component of the Modification Report contains all information relevant to the SIA for the Boggabri Coal Mine Modification 10 (MOD 10) to State Significant Development (SSD) 09_0182. The information provided is not of a false or misleading nature. Xenith was engaged by Idemitsu Australia Pty Ltd Pty (IA) as an independent assessor. Xenith has provided an impartial assessment of the anticipated social impacts of MOD 10. There are no known conflicts of interest.

The assessment was completed between June 2024 and March 2025. The consultation to inform the SIA was primarily undertaken by Boggabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd (BCOPL), with materials and survey proformas prepared and provided by Xenith. All data and information provided by BCOPL is assumed to be reliable and an accurate representation of the findings of consultation.

I, Fiona Bailey, confirm that the above statements and information given is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F Bailey", written over a light grey horizontal line.

Date:

26 May 2025

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

Boggabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd (BCOPL) operates the Boggabri Coal Mine (BCM) on behalf of Idemitsu Australia Pty Ltd (IA) and its joint venture partners (Chugoku Electric Power Australia Resources Pty Ltd and NS Boggabri Pty Limited). The BCM is an open cut mine located approximately 15 kilometres (km) north-east of the township of Boggabri in the North West Region of NSW, wholly within the Narrabri Local Government Area (LGA). BCM is within the Leard Mining Precinct, being located immediately adjacent to the Tarrawonga Coal Mine (TCM) to the south and Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) to the North. The regional locality of the BCM is shown in **Figure 1**.

Open cut mining at BCM commenced within the Leard State Forest in 2006 in accordance with DA36/88 which was originally granted in 1989. BCM currently operates in accordance with State Significant Development (SSD) 09_0182 which was originally granted under the former Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1997* (EP&A Act) on 18 July 2012. SSD 09_0182 has been modified on nine separate occasions to date. SSD 09_0182 permits the extraction of up to 8.6 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of Run of Mine (ROM) coal from site until 31 December 2036.

BCOPL are seeking a Modification (MOD 10) to SSD 09_0182 under Section 4.55(2) of the EP&A Act. MOD 10 seeks approval for the extension of mining operations towards the north-west beyond the currently approved Mine Disturbance Boundary, whilst remaining within the BCM Project Boundary.

1.2 Purpose and Scope

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has been prepared by Xenith on behalf of IA and will form part of the Modification Report. The SIA has considered:

- › The Social Locality of MOD 10;
- › Likely social impacts and opportunities, both positive and negative; and
- › Any other activities or projects that may combine to produce cumulative impacts.

The SIA has been prepared in consideration of the '*Social Impact Assessment Guideline*' (SIA Guideline) (Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), 2023b) and the associated '*Technical Supplement Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects*' (SIA Technical Supplement) (DPE, 2023c)

The SIA aims to inform government agencies and other stakeholders about the potential social impacts and benefits of MOD 10 and outlines the measures that will be implemented to manage, mitigate and offset incremental social impacts and enhance social benefits.

1.3 Assessment Requirements

MOD 10 is subject to the following NSW regulatory requirements and guidelines relating to the conduct of the SIA:

- › SSD 09_0182, which MOD 10 is seeking to vary by way of an application submitted under Section 4.55(2) of the EP&A Act; and
- › The SIA Guideline and SIA Technical Supplement, which outlines the approach for assessing the social impacts of SSD projects in NSW. The SIA Guideline also applies to applications to modify SSD projects where the social impacts associated with the proposed modification are new or different to those that were approved under the original development consent.

This SIA addresses the key requirements of the SIA Guideline taking into consideration the scale of MOD 10 (i.e. the incremental impacts beyond those already approved for BCM).

1.4 Document Structure

The SIA is structured as follows:

Section 1 – Introduction: provides an overview of MOD 10 and describes the purpose and scope of the SIA.

Section 2 – Modification Description: describes the approved BCM operations including interactions with other nearby mining operations in the Gunnedah and Narrabri Local Government Areas (LGAs), and describes the components of MOD 10 and characteristics relevant to the assessment of social impacts.

Section 3 – Existing Approved Operations: describes the existing BCM including the current operations, workforce arrangement, Community Consultative Committee (CCC) arrangements and the approach to social impact management and complaints.

Section 4 – SIA Methodology: describes the SIA objectives, methodology, and describes the approach to stakeholder engagement.

Section 5 – Social Baseline: defines the Social Locality and the policy and planning context. It describes the surrounding land use and features as well as summarising the key socio-economic characteristics of MOD 10 social locality.

Section 6 – Social Impact Assessment: discusses and presents the predicted social impacts and opportunities of MOD 10 and describes the measures to avoid, mitigate or manage the identified impacts.

Section 7 – Monitoring and Reporting: outlines management and mitigation measures used by BCOPL to monitor potential social impacts.

Section 8 – Conclusion.

Section 9 – References: provides a reference list for all documents used through this assessment report.

Section 10 – Abbreviations: summarises the abbreviations used throughout this assessment report.

2. Modification Description

This section provides a summary description of MOD 10 as relevant to the considerations of this SIA.

2.1 Modification Description

BCOPL is seeking a modification to SSD 09_0182 to facilitate the natural progression of mining operations at BCM towards the north-west beyond the currently approved Mine Disturbance Boundary. MOD 10 proposes the progression of mining operations into the Modification Mining Area which is situated wholly within the existing BCM Project Boundary, Coal Lease 368 (CL368) and Mining Lease 1883 (ML1883). The Modification Mining Area includes the area within the approved Mine Disturbance Boundary as well as an area to the north-west outside of the approved Mine Disturbance Boundary.

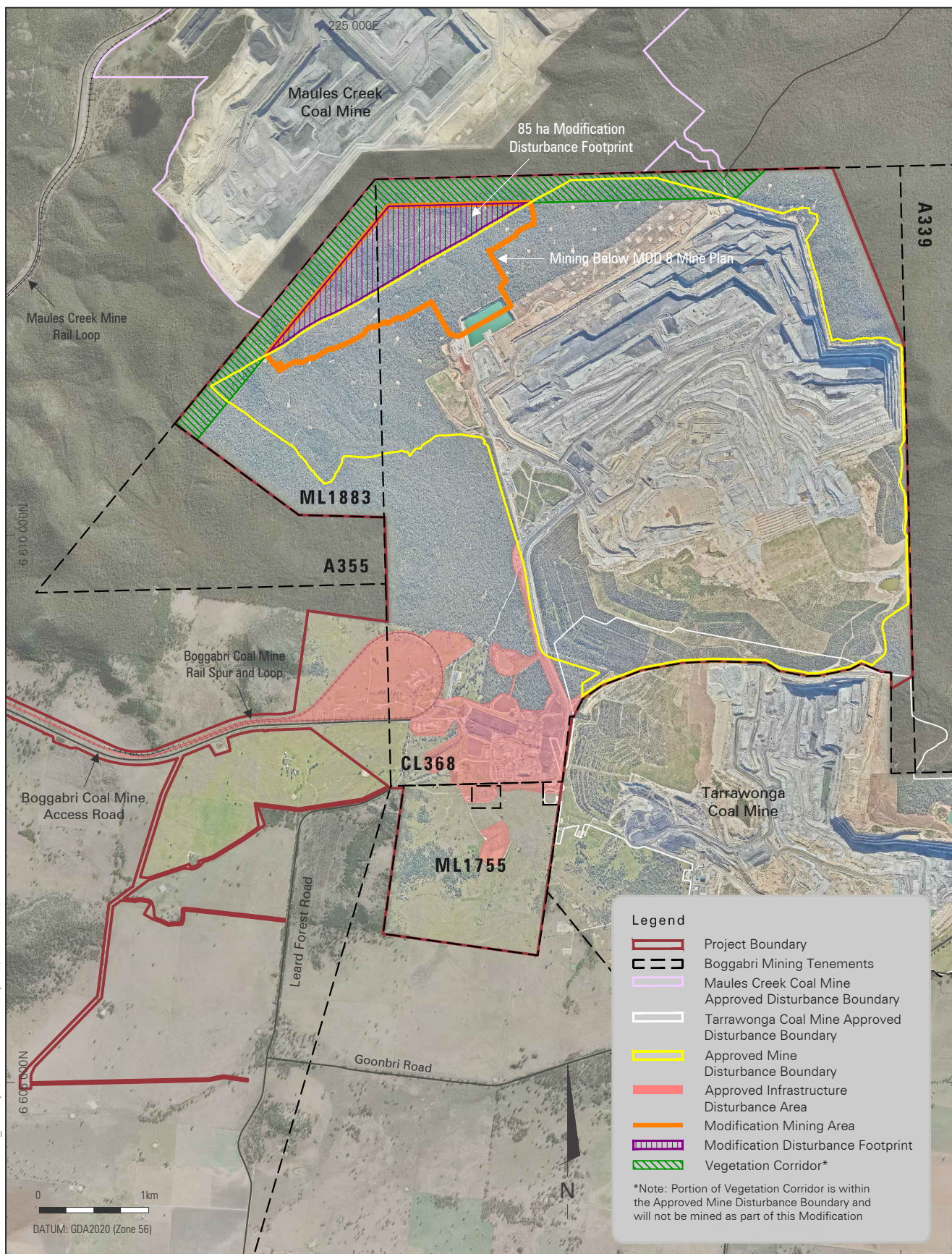
MOD 10 involves the following:

- › The continued recovery of coal down to the Templemore Coal Seam within the approved Mine Disturbance Boundary recovering up to 15.4 Million tonnes (Mt) (approximate) of additional ROM coal resource;
- › The progression of mining operations into the Modification Disturbance Footprint to enable the recovery of an additional 14.5 Mt ROM coal down to the Templemore Coal Seam;
- › Disturbance to an additional 85 ha of land within the Modification Disturbance Boundary which is located within the existing Project Boundary and beyond the approved Mine Disturbance Boundary. The existing Vegetation Corridor will be maintained as conditioned in SSD 09_0182;
- › Extension to the life of mining operations by four years until the end of 2040; and
- › Amendments to the Conceptual Final Landform design resulting from the additional mining proposed.

The conceptual layout of the MOD 10 components is illustrated in **Figure 2**.

There are no proposed changes to the current approved mining operations annual ROM coal extraction rate of up to 8.6 Mtpa. MOD 10 does not seek to change the approved method of coal extraction, or the approved rate of ROM coal processing and product railed from the BCM. MOD 10 does not seek to make changes to various aspects of the BCM including, operational hours, mining methods, mining related infrastructure, water management system, coal-handling, processing and transport methods, and rates and access to the mine site.

BCM is currently approved under SSD 09_0182 (as modified) for an average workforce of 740 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employees with a peak number of 876 FTE employees. As discussed in **Section 3.3**, BCM supported a peak workforce of approximately 805 personnel (including employees and contract workers) in 2024. The MOD 10 workforce is expected to have an average of 740 FTE with a peak workforce of 876 FTE, which is broadly equivalent to current average operations at BCM. The potential FTE workforce associated with MOD 10 is anticipated to fluctuate from time to time e.g., due to changes such as life of mine scheduling and mine planning. Any potential impacts arising from changes in FTE will be addressed in revisions to the mine's existing Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP).



BOGGABRI COAL MINE MODIFICATION

Conceptual Modification Layout

FIGURE 2

2.2 Key Modification Considerations for the SIA

Key considerations in the assessment of potential social impacts of MOD 10 include:

- › The extension of mining into the areas outside of the currently approved Mine Disturbance Boundary, however within the approved Project boundary;
- › The northerly extension of mining operations into the Modification Disturbance Footprint which will ultimately progress mine related impacts further away from the sensitive receivers and private landholders located to the south of the operation;
- › The extension of the mine life at BCM for an additional four years;
- › The locality of BCM being situated adjacent to TCM and MCCM. Accordingly, mining companies own all freehold land associated with and immediately surrounding BCM (detailed in **Section 3.2**);
- › Changes to existing operations. MOD 10 does not seek to alter operational hours, mining methods, mining related infrastructure, coal-handling, processing and transport methods, operational rates or access to the mine site; and
- › FTE employees. There are no changes proposed to the currently approved workforce at BCM.

3. Existing Approved Operations

This section provides an overview of the existing operations at BCM including a description of the workforce arrangement and the approaches to managing social impacts.

3.1 Boggabri Coal Mine Operations

A conceptual layout of the approved mining operations at BCM is provided in **Figure 3**. Mining operations at BCM occur on a 24 hour, 7 days a week basis using conventional truck, shovel and hydraulic excavator open cut mining methods to extract up to 8.6 Mtpa of product coal. Up to 4.2 Mtpa of ROM coal is approved for processing through the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP), with the ability for ROM coal to bypass the beneficiation process.

Coal is mined and processed on-site to produce an export quality steaming coal and other products suitable for metallurgical and pulverised coal injection applications. Up to 8.6 Mtpa of product coal may be transported via rail from BCM to the Port of Newcastle, where it is exported to overseas markets.

Whilst BCM is approved to receive, process, stockpile and load onto trains up to 3 Mtpa of coal from the neighbouring TCM, to date no commercial agreement has been reached with Whitehaven Coal (WHC) to enable this to occur.

3.2 Land Ownership

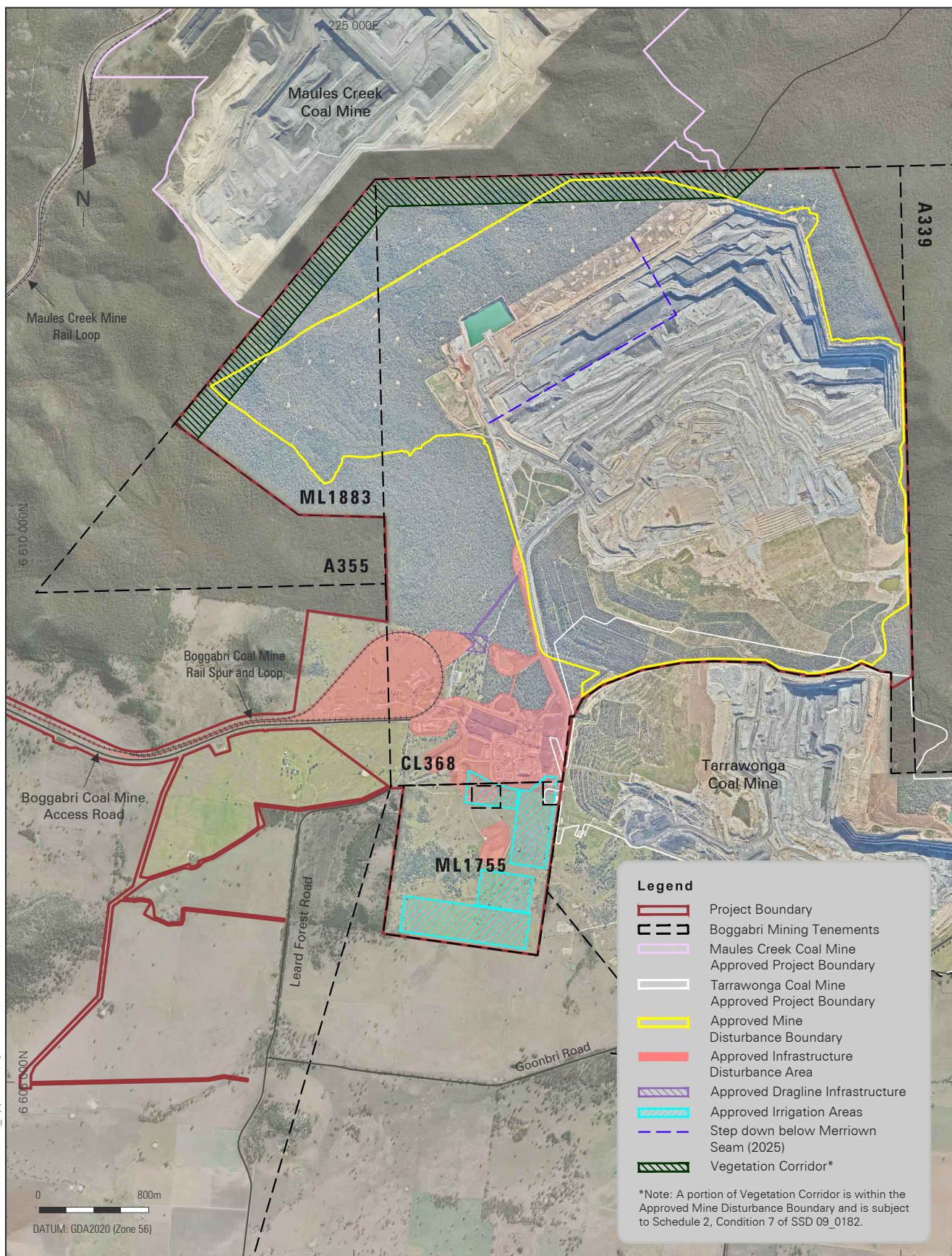
The land ownership within and surrounding the BCM is shown on **Figure 4**. Land ownership in the region largely includes private freehold, Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) owned land, Leard State Forest (Crown land), and mining industry owned land e.g., WHC, BCOPL and joint ownership. BCOPL has purchased a total of 34 properties since 2006. These properties include residential lots, agricultural holdings, closed roads and Crown land required for project use and infrastructure. No additional private property acquisition is proposed as part of MOD 10.

BCOPL owns the land on which the Mine Infrastructure Area (MIA), CHPP and rail loop and spur are located, apart from those parts of the rail spur which are located on land jointly owned with WHC and small parcels of Crown land and local roads. There are currently three private residences provided acquisition rights under BCM's approval (SSD 09_0182) within the Zone of Acquisition (ZOA).

WHC has significant landholdings to the north, west and south of the Leard State Forest. These landholdings are associated with MCCM and TCM. Due to the significant landholdings of BCOPL and WHC, there is a significant buffer from the BCM mining operations to the nearest private freehold land.

The mining operations associated with MOD 10 will generally be undertaken on Crown land (Leard State Forest) which is within the Project Boundary to the north west, however outside of the approved Mine Disturbance Boundary.

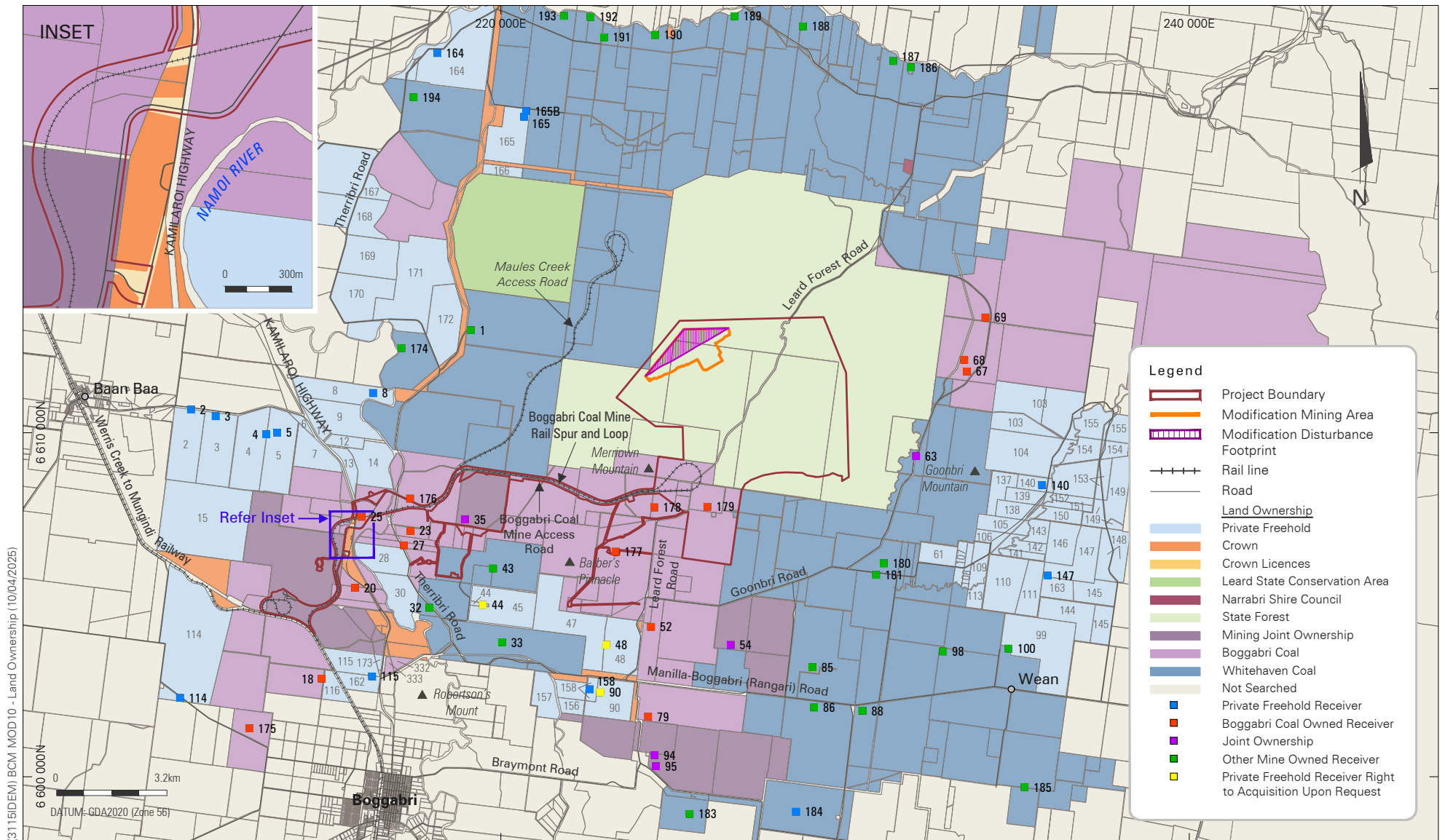
BCM also owns 10 Biodiversity Offset Areas (BOAs) as part of an existing Biodiversity Offset Strategy. These BOAs are managed to enhance their biodiversity value.



BOGGABRI COAL MINE MODIFICATION

Approved Operations

FIGURE 3



BOGGABRI COAL MINE MODIFICATION

Land Ownership

FIGURE 4



3.3 Workforce Arrangements

3.3.1 Operations Workforce

SSD 09_0182 allows for a peak operational workforce at BCM of 876 FTE employees including direct employees and mine contractors.

In 2024 BCM was staffed by 805 personnel including employees and contract workers (BCOPL, 2025). The largest share of the total workforce at BCM in 2024 was attributed to BCOPL employees, with the remaining employed through onsite contractors. During this time, the BCOPL team at BCM consisted of 586 employees who are employed full-time. The majority of the BCM workforce are permanent residents of the local and regional areas (**Table 1**).

The largest share of the total contractor workforce at BCM during 2024 was attributed to the mine contractor One Key Resources Ltd Pty (One Key). At the end of December 2024, the One Key workforce consisted of 128 personnel, predominantly contract personnel. The Orica workforce was made up of 47 personnel, Ausdrill workforce was 35 personnel, and the MPC workforce was 10.

Ninety five percent (95%) of the BCM contractors resided in NSW and 80% resided within the localities of Boggabri, Gunnedah, Curlewis, Narrabri, Manilla and Tamworth.

3.3.2 Workforce Residential Location

Table 1 presents a breakdown of the LGAs where the permanent BCOPL employees and the contractor workforce resides. BCOPL employees and contractors live within larger residential areas such as Gunnedah, Narrabri and Tamworth, as well as smaller towns and villages surrounding the larger towns including Boggabri, Manilla and Curlewis. The number of BCOPL employees living in the LGA's includes Gunnedah (244), Narrabri (110) and Tamworth (124).

Table 1 Residential Locality of BCOPL Employees and Contractors, 2024

Local Government Area	BCOPL Employee Residency	Contractor Residency
Narrabri	110	37
Gunnedah	244	80
Tamworth	124	59
Other NSW	97	33
Queensland	11	5
Other Australia	0	5
Total	586	219

Source: (BCOPL, 2025)

3.4 Workforce Training and Upskilling

BCOPL sources and conducts a wide variety of training (both internal and external) based upon the needs of the workforce and of the business. BCOPL currently provide training and upskilling programmes for all levels of personnel, including:

- › Health Safety Representative Course;
- › Frontline Leadership Program;
- › Certificate IV Training and Assessment and Assessor Training Program;
- › Emergency Response Team Training;
- › Fatigue Management Training;
- › Psycho-Social Hazard Training;
- › Trainee Program - New/Unskilled Operators;
- › Upskill and Optimisation Training Programs;
- › Skills and Competency Trainings - i.e., Confined Space/Working at Heights; and
- › Procedural and Information sessions and training.

BCOPL has confirmed its commitment to continue to provide quality training using both internal and external providers to ensure the workforce has the required skills and knowledge to keep personnel safe, and for them to have the appropriate skill sets to operate to the mine as effectively and efficiently as possible.

3.5 Existing Community Consultative Committee Arrangements

Schedule 5, Condition 7 of SSD 09_0182 requires BCOPL to operate a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for BCM to the satisfaction of the Secretary of DPE.

The BCM CCC was established in 2011 to provide a forum for ongoing communication between BCOPL, local communities and local government authorities. The BCM CCC meets quarterly to discuss issues directly relating to BCM's operations, including environmental performance and community relations.

Whilst its membership has varied over the years, the CCC is made up of active community members who live and work in Boggabri and the surrounding region as well as a Councillor from the Narrabri LGA. Members are approved by the State Government and represent a variety of interest groups, businesses and residents. The CCC has an independent chairperson and Secretary to facilitate the meetings. The BCM CCC meeting minutes are provided on the Idemitsu BCM website:

(<https://www.idemitsu.com.au/mining/operations/boggabri-coal/community/community-consultative-committee/>).

The BCM CCC minutes provide an overview of key BCM issues and how they are being managed. The BCM CCC minutes indicate that over the past 13 years, key concerns have shifted from a focus on construction to operations and largely relate to environmental issues. Most recent issues relate to the provision MOD 8 approval, water management and licensing, archaeology, waste management (e.g., tyres), carbon emissions, air quality and biodiversity. There have also been discussions over the proposed implementation of the Housing VPA strategy being developed in consultation with NSC, during recent CCC meetings.

BCOPL is also a member of the Boggabri - Tarrawonga - Maules Creek (BTM) CCC, which was established in 2013 to discuss cumulative impacts and management between the three mining projects. The focus of the BTM CCC is largely on environmental issues, such as cumulative air and noise emissions.

3.6 Existing Social Impact Management Approach

3.6.1 Social Impact Management Plan

The potential social impacts of the existing BCM operations are identified and adaptively managed principally through the BCM SIMP. The preparation and implementation of a SIMP for the BCM was a condition of approval in SSD 09_0182. The latest version of the BCM SIMP is the *Boggabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd SIMP, March 2024* (referred to as the 2023 SIMP) (BCOPL, 2024). The 2023 SIMP was provided to local councils and DPHI for comment prior to it being finalised in 2024.

The 2023 SIMP provides the framework for ensuring social impacts are identified and managed in accordance with the relevant conditions of approval for SSD 09_0182. The 2023 SIMP also incorporates processes to ensure that throughout the BCM lifecycle:

- › The effectiveness of management measures is monitored; and
- › Ineffective management measures are amended.

The 2023 SIMP forecasts the potential social impacts of the continued operation of BCM to 2025, sets performance goals in relation to these impact areas and proposes measures to manage these impacts. The following impact categories are considered in the 2023 SIMP:

- › Way of Life;
- › Community;
- › Access to and use of infrastructure, services and facilities;
- › Culture;
- › Health and Wellbeing;
- › Surroundings;
- › Personal and property rights; and
- › Fears and Aspirations.

3.6.2 Other Approval Conditions

In addition to the 2023 SIMP, and relevant to the management of potential social impacts, BCOPL is required to implement the following two conditions of approval for SSD 09_0182:

- › Environmental Performance Condition 73 and 74 of Schedule 3 of SSD 09_0182 related to farming communities; and
- › Commitment No. 30 of the Project Statement of Commitments (Appendix 5 of SSD 09_0182) referred to as the Boggabri Housing Commitment and Condition 75 of Schedule 3 of SSD 09_0182.

3.6.2.1 Farming Communities Conditions

The purpose of the farming communities' condition is to ensure that impacts to agricultural productivity are minimised and to mitigate the cumulative pressures on the farming community. BCOPL provides employment opportunities for the agriculture sector workforce in times of drought and other industry down turns. BCOPL also supports agricultural operations, predominantly cattle grazing, on land surrounding the BCM under private lease agreements with local landholders.

3.6.2.2 Boggabri Coal Housing Commitment

The Boggabri Coal Housing Commitment describes the actions to be taken by BCOPL to mitigate the cumulative pressure on housing availability and affordability in both Narrabri Local Government Area (LGA) and Gunnedah LGA. The Boggabri Coal Housing Commitment includes a to:

- › Construct a minimum of 10 dwellings in Boggabri, within a timeframe agreed by Council;
- › Construct a minimum of 20 dwellings in Narrabri, within a timeframe agreed by Council; and
- › Monitor the effect of increasing employment numbers at BCOPL on housing affordability and availability in the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs.

BCOPL reached an agreement with NSC to build nine dwellings (Units) at the Glentarkie Retirement Village in Boggabri to fulfill their commitment to build 10 dwellings in the township of Boggabri, as required under the Boggabri Housing Commitment. The Glentarkie Units provide accommodation for senior residents of Boggabri.

NSC formally advised that it is supportive of the utilisation of the nine dwelling requirements for Boggabri, detailed within the terms of the Project Approval. Draft plans for the Units were approved by NSC, and construction commenced in Q4 of 2024. Further consultation has been conducted with NSC Planners on Boggabri Coal Housing Commitments. Mid-year BCOPL plans to have discussions with NSC Councillors to develop a long-term strategy to fulfil the Housing Commitment.

In 2021, BCOPL commissioned a SQM Research report on the Narrabri, Gunnedah and Boggabri area. A further housing survey was conducted in late 2022. Analysis of the resulting data indicated changes within the Narrabri Shire housing market, particularly in Boggabri.

Through the Annual Review and SIMP review process, BCOPL remains informed of local housing market conditions and the potential impact of any changes in BCM workforce numbers.

During consultation with the Boggabri Community and subsequently NSC in 2018, the critical need for an Early Learning Facility (ELF) within Boggabri (Boggabri ELF) was identified to increase the attractiveness of Boggabri to young families. To this end, BCOPL sought the relevant approvals to develop an ELF within Boggabri. Construction of the ELF commenced in 2020 and was completed and officially opened in 2021.

3.6.3 Existing Complaints Management

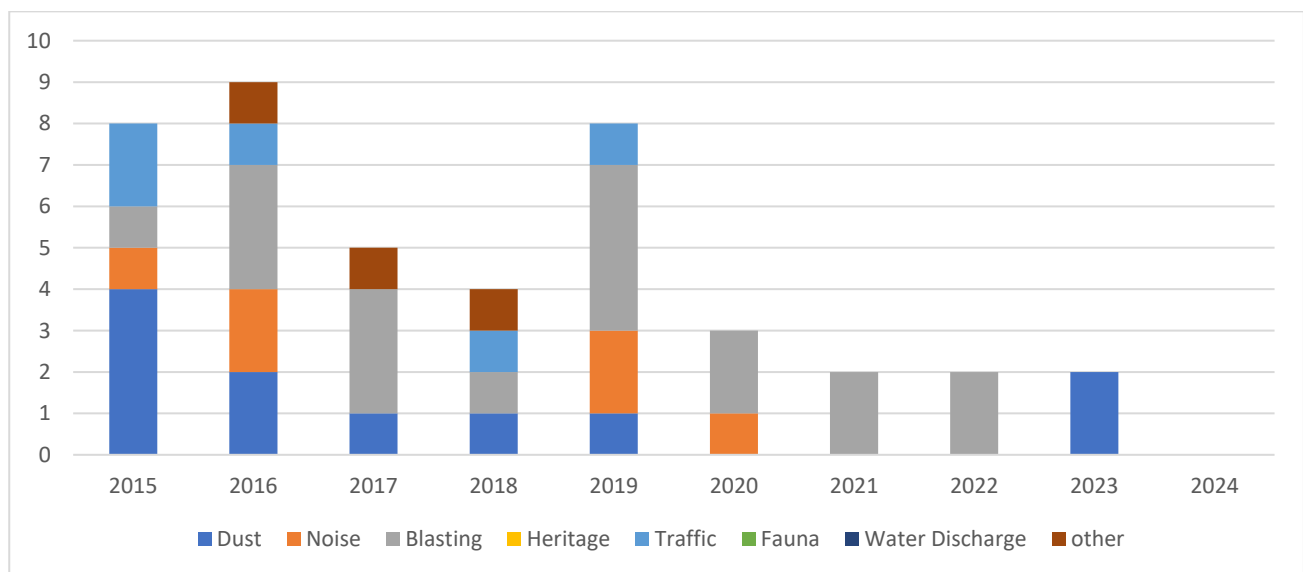
BCOPL has an established Complaints Management Procedure, with a dedicated complaints hotline (1800BOGGABRI (1800 264 422 74)). All complaints received are recorded in a company database for follow-up and are also tabled at BCM CCC meetings. As a minimum, BCOPL records the following information for each complaint:

- › Date the complaint was logged;
- › Personal details provided by the complainant;
- › Nature of the complaint;
- › Action taken regarding the complaint, or if no action was taken, the reason why; and
- › Follow-up contact with the complainant.

A review of the BCM Complaints Register (2011-2023) indicates that the complaints lodged since the start of construction in 2012 mirror the issues raised in the BCM CCC and the BTM CCC. Complaints have largely been associated with dust, noise due to traffic and construction activities, blasting (including vibration), and traffic (particularly regarding traffic safety).

Figure 5 presents an analysis of the complaints received by BCOPL between 2015 and 2024. Of the complaints received during operations, dust and blasting complaints are the most common. It is noted that no complaints were received during the 2024 calendar year. There were, however, two complaints received in both 2022 and 2023. These complaints were related to blasting and dust impacts. Analysis of the BCM Complaints Register indicates that social related complaints are primarily associated with amenity impacts.

Figure 5 Complaints Analysis 2011-2024



Source: (BCOPL, 2020a), (BCOPL, 2024a)

3.6.4 Contributions and Donations

3.6.4.1 Existing Voluntary Contribution Arrangements

In 2012, a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) was executed pursuant to the then section 93F of the EP&A Act, by DPIE (now DPHI), BCOPL and NSC. The VPA fulfills the Community Commitment (No.29) contained within the Consolidated Statement of Commitments, which is included within Appendix 5 of SSD 09_0182. To the end of 2024, \$15,341,888.89 has been provided through the VPA, (since its commencement in 2013) to fund projects in the Narrabri LGA (**Table 2**). Royalty payments have increased in parallel with the increase in operations at BCM i.e., increase in production. **Table 2** confirms contributions made to date by BCOPL. VPA spend in 2024 was \$702,210.53. Contributions will continue to be paid in accordance with the VPA.

Table 2 Breakdown of VPA Contributions (to end 2024)

Description	Amount Contributed	Date Contributed
Upgrade to Boggabri Caravan Park and Swimming Pool Complex	\$1,600,000	1 July 2013
Community contribution to the Boggabri Home and Community Care Centre applied to the purchase of its current premises and any upgrade of those premises	\$200,000	31 May 2013
Funds applied to the replacement of the bridge across the Namoi River (and other works) on Harparary Road	\$4,300,000	1 July 2014
Funds applied to the upgrade of the Narrabri Aquatic Centre to assist in it becoming a 365 day per year facility	\$2,500,000	1 July 2013
Funds applied to 'Environment' developments within proximity of the BCOPL Mining Precinct, as directed by the BCOPL CCC	\$100,000	1 July 2013
Royalties (2013 – 2024)	\$6,641,890	Paid since 1 March 2013
TOTAL	\$15,341,889	

Source: (BCOPL, 2024), (BCOPL, 2020a), (BCOPL, 2024a)

3.6.4.2 Community Contributions

In addition to the VPA, BCOPL has provided ongoing sponsorships and grants to a range of local community initiatives, groups and events such as:

- › Westpac Helicopter Partnership;
- › Gunnedah Show;
- › G S Kidd School – Shade Shelter;
- › Maules Creek Campdraft;
- › Narrabri Carp Muster;
- › Boggabri Rugby League;
- › Cancer Council NSW – Longest Day Donation;
- › Black “n” Blue Youth Centre;
- › Gunnedah South Public School – 2021 Xmas Raffle;
- › Gunnedah Ministers Fraternal – Carols in The Park; and
- › Dorothea Mackellar – Poetry Awards.

In 2024 community donations totalled \$281,708. **Table 3** lists the total annual BCOPL community contributions from 2012-2024.

Table 3 BCOPL Community Contributions 2012 - 2024

Year	Total Contributions
2012	\$98,876
2013	\$39,100
2014	\$52,000
2015	\$64,254
2016	\$80,441
2017	\$125,141
2018	\$130,510
2019	\$155,750
2020	\$107,987
2021	\$94,039
2022	\$115,444
2023	\$197,850
2024	\$281,708
TOTAL (2012-2024)	\$1,543,100

Source: (BCOPL, 2024), (BCOPL, 2020a), (BCOPL, 2024a), (BCOPL, 2025)

3.6.5 Local Procurement

During 2024 local spend in Gunnedah, Narrabri and Tamworth LGAs was \$53,989,535 (**Table 4**). Direct local spend encompasses engaging local trades to perform work on site and the use of local suppliers wherever possible. Local trades and suppliers benefiting from local spend include, but are not limited to:

- › Trades - Plumbers, fabricators, fitters, mechanics, auto electricians;
- › Smash repairers and garages;
- › Car dealers;
- › Pest control;
- › Earthmoving;
- › Water carrier services;
- › Printeries; and
- › Small shops.

Table 4 **BCOPL Local Spend 2013 – 2024**

Year	Total Local Spend (exc. GST)
2013	\$27,757,129
2014	\$23,580,672
2015	\$8,460,065
2016	\$12,704,399
2017	\$15,348,560
2018	\$20,426,923
2019	\$20,281,152
2020	\$20,165,770
2021	\$21,706,572
2022	\$38,660,656
2023	\$49,720,571
2024	\$53,989,535
TOTAL	\$263,081,433

Source: (BCOPL, 2024), (BCOPL, 2020a), (BCOPL, 2024a), (BCOPL, 2025)

4. SIA Methodology

This section presents a summary description of the SIA methodology including scope and approach to SIA consultation. A description of the consultation undertaken by BCOPL for MOD 10 is provided in the 2024 Modification Report.

4.1 Objectives

The objectives for the SIA are to:

- › Identify the social locality of MOD 10;
- › Conduct a stakeholder engagement process that informs the social baseline, the impact and opportunities assessment and the development of mitigation measures;
- › Develop a comprehensive baseline of social conditions in the social locality based on research, analysis and stakeholder engagement;
- › Identify potential direct, indirect and cumulative social impacts and opportunities of MOD 10 for the social locality;
- › Provide an assessment of the likely impacts and benefits, and their significance for each stage of MOD 10 (construction, operation and post-mining); and
- › Develop strategies to avoid and/or mitigate social impacts, and actions which would enhance social benefits.

4.2 SIA Methodology

Table 5 and **Figure 6** provides a summary of the SIA methodology against key phases in the SIA process and outlines the assessment and engagement mechanisms utilised during these phases.

Figure 6 SIA Methodology



Table 5 SIA Approach and Methodology

Methodology	Description of Activities	Reference
Phase 1 – Preparation		
Stakeholder Engagement Plan	› Initial stakeholder identification and analysis.	Modification Report Section 4.4
Phase 2 – Scoping		
Identification of Potential Impacts and Opportunities	› Review of 2023 SIMP for the BCM. › Review of BCOPL complaints register for BCM. › Review of BCOPL Annual Reports and CCC meeting minutes for BCM and BTM Complex CCC. › Preliminary analysis of potential social impacts.	Section 3 Figure 3 Appendix A
Phase 3 – Community Profiling of Social Locality		
Socio-Demographic Analysis	› Define social locality. › Review and analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data and other relevant social and community statistical data sets. › Identification of areas of community vulnerability through analysis of particular demographic indicators. › Review of socio-economic statistics relevant to the Indigenous community.	Section 5
Phase 4 – Identification and Assessment of Impacts and Opportunities		
Analysis of Impacts/Opportunities	› Stakeholder engagement. › Review and analysis of the findings of broader Modification Report and Amendment Report engagement. › Identification of potential social impacts and opportunities.	Section 6

Methodology	Description of Activities	Reference
Phase 5 – Identification of Management and Enhancement Strategies		
Social Impact Management	› Review of the management measures contained in the 2023 SIMP for relevance to the potential impacts and opportunities of MOD 10. › Where necessary, identification and development of additional strategies to address predicted impacts and enhance opportunities.	Section 6.4
Impact Significance Assessment	› Identification of potential social impact significance.	Section 6.5
Performance Monitoring	› Review of the 2023 SIMP monitoring program for relevance to MOD 10 and development of additional performance monitoring tools as necessary.	2023 SIMP Section 7

4.3 Assumptions and Limitations of SIA

The assessment, conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on data and information reviewed at the date of preparation of the SIA. All data provided by BCOPPL and/or contained within published reports and documents is assumed to be reliable and an accurate representation of information. No verification of this data was undertaken for the purpose of the SIA.

This SIA was prepared in accordance with the broader Modification assessment process. As such, the consultation process relied on engagement undertaken by BCOPPL in association with the preparation of the Modification Report as well as SIA specific engagement. It is assumed that the consultation undertaken by BCOPPL was undertaken ethically and voluntarily.

The SIA engagement process is limited by the willingness of community members and other stakeholders to participate. Community consultation survey forms were made available to the community through a number of mechanisms; however, feedback is limited to those who chose to complete the survey. Similarly, there may have been a reluctance or willingness for stakeholders to engage in discussions over MOD 10 and openly share their views. As such it must be recognised that the feedback may not be representative of the views of all stakeholders.

4.4 Stakeholder Engagement

4.4.1 Purpose

The purpose of the SIA consultation was to validate social baseline data, understand community values and aspirations, and inform an understanding of the different stakeholder perceptions of MOD 10.

4.4.2 Objectives

The key objectives of the SIA engagement program were to:

- › Maintain and enhance existing relationships between BCOPL and its stakeholders;
- › Validate social baseline information with key stakeholders;
- › Understand issues and concerns; and
- › Identify potential actions to manage social impacts and/or enhance opportunities.

4.4.3 Stakeholder Identification and Engagement

Key stakeholders were identified to determine stakeholder interest in MOD 10 and the extent to which each stakeholder may be capable of influencing Modification outcomes.

Stakeholder groups who participated in the SIA consultation program are as follows:

- › Local Government representatives e.g., Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) and Gunnedah Shire Council (GSC);
- › Peak community organisations;
- › CCC members;
- › Local and regional service and facility providers;
- › Business owners and operators; and
- › Local and regional community members.

SIA engagement for MOD 10 was undertaken in the period July 2024 – March 2025. SIA consultation included the distribution of a community newsletter(s) to key stakeholders and groups as well as six telephone and three in-person interviews/surveys. Various electronic survey proformas were also completed, including a workforce survey, with a total of 403 persons responding.

Engagement with the BCM Aboriginal Stakeholder Consultative Forum (ASCF) in relation to MOD 10 entailed a meeting hosted by BCOPL on 26 June 2024 and 26 March 2025. The primary purpose for this meeting was to provide an update on MOD 10 and outline the key modification parameters (i.e. an additional 85 ha (approximate) of disturbance and a corresponding additional 30 mt of ROM coal recovered). It was explained to the ASCF that MOD 10 will most likely be the last modification relating to the extension of the BCM open cut mine life. No issues or questions were raised during this meeting.

The findings of SIA engagement were supplemented by engagement undertaken by BCOPL and social baseline information presented in available literature. A range of engagement methods (i.e., interviews, telephone discussions and telephone surveys and information dissemination through newsletters) were utilised to gain an understanding of the social locality, as well as to inform the SIA. Consistent with the SIA Guideline, SIA consultation confirmed data, assumptions, findings and potential recommendations. SIA consultation provided insight into the social locality and allowed perceived impacts and benefits to be considered. It also proved to be useful for information dissemination e.g., providing stakeholders with a Modification briefing.

4.4.4 Previous Modification 8 Assessment

Modification 8 to SSD 09_0182 (MOD 8) received a total of 59 submissions following public exhibition. Of the 59 submissions, a total of 45 objected to MOD 8, ten of which were from the Narrabri, Gunnedah and Tamworth LGAs. The main issues identified in the MOD 8 submissions were largely related to climate change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Intergenerational Equity/ Sustainable development. Groundwater impacts were also raised as a key issue.

Social impacts and opportunities for MOD 8 (and the MOD 8 Amendment) were identified and assessed for the social locality. The majority of social impacts and opportunities were shown to accrue to nearby communities such as Boggabri and the broader Narrabri LGA. Such impacts identified largely related to employment opportunities, economic stimulus and community investment through voluntary contributions made by the BCM and the existing VPA. Stakeholder engagement occurred over a four week period in January 2021 where stakeholder input on social baseline characteristics, experienced impacts, and perceptions of potential social impacts and benefits were solicited.

Perceived benefits raised for MOD 8 were inclusive of the following:

- › Creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities within the surrounding LGAs;
- › Creation enhancement of supply arrangements for local businesses; and
- › Ongoing voluntary contributions from BCOPL to the surrounding local and regional study area.

Perceived impacts raised for MOD 8 were inclusive (but not limited) to the following:

- › Changes in property values for proximate landholders, due to adverse changes in residential amenity (i.e. noise and dust impacts);
- › Conflicts between industry sectors;
- › Impacts to groundwater quality and availability;
- › Impacts of construction on existing flora and fauna;
- › Increased demand for health services in the local area; and
- › Cumulative changes in amenity (i.e. visual, air quality and noise).

The social impacts and opportunities of MOD 8 are managed principally through the implementation of the 2020 BCM SIMP which has since been revised and updated. The revised 2023 BCM SIMP is currently with DPHI for approval.

5. Social Baseline

5.1 Social Locality

The Social Locality of BCM relates to the people which may be impacted (adversely or positively) by Project activities. The social locality has been defined based on an assessment of the communities likely to be impacted by MOD 10, the residential location of the existing BCM workforce and the geographic spread of community contributions and procurement spend made by BCM to date.

The social locality of the BCM extends along the Namoi Valley from Wee Waa in the north-west, to Narrabri Township, Baan Baa, Boggabri, and Gunnedah Township to the south of the mine. The Gunnedah Township is the main mining industry service centre for the Gunnedah Coal Basin.

The social locality is illustrated in **Figure 7** and has been defined by the geographic boundaries of the LGA's of Narrabri and Gunnedah. The social locality is made up of a local study area and regional study area.

5.1.1 Local Study Area

The local study area includes BCM and encompasses those neighbours who are at risk of experiencing impacts as a result of MOD 10. The local study area is defined by the boundary of the Boggabri State Suburb (Boggabri SS) and near neighbours.

Boggabri, the closest town to the BCM, is located approximately 15 km south-west of the BCM. In 2021, the town of Boggabri had a population of approximately 1,203 people and covers an area of 858.5 km² (ABS, 2021a). Boggabri is a small rural township that was historically grazing area. The Boggabri SS features a heritage-listed railway station established in 1882 that originally serviced the surrounding region.

The history and character of Boggabri remains largely that of a small rural community, despite the influence of the mining industry over the past few decades. Further information on the Boggabri SS, including services and facilities is provided in the following sections.

5.1.2 Regional Study Area

BCM is located wholly within the Narrabri LGA. BCM is in close proximity to the Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA administrative boundaries. The Gunnedah Township is the main mining industry service centre of the Gunnedah Coal Basin. The regional study area is therefore defined as the combined area of the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs.

The Narrabri LGA and the Gunnedah LGA form part of the larger New England North West (NENW) Region, which is defined by the boundaries of the NENW Statistical Area Level 4 (NENW SA4). The economic benefits of MOD 10 are likely to accrue to the regional study area and beyond to other areas in the NENW Region. The NENW SA4 is considered in this SIA for comparative purposes only and does not form a part of the social locality.

These areas are further described in the below sections.

5.1.2.1 Narrabri LGA

In 2021, Narrabri LGA comprised an area of 13,015 km² and a population of approximately 12,703 people (a decrease from 13,084 in 2016) (ABS, 2021c) and (ABS, 2021). A recent report indicates that the current population of the Narrabri LGA is 12,692 (National Emergency Management Agency, 2024). The Namoi Valley within Narrabri LGA consists of a small population of 61 people (ABS, 2021c), and produces some of the world's highest quality wheat, cotton, lamb and beef. Over time, land use in the Narrabri LGA has diversified from grazing and crop cultivation to cotton production, coal mining and coal seam gas production. Narrabri has a strong and growing economy centred on agricultural production, agribusiness and mineral resource production and includes several research institutions (DPIE, 2021c).

The town of Narrabri is the key regional centre for the Narrabri LGA and is located approximately 45 km north west from the BCM. The Narrabri Township, settled during the 1860s, provides district level services to nearby centres of Boggabri and Wee Waa and smaller settlements in the LGA including Pilliga, Gwabegar, Baan Baa and Bellata.

The main transport connections through Narrabri are the Newell Highway and the Kamilaroi Highway. The Narrabri Airport is also a large transportation hub for the area. Narrabri is also a major centre for the Inland Rail and Northern NSW Inland Port.

5.1.2.2 Gunnedah LGA

In 2021, the Gunnedah LGA had a population of 12,929 people (ABS, 2021b) and comprised an area of 4,987 km². Major land uses in the Gunnedah LGA include urban settlement and agriculture (a combination of cropping, grazing and livestock breeding) as well as mineral resource production. It contains the high yield deposits of the Gunnedah Coal Basin, the State's third largest coal reserves and 12% of NSW's resources. The area also has significant potential for coal seam gas, with deposits covering over 3.4 million hectares (DPIE, 2021c).

The main transport connections through Gunnedah LGA are the Kamilaroi Highway, the Oxley Highway, the Werris Creek to Mungindi Railway Line and a small airport.

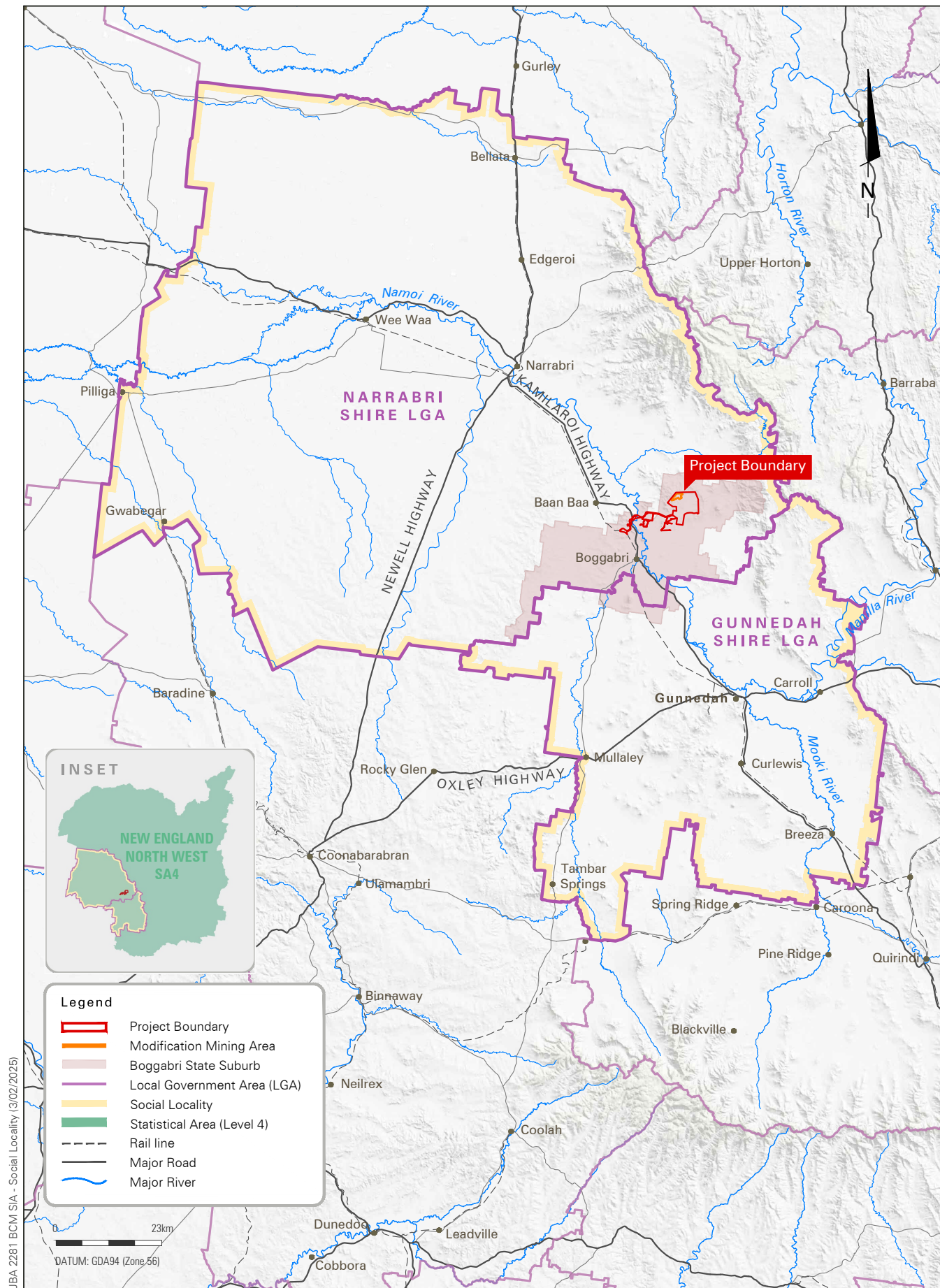
The Gunnedah Township is the regional centre for the Gunnedah LGA and is located approximately 40 km south from BCM. The town provides district level services. Supporting villages included Breeza, Carroll, Curlewis, Emerald Hill, Kelvin, Mullaley and Tambar Springs.

The Gunnedah Township was established in the 1850's to support the development of the wheat industry, and later, the construction of a railway that opened in 1879. Coal mining began in the area in the 1880's, however significant population and housing development did not occur until the 1950's and 1960's, responding to the growth of Australia's wool industry.

5.1.2.3 New England North West Region

The Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs are located within the south-west area of the NENW Region, for which the closest regional city is Tamworth. The NENW Region has a diverse economy and grows up to a fifth of NSW's agricultural produce and is home to 16% of all farm businesses in NSW (DPIE, 2021c).

The NENW Region includes the LGAs of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Uralla, and Walcha. In 2021, the NENW Region had a population of 185,560 people and covered an area of 99,139.9 km² (ABS, 2021d).



BOGGABRI COAL MINE MODIFICATION

Social Locality

FIGURE 7

5.2 Policy and Planning Context

This section describes the planning context relevant to MOD 10 with reference to regional and local strategic and corporate planning guidance.

5.2.1 Regional Plan

The BCM is located in the New England North West (NENW) Region of NSW. Development across the NENW Region is guided by the provisions of the '*New England North West Regional Plan 2041*' (Regional Plan) (DPE, 2024). The Regional Plan encompasses the LGAs of Armidale, Glen Innes, Severn, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Uralla, and Walcha. The Regional Plan provides an overarching framework to guide the NSW Government's land use planning priorities and decisions over a 20 year period. The vision for the NENW Region is articulated in five regionally focused goals, as presented in **Table 6**.

Table 6 NENW Regional Plan Goals

NENW Region – Goals	Objectives
Growth, change and opportunity	Objective 1: Coordinate land use planning for future growth, community need and regional economic development
Productive and innovative	Objective 2: Protect the viability and integrity of rural land Objective 3: Expand agribusiness and food processing sectors Objective 4: Responsibly manage mineral resources Objective 5: Enhance the diversity and strength of Central Business Districts and town centres Objective 6: Coordinate the supply of well-located employment land Objective 7: Support a diverse visitor economy
Sustainable and resilient	Objective 8: Adapt to climate change and natural hazards and increase climate resilience Objective 9: Lead renewable energy technology and investment Objective 10: Support a circular economy Objective 11: Sustainably manage and conserve water resources Objective 12: Protect regional biodiversity and areas of High Environmental Value
Housing and place	Objective 13: Provide well located housing options to meet demand Objective 14: Provide more affordable and low cost housing Objective 15: Understand, respect and integrate Aboriginal culture and heritage Objective 16: Support the aspirations of Aboriginal people and communities in local planning Objective 17: Celebrate local character Objective 18: Public spaces and green infrastructure support connected, inclusive and healthy communities

NENW Region – Goals	Objectives
Connected and accessible. Encourage attractive and thriving communities	Objective 19: Leverage new and upgraded infrastructure Objective 20: Improve state and regional freight connectivity Objective 21: Improve active and public transport networks Objective 22: Utilise emerging transport technology

The proposed Modification is consistent with and/ or contributes to objectives within the Regional Plan as follows:

- › BCM promote opportunities for employment, business development and quality of life;
- › BCM provides employment and procurement opportunities and benefits, whilst also committing to local spend. BCM encourages a strong regional economy. BCM further employ a locally based workforce which supports population stability contributing to community strength;
- › The potential environmental impacts of BCM are minimised through Modification design, compliance with regulatory requirements and through the implementation of a number of environmental management plans, including water resources, aboriginal cultural heritage and biodiversity;
- › Biodiversity offset areas are established to minimise impacts to biodiversity;
- › BCM VPA and community investments by BCOP support the development of thriving communities;
- › Through the delivery of the Boggabri ELF, the fulfilment of the Boggabri Housing Commitment and investments facilitated by the BCM VPA and BCOP community sponsorships and donations, the BCM supports improvements in social infrastructure across the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs.
- › BCOP is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and meeting emissions reduction targets through the approval and subsequent construction of the Merriown Solar Farm. The Merriown Solar Farm is comprised of a 6.5 Megawatt peak (MWp) / 4.95 Megawatt alternating current (MWAC) solar photovoltaic (PV) facility located approximately 1.5 km west of the BCM. The installation of the Merriown Solar Farm will result in the reduction of BCM's Scope 2 carbon emissions (from electricity consumed) by approximately 39% per annum compared to the business-as-usual scenario and contribute to reaching Idemitsu Kosan's 46% emissions reduction targets for operations (Scope 1 and Scope 2) by 2030 (against 2013 levels); and
- › Extraction of additional coal whilst minimising environmental and social impacts so that the benefits far outweigh the impacts.

The Council's priorities for the Narrabri Shire LGA and Gunnedah Shire LGA, as described in the Regional Plan are outlined in **Table 7**. The priorities for the Gunnedah and Narrabri LGAs that are relevant to the socio-economic context of the SIA include:

- › Deliver a variety of housing options and promote development that contributes to the unique character of the region;
- › A focus on the development of employment lands (i.e. land defined as '*areas zoned for industrial or similar purposes in planning instruments*') and new industry opportunities;
- › Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism places; and
- › Diversification of the energy and agricultural sectors including upskilling workers.

Table 7 Narrabri and Gunnedah Council NENW Regional Plan Priorities

Council	NENW Regional Plan 2041 Priorities
Narrabri Shire LGA	› Deliver a variety of housing options in Narrabri to support the SAP and promote development that contributes to the unique character of Wee Waa, Pilliga, Bellata, Gwabegar, Baan Baa and Boggabri; › Support economic diversification across the agricultural, health and education sectors through upskilling existing workers, retaining existing talent and removing barriers to training; › Encourage diversification and value-add in agriculture and agribusiness, and the emerging horticulture sector, and harness domestic and international opportunities; › Coordinate investment components and ancillary services for the SAP; › Implement place-based planning principles to build more liveable communities for residents; › Continue to develop access and logistics infrastructure on appropriate sites to encourage new industry opportunities; › Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism places; › Identify and promote solar, gas and other renewable energy opportunities, utilising the opportunities of the SAP; › Support the sustainable and effective management of water resources to enable drought-proofing; and › Investigate opportunities to leverage benefits from the gas industry.
Gunnedah Shire LGA	› Prepare a housing strategy; › Deliver a variety of housing options, including adaptable and affordable housing, in Gunnedah and promote development that contributes to the unique character of Breeza, Carroll, Curlewis, Emerald Hill, Kelvin, Mullaley and Tambar Springs; › Foster the growth of knowledge-based, education and health-related industries and related activity around Gunnedah District Hospital and Gunnedah TAFE Campus; › Support the development of employment lands, through the preparation of an Employment Lands Strategy and an Economic Development Strategy; › Encourage diversification in agriculture, horticulture and agribusiness to grow these sectors and harness domestic and international opportunities; › Continue to develop logistics, freight and transport infrastructure, such as the Gunnedah Airport, to encourage new industry opportunities throughout the region and within the Namoi Regional Job Precinct; › Work with Aboriginal communities to expand nature-based and cultural tourism places and enhance visitor experiences; › Promote the development of appropriately located wind, solar and other renewable energy technologies including bio-waste opportunities; › Retain biodiversity through protecting the existing koala population, biobanking and increasing tree canopy coverage; and › Implement place-based planning principles to build more liveable communities for resident.

5.2.2 Narrabri and Gunnedah Shire Council Plans and Strategies

Development in the LGAs of Narrabri and Gunnedah are controlled by the provisions of the relevant Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), including Strategic Plans. LEPs specify the planning and land use management aims for public and private land through zoning in accordance with the EP&A Act. BCM is located within the Narrabri LGA and the development is subject to the land use zoning provisions of the *Narrabri Local Environmental Plan 2012* (Narrabri LEP). Land to the south of BCM within the Social Locality, is located within the Gunnedah LGA. Therefore, the zoning provisions of the *Gunnedah Local Environmental Plan 2012* (Gunnedah LEP) are also considered within this section. Land use zonings relevant to BCM are discussed in **Section 5.3.1**

Table 8 summarises the objectives and desired outcomes of the Narrabri LEP, Gunnedah LEP and Strategic Plans.

Table 8 Narrabri and Gunnedah Shire Council Plans and Strategies

Plan / Strategy	Summary
Narrabri LEP (2012) ¹	The aims of the Narrabri LEP include: › Orderly management, development and conservation of natural, mineral, agricultural and heritage resources; › Diversity of settlement and living options; and › Diversity of business enterprise and employment options.
Narrabri Community Strategic Plan (2022/2032) ²	Narrabri Shire Councils (NSC's) vision is to develop as a strong and vibrant regional growth centre, including: › A safe, healthy, resilient, strong and connected community achieved through goals including: ▪ Enhanced health and wellbeing services and programs; ▪ Development and maintenance of quality community spaces and facilities; ▪ Revitalised township programs and increased public amenity etc. › A protected and enhanced natural environment, an integrated and strategic built environment, and a resilient and sustainable environment achieved through goals including: ▪ Protection and enhancement of the Shire's natural bushland, open spaces and national parks; ▪ Protection of Aboriginal and non-Indigenous heritage whilst educating the broader community on its significance; ▪ Mitigation of impacts of adverse events through strategic planning and preparedness. › A diverse, regionally renowned and sustainable economy achieved through goals such as: ▪ Supporting local employment opportunities; ▪ Attracting and supporting opportunities for investment and value-add industries within the Shire; and ▪ Supporting the resilience, growth, and diversity of the local economy whilst achieving economic sustainability through supporting local business.

Plan / Strategy	Summary
	› Council as a strong leader for the community achieved through goals including: ▪ Operations are pre-planned and executed in the best interests of the community; ▪ Ensuring transparent and accountable decision making for the community whilst engaging with the community regarding decision making; ▪ Ensuring policies and procedures are effectively implemented in accordance with legislative requirements and best practice principles; and ▪ Providing a safe and healthy working environment.
Gunnedah LEP (2012) ³	The aims of the Gunnedah LEP include to: › To protect and promote the use and development of land for arts and cultural activity, including music and other performance arts; › To conserve and enhance local ecological integrity, environmental heritage and environmental significance; › To promote local economic wellbeing in a socially and environmentally responsible way; › To encourage the proper management of productive agricultural land, avoiding fragmentation; › To provide opportunities for a range of new housing and housing choice; › To facilitate the provision and co-ordination of community services and facilities; › To seek the provision of adequate and appropriate infrastructure to meet the needs of future development; › To provide direction and guidance in the management of growth and development; › To conserve the cultural and environmental heritage of Gunnedah; and › To allow development in a way that minimises risks due to environmental hazards.
Gunnedah Community Strategic Plan (2017 – 2027) ⁴	The strategic plan is based on a vision for a prosperous, caring and proud community which includes: › Welcoming and supporting one another, working in partnership; › Embracing and preserving heritage, natural resources and social fabric; and › Enjoying access to services and facilities in Gunnedah and Tamworth while valuing the tranquillity, safety beauty and friendliness of a rural community.

Plan / Strategy	Summary
Draft Narrabri Place Strategy 2024 ⁵	The Draft Narrabri Place Strategy 2024 seeks to provide a framework for accommodating growth and identifying new economic and social opportunities to support the community of Narrabri. The draft strategy aims to facilitate the rezoning of land in Narrabri for new homes, facilities, infrastructure and services to identify opportunities to support the existing township. It has been developed to attract new economic growth and investment that stimulates population growth and new housing opportunities whilst further providing for new opportunities for business investment, driving long-term positive economic and social development outcomes for the Narrabri community. The vision of the draft Narrabri Place Strategy seeks to achieve the following: › Strengthen the relationship with Country and water in Narrabri; › Retain the Narrabri Town Centre as the heart of Narrabri, unlock greater economic growth for the region and allow for the expansion of residential and employment land to support population and economic growth; and › Development in Narrabri will leverage off existing road and rail infrastructure and the Northern NSW Inland Port.

Sources:

1. (NSW Government, 2012a)
2. (NSC, 2019)
3. (NSW Government, 2012b)
4. (GSC, 2022)
5. (DPHI, 2024)

5.3 Surrounding Land Use

5.3.1 Existing Zoning Land Use

Narrabri LEP land use zonings within and adjoining the BCM include:

- › RU3 – Forestry (and covers the area of the BCM mining areas within the Leard State Forest);
- › RU1 – Primary Production; and
- › E1 – National Parks and Nature Reserves.

Land ownership within and surrounding the BCM is shown in **Figure 4**. The BCM is located within the Leard State Forest, which is Crown land managed by the Forestry Corporation of NSW. BCOPL owns the parcels of the land on which the Mine Infrastructure Area (MIA) and Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) are located.

WHC has significant landholdings to the north, west and south of BCM and the Leard State Forest. These landholdings are associated with Maules Creek Mine and Tarrawonga Mine. Due to the extensive landholdings of BCOPL and WHC, there is a significant buffer from the BCM mining operations to the nearest private freehold land.

There are currently three private residences provided acquisition rights under SSD 09_0182. These include location property identification (ID) 44, 48 and 90. All other residences previously with acquisition rights under SSD 09_0182 are either owned by BCOPL, WHC or jointly owned between BCOPL and WHC.

Surrounding land uses largely includes the following:

- › State forest which includes commercial forestry activities (Pilliga East, Leard, and Jacks Creek State Forests);
- › Rural land under the ownership of BCOPL which is used for rural enterprises including cropping and grazing;
- › Open-cut mining operations – MCCM adjoins the north-eastern boundary of the BCM. TCM adjoins the southern boundary of the BCM (Figure 1);
- › Underground mining operations – WHC's Narrabri Underground Mine is located approximately 25 km north-west of the BCM (Figure 1);
- › Biodiversity conservation (Leard State Conservation Area and Mount Kaputar National Park) (Figure 1); and
- › Traditional agriculture (cropping and grazing) on privately held freehold land.

Narrabri LGA has a unique mix of rural land uses includes agriculture, mining, gas, rural industries, research, tourism, rural living, forestry, environmental management and nature parks, as well as having unique environmental and cultural assets (NSC, 2024).

5.3.2 Mining Development and Major Projects

Gunnedah LGA and Narrabri LGA consists of significant landholdings for resource extraction, predominantly in thermal and coking coal via open cut and underground extraction methods. The coal mining industry has expanded in both LGAs over several decades. BCM is one of several resource developments in the regional study area (see **Figure 1**). WHC has significant landholdings within the regional study area, operating seven open cut mines and one large underground mine, including TCM, MCCM, the Vickery Coal Project, Werris Creek Mine, Sunnyside Mine (undergoing rehabilitation), Rocglen Mine (undergoing rehabilitation) and the Narrabri Underground Mine. WHC also own the former Gunnedah Colliery. The Bloomfield Group also has landholdings, the former Preston Colliery near Curlewis in the regional study area.

Existing mining operations, approved projects and currently proposed projects located in the vicinity of BCM are summarised in **Appendix B** and illustrated in **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**.

In 2020, both the Narrabri Gas Project and the Vickery Extension Project received Project Approval. Both projects are located within the regional study area and are in proximity to the BCM.

Over the 25-year mine life, the Vickery Extension Project proposes to operate with up to 500 FTE operational personnel (Whitehaven Coal, 2020). As of July 2024, Vickery had a workforce of 142 people including 103 operators (Whitehaven Coal, 2024a).

During the 2023 reporting period, activities at Vickery included vegetation clearance for the Mine Infrastructure Area (MIA) and Water Management Infrastructure, followed by the commencement of mining activities, which began in October 2023 (Whitehaven Coal, 2024b). Vickery are currently advertising for Maintenance Technicians, a Mine Planning Superintendent and MC Driver roles via the WHC website (Whitehaven Coal, 2025).

The Narrabri Gas Project is anticipated to operate at a peak of 1,300 FTE employees during the construction phase, later sustaining approximately 200 FTE employees through operations and the creation of further indirect job opportunities. The average direct and indirect employment anticipated over the over the 25-year period is 512 FTE employees (GHD, 2020). The initial stages of the project have commenced (Phase 1), including the development of appraisal wells, which are already delivering gas to the Wilga Park Power Station (Santos, 2025).

The cumulative impacts of approved projects are considered in **Section 6.5.9**.

5.3.3 Local and Regional Land Use Change

At the time of the granting of SSD 09_0182, the dominant land uses within areas proximate to the BCM were:

- › Mining;
- › Residential;
- › Agriculture and primary production – primarily cropping activities; and
- › Forestry – within the State Forests.

A review of land use zoning maps from the Narrabri LEP in comparison to historical Google Earth imagery has previously been conducted to identify significant changes in land use zoning proximate to the BCM (**Section 5.2.2**). These reviews did not identify any material changes to land use zonings proximate to BCM since the introduction of the Narrabri LEP in 2012. The LGA boundaries for Narrabri and Gunnedah have also remained consistent between 2011 and 2024.

Residential and agricultural land uses have historically been dominant in the social locality (and generally remain so), however, open-cut mining has also increased in prevalence. Since the granting of SSD 09_0182, there has been a significant increase in the amount of land surrounding BCM and the Leard State Forest that is owned by mining companies (i.e., WHC and IA), specifically land to the north, north-east and south of the BCM.

Residential land uses proximate to the BCM continue to be concentrated in the township of Boggabri to the south-west of BCM. Additional houses have been built within the current footprint of the Boggabri township, but these have not expanded the township boundary. Agricultural land uses in the larger Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA have changed little in the period since the granting of SSD 09_0182.

Since the granting of SSD 09_0182, the most significant land use change in proximity to the BCM is the construction and commencement of operations at MCCM. Both TCM and MCCM are open cut mining operations. The MCCM has significantly encroached upon the northern portion of Leard State Forest while BCM and TCM have encroached on the southern portion of the forest. TCM is advancing to the east, whilst BCM is generally advancing northwards towards the operations at MCCM. Additional mining (coal and gas) projects have been approved since the grant of BCM, TCM and MCCM. The most significant being associated with the Narrabri Gas Project and the Vickery Extension Project (as discussed in **Section 5.3.2**).

The effects (positive and negative) of mining expansion across the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs (due to employment, workforce demands and economic output) largely accrue to the communities of Boggabri, Narrabri and Gunnedah due to their proximity to the mining operations. The intensification of coal mining and emergence of gas and renewable interests in the local and regional social locality, has challenged the traditional agricultural basis of nearby communities, creating key changes in attitudes to land use and several new opportunities for employment and economic growth.

The push for more renewable energy projects across NSW is apparent within the social locality. This has been confirmed via a review of the NSW Government Major Projects website which shows that a number of renewable energy Projects are proposed (and/or approved) in the Narrabri LGA and regional study area, including the Merriown Solar Farm (as described in **Section 5.2.1**), Whitehaven Solar Farm, Narrabri Solar Farm and the Maules Creek Solar Farm.

The Whitehaven Solar Farm seeks to construct and operate a solar PV energy generating facility with a capacity of 20MW adjacent to the existing Narrabri Underground Mine (Whitehaven Coal, 2024)

Similar project approvals are also being sought for the Narrabri Solar Farm, which is seeking development consent for the construction of a 140 MW solar farm with an associated battery energy storage system of 100MW/800Mwh approximately 4 km from the township of Narrabri (NGH, 2024). The Maules Creek Solar Farm is seeking approval for the construction of a 100 MW solar farm and associated infrastructure and battery storage facility located approximately 45 km south east of the township of Narrabri (Pitt & Sherry, 2023).

As discussed in **Section 5.2.2**, NSC in collaboration with DPHI has prepared the draft Narrabri Place Strategy (draft strategy) which provides a framework to identify economic and social opportunities for growth over the next 20 years to support the Narrabri community. The draft strategy seeks to enable the rezoning of land within the Narrabri LGA to facilitate the construction of new homes, facilities, infrastructure and services, and to identify opportunities to create a liveable and growing community that supports the existing township (DPHI, 2024). The draft strategy and supporting documentation details the proposed planning framework and legislative amendments for rezoning under the Narrabri LEP. These documents were placed on public exhibition from 23 August 2024 to 20 September 2024 and is anticipated to be finalised during 2025. This strategy could ultimately see greater advancements of renewable projects and infrastructure within the Narrabri LGA.

In summary, the findings of the land use analysis show that since the granting of SSD 09_0182:

- › No material changes have occurred in land zoning adjoining and proximate to the BCM;
- › At a regional level, the most significant land use changes relate to the expansion in the coal mining industry with the approval and commencement of mining operations. Future land use change is anticipated to accommodate for potential renewable project and infrastructure through the implementation of the draft strategy as discussed above;
- › There has been a significant change in land ownership in the region. The amount of land owned by mining corporations in the social locality has increased;
- › A number of renewable energy projects are proposed in the Narrabri LGA;
- › There has been limited change and/or growth in the footprints of the townships of Boggabri, Narrabri and Gunnedah. However, residential development has occurred on the outskirts of these townships. A small area land zone RU4 Primary Production Small Lots is located to the immediate north west of the Boggabri urban footprint;
- › Gunnedah LGA continues to develop as a regional centre to support the surrounding mining and agriculture industries; and
- › In line with the expansion of the surrounding coal mining industry and recent mining approvals, residential growth is anticipated in the regional centres of Gunnedah and Narrabri.

5.3.4 Built and Natural Features

Natural features surrounding the BCM include:

- › The Willow Tree Range which wraps around the north, east and western sides of the mining area;
- › Low lying floodplains associated with the Namoi River and its tributaries toward the south and south east of the BCM;
- › The Nandewar Range which lies approximately 3 km east of the BCM Project boundary;
- › The Namoi River which is the major watercourse in the region and has a catchment area of approximately 42,000 square kilometres;
- › Nagero Creek and Bollol Creek catchments;
- › The Leard State Forest which encompasses an 8,134 ha remnant patch of native vegetation; and
- › Gin's Leap which is a significant attraction which is approximately 15 km north east of the Project area.

The town of Boggabri lies on the Kamilaroi Highway and consists of a number of built features including a museum, two churches, post office, hotel, police station, multi-purpose hospital, two public schools and stores (Aussie Towns, 2025). The town also has one pub, which also offers accommodation and a caravan park with several cabins.

Narrabri is situated along the Mungindi rail line which starts at the major rail centre of Werris Creek. Originally the rail line heads north to the remote town of Mungindi, but at present the last station in use is at Moree with the final 8 stations on the line including Mungindi currently closed (NSWrail.net, 2025).

Narrabri is a key area in the Inland Rail Project (Inland Rail), which aims to provide a freight rail link between Melbourne and Brisbane. Comprising 12 sections, Inland Rail involves upgrades or enhancement works to approximately 1,000km of existing track and construction of 600km of new track passing through regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland (Inland Rail, 2025).

There are two components located in the Narrabri LGA. The Narrabri to North Star component, which involves the upgrade of a section of the existing rail corridor and construction of approximately 2km of new track near Moree. Major construction on the Narrabri to North Star Phase 1 section has been completed with the upgrade of 176km of track along the existing corridor (Inland Rail, 2025).

The Narramine to Narrabri project is Inland Rail's longest section of track, involving the construction of approximately 306km of new rail corridor and track. The Narramine to Narrabri Inland Rail Project received State government approval on 23 February 2023 and Federal government approval on 31 January 2024. The approval was most recently modified on 23 April 2024 for administrative purposes (ARTC, 2020).

Inland Rail has commenced preparing the environmental and social management plans, permits and licenses, which are required before any major construction can start. Inland Rail are also progressively purchasing land that is needed for the rail corridor (Inland Rail, 2025).

5.3.5 First Nations Peoples of the Local Area

The BCM is located within the Kamilaroi (also referred to as Gamilaroi or Gamilaraay or Gomeroi) people's traditional nation which extends from the Muswellbrook LGA within the southeast into southern Queensland to the north.

5.4 Statistical Geography and Data Sources

The social baseline in the SIA draws primarily on the 2021 ABS Census data as well as the 2006 and 2011 ABS Census data sets. The most recent ABS Census was undertaken on the night of 10 August 2021.

Census data presented in the following sections is for the geographical areas of the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs and the significant urban areas within those LGAs, namely the towns of Boggabri, Narrabri and Gunnedah. Data is also provided for the NENW Statistical Area Level 4 (NENW SA4) and the State of NSW for comparative purposes.

To inform the social baseline further, a multitude of data sources were considered and utilised. In addition to census data, data was sourced from realestate.com.au, SQM Research, CoreLogic, Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU), and the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR).

5.5 Population and Demography

The population and demographic data in the Social Locality for 2011, 2016 and 2021 is provided in **Appendix B** and summarised in **Table 9** below. The information is primarily sourced from the ABS Census data to provide an overview of the population and key demographic characteristic of the geographic areas relevant MOD 10.

DPHI releases population projections for LGAs in NSW, taking into account findings from the 2021 ABS Census, preliminary ERPs published by the ABS for the period 2011-2021, and the latest data and expertise on fertility, mortality and migration. These projections do not consider in-migration within NSW and the workforces associated with potential projects such as mining related projects.

Table 9 Key Socio-economic and Demographic Data in the Social Locality

Data Type	Key Data and Findings
Population	Between 2011 and 2021: › Gunnedah LGA experienced a steady population increase of 6.7%; › Narrabri LGA experienced a population decrease of 0.2%; › NENW Region also experienced a steady population increase of 5%; and › Boggabri SS experienced a small overall increase in population (1.2%).
Indigenous Population	› First nations people comprise a significant component of both the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGA's (16% of the Narrabri LGA and 15% of the Gunnedah LGA populations respectively). › Of the Boggabri SS residents, 12% identify as First Nations people. A significant population growth was observed between 2011 and 2021 (55.2%).
Population Projections	› Population projections for the period 2021 – 2041: ▪ Growth in the Gunnedah LGA is predicted to increase by 4.9%; ▪ Growth in the NENW Region is predicted to increase by 6.0%; and ▪ The Narrabri LGA population is expected to increase by 1.5%. › Gunnedah LGA and NEMW Region are both expected to grow at a substantially slower rate than NSW.
Age and Gender	› All areas of interest have a slightly higher median age than NSW, except for Gunnedah LGA. › All areas also have a slightly higher proportion of persons over 65 years of age compared to NSW. › All other age and gender indicators within the social locality remain comparable.
Population Mobility	› There was a relatively stable level of mobility in the population of communities of interest in 2021. › Rates of mobility were observed to increase between 2011 and 2021. › In 2021, over half of the population in each area of interest has lived at the same address as 5 years ago. › All reported areas are shown to mimic the NSW averages, however slight variance suggests that there is a relatively proportionate inflow and outflow of people in these areas.

Source: (ABS, 2011), (ABS, 2016), (ABS, 2021), (DPHI, 2024a)

Although the Boggabri experienced a small overall increase in population between 2011 and 2021, a population decline was experienced between 2011 and 2016. This decline in population was likely associated with the completion of the construction phase of the Boggabri Continuation of Mining Project at BCM (and neighbouring MCCM) and the transition of these mines to operations.

It was previously anticipated that the Narrabri LGA population would decline during the period of 2021 -2041 which was thought to be associated with the closure dates for the MCCM and BCM. However previous consultation with the NSC has indicated that this decline is no longer anticipated due to the continuation of resource projects in the area, and the recent approval of several projects in the area e.g., Vickery Extension Project, Narrabri Gas Project and the Inland Rail. Through the continuation of projects, the NSC anticipates the Narrabri population to remain steady and may experience a slight increase from project workforces.

The GSC released the 'Gunnedah Shire Economic Development Strategy 2022 – 2026 (GSC, 2022a)', which includes a number of priority actions to support the economic development of Gunnedah and hence the future of Gunnedah LGA. The Mayor of GSC stated 'Our Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026 not only sets out the natural endowments unique to our region, but the huge opportunities on our doorstep which we will strive to capitalise on through clearly identifiable and measurable actions. We are investing in Gunnedah's future and invite you to be part of the journey. Whether it is through living, working, visiting or investing in the Shire, join us in building the exciting future of Gunnedah and the region.' (GSC, 2022a).

The NSC have a similar strategic direction within their 'Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027 Your Voice, Our Future' (NSC, 2019). Strategic Direction 3 states 'By 2024, we will have developed a strong, diverse economy that attracts, retains and inspires business, industry and tourism growth' (NSC, 2019).

5.6 Housing and Accommodation Profile

Family and household composition data for the Social Locality is provided in **Appendix B** and summarised in **Table 10** below. This data is primarily sourced from the 2021 ABS Census, SQM Research, CoreLogic and realestate.com.au, and provides an overview of the key housing characteristics of the geographic areas relevant to the social locality.

In addition to ABS geographic areas, this section assesses the key housing characteristics of the three primary residential areas nearby to BCM. These residential areas are defined by their postcodes:

- › Narrabri 2390;
- › Boggabri 2382; and
- › Gunnedah 2380.

Table 10 Key Family and Household Composition Data in the Social Locality

Data Type	Key Data and Findings
Household Composition	› All areas of interest have a relatively high proportion of family households in 2021. › In 2021, Boggabri SS had a higher proportion of lone person households than all other areas of interest. › In 2021, Boggabri SS has a larger proportion of group households.
Family Composition	› In 2021, Boggabri SS has a significantly lower proportion of couple family households with children compared to the other areas of interest. › In 2021, Boggabri SS had a lower proportion of one parent family households when compared to all other areas of interest.
Median House Prices	› Median house prices in Boggabri over the past 12 months was \$300,000 with trends indicating a percentage sale price increase of 7.14%. › Narrabri median house prices were slightly higher, sitting at \$354,000 with a percentage price increase of 2.2%. › Gunnedah was shown to have the highest median sale price sitting at \$435,000. However, trends indicated -2.1% median sale price change. › Previous consultation with regional real estate providers has suggested that housing prices are increasing in the region.
Median Unit Prices	› Gunnedah had the highest median unit price at \$355,665 with a 12-month percentage change of 6.3%.

Data Type	Key Data and Findings
	› Narrabri median unit prices were \$294,979 with a significantly greater 12 month percentage change of 59.4%. › Boggabri has the lowest median unit price sitting at \$135,000 with no 12 month percentage change.
Median House Weekly Rent	› Over the past 12 months Narrabri has had the highest median house weekly rent at \$490, closely followed by Gunnedah at \$485. › Boggabri has the lowest median house weekly rent at \$400 per week. › All areas of interest have a median house weekly rent above the national average.
Median Unit Weekly Rent	› Both Gunnedah and Narrabri had similar median weekly unit rent prices of \$318 and \$330 per week respectively. › No median weekly unit rent statistics were available for Boggabri for the past 12 months. However, two units are currently listed for rent at \$400 and \$250 per week. These properties are both 1 bed and 1 bath units. › Median weekly unit rent prices are all below the national average of \$390 per week.
Housing Affordability	The housing affordability characteristics of the social locality indicate: › Rental Stress is higher more generally across NSW (35.5%) when compared to the LGAs and NENW: ▪ Gunnedah LGA 29.5%; ▪ Narrabri – 26.9%; and ▪ NENW – 31.7%. › Mortgage stress is also higher for NSW (17.3%) compared to the other geographical areas, where: ▪ Gunnedah LGA was at 10.1%; ▪ Narrabri at 7.6%; and ▪ NWENW at 10.8%.
Residential Vacancy Rates	Between 2009 and 2024, residential vacancy rates: › Fluctuated in Narrabri from 0.2% in August 2009 (2 vacancies), to a peak of around 5% (61 properties) in December 2015. Vacancy rates at the end of 2024 were approximately 0.25% (2 vacancies); › Peaked in Boggabri SS during September 2013 at around 13% (25 vacancies). Vacancy rates at the end of 2024 were approximately 2.1% (3 vacancies); and › Peaked in Gunnedah during both May 2013 and August 2015 at around 6% (more than 75 vacancies and more than 80 vacancies respectively). The residential vacancy rate in Gunnedah at the end of 2024 was approximately 1.6% (21 vacancies).
Housing Availability	In Q4 2024, residential properties (primarily 3 – 4 bedrooms) for sale included: › 17 properties in Boggabri, priced from \$60,000 to \$3,800,000; › 60 properties in Narrabri, priced from \$210,000 to \$960,000; and › 69 properties in Gunnedah, priced from \$99,000 to \$990,000.

Data Type	Key Data and Findings
Social Housing Provision	› In 2021, Boggabri SS and Gunnedah LGA have limited social housing compared to that of NSW. › Relatively low living costs, housing affordability and ready access to Tamworth and Sydney makes this region an attractive destination for low socio-economic households.
Housing Tenure	› Housing tenure arrangements are similar across all areas of interest, with all reported areas have relatively high levels of home ownership, either outright or with a mortgage. This suggests a longer-term population base in all areas.
Dwelling Type	› In 2021, the dominant housing type in the areas of interest was "separate house". This formed 95.2% of the Boggabri housing stock, and 89.9% of housing stock in both Narrabri and Gunnedah. › Boggabri SS has a significantly higher proportion of separate housing in comparison with all other areas of interest including NSW. › Boggabri SS also has a correspondingly lower proportion of flat, unit or apartment housing stock when compared with the other areas of interest.
DPHI Dwelling Projections	› The number of dwellings in all areas of interest are expected to increase between 2021 and 2041. › The Narrabri LGA is expected to increase by 2.1% which represents a relatively small percentage compared to other areas of interest. › The NSC has previously indicated that the NSW DPE population decline projection is unfounded and that NSC expects the population to increase over the projection timeframe in parallel with the construction and operation of both continued and approved projects in the area.

Source: (ABS, 2016), (ABS, 2025a), (Realestate.com.au, 2024) (CoreLogic, 2025b), (CoreLogic, 2025c), (CoreLogic, 2025d), (SQM Research, 2024)

Affordability is a function of both housing costs and household income. The housing affordability characteristics are described by two indicators, the Rental Affordability Indicator (RAID) which is for Renters and the Mortgage Affordability Indicator (MAID) for homeowners with a mortgage (ABS, 2025a). Each indicator has categories, with the main categories of interest being where rent repayments is more than 30% of household income (indicates Rental Stress), and mortgage repayments is more than 30% of household income (indicates Purchase/Mortgage Stress).

According to a recent report by CoreLogic, *Decoding 2025*, 65% of Australia's real estate professionals predict that house prices will rise in 2025, driven by improving affordability, rising incomes and potential interest rate cuts (Corelogic, 2025).

Previous consultation undertaken for the BCM has indicated that rental and purchase markets are nearing saturation leading to a more competitive and higher priced market. This change in market conditions was thought to result in limited social welfare housing available to vulnerable groups/individuals).

BCOPL is committed to fulfilling its housing commitment with the NSC with the construction of the Glentarkie dwellings now underway. BCOPL continue to consult with the NSC with further discussions to be held in 2025 in relation to the development of a long-term strategy to fulfill its housing commitment. BCOPL also confirmed in a CCC meeting held on 14 November 2024 that it is open to further ideas to assist with the local area such as infrastructure and childcare commitments.

5.6.1 Short-Term Accommodation

Short-term accommodation relates to those types of accommodation that are typically provided to visitors or tenants for a short period of time; for example, motels, serviced apartments, bed and breakfast, self-contained homes, caravan and camping, although the length of tenancy in these forms of accommodation can often extend to lengthy stays, depending on accommodation availability, price and personal circumstances.

Short-term accommodation in the social locality includes hotels, motels, Air BnB establishments, camping grounds, and bed and breakfast accommodation. Within Narrabri and Boggabri there are also accommodation villages (CIVEO Villages). The CIVEO Narrabri Village provides 500 ensuite rooms, and the CIVEO Boggabri Village has 600 ensuite rooms (CIVEO, 2024). The CIVEO Villages both provide meals, laundry amenities and fitness and recreation facilities (CIVEO, 2024). Previous consultation finding has indicated that the CIVEO Villages are largely used by contractor groups. Furthermore, accommodation providers and real estate agencies in the locality have previously suggested that the use of short-term accommodation within the Narrabri and Gunnedah regions (outside of the CIVEO Villages), has declined over time as a result of the construction of the Villages (JBA, 2022).

5.6.2 Building Approvals

Building approvals data provides an indication of population growth and the expansion of urban areas. A summary of building approvals over the 4-year period is presented in **Table 11** with a corresponding value of total build from 2021-2024 for the LGAs, NENW and NSW (ABS, 2025b).

Residential building approvals data for the State and the LGAs shows for the period of 2021-2024 a total of 207 dwellings were approved for Gunnedah, 54 for Narrabri and 2,668 for NENW.

Table 11 Building Approvals – year ended 30 June

Geographic Area	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total (No.)	Total Value (\$M)
Gunnedah	66	69	53	19	207	208
Narrabri	4	12	22	16	54	165
NENW	662	666	690	650	2,668	2,298
NSW	60,213	54,831	52,481	42,461	209,986	178,353

Source: (ABS, 2025b)

Table 12 presents percentage of building approvals that are of 'house' typology build. The data shows that the LGAs dwelling approvals are predominantly of a 'house' type build with both Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA recording over 85% in 2021, 2022 and 2024. This is to be expected with rural settings with vast land offerings creating more opportunities to build houses rather than higher density accommodation types.

NENW showed a decline in 'house' type build in 2023 and 2024, indicating the region is starting to move into other builds (i.e. units, flats or apartments). Data for the state of NSW shows a relatively even number (approximately 50% houses and 50% other dwelling types) throughout the 2021-2024 period.

Table 12 Building Approvals Private Houses, 2021-2024

Geographic Area	2021 (%)	2022 (%)	2023 (%)	2024 (%)
Gunnedah	96.9	88.4	49.1	89.5
Narrabri	100.0	83.3	45.5	100.0
NENW	88.7	78.2	68.0	66.8
NSW	51.0	52.7	47.7	53.9

Source: (ABS, 2025b)

Growth in housing stock in the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs has focused principally on family housing, and housing suitable for mining workforces.

The GSC Local Housing Strategy identified a total of 171 Developed Lots (with dwellings constructed) for the year 2021 with 825 Lots still undeveloped (GSC, 2023). This suggest there is ample land for housing development to occur.

NSC prepared the '*NSC Growth Management Strategy*' (NSC, 2020b) in response to policy requirements for a comprehensive strategic land use plan to guide growth and development in Narrabri over the next 20 years, and to inform the Narrabri Local Strategic Planning Statement. The '*Growth Management Strategy*' recommends that land use zones within the Narrabri LGA, particularly residential zoning, be reviewed (NSC, 2020b). The *2024 draft Narrabri Place Strategy (draft strategy)* includes the proposed rezoning of land as recommended under the 'Growth Management Strategy' (DPHI, 2024).

The draft Strategy which spans over 1,099 ha of land, also identified that an estimated additional 1000 ~ 2,100 dwellings over the 20 year period (approximately 50 – 107 dwellings per annum) is required to facilitate the anticipated population growth within Narrabri Shire. A diverse mix of low to medium housing typologies (80% detached and 20% attached) on a broad combination of lot sizes could be suitable for the Residential precinct.

5.7 Employment and Industry

Key employment and industry data for the Social Locality is provided in **Appendix B** and summarised in **Table 13** below. The information is drawn predominantly from the ABS and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE).

Table 13 Key Employment and Industry Data in the Social Locality

Data Type	Key Data and Findings
Labour Force Characteristics	› Labour force size in the LGAs of interest has fluctuated between 2010 and 2021. In June 2024, the labour force was: ▪ 7,680 persons in Narrabri LGA; and ▪ 7,581 persons in Gunnedah LGA (DESE, 2024). › There were four significant decreases in labour force size in 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2020 and two significant increases in labour force size in 2013 and 2019. › The decrease in labour force size in 2017 is likely attributable to significant declines in coal prices at this time. › The increase in labour force size in 2013 aligns with the construction phases of both BCM and MCCM. › A decrease in 2020 is likely related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Unemployment Rate	› In June 2024, the unemployment rate was: ▪ 2.2% or 121 persons in the Gunnedah LGA; and ▪ 2.5% or 102 persons in the Narrabri LGA (DESE, 2024). › Both LGAs had lower unemployment rates than the June 2024 NSW rate of 3.7%. › The Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA has historically experienced a significant decrease in unemployment commencing in 2011, before plateauing in 2013. This decrease was likely attributable to increased employment associated with construction at surrounding mines e.g., MCCM, as well as BCM.
Industry of Employment	2021 ABS employment data for the Boggabri SS, Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA shows that: › Employment in the Narrabri LGA is concentrated in the 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' sector, 'Health Care' and 'Social Services', 'Mining', and 'Retail Trade'; › Employment in the Boggabri SS and Gunnedah LGA is concentrated in the 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' sector and the Mining sector; and › The mining industry sector supported employment for 23.8% of workers in Boggabri SS, 14.1% in Gunnedah LGA and 8% in Narrabri LGA.

Source: (ABS, 2021), (DESE, 2024)

5.8 Health and Vulnerability

Table 14 provides a summary of key indicators of health and wellbeing in the regional study area based on information available through ABS, the BOCSAR, and the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Detailed information including data for the ten-year trend on major offences from BOCSAR are included in **Appendix B**.

Table 14 Key Health and Vulnerability Data in the Social Locality

Data Type	Key Data and Findings
Crime and Community Safety	The ten-year trend, from the period 2015 to 2024, indicate the following annual average % change for major offences in the LGA's: › The rate of <i>domestic assault</i> increased within both the Gunnedah LGA (8.2%) and Narrabri LGA (2.0%); › The rate of <i>stealing from a motor vehicle</i> and <i>retail store</i> has remained stable, whilst <i>other stealing offences</i> decreased in Gunnedah LGA (-3.3%); › Similarly to Gunnedah, <i>other stealing offences</i> in the Narrabri LGA has also decreased (-6.0%), however the rates of <i>motor vehicle theft</i> and <i>stealing from a motor vehicle</i> in the Narrabri LGA remained stable; › The rate of <i>break and enter dwelling</i> remains stable within both LGAs; and › The rate of <i>malicious damage to property</i> decreased in the Narrabri LGA (-4.8%) while it remained stable in the Gunnedah LGA.
Diversity and Vulnerability	In 2021: › 5.8% of the NSW population identified as needing assistance with core activities (denotes moderate to severe disability); › Disability indicators for all areas of interest were higher than NSW; › The Boggabri SS had the highest percentage of disability with 8.5%; and › The proportion of people born overseas in the areas of interest is considerably lower than NSW.
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	The 2021 ABS shows that: › All areas of interest experienced relative disadvantage compared to NSW; and › The Boggabri SS experienced the most disadvantage of all of the areas of interest.
Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)	› The ICSEA value provides an indication of the socio-educational backgrounds of students. The lower the ICSEA value, the lower the level of educational advantage of students who go to the school. › The ICSEA values from 2008 to 2024 shows that the majority of schools in the areas of interest have a lower level of educational advantage than the average. This is consistent with the 2024 SEIFA findings for the areas of interest.
Median Weekly Income	› The 2021 census indicates that both the Gunnedah and Narrabri LGAs have personal and family median weekly income levels higher than the Boggabri SS, but not as high as NSW. › Within the social locality, the Gunnedah LGA has the highest median weekly income.
Low Income Households and Welfare Dependency	› Low income households are defined as households that are within the bottom 40% of income distribution nationally. › Low income households made up slightly higher proportions of the total households in the Narrabri LGA (47.1%) and the Gunnedah LGA (46.4%) compared to households in NSW. › The number and proportion of welfare dependant families within the regional study area is higher than that of NSW.

Source: (ACARA, 2025), (ABS, 2021), (BOCSAR, 2025)

5.9 Social Infrastructure and Services

This section provides a brief overview of social infrastructure provision and services relevant to the communities of Boggabri SS, Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA. The Narrabri and Gunnedah townships are the service hubs for each LGA and support the needs of the surrounding and smaller rural towns such as Boggabri.

Table 15 Key Social Infrastructure and Services Data in the Social Locality

Data Type	Key Data and Findings
Education	Gunnedah LGA has: › Two high schools and five primary schools; and › Five primary schools located in the surrounding villages (GSC, 2024a). Narrabri LGA has: › Two high schools and 12 primary schools, including two primary schools located in Boggabri and one school located in Maules Creek; and › Children from Boggabri attend high school in the larger regional centres or go to boarding school. Narrabri and Gunnedah High Schools experienced similar declines in enrolment numbers from 2008 to 2017. Narrabri High School showed a slight increase in 2020 to 2021; however, enrolments have decline. Both schools had approximately 425 to 450 enrolments in 2024. Records for all primary public schools in Gunnedah LGA, Narrabri LGA, and Boggabri SS between 2008 and 2024 indicate fluctuating student numbers. Boggabri Public School saw a low of enrolments in 2020 with 69 students.
Children Services	The availability of childcare services is a key priority identified in both NSC and GSC LEPs. In 2024: › Narrabri LGA has eight childcare service facilities; › Boggabri SS has one childcare service facility; › Gunnedah LGA has 13 childcare service facilities; and › Wee Waa SS has three childcare service facilities. A new childcare facility, the Nurruby Boggabri Early Learning Facility (Boggabri ELF), was recently constructed in Boggabri with assistance and funding from IA. The Facility: › Offers long day and Out of School Hours (OOSH) care for up to 32 children; and › Operated at approximately 85% occupancy in 2022, with the limiting factor being able to obtain and retain qualified staff.

Health and Emergency Services	› The Narrabri District Health Service includes: ▪ A 38-bed inpatient unit, and the emergency department has on call visiting medical officers (Health Direct, 2024); ▪ Services such as speech pathology, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetics; and ▪ Women's health, child and family health, maternity care, Aboriginal infant and family health services. › The Boggabri SS Multi-Purpose Service (hospital) that services the Boggabri community, includes: ▪ Acute and sub-acute care with four beds, an emergency department with two beds, a residential aged care facility with 16 beds, a medical centre and an ambulance service; ▪ Services such as residential aged care and respite, inpatient service, community health, 24-hour emergency department, X-ray, inpatient pathology, child, and family health nurses; › Gunnedah has a modern hospital with 48 beds, providing: ▪ General medical and surgical services including a day surgery care facility; ▪ Emergency Department with on call Visiting Medical Officers and an Obstetric Unit servicing approximately 150 deliveries per year; ▪ A broad range of community health services including child and family health, chronic and aged services, Aboriginal health, Physiotherapy, X-Ray facilities, and a Public Health Dental Clinic; and ▪ A helipad with access for the Westpac Helicopter Service and Child Flight services to Newcastle. › Narrabri and Gunnedah LGA both have an ambulance station. The Boggabri ambulance station is co-located with the Boggabri Multi-Purpose Service (NSW Government, 2024). The ambulance stations in the regional study area service both townships and nearby mining operations. › The regional study area is serviced by both the Namoi Gwydir District Rural Fire Service (RFS) and Fire and Rescue. Three RFS brigades with a total of five fire trucks service the region. In consultation with the Namoi Gwydir District RFS Manager it was noted that the regional area RFS is made up of approximately 30-40 members. › Fire and Rescue support three fire stations within the regional study area e.g., Boggabri, Narrabri and Gunnedah. SIA consultation findings suggest that: ▪ The Boggabri station is staffed by seven workers and operates one fire truck; ▪ The Gunnedah station is staffed by approximately 20 workers and has two fire trucks; and ▪ The Narrabri station is staffed by approximately 22 workers and has two fire trucks and a hazmat trailer. The Narrabri station responds to all nearby hazmat incidents. › The Narrabri, Gunnedah and Boggabri Police stations form a part of the Oxley Police District. › There are a range of community services and groups within the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs (e.g. Visitor Information Centre, Libraries and public amenities. Detailed community services and organisations are outlined in Appendix B.
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Source: (ACECQA, 2024), (GSC, 2024a), (ACARA, 2025), (NSC, 2024)

5.9.1 Community Programs and Investments

BCOPL has a demonstrated commitment to supporting the local community in which they operate, with involvement in several community initiatives and events in 2024, in concurrence with previous years. BCOPL committed \$281,708 to local projects and sponsorships in 2024, as summarised in **Section 3.6.4** (BCOPL, 2025).

Contributions in 2024 are approximately 30% more than the previous year's contributions of \$197,850 (BCOPL, 2024a).

5.10 Emerging Regional Issues and Community Perceptions

This section provides a high-level overview of the different values and perceptions of the communities of the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs and a summary of the key issues and trends evident in these LGAs. These findings draw on information sourced from community plans, regional discussion papers, media articles, other SIA consultation findings and/or submissions received on nearby resource and infrastructure projects, as well as other available research papers.

Table 16 provides a summary of the regional and local issues / trends.

The expansion of mining operations, introduction of coal seam gas and pending construction of numerous renewable projects pose a challenge to the meaning of Narrabri and Gunnedah as rural places. There are diverse attitudes in relation to the importance of future industries. Differences between landowners and townspeople may be expressed in attitudes towards the extractive industry that define Narrabri as an agricultural community, and political activism against the energy industries may threaten community cohesion.

The Gunnedah Community Strategic Plan (2017-2027) (GSC, 2022) identifies that one of the greatest challenges in the area is to diversify the economic base in Gunnedah LGA and neighbouring centres to provide resilience and reduce dependence on any one industry. This was identified as an issue of concern for many local and regional residents having experienced drought, floods and the loss of industry over past years.

Community issues and concerns relevant to the presence of resource activities in the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs have been captured most recently in a number of State Significant Development applications (SSDs) e.g., Vickery Extension Project, as well as CCC meeting minutes and research studies (e.g., those undertaken by the Gas Industry Social and Environment Research Alliance (GISERA)).

The submissions received on the Vickery Extension Project identified a non-exhaustive list of current regional issues and community perceptions in relation to the mining industry. These submissions were considered given the projects proximity to BCM and its locality within the Gunnedah LGA.

Recent media, research and consultation findings reported for major projects in the Narrabri LGA suggest the cost of living and access to affordable housing in the wider area are two areas of concern for the community within the Social Locality. This is consistent with issues facing the broader region and Australia wide.

For some residents of Narrabri, the main reason for supporting coal mining is because the industry provides employment opportunities in a town that they believe is in decline. Other residents want to explore alternative forms of employment opportunities such as renewable energy, locally owned agribusiness and tourism (Climate Justice Research Centre, 2020).

Drought and Climate Change has been a concern for Narrabri residents who commonly express the concern of the impacts of drought on local farming and agriculture. Past surveys and CSIRO reports has found that residents believed that the communities future well-being depends on developments in the agricultural sector (Climate Justice Research Centre, 2020).

Table 16 Regional Issues and Community Perceptions

Issue / Trend	Description
Water	› Potential risks and impacts to groundwater sources and failure for proponents to commit and deliver on provisions of approval. › Failure for proponents to comply with relevant government policy. › Negative impacts on groundwater bores used by surrounding landholders. › Potential for impacts to water quality due to the proximity of the BCM to Namoi River. › Depletion of regional surface water and groundwater resources due to industry water requirements, shortages of water in times of drought. › Dam/water storage design – concern about the permeability of water storages. › Concerns about groundwater drawdown at privately-owned bores and cumulative impacts on groundwater resources. › Concerns in relation to water scarcity during drought conditions.
Land Use	› Concerns about the economic impact of the sterilisation of agricultural land. › Concerns of population decline due to mine-related land acquisition and the loss of farming families. › Concerns of developments not being in the best interest of farmers and graziers.
Cumulative Issues	› Social/economic impacts on Boggabri, the closest town to the BCM: ▪ Cumulative impacts with existing mining operations; ▪ Housing and rental prices; ▪ Access to childcare services; and ▪ Health and Wellbeing.
Local Amenity and Private Property	› Concerns about amenity impacts (i.e., sleep disturbance), and noise exceedances at privately owned residences resulting from mine noise and blasting. › Adequacy of noise shielding measures. › Impacts to the visual landscape of the region. › Night lighting – impacts to sensitive receptors including privately-owned residences, the Siding Springs observatory, stock and nocturnal animals.
Environment	› Impacts to the surrounding environment. › Exacerbation of Climate Change. › Impacts to Koala habitat and native plant species in the vicinity of mining developments.

Issue / Trend	Description
Social Equity	› Impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage including perceived inadequate consultation and/or involvement with Indigenous persons. › Early childhood education and social advantage. › Improving local liveability and amenity.
Local Safety	› Traffic and transport – concern about the use of local roads by mining employees and impacts on the safety and efficiency of the road network. › Bushfire risks and associated risks to public safety.
Housing Trends	› Low vacancy rates and private housing availability in the social locality, specifically the Gunnedah LGA.
Community	› Social cohesion issues – community divide between agriculture and mining/coal seam gas. › Community perceptions in relation to mining developments in the social locality. › Community concerns in relation to the future e.g., transition to renewables. › Population retention rates e.g., people in the area are perceived to be moving to Tamworth and Sydney for improved access to a greater variety of services and facilities.

Source: (Whitehaven, 2020a), (GHD, 2020), (JBA, 2022)

6. Social Impact Assessment

This section provides a summary of SIA stakeholder engagement findings. It also describes the predicted social impacts and opportunities of the Boggabri Coal Mine MOD 10 for the social locality and evaluates the significance of the identified impacts and opportunities.

6.1 Stakeholder Engagement Findings

The objectives and methodology of SIA consultation undertaken is described in **Section 4.2**. Stakeholder engagement was undertaken between March 2024 and March 2025. Consultation allowed stakeholder inputs on social baseline characteristics, experienced impacts, and perceptions of potential social impacts and benefits.

Meetings and surveys were conducted with key stakeholders, including NSC and GSC, representatives of the BCM CCC and health and service providers, as well as interested businesses and organisations. Community and Service Provider surveys supplemented the SIA engagement.

Consultation was also undertaken with various regulatory and community stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Modification Report to ensure that any issues and concerns were adequately addressed.

BCOPL will continue to consult with stakeholders throughout the Government review and assessment process for MOD 10.

The local community was consulted over the course of MOD 10 via the following engagement methods:

- › Meetings with the BCM Community Consultative Committee (CCC) on 29 August 2024, 14 November 2024 and 13 February 2025;
- › Distribution of a community newsletter in May 2024, which provided an overview of the proposed MOD 10 and detailed the associated technical assessments being completed to assess any potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. An additional community newsletter was prepared in December 2024 for the purpose of providing an update on the technical assessments being completed for MOD 10, including the Social Impact Assessment (SIA). An on-line QR code was also included in the newsletter for an on-line survey (through SurveyMonkey) to seek feedback from recipients over the proposed Modification. This newsletter was uploaded to the BCOPL website and copies provided to the CCC members for distribution at the BCM CCC meeting held on 13 February 2025;
- › Distribution of survey proformas to BCM employees and mine contractors, key services and organisations in the local area, and the BCM CCC; and
- › A meeting with the ASCF on 26 June 2024 where an overview of MOD 10 and the key parameters were provided. No issues or questions were raised during this consultation.

An overview of the findings of stakeholder consultation is provided in **Table 17**.

Table 17 Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Stakeholder	Stakeholder Group	Summary of Issues / Findings
CCC Members	Community Consultative Committee	No issues with MOD 10 were raised.
Boggabri Home and Community Care (HACC)	Boggabri Service Provider	Lack of aged care facilities and hospitals and aged care facilities are typically full and waitlisted.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder Group	Summary of Issues / Findings
Nurruby Boggabri OOSH	Boggabri Service Provider	More childcare services are needed in the area, including another preschool in Boggabri. More doctors are required also.
Boggabri OOSH Nurruby	Boggabri Service Provider	Lack of doctors and x-ray imaging capabilities in the town. Lack of childcare facilities.
Ooranga	Boggabri Service Provider	Lack of support and facilities for additional needs children and occupational and speech therapists are needed to support the children of Boggabri. Need additional childcare options.
Ochre Health	Boggabri Service Provider	Mental health and allied services are lacking. A larger health facility is required in Boggabri, and a larger aged care facility. The waitlist is long for the aged care facility as well as Glentarkie.
Gunnedah Hospital	Gunnedah Service Provider	No response.
Nurruby Narrabri	Narrabri Service Provider	Lack of facilities for children aged 0 - 2. Lack of doctors, nurses, and primary school teachers. Housing is also an issue.
Narrabri Hospital	Narrabri Service Provider	No response.
Boggabri Public School	Boggabri Schools	No response.
Sacred Heart School	Boggabri Schools	Lack of community events and facilities such as a multipurpose sports court. Demand for childcare is too strong for the available facilities.
Rotary Club Members	Boggabri Community Groups	Lack of services. Lack of doctor services. Poor roads which require upgrades, including the Grain Valley Road which is currently unusable for larger trucks. Housing shortages and rental prices. There has been a degradation of the Maules Creek community and farm landholdings are growing with the people running them lesser.
Boggabri Business Chamber	Boggabri Community Groups	No response.
Boggabri Men's Shed Members	Boggabri Community Groups	Require a youth block for children to hang out. Poor roads and state government funding. Boggabri is currently experiencing a housing shortage and housing affordability issues. Upgrades to the local hospital and pathology service.
Fairfax Public School	Narrabri Schools	No response.
Narrabri Public School	Narrabri Schools	No response.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder Group	Summary of Issues / Findings
Narrabri High School	Narrabri Schools	No response.
Gunnedah Public School	Gunnedah Schools	No response.
Gunnedah South Public School	Gunnedah Schools	No response.
BCM Aboriginal Stakeholder Consultative Forum (ASCF)	Consultative Forum	No issues or questions were raised during this consultation.
Siding Springs Observatory	Lighting and Visual effects / Dark Sky region	Ensure that the modification submission will pro-actively comment if there is any increase in night time lighting as a result of the modification.

Stakeholder engagement undertaken during the preparation of the environmental assessments is summarised in **Table 18**, with further detail provided in the Modification Report.

Table 18 MOD 10 Engagement Summary

Stakeholder	Method of Consultation	Summary of Issues / Findings
DPHI	Meeting on 29 April 2024	Meeting held to confirm the appropriate approvals pathway and to confirm the scope of environmental assessments. DPHI confirmed that the appropriate approvals process for MOD 10 is by way of a modification under Section 4.55(2) of the EP&A Act. DPHI also confirmed the assessment requirements and agreed on the content required to be addressed in the Modification Report and the associated technical studies.
DPHI	Scoping letter dated 17 May 2024	BCOPL submitted a scoping letter to DPHI on 17 May 2024 providing an overview of MOD 10 and the environmental considerations which were proposed to be undertaken as part of the approvals process.
NSW DCCEEW - BCS	Meeting on 17 July 2024	Meeting held to provide an overview of MOD 10 and to seek feedback and any additional considerations for the Biodiversity assessment.
NSW DCCEEW - BCS	Meeting on 30 July 2024	Meeting to provide an overview of the proposed MOD 10 and to seek any additional feedback necessary to be considered in the surface water and groundwater assessments being completed for MOD 10.

Stakeholder	Method of Consultation	Summary of Issues / Findings
NSW Resources	Meeting on 19 February 2025	Project Update Meeting
EPA	Meeting on 3 December 2024	Meeting to provide an overview of MOD 10 and describe assessments being completed for Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas, Noise and Surface Water and to seek any further considerations required for assessment.
NSC	Meeting on 2 September 2024	Meeting held with NSC representatives on 2 September 2024 to provide an update on MOD 10 and to begin discussions regarding the BCOPL housing commitment.
GSC	Meeting on: 1 March 2024	Meeting held with the GSC on 1 March 2024 to discuss the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) and to discuss the possibility for future agreements and assistance with community investment projects in the region.

Figure 8 presents the benefits and issues raised during stakeholder consultation for MOD 10.

Figure 8 Stakeholder Consultation Issues Summary

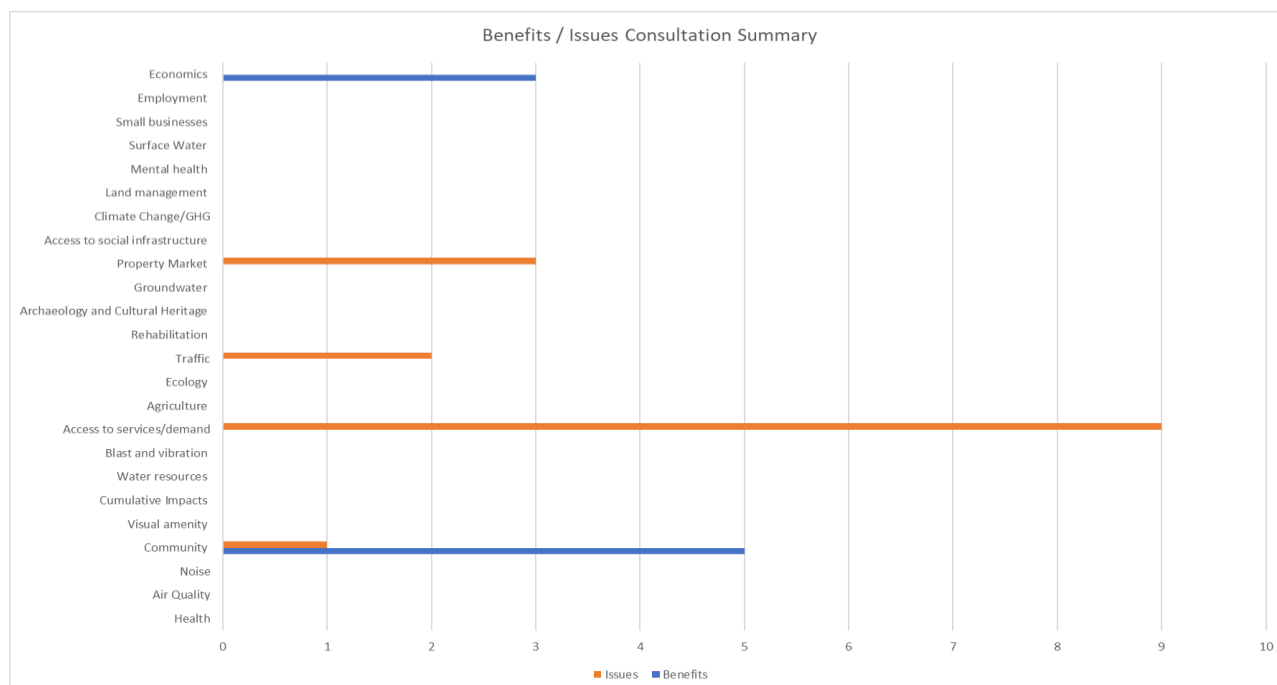


Figure 9 presents the benefits and issues provided through the electronic survey forum (SurveyMonkey).

Figure 9 Electronic Survey Issues Summary

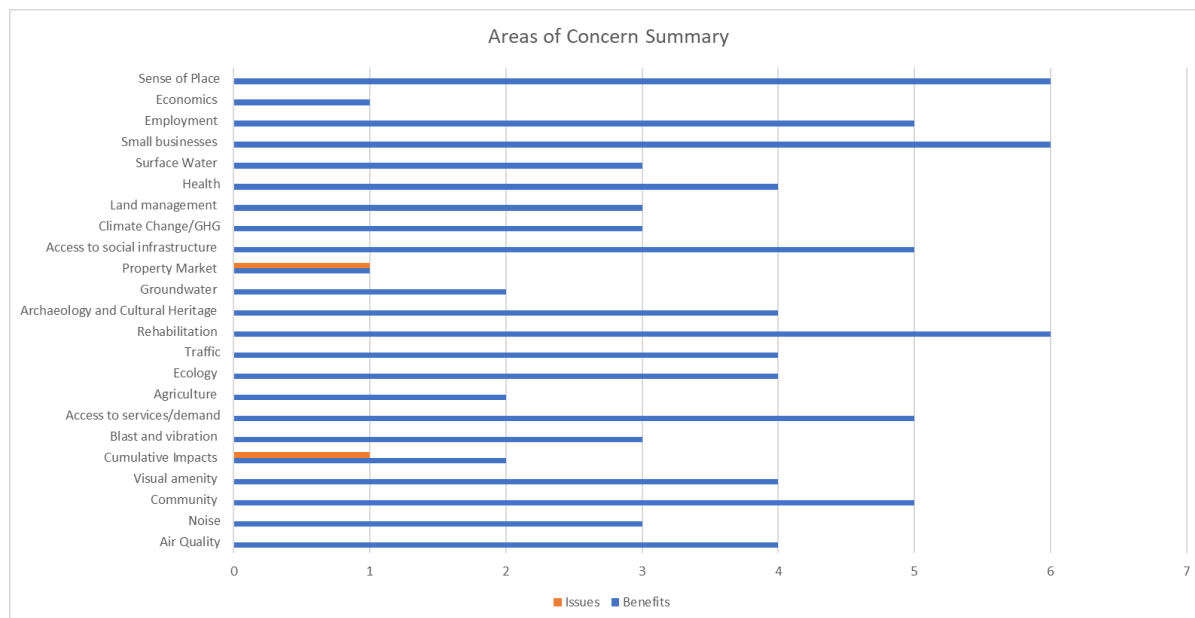


Table 19 presents the potential perceived benefits as identified by stakeholder groups through SIA consultation.

Table 19 Perceived Modification Benefits

Perceived Modification Benefits	Stakeholder Group
Increased utilisation and support of local businesses and services within the local and regional locality.	Service Providers
Ongoing economic contributions to support the local community.	Service Providers
Opportunity to progress with housing commitments to develop new housing and infrastructure within the Narrabri LGA.	Local Government
Ongoing voluntary contributions from BCOPL to the surrounding local and regional study area through sponsorship and donations, and the VPA royalties with NSC.	Local Government
Opportunity to increase engagement with the GSC and financially assist with community investment projects (where possible).	Local Government
Continued growth in the region which results in more families moving into the town.	Service provider
Ongoing community support resulting in a more vibrant town.	Service provider
In the past there has been concerns over the school engaging with coal mines due to various families attitudes towards mining, however attitudes have changed and hence there is now increased opportunities for BCOPL to connect and invest in local schools.	Service provider

Table 20 presents the potential perceived issues and impacts of MOD 10 identified by stakeholder groups through the SIA consultation.

Table 20 Perceived Modification Impacts

Perceived Modification Impacts/ Concerns	Stakeholder Group
Changes in property values (including rental price) for properties in the local and regional areas, and experienced housing shortages and affordability issues.	Service Providers Residents Employee / Contractor
Potential cumulative impacts arising from the extension of mining at BCM coupled with the existing mining operations within the region (i.e. the adjacent TCM and MCCM).	Residents Employee / Contractor
Increased demand for childcare, youth and aged care facilities, educational institutions and healthcare services (including mental health), and the requirement for upgrades to the local hospital and pathology services in the local area.	Service Providers
There were general concerns regarding poor quality of public roads in the local and regional area and a lack of government funding for repairs.	Service Providers
Current early learning centres are not large enough to support increased demand from the number of families moving to the area.	Service provider
If MOD 10 does not go ahead this will impact the number of enrolments into early learning facilities and employment.	Service provider

6.2 Workforce Survey

A workforce survey proforma was distributed to BCM employees to obtain insights into the demographics of the operational works at BCM. A total of 392 employee responses were received. The survey results are summarised below in **Table 21**. Associated data is presented in **Appendix B**.

Table 21 Summary of Workforce Survey

Data Type	Key Data and Findings
Residential Locality	› Majority of the participants live in the Gunnedah LGA (~36%). › Approximately 15% reside in Boggabri and Tamworth. › Narrabri LGA had the lowest residential occupancy with 32 employees.
Age Range	› Age range of respondents is predominantly between 25-34 (30%) and 35-44 years old (31%). › 84 employees (22%) between 45-54 years old. › 41 employees (10%) are aged between 55-64. › 22 employees (6%) aged 18-28. › 5 employees (1%) above 65 years old.

Data Type	Key Data and Findings
Cultural Background	› Approximately 83% of the participants identify as Non-Indigenous. › 15% of the participants identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. › 2% of participants chose 'Other'
Access to Services	› Services typically accessed by the workforce in the Narrabri LGA include supermarkets, medical, fuel, education and recreational facilities. › The workforce also accesses services at surrounding areas including Boggabri, Gunnedah LGA and Tamworth LGA. ▪ 40% of the respondents indicated they access services within the Gunnedah LGA; and ▪ 34% of the respondents access services within the Tamworth LGA.
MOD 10 Sentiment	› 99% of the respondents indicated support of MOD 10.

6.3 Scope of Impact Assessment

The impact assessment considers the potential social impacts associated with the direct activities related to MOD 10. A scoping exercise (**Appendix A**) was undertaken to identify the potential social impacts and opportunities associated with Modification that require further consideration in the SIA.

The scoping exercise and subsequent social impact assessment for MOD 10 considered:

- › The findings of stakeholder engagement, including previous engagement and a detailed complaints analysis;
- › The social baseline assessment;
- › The findings of previous SIA's completed for the BCM;
- › Any changes to potential social impacts or opportunities identified within the technical studies completed for MOD 10;
- › Current and/or recent social management commitments as described in the 2023 SIMP (and/or any other commitments made by BCOPL);
- › Local and Regional issues/ trends; and
- › Technical SIA expertise.

The social impacts and opportunities were identified under social themes derived from both the SIA Guideline, and experience/ expertise in SIA development. These themes are illustrated in **Figure 10**.

Figure 10 Social Impact Categories



6.4 Approach to Management

The social impacts of MOD 10 will be managed, and opportunities enhanced principally through the implementation of the BCM SIMP. Should MOD 10 be approved, the 2023 SIMP (discussed in **Section 3.6.1**) would be reviewed and updated to reflect the outcomes of the SIA and any relevant approval conditions.

Mitigation and management measures have been identified for all potential social impacts and opportunities associated with MOD 10. These measures are a combination of:

- › Standard mitigation/enhancement measures. These are commonly applied mitigation measures such as the discussion of environmental monitoring results at CCC meetings, or complaints and grievances procedures e.g., 24 hour complaints telephone hotline; and
- › Modification specific mitigation/enhancement measures. These are measures that have been specifically identified and tailored to address the particular social impacts of MOD 10.

6.5 Discussion of Social Impacts

6.5.1 Way of Life

The BCM is located in a rural area and surrounded primarily by rural and residential properties, national parks and reserves and other extractive industries. Residential and agricultural land uses are dominant within the local area, with open-cut mining now prevalent across the social locality. Residential land uses proximate to the BCM are concentrated in the township of Boggabri to the south-west of BCM with additional housing developments continuing to be built within the Boggabri SS footprint (refer to **Section 5.3**).

MOD 10 proposes an additional disturbance to approximately 85 hectares outside of the currently approved Mine Disturbance Boundary, however remaining within the BCM Project Boundary. No changes to the existing land use of the surrounding region are anticipated for MOD 10. There will be no increase in FTE employees beyond the approved workforce. As such, MOD 10 is not anticipated to impact on the way the local residents use the land for work or recreation.

The Narrabri LGA is expected to see a decrease in younger age groups and increase in older age groups by 2041. Based on the Growth Management Strategy, Narrabri has seen an outflow of the population between the ages of 20-30 years who leave in search of better education and employment opportunities, resulting in the loss of potential skilled workers. These trends, combined with an overall declining population is expected to increase pressure on industries especially the agriculture sector. (DPE and NSC, 2024) .

BCOPL has a New to Industry traineeship program and endeavours to employ local residents, as discussed in **Section 3.4**.

The workforce survey identified that over 50% of the workforce are within the age range of 25-44 years old (refer to **Appendix B**), indicating that BCOPL are supporting employment of the younger population.

The extension of the mining operations at the BCM will ensure continued direct economic activity (including the retention of BCOPL employees and mine contractors) in the local community. The BCM workforce primarily purchase their goods and access services within the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGA's, as identified in the Workforce Survey (**Appendix B**).

There will also be indirect economic activity in the Region via wage and non-wage expenditure at the cost of no additional material impacts. The additional recovery of coal resources will also provide added supply of high energy low ash premium quality coal for export. With the increased export revenue for Australia, this indirectly can filter through in improving services including infrastructure such as roads, hospital and other services which could lead to an improvement in people's way of life.

The *Economic Impact Assessment* (Gillespie Economics, 2025) predicted that the average annual direct and indirect economic impact of MOD 10 (from 2037 to 2040) will yield:

- › \$794 M in output;
- › \$476 M in value-added;
- › \$112 M in gross wages; and
- › 1,095 jobs.

6.5.2 Livelihoods

'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing', 'Health' and 'Mining' are the main industry of employment in Boggabri, and the Gunnedah and Narrabri LGA's. The mining industry sector supported employment for 23.8% of workers in Boggabri SS (**Section 5.7**). MOD 10 will have a positive social impact on livelihoods as employment and business opportunities will continue to be realised for an additional four years. As outlined in **Section 6.5.1**, MOD 10 will generate significant economic benefits to the local area.

The extension of operations will ensure the continued employment for the workforce as well as support contractors, local businesses and suppliers.

Agriculture continues to be a dominant industry in the Social Locality. Water resources are crucial for sustaining agriculture, especially in the face of challenges like climate change, population growth, and industrial development. Ensuring adequate water supply is essential for maintaining agricultural productivity and supporting the livelihoods of those who depend on it. The impact of MOD 10 on water resources was identified during stakeholder engagement. This included both surface water such as the river and creek systems as well as the groundwater, as discussed in **Section 6.1**.

A *Surface Water Impact Assessment (SWIA)*, (EMM, 2025) was completed to assess the potential impacts of MOD 10 to the existing surface water environment (refer to the Modification Report). No additional impacts to streamflow within the Upper Back Creek and Nagero Creek catchments are predicted from MOD 10.

BCOPL has Water Access Licences (WALs) to account for the interception of surface water run-off in the Bluevale Water Source. Modelling estimates this entitlement will be sufficient to meet licensing requirements over the Life of Mine during dry years. However, BCOPL may be required to obtain an additional WAL entitlement to cover the predicted water take from the Bluevale Water Source during wet conditions.

Water balance modelling predicts up to 1,740 Megalitres per year (ML/year) of external water supply will be required over the remaining mine life. The combined surface water and groundwater WALs required to meet this external water supply are approximately 1,350 ML/year per year. BCOPL will continue to use temporary trading of WALs to secure additional water entitlements when required.

The potential surface water impacts of MOD 10 will continue to be managed in accordance with the *Boggabri Coal Mine Water Management Plan (WMP)* and associated *Surface Water Management Plan*.

The *Groundwater Impact Assessment (GWIA)* (AGE, 2025) completed for MOD 10 (refer to Modification Report) indicates that there are minimal differences in inflow estimates to the BCM between the approved and the proposed modification. During the four-year extension, i.e. from 2037 to 2040, the maximum annual inflow is predicted to be 189 ML/year in the year 2040.

Predicted drawdown from BCM within the surrounding water table is anticipated to remain predominantly confined to the bedrock ridge area during and after mining activities, as is the case for currently approved operations. The incremental drawdown from the proposed mining will be confined to the northwestern fringe of the Nagero Creek alluvium located closest to active mining. At the fringes of the alluvium, the incremental drawdown is a maximum of 1 m to 2 m; closer to the Nagero Creek, the incremental difference is 0.5 m. This drawdown is not likely to be discernible, given groundwater levels can naturally fluctuate up to 4 m under different climatic conditions.

It was also determined that after 25 years post-closure, the incremental drawdown is restricted to a small area of less than 1 m in the Nagero Creek.

Predicted water takes from all groundwater water sources indicates that an additional two WALs will be required to account for the predicted water takes from the Zone 11 alluvium.

Negligible impacts are also anticipated to surrounding watercourses as a result of additional groundwater interception.

BCOPL is committed to managing predicted impacts to groundwater in accordance with its approved WMP and associated *Groundwater Management Plan*. These plans will be reviewed and updated (as required) to include additional measures specific to MOD 10.

6.5.3 Accessibility

The Social Locality is well serviced with social infrastructure and facilities in the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGA's, as outlined in **Section 5.9**. Consultation outcomes however, have indicated concerns regarding the potential increase in demand for childcare, youth and aged care facilities, as well as educational institution and health services. Potential degradation to the public roads was also raised during consultation for MOD 10 (see **Section 6.1**).

An anticipated increase in an aging population within the Narrabri LGA is expected to intensify the pressure on infrastructure and services to accommodate evolving needs. Additionally, this demographic shift may result in heightened challenges in sustaining and enhancing these facilities and services due to a potential decrease in demand and financial income (NSC, 2024).

MOD 10 does not seek to increase the currently approved workforce arrangements of an average of 740 FTE for 2023 to 2036 with a peak number of 876 FTE. Demand and access to services within the Social Locality are therefore not likely to be impacted as a result of MOD 10. Notwithstanding, the extension of operations for an additional four years will entail the ongoing economic contributions to local and state government, and community investments which in turn has the capacity to provide benefits to services in the locality as well as funding for local roads.

There are no changes proposed to site access at the BCM from MOD 10. As such, there will be no material changes to traffic on local roadways albeit the extension of impacts as approved for an additional four years. Notwithstanding this, traffic on local rural roads and safety is an area of general concern identified by a number of stakeholders. Accordingly, BCOPL implement a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to ensure that any associated risks and impacts on the local roadways are appropriately managed. The TMP considers the following:

- › A code of conduct for heavy vehicle operators;
- › Nominated heavy vehicle access routes for construction and operational stages;
- › Measures to minimise traffic impacts at school bus pick up and drop off times;
- › Consideration of measures to minimise dust from unsealed roads used for mine access; and
- › Monitoring program to audit vehicle movements against predictions outlined in the 2010 EA.

BCOPL will continue to implement traffic controls for MOD 10 to ensure the safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles, and to minimise impacts on the local roads.

6.5.4 Community

The communities surrounding BCM have been subject to mining in the area for many years with the majority of land holdings adjacent to the BCM owned by mining companies such as WHC (i.e. the MCCM and TCM operations). The majority of private residences are located some 15 km from BCM.

MOD 10 does not seek to increase FTE employees and as such is not expected to impact on population growth, community structure or cohesion in the Social Locality.

Australia is currently experiencing a crisis in both housing availability and affordability, as discussed in **Section 5.6**. BCOPL are committed to its existing ongoing housing commitments with the NSC and to further assist with community investment and housing opportunities for the proposed additional four years.

Given that MOD 10 is not proposing an increase in FTE employees, no additional stress on housing availability or accommodation in the Social Locality is anticipated. Notwithstanding this, BCOPL will continue to implement the Boggabri Coal Housing Commitment, as discussed in **Section 3.6.2.2**, to assist in easing pressure on housing availability.

Employment in mining within the areas of interest is a common occupation as discussed in **Section 5.7**. The extension of mining will maintain employment opportunity for the current workforce. There will be no influx of mining people that may impact on the community structure or cohesion.

As outlined in **Section 3.6.4**, BCM is committed to providing sponsorship and donations for community activities, groups and associations and will continue to do so for MOD 10.

6.5.5 Surroundings

Mining activities in close proximity to residential areas can contribute to social impacts such as a reduced residential and rural amenity, typically as a result of visual, dust or noise. As discussed in **Section 5.3** and more specifically in **Section 5.3.2**, coal mining has been a part of the local area for many years with many major active coal-related projects operating within the Narrabri LGA. Hence mining and residential land use has co-existed within the regional area for a long period.

There are currently three private residences provided acquisition rights under current approvals (SSD 09_0182). All other residences previously with acquisition rights under SSD 09_0182 are either owned by BCOP, Whitehaven Coal or jointly owned between BCOP and WHC. The majority of private residences are located approximately 15 km from BCM.

Technical assessments were undertaken, which evaluated the potential amenity impacts of MOD 10 (including cumulative impacts). These assessments are appended to the Modification Report and discussed below.

6.5.5.1 Air Quality

The *Boggabri Coal Mine Modification 10 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment* (Airen Consulting, 2025) (AQGHG assessment) concluded there are no predicted exceedances at any sensitive residences for annual average dust deposition, annual average TSP, PM10 or PM2.5 concentrations of the NSW EPA or the NSW VLAMP (NSW Government, 2018) impact assessment criteria either due to MOD 10 alone, or cumulatively. BCM's contribution to cumulative dust levels is minor, and exceedances of criteria is anticipated to occur only when there are elevated dust concentrations due to other events. These results are within the range of historically concentrations with potential exceedances only anticipated when background levels are approaching relevant criteria.

Despite the findings of the technical assessment, air quality impacts on local communities can be of concern for local residents. BCOP operates the BCM in accordance with the approved *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan* (BCOP, 2024) (AQGHGMP) and associated *Site-Specific Dust Management Pollution Reduction Programs* (PRPs) which have been integrated into site dust mitigation measures.

The primary measures implemented to control and / or minimise dust emissions from BCM Activities include:

- › The application of speed limits to minimise wheel generated dust;
- › Use of real time data from TEOMs, meteorological stations and forecasts to predict weather events and dust levels;
- › Regular maintenance of mobile equipment;
- › Use of dust suppression equipment on drill rigs;
- › Appropriate blast design;
- › Revegetate disturbed areas as soon as practical after disturbance;
- › Use of Water cart dust suppression on unsealed roads and trafficable areas;
- › Minimise overburden and ROM coal haulage through mine planning;
- › Minimise drop heights from truck loading and unloading of coal resources and overburden; and
- › Application of covers on ROM coal conveyors.

These measures will continue to be applied for MOD 10 to minimise air quality related impacts on the health and amenity of local residents.

The AQGHG assessment also consider greenhouse gas emissions associated with the extension of mining operations.

The approved AQGHGMP details the general management measures implemented onsite to minimise emissions from diesel and electricity consumption. These include:

- › Procurement and use of equipment incorporating best-practice emissions reduction technologies;
- › Pre-start inspections of mobile plant and vehicles;
- › Equipment maintenance;
- › Minimizing engine idle time;
- › Optimise the design of roads to minimise distance travelled; and
- › Install energy-efficient electrical equipment where possible.

BCOPL are also committed to the improvement and innovation of technology to further reduce emissions from BCM operations. These include:

- › Tracking metrics for site-wide fuel consumption; and
- › The construction of a solar farm in proximity to the BCM which will significantly decrease BCM's electricity consumption from the grid.

6.5.5.2 Noise

The BCM is located approximately 15 km from the township of Boggabri and is situated parallel to the Kamilaroi Highway. Accordingly, mine operations and traffic on the surrounding roadways has the potential to have an impact on the rural setting of the area due to potential noise impacts.

The *Boggabri Coal Mine Modification 10 Noise Impact Assessment (NIA)*, (EMM, 2025a) concluded that MOD 10 is predicted to meet all relevant criteria (including cumulative criteria) prescribed in SSD 09_0182 at all assessment locations. The assessment of blasting impacts also indicated that MOD 10 is anticipated to maintain compliance with air blast overpressure criteria at the nearest sensitive assessment locations.

There were no findings in the SIA consultation that indicated local landholders were concerned over noise related impacts. BCOPL will continue to operate in accordance with its approved *Noise Management Plan* (BCOPL, 2024) and implement the following controls to ensure operations remain compliant with noise criteria:

- › Purchase of trucks, dozers, drills and excavators for use onsite is commissioned as noise suppressed (attenuated) units;
- › Audible warning devices are selected to produce the lowest but best available noise levels consistent with relevant safety standards;
- › Enforce speed limits to ensure noise is minimised;
- › Use of low noise motors and vibration absorbing pads on supporting springs for vibrating screens;
- › Limit the operation of mobile coal handling equipment considering speed of movement and location;
- › Thermite welding applied to the rail lines with the Rail Spur being accessed by locomotives that are approved to operate on the NSW Rail network in accordance with the noise limits in ARTC's EPL (No. 3142);
- › Where feasible, any new rail rolling stock manufactured specifically for BCM is to be designed and manufactured to minimise noise;
- › Where feasible following commissioning of the Boggabri Rail Spur lines, conduct train speed noise testing to optimise train speed for minimum noise and undertake targeted noise monitoring to determine the accuracy of predicted acoustic impacts and effectiveness of noise reduction measures;
- › Direct the overburden haul trucks to lower and more shielded emplacement areas during noise enhancing weather conditions;
- › Place overburden in strategic locations to provide additional screening between noise sources and nearby sensitive areas;

- › Consider the construction of noise bunds along the edge of exposed ramps at exposed elevation on the overburden emplacement area (OEA);
- › Limit operation of track dozers and haulage trucks considering speed of movement and location of operation;
- › Equipment found to be defective and thus promote elevated noise emissions will not be returned to operations until repaired;
- › Regular maintenance of plant and equipment; and
- › Improve existing noise suppression equipment in line with improved technology where reasonable and feasible.

6.5.5.3 Visual

A *Visual Impact Assessment* (VIA) (Xenith Consulting Pty Limited, 2025) was undertaken for MOD 10 (refer to Modification Report). Views of the proposed mining area at private residences will generally be screened by surrounding topography, woodland vegetation and adjacent mining operations. Furthermore, any potential impact on views will be reduced over the life of the Mine as rehabilitation progress and reaches a suitable maturity.

Direct lighting impacts associated with truck and vehicle lighting will also be screened, however distant views may occur as mining progresses into the proposed mining area for a relatively short period before mining increases in depth.

Diffuse lighting impacts relates to the general night-glow that results from light of sufficient strength being reflected into the atmosphere. This type of effect will create a strong local focal point and the effect will vary with distance and atmospheric conditions such as fog, low cloud and / or dust particles which all reflect light. The VIA concluded there would be no changes to diffuse night lighting from the BCM operation.

The Siding Springs Observatory (Observatory) is located approximately 125 km from the BCM near the township of Coonabarabran. It is considered Australia's premier optical and infrared astronomical observatory (Siding Spring Observatory, 2025). A Dark Sky region has been established around the Observatory, which is governed by the *Dark Sky Planning Guideline* (DPE, 2023) (Dark Sky Guideline). This Guideline provides technical information and guidance to the state and local government, community, and professionals about the management of light in the Dark Sky region. As the BCM is located within 200 km of the Observatory, the Dark Sky Guideline must be considered.

Consultation undertaken with the Siding Springs Observatory located in Coonabarabran asked that the Modification Report clearly indicate if there will be an increase in night-time lighting from the Modification.

The VIA concluded that MOD 10 will not exacerbate the predicted lighting conclusions from the 2010 VIA, albeit the continuation of impacts attributed to the additional four years of mining. The VIA concluded no changes are expected for diffuse night lighting from BCM operations and the visual effect of lighting associated with BCM is expected to remain generally consistent with the currently approved development.

As MOD 10 will not result in any additional material impact on the surrounding visual landscape at any private resident or at the Siding Springs Observatory, no additional mitigation or management measures are proposed.

The current conditions included in SSD 09_0182 (schedule 3, Condition 65) specifies operational measures to be applied to BCM's operations to minimise lighting and visual effects. This includes the requirement for all external lighting to comply with *Australian Standard (AS)4282 (INT) 2023 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting* (AS 4282) and to ensure lighting is directed below the horizontal. These requirements are entirely consistent with the lighting and design principles described within the Dark Sky Guideline and will continue to be implemented for MOD 10.

6.5.6 Health and Wellbeing

Health is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. It can be related to a person's physical, mental or social health or their social wellbeing. Well-being is a broader concept that includes health but also factors in overall life satisfaction and happiness.

Both noise and air quality have the potential to affect one's health and wellbeing through frustration and annoyance, sleep disturbance and concern over personal health.

As discussed in **Section 6.5.5**, MOD 10 technical assessment have concluded that potential noise and air quality impacts will comply with relevant health and amenity criteria. Management and mitigation measures will continue to be applied for MOD 10 to minimise potential noise and air quality impacts on the health and amenity of local residents. Despite this, community perceptions of health impacts from BCM may still be prevalent.

6.5.7 Cultural

An *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* was completed for MOD 10 (OzArk Environment & Heritage, 2025).

No new Aboriginal sites were identified during the surveys for MOD 10 in the area to be disturbed (Modification Disturbance Footprint) and the area was assessed as having low archaeological potential.

There is one site (an isolated find), previously recorded in the Modification Disturbance Footprint (LFNV11). A further site (TC7/15) has been subject to surface salvage with the centre point situated just outside of the Modification Disturbance Footprint (approximately 50 metres south of the Modification Disturbance Footprint). It was previously thought that this site has the potential to extend into the Modification Disturbance Footprint, however, field surveys completed for MOD 10 indicated that the potential archaeological deposit (PAD) area does not extend into the Modification Disturbance Footprint. Similarly, no significant heritage items were identified within the Modification Disturbance Footprint with potential archaeological deposits relating to the historic settlement of the land considered unlikely.

The Modification Disturbance Footprint has been assessed as having low archaeological potential. No landforms within the Modification Disturbance Footprint were assessed to have the potential for subsurface archaeological deposits of a significant or conservable nature. No cultural values specific to the Modification Disturbance Footprint were noted or elucidated during the survey.

Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage will continue as outlined within approved *BCM Heritage Management Plan* (HMP) (BCOPL, 2024). Following approval of MOD 10, management measures specified within the HMP will continue to be implemented with salvation works associated with LFNV11 undertaken in accordance with the HMP prior to works commencing. All lands subject to disturbance will be confined to the Modification Disturbance Footprint and those personnel required to initiate works in these areas should be made aware of cultural heritage awareness procedures and their obligations to notify supervisors if a suspected Aboriginal object is encountered.

Ongoing consultation will occur with the local Aboriginal communities and RAPs (as required) in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage matters and procedures at the BCM.

BCOPL facilitates an ASCF which provides a forum for raising general issues by stakeholder or BCOPL. The forum meets to discuss key issues including the establishment of a Keeping Place for Aboriginal salvage items, results of environmental monitoring at the BCM, consultations for approvals and review of relevant management plans. **Section 6.2** provides an indication of the BCM workforce that identify as First Nations People, following survey responses for MOD 10.

6.5.8 Decision-Making Systems

BCOPL has a number of processes and mechanisms to interact with the community and to allow members of the community to provide feedback, raise issues and lodge complaints or grievances. Key mechanisms include:

- › The CCC, which provides a forum for open discussion between the community and company representatives (refer to **Section 3.5**);
- › Community information and complaints telephone hotline;
- › BCOPL website, which contains information about operations and provides contact details;
- › Ongoing engagement with nearby neighbours, community organisations and businesses when required; and
- › Publication of BCM environmental monitoring data and reporting on the BCOPL website, to provide meaningful information on the performance and effectiveness of environmental controls.

These processes and mechanisms will continue to be available for MOD 10.

6.5.9 Cumulative

BCM is located within the Leard Mining Precinct, which includes the adjacent TCM and MCCM.

The technical assessments completed for MOD 10, including air quality and noise assessments, have considered cumulative impacts due to surrounding developments, as discussed in **Section 6.5.6**. Results have indicated that potential cumulative impacts will generally remain below relevant criteria.

Notwithstanding this, the potential for significant cumulative social impacts as a result of MOD 10 has been assessed as medium to low, with consideration of the management and mitigation measures already in place to manage cumulative impacts. As there is no increase in workforce proposed, there will be negligible additional impacts anticipated on population growth, demand for social infrastructure and services or housing.

It is recognised, however, that there are potential impacts on the housing market (as outlined in **Section 5.6**) such as limited vacancy and increased rental/purchase price, which could partly be due to Mine inflated wages and the construction of multiple projects in the region i.e., Vickery Coal Mine, renewable projects, Inland Rail and the Narrabri Gas Project.

As discussed in **Section 6.5.4**, BCOPL are implementing the Boggabri Housing Commitment to alleviate some of these pressures.

6.5.10 Consequences of MOD 10 Not Proceeding

Alternatives options for MOD 10 were considered in the Modification Report.

MOD 10 proposes to extend the period of mining operations by four years (i.e. until 2040) to recover additional coal resources. Activities such as mining methods, maximum production rate and ancillary activities will remain consistent with current approvals.

MOD 10 will ensure the continued employment of BCOPL employees and financial contribution to the state government. MOD 10 has been assessed to demonstrate that no additional material environmental or socio-economic impacts will result from the proposed activities.

The 'Do Nothing' option, would result in the financial and social benefits not being realised by the continued operation of BCM for further four years. The potential social impacts would also not arise for the additional four years, as identified in **Table 26**.

6.6 Impact and Opportunities Assessment

Table 26 summarises the potential social impacts and opportunities of MOD 10 and presents tailored social management/enhancement measures and the outcomes of the significance assessment. The assessment takes into consideration the mitigation and management measures described in the 2023 SIMP. Additional mitigation measures to manage environmental impacts associated with MOD 10 are considered in the relevant technical studies that accompany the Modification Report.

The assessment of impact significance has been adapted from the methodology described in the SIA Guideline. This assessment is largely considered as it presents a fair analysis of positive and negative impacts. The evaluation of significance is complex, balancing the subjectivity, scale and sensitivity of impacts and benefits. **Table 22** to **Table 25** presents the framework for establishing the significance of social impacts and opportunities.

Table 22 Defining Likelihood Levels of Social Impacts

Almost certain	Definite or almost definitely expected (e.g. has happened on similar projects)
Likely	High probability
Possible	Medium probability
Unlikely	Low probability
Very unlikely	Improbable or remote probability

Source: (DPE, 2023c)

Table 23 Dimensions of Social Impact Magnitude

Characteristics Considered	Description of Characteristics
Extent	Who specifically is expected to be affected (directly, indirectly, and/or cumulatively), including any vulnerable people? Which location(s) and people are affected? (e.g. near neighbours, local, regional, future generations).
Duration	When is the social impact expected to occur? Will it be time-limited (e.g. over particular project phases) or permanent?
Intensity or scale	What is the likely scale or degree of change? (e.g. mild, moderate, severe).
Sensitivity or importance	How sensitive/vulnerable (or how adaptable/resilient) are affected people to the impact, or (for positive impacts) how important is it to them? This might depend on the value they attach to the matter; whether it is rare/unique or replaceable; the extent to which it is tied to their identity; and their capacity to cope with or adapt to change.
Level of concern or interest	How concerned/interested are people? Sometimes, concerns may be disproportionate to findings from technical assessments of likelihood, duration and/or intensity.

Source: (DPE, 2023c)

Table 24 Defining Magnitude Levels for Social Impacts

Characteristics Considered	Description of Characteristic
Transformational	Substantial change experienced in community wellbeing, livelihood, infrastructure, services, health, and/or heritage values; permanent displacement or addition of at least 20% of a community.
Major	Substantial deterioration/improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an indefinite time, or affecting many people in a widespread area.
Moderate	Noticeable deterioration/improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an extensive time, or affecting a group of people.
Minor	Mild deterioration/improvement, for a reasonably short time, for a small number of people who are generally adaptable and not vulnerable.
Minimal	Little noticeable change experienced by people in the locality.

Table 25 Social Impact Significance Matrix

Likelihood	Magnitude Level				
	1. Minimal	2. Minor	3. Moderate	4. Major	5. Transformational
A. Almost certain	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5
B. Likely	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
C. Possible	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
D. Unlikely	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
E. Very Unlikely	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5
Social Risk Rating	Low	Medium	High	Very High	

Source: (DPE, 2023c) (adapted).

Table 26 Social Impacts and Opportunities Assessment

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
Impact Area – Livelihoods: Employment Opportunities							
Continuation of employment for existing BCM workers for an additional four years. Continuation of support for the financial security and wellbeing of BCM employees and their families. Continuation of access for workers to education and training opportunities associated with the BCM.	BCM employees, contractors and family members. Job seekers interested in mining industry employment. Youth.	Operations	Implementation of the 2023 SIMP including: › BCOPL Local Employment Strategy and traineeship programs. › Continuing to support school-based education opportunities. › Continuing to conduct and source a wide variety of training opportunities both internal and external based upon the needs of the workforce and the business.	(Positive) (High) B3	Develop and implement ways to improve employment opportunities for Indigenous persons, women and youth in consultation with the BCM Gomeroi Liaison Committee.	(Positive) (High) B4	Provision of employment for an additional four years, with an average workforce of 740 FTE, and a peak FTE workforce of up to 876 workers. MOD 10 would also support the continuation of indirect employment opportunities through its supply arrangements. Employment and business support should assist with the rising 'Cost of Living' pressures.

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
Impact Area – Livelihoods: Industry/ Business Opportunities							
Continuation of existing supply chain and business development opportunities for a further four years.	BCM employees and contractors, including local and regional businesses with BCM contracts.	Operations	Implementation of the 2023 SIMP including: › Continue to work with the Boggabri Business Chamber to identify local business opportunities. › Continue to facilitate biannual Aboriginal Stakeholder Community Forums to provide supply updates.	(Positive) (High) B3	Development of a formal Local Content Plan (LCP) including a register of local businesses. Identify strategies in the LCP that support increased involvement of local businesses in the BCM supply chain.	(Positive) (High) B3	MOD 10 will support the continuation of existing supply chains between local and regional businesses and the BCM for the extension of mine life.
Impact Area – Livelihood: Personal and Property Rights							
Impact of mining deeper and in new area could impact on groundwater and surface water availability. Rural properties rely on water for	Private residences proximate to the BCM. Bore owners and proximal landholders.	Operations	› Boggabri CCC › BTM CCC › Complaints and grievances mechanism › Temporary trade of WALs to account	(Negative) (Medium) C2	Undertake open and transparent engagement around water take and licensing with the local community and nearby residents.	(Negative) (Low) D2	The findings of the GWIA indicates that MOD 10 is not likely to have a significant impact on groundwater resources. Additional WALs will be required to accommodate

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
agricultural livelihood. Changes in groundwater accessibility impacts on surface and ground (bore) water users.	Agricultural properties.		for all water take from mining operations. › Approved Groundwater and Surface Water Management Plans, which include established surface and groundwater monitoring programs. › Monitoring results published on the BCM website.				for 2 ML of water take from the Zone 11 alluvium. The SWIA concluded MOD 10 would result in negligible impacts and / or changes in downstream flow regimes (including cumulative impacts), and therefore not affect downstream water users. However, an additional 191 unit-shares is required to achieve the predicted 284 ML/year licensable water take from the Bluevale Water Source during wet conditions. Similarly, BCOPL would need to acquire an additional 690 ML water entitlements to account for the maximum predicted imported water take volume of 2,040 ML/year. Impact rated medium due to the stakeholder concern and importance of water

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
							resources for the landholder.
Impact Area – Accessibility: Social infrastructure, Service and Facilities							
Economic opportunities associated with BCM benefits, continue to accrue to the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs supporting infrastructure investment in the local and regional social locality including schools, health services and recreational groups.	NSC and GSC. Residents of Boggabri township, Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA. Youth.	MOD 10 Life	- Existing VPA commitments with NSC. - Existing voluntary community donations.	(Positive) (Medium) B2	Continuation of contributions through the NSC VPA for an additional four years. Continuation of voluntary community donations.	(Positive) (Medium) B2	BCOPL's commitment to the community would be maintained for MOD 10 which will continue to facilitate community benefits at local and regional levels.
Ongoing stress/ demand on social and community infrastructure and services in the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs	Workforce. Infrastructure, Facilities and Service providers.	Operations. MOD 10 Life.	- Existing VPA commitments with NSC. - Community contributions (as above)	(Negative) (Low) D2	Continuation of contributions through the existing VPA and voluntary community donations for an	(Negative) (Low) D1	Funding from the existing VPA will compensate for demands on the social infrastructure network due to MOD 10. These impacts are predicted to be low as the proposed operations

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
from the BCM workforce.	Communities of Boggabri, Narrabri and Gunnedah. Vulnerable community members.		› Implementation of the 2023 SIMP including: › Continue to monitor workforce residential location, and presence of families. Use this information to assess potential pressures on community infrastructure. › Undertake regular dialogue with service and facility providers in Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs to understand demand and supply issues. › The Boggabri ELF, now operational, provides additional childcare provision in Boggabri.		additional four years. No additional FTE employees.		average workforce is equivalent to the current 2025 workforce at BCM. Therefore, the current existing demand upon services is likely to remain consistent. Consultation findings with local health service providers indicates a shortage in doctors, however current demand for these services was manageable. BCOPL continue to fulfil its housing commitment as shown with the current construction of the Glentarkie dwellings and ongoing discussions with NSC in relation to the development of a long-term strategy to fulfil its housing commitment.

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
Traffic from MOD 10 causing degradation of local roads	Local and Regional community. Local road users.		› Traffic Management Plan and procedures including Code of Conduct for Heavy vehicle operators. › Traffic monitoring program. › Existing VPA commitments with NSC	(Negative) (Low) D2	Site access to remain as currently approved. BCOPL will continue to make financial contributions to the NSC in accordance with the existing VPA.	(Negative) (Low) D1	Road condition identified from stakeholder consultation. Site access to remain as per current approvals.
Impact Area - Community							
Impact on Housing Affordability and property prices resulting from the extension of mining and potential environmental impacts (i.e. dust, noise and vibration, visual, heritage)	Near neighbours. Private landholders. Local and regional community members	Operations	› Existing VPA commitments and BCOPL Housing commitment › Existing management procedures outlined in relevant BCOPL management plans. › Consultation with concerned	(Negative) (Low) D2	No additional FTE employees.	(Negative) (Low) D2	Nationwide housing affordability crisis. No increase in FTE employees with a Peak workforce of up to 876 employees. BCOPL will continue to operate the BCM in accordance with measures outlined in the relevant management plans as approved by DPHI.

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
			community members.				
Impact Area - Health and Wellbeing							
Access to continued employment will support the health and wellbeing of BCM personnel and their families by enabling income security and maintaining social connections. The wellbeing of business owners who supply the BCM will also be supported.	BCM employees, contractors and family members. Suppliers and their families.	MOD 10 Life	Implementation of the 2023 SIMP including: › A focus on local recruitment and encourage new employees to relocate to the social locality. › Implementation of employment and contracting strategies that support the participation of workers from within social locality.	(Positive) (High) B3	No further enhancement required.	(Positive) (High) B3	Provision of employment for an additional four years, with an average workforce of 740 FTE, and a peak FTE workforce of up to 876 workers. MOD 10 would also support the continuation of indirect employment opportunities through its supply arrangements.
Community angst over impacts to biodiversity values. The proposed increase	Local environmental groups, residents of Boggabri	Operations	› Boggabri CCC › BTM CCC › Complaints and grievances mechanism	(Negative) (Medium) D3	Inform nearby neighbours of MOD 10 through the community newsletters, CCC,	(Negative) (Low) D2	<i>Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR)</i> (WSP, 2025) completed for MOD 10. The predicted impacts on biodiversity are

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
in disturbance will result in changes to the flora and fauna composition surrounding the BCM.	township, Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA.		› BCOPL Biodiversity Offset Scheme.		BCM Website and other appropriate methods. Undertake biodiversity assessment of Modification Disturbance Footprint to determine extent of impacts to flora and fauna.		not materially different to those impacts which have already been addressed through SSD 09_0182 (as modified). The total disturbance required for MOD 10 (i.e. approximately 85 hectares) equates to approximately 2% of the total approved mine disturbance boundary at the BCM. Biodiversity Offsets will be established to account for losses and the Biodiversity Offset Strategy updated.
Impact to mental health of landowners (e.g. anxiety, stress uncertainty, annoyance) over mine extension and potential continued impacts for additional four years.	Nearby residents. Vulnerable communities. Residents of Boggabri township, Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA.	MOD 10 Life	› Community engagement with project workforce and local residents regarding BCM approvals and modifications. › SIMP, Environmental Management Plans and ongoing	(Negative) (Low) D2	BCOPL to continue to communicate with local residents, CCC, NSC and GSC. Undertake proactive and transparent engagement with the local community.	(Negative) (Low) D2	The majority of properties surrounding BCM are owned by Mining companies. A large proportion of the BCM workforce reside in the social locality. Given the locality and the prevalence of mining operations in the area, it is not anticipated that

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
			monitoring of potential impacts. › Complaints grievance processes.				continued mining operations will be received negatively amongst community. Zero complaints received from community members in 2024.

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
Additional GHG emissions contributing to climate change	Local and regional community members. Environmental groups. Future generations	Operations	› Existing management procedures outlined within the BCM Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan.	(Negative) (Medium) C3	Additional measures required to address the EPA's NSW Guide for Large Emitters. Measures included in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment prepared for MOD 10. Identify further improvements and innovation of technology to reduce GHG emissions.	(Negative) (Low) D2	An AQGHG Assessment was completed for MOD 10. BCOPL are implementing measures to address greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the regulatory guidelines and policies. BCOPL has commenced with the development of a 6.5MWp/4.95MVA solar farm at the BCM to reduce the total electricity required from the national grid, which will reduce Scope 2 emissions.
The extension of mining (duration, depth and area) has the potential to affect water resources and hence water available for landholders	Nearby Agricultural operations. Groundwater bore users. Adjacent private residents.	Operations	› Boggabri CCC › BTM CCC › Complaints and grievances mechanism › Purchase of Water Access Licenses (WALs) to account for water take from	(Negative) (Medium) C2	Engage and provide regulator updates to near neighbours through the community newsletters, CCC, BCM Website and other appropriate methods.	(Negative) (Low) D2	The SWIA concluded MOD 10 would result in negligible impacts and / or changes in downstream flow regimes (including cumulative impacts), and therefore not affect downstream water users.

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
and/or the environment creating angst and exacerbating fears.	Environmental Groups.		surrounding sources. › Completion of groundwater bore monitoring in accordance the BCM Groundwater Management Plan. › Regularly liaise with landholders in relation to concerns of BCM operations, water monitoring and results.				However, an additional 191 unit-shares is required to achieve the predicted 284 ML/year licensable water take from the Bluevale Water Source during wet conditions. Similarly, BCOPL would need to acquire an additional 690 ML water entitlements to account for maximum predicted imported water take volume of 2,040 ML/year. It is anticipated that sufficient water would be available in the market for trade when required. Any changes for water allocation to be addressed via temporary trade to secure additional entitlements, as per prior years.
Impact Area – Surroundings: Amenity							

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
Prolonged air quality, noise and visual impacts (including cumulative) from BCM resulting in a change in amenity for nearby neighbours and communities.	Private residences proximate to the BCM. Local community.	Operations MOD 10 Life	Implementation of the 2023 SIMP including: - Regularly liaise with adjacent landowners to discuss issues and concerns relating to the operation of BCM - Monitor the number of complaints relating to amenity impacts received by BCOP through the Complaints Register.	(Negative) (Medium) C2	Review and update of the Air Quality, Visual and Noise Management Plans for MOD 10. Regularly liaise with adjacent landowners to discuss issues and concerns relating to the operation of BCM.	(Negative) (Low) D2	The MOD 10 VIA, concludes there will be no additional impact on the surrounding visual landscape at any private residences. The NIA concluded MOD 10 is not expected to result in material increases to noise from operations and is not predicted to lead to any significant noise impacts. The findings of MOD 10 AQGHG Assessment indicates that MOD 10 is unlikely to affect air quality beyond the range of historically measured fluctuations of key air quality indicators around the region. Dust concentrations and deposition levels due to mining are unlikely to exceed relevant EPA and VLAMP assessment criteria

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
							at the nearest private sensitive receptors, except when background levels are already approaching the 24-hour average PM ₁₀ criteria. The contributions from BCM would be very small (3 µg/m ³ at one property) and that this risk can be managed through appropriate air quality management measures.
Impact Area – Surroundings – Environmental Values and Improved Outcomes							
MOD 10 results in an improved rehabilitation and visual outcome than that already approved at the end of mine life.	Private residences proximate to the BCM.	Mine Closure	› Conceptual Final Landform design presented within the Modification Report › Rehabilitation of exposed faces of the OEA has largely been completed › Rehabilitation Management Plan, Rehabilitation Strategy, Way	(Positive) (Medium) B2	Ongoing and progressive rehabilitation	(Positive) (Medium) B2	The OEA will be constructed consistent with the Conceptual Final Landform design with macro-relief features and integrated with the surrounding landscape, thereby reducing the visual impact. The landform will be developed to minimise potential visual impacts resulting from the

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
			Forward Work Program, Rehabilitation Objectives and Completion Criteria.				proposed landform changes.
Impact Area – Cultural							
Ground disturbance impacting aboriginal cultural heritage	RAPs. First Nations People	Operations	- Approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) includes salvage program and unanticipated finds protocol - ASCF meetings	(Negative) (Medium) C3	Salvage program for identified artefacts. Keeping Place.	(Negative) (Medium) D3	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment completed for MOD 10 did not identify any new Aboriginal sites in the area to be disturbed and area was assessed as having low archaeological potential. Management of Aboriginal Cultural heritage will continue as outlined within the ACHMP.
Impact Area – Cumulative							
Cumulative amenity impacts from adjacent operations of other mines in the BTM Complex and	Residents of Narrabri and Gunnedah LGA	MOD 10 Life	Implementation of the 2023 SIMP including: Meet periodically with staff at NSC and GSC to understand social	(Negative) (High) B3	BCOPL will continue to make financial contributions to the NSC in accordance with the existing VPA, for utilisation	(Negative) (Medium) D3	The potential cumulative impacts have been discussed in the Modification Report and associated technical reports.

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
other resource projects to residents within the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs			and community infrastructure issues. › Participation in the BCM CCC and the BTM CCC. › Ongoing implementation of BCM Complaints Management Protocol.		on infrastructure projects (including environmental), at NSC's discretion.		No material cumulative impacts have been identified beyond those currently approved under relevant development approvals.
Cumulative economic benefits of mining in the New England and North West Region for the communities of the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs.	Residents of Narrabri and Gunnedah LGA	MOD 10 Life		(Positive) (High) B3	Continued operations. Continued VPA contributions to the NSC. Cumulative funding / contributions made available to NSC through MOD 10 and surrounding projects, including the approved Vickery Extension Project and the Narrabri Gas Project.	(Positive) (High) B3	Cumulative economic benefits associated with MCCM, TCM, Vickery Extension Project, Inland Rail Narrabri Gas Project, and other renewal projects.

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
Cumulative housing market impacts i.e., limited vacancy, increased rental/purchase price, arising from inflated wages and the construction of multiple projects in the region i.e., renewable projects, Inland Rail and Narrabri Gas Project.	Residents of Narrabri and Gunnedah LGA Workforces or nearby operations	Operations	Implementation of the 2023 SIMP including: › Continue to engage with other local mining operators and other development project operators regarding monitoring and managing the potential cumulative impacts on local housing. › Review the potential for impacts on housing availability and affordability where changes to the size of the local peak workforce are anticipated. › Continue to supply and support remote housing allowances for	(Negative) (Medium) C2	Continue to communicate with the NSC on the outcomes of the NSC Housing Strategy. Continue to communicate with the NSC on the Boggabri Housing Commitment (Section 3.6).	(Negative) (Low) D2	Potential impact dependant on timing of closure of nearby approved projects. The status of the Boggabri Housing Commitment may alleviate impacts on housing demands NSC. Commitments by other mining companies (e.g., WHC) to also construct additional housing will also help to alleviate housing demands, if constructed. The proposed workforce numbers are similar to current operations, resulting in minimal impacts to housing market. The potential impact of MOD 10 would be limited to the four year extension of mine life.

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
			staff, as well as the implementation of relocation policies. › Continue to run assessment centres in Narrabri and Gunnedah when a recruitment drive is required.				
Increasing conflict between residents of nearby communities due to growth in mining industry sector and perceived cumulative impacts on other industry sectors e.g., agriculture.	Residents of nearby communities e.g., Boggabri, Narrabri and Gunnedah.	MOD 10 Life	› Participation in the BCM CCC and the BTM CCC.	(Negative) (Medium) D3	Communicate the findings of Modification Report and associated technical studies with interested and affected people to ensure common understanding of potential impacts and opportunities.	(Negative) (Low) D2	Cumulative alongside other resource and renewable projects in the area. Whilst MOD 10 will extend the existing level of impact for an additional four years, it will not contribute to increase in the mining industry sector from that what was already approved. Therefore, the impact is considered low. Any conflict is perceived to arise due to new development. There is a perceived existing level of conflict between residents.

Potential Social Impact/Benefit	Affected Stakeholder	Phase/ Duration	Existing Management Measures	Unmitigated Risk	Additional Management Measures/ Project Refinements	Mitigated Risk	Rationale
							Level of conflict not anticipated to increase.

6.7 Summary

Social impacts have been identified and assessed for the social locality (local and regional). The impact assessment shows that the majority of potential social impacts of MOD 10 accrue to the nearby communities i.e., Boggabri, and the broader Narrabri LGA and relate principally to a lack of support and healthcare facilities, early education institutions, housing availability and affordability, and traffic impacts (i.e. road quality). Opportunities were identified as being related economic benefits resulting from the extension of mine life at BCM, increases in community resulting from prolonged employment, and the opportunity to develop increased housing and infrastructure within the Narrabri LGA.

The outcomes of the significance evaluation indicate that the potential significant areas of social impacts relate to the following areas:

- › Potential amenity impacts (including cumulative impacts) on nearby neighbours from visual, noise and dust emissions affecting health and well-being;
- › Local community concerns over the condition of local roads and prolonged traffic impacts on local roads as a result of the extension of mine life;
- › Concerns over loss of surface water and groundwater affecting availability for agriculture;
- › Contribution to GHG emissions from continued mining; and
- › Minor impacts on population growth, demand for social infrastructure and services or housing, as FTE numbers will not increase for MOD 10, however they will extend for a further four years.
- › The outcomes of the significance evaluation indicate that the potential significant benefits of MOD 10 include:
 - › Extension of mining until 2040 will provide ongoing employment opportunities for the local community and surrounds;
 - › A positive social impact on livelihoods as employment and business opportunities will continue to be realised for an additional four years;
 - › Extension of the financial benefits of the mine to the local community and wider State of NSW and Australia; and
 - › Continuation of VPA and community contributions towards community infrastructure, services and facilities.

7. Monitoring and Reporting

The SIMP outlines management and mitigation measures used by BCOPL to monitor potential social impacts. The SIMP includes actions, or steps that will be taken, to monitor the effectiveness of the proposed management measures. The SIMP also sets out the frequency in which the monitoring will occur.

Environmental monitoring data is reported to the BCM CCC quarterly, and a summary of the monitoring results is presented in the BCM Annual Review. Reviews and updates of the SIMP are also recorded in the BCM Annual Review (BCOPL 2023).

The SIMP is reviewed and updated periodically (nominally every three years), it includes reviewing the predicted impacts (in light of changing local conditions) and revising the SIMP to align with the predicted impacts. The most recently revised SIMP is currently with DPHI for approval.

The 2023 SIMP provides a documented roadmap for the management and monitoring of potential social impacts and opportunities associated with the ongoing operation of the BCM for the calendar period 2023-2025. It outlines BCOPL's commitments to the mitigation, management and monitoring of social impacts. This includes implementing adaptive management in response to impacts on:

- › Housing affordability;
- › Local businesses;
- › Social and community infrastructure and services;
- › Community cohesion;
- › Health and Wellbeing;
- › Farming communities;
- › Indigenous communities; and
- › Traffic.

Mitigation and management measures, consistent with the 2023 SIMP are provided in **Table 27**.

These management measures present BCOPL's continued focus on local employment and the production of goods and services to the local community, and the ongoing support to existing local communities through social investment activities.

BCOPL will continue to engage with local stakeholders over the remainder of the Life of Mine (LOM) at BCM through various established processes including the BCM and BTM CCC, ad hoc engagement with local and state government agencies, the BCM complaints register, and attendance and involvement in key community events.

Table 27 Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

Management		Monitoring	
Performance Goals	Proposed Measures	Actions	Timing
Housing Affordability and Availability			
› Minimise the impact of additional non-local workers on housing affordability and availability in Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs. › Promote living locally across the Mine workforce.	› Continue to engage with other local mining operators and other development project operators regarding monitoring and managing the potential cumulative impacts on local housing. › Review the potential for impacts on housing availability and affordability where changes to size of BCOPL local workforce are anticipated. › Follow-up with the Boggabri community to understand the extent to which housing demands have been alleviated with the construction of the Glentarkie Units. › Continue to liaise with NSC in relation to identifying possible opportunities for alternative and innovative housing options to help alleviate housing shortages. › Continue to supply and support remote housing allowances for staff, as well as the implementation of relocation policies. › Continue to run assessment centres in Narrabri and Gunnedah when a recruitment drive is required.	› Maintain a record of the residential location of employed workers.	Report on outcome in the Annual Review.

Management		Monitoring	
Performance Goals	Proposed Measures	Actions	Timing
Employment and Training			
› Maximise access to employment and training opportunities for the communities in Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs. › Maximise opportunities for First Nations peoples to gain access to employment and training.	› Formalise the BCOP Local Employment Strategy › Investigate the need for a First Nations Participation Plan (FNPP) including mapping details of First Nations-owned businesses. › Continue to support school-based education opportunities. › Continue to conduct and source a wide variety of training opportunities both internal and external based upon the needs of the workforce and the business. › Continue to explore opportunities to grow and support the First Nations workforce at BCM. › Develop a strategy within the hiring process to capture previous industry of employment for new recruits to support future planning for skills development and future monitoring of labour drawn from the non-mining sector. › Capture the cultural background of employees to facilitate reporting of workforce diversity.	› Maintain a record of the residential location of employed workers. › Annual monitoring of local workforce size. › In consultation with the BCM Gomeroi Liaison Committee, investigate strategies for opportunities for employment for First Nations peoples at the mine. › Investigate opportunities to maintain a record of each workers last industry of employment to assess impact upon other industry. › Investigate opportunities to maintain records of the cultural background of all new recruits to inform monitoring of trends in workforce diversity. › Annual monitoring for First Nations people's employment numbers. › Complete annual workforce survey.	› Report on outcomes in the Annual Review.

Management		Monitoring	
Performance Goals	Proposed Measures	Actions	Timing
Local Business Development			
- Facilitate opportunities for local businesses in the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs to access procurement opportunities associated with the BCM. - Maximise opportunities for local Aboriginal-owned businesses to gain access to contracts at the BCM.	- Investigate the development of a Local Content Plan (LCP) for operations. The LCP would include a register of local businesses and identify strategies that support increases in local content in the BCM supply chain (e.g. packaging business opportunities so that smaller businesses can participate. - Continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce to identify local business opportunities. - Continue to facilitate biannual Aboriginal Stakeholder Community Forums.	Maintain a record of local spend as percentage of total operational expenditure.	Report on outcomes in the Annual Review.
Social and Community Infrastructure, Services and Facilities			
Minimise the pressure on community services and infrastructure in the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs	- Continue to monitor workforce residential location, and presence of families. Use this information to assess potential pressure in community services and infrastructure. - Undertake regular dialogue with service and facility providers (including health care providers) in Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs to understand demand and supply issues. - Provide support and community contributions towards services and facilities lacking within the LGA.	- Maintain a record of the residential location of employed workers. - Monitor the number of complaints received in relation to community services and infrastructure. - Record meetings undertaken with the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGA staff where demand on community services and infrastructure is discussed. - Record and report on community contributions.	Report on outcomes in the Annual Review.

Management		Monitoring	
Performance Goals	Proposed Measures	Actions	Timing
Health and Wellbeing			
› Minimise environmental amenity impacts on nearby neighbours and local community.	› Continue to implement Environmental Management Plans, procedures and policies to minimise and mitigation environmental impacts. › Community engagement › Regularly liaise with adjacent landowners to discuss issues and concerns relating to the operation of BCM, and record results	› Record and monitor the number of complaints relating to amenity impacts through the BCOP complaints register.	› Report monthly monitoring results on BCM website. › Report community complaints in Annual Review
› Minimise GHG emissions from BCM.	› Identify further improvements and innovation of technology to reduce GHG emissions. › Develop Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Plan in line with the <i>NSW EPA NSW Guide for Large Emitters</i> (Environment Protection Authority, 2025)	› Monitoring of GHG emissions, electricity and fuel consumption, in line with NGER's reporting requirements	› Report in Annual Review

Management		Monitoring	
Performance Goals	Proposed Measures	Actions	Timing
Community Cohesion			
› Identify opportunities to increase positive interactions between the workforce and local resident communities. › Minimise anti-social behaviour within the workforce, including drug and alcohol problems.	› Continue to support local community activities. › Continue to implement the employee code of conduct. › Continue community engagement with project workforce and local residents regarding BCM approvals and modifications. › Continue to support and provide voluntary community contributions (i.e. sponsorship's, donations and participation for an additional four years).	› Record and monitor the number of complaints relating to community cohesion received through the BCOP complaints register. › Record and report on community contributions.	Report on outcomes in the Annual Review.
Labour Draw			
› Minimise potential impacts to non-mine related industries within the Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs during mine recruitment activities.	› Regularly monitor local labour supplies to assist in determining labour recruitment strategies which minimise the effect on other industries.	› Report on the labour demographics within the Local Area	› Report on labour demographics in the SIMP.

Management		Monitoring	
Performance Goals	Proposed Measures	Actions	Timing
Farming communities			
› Minimise loss of agricultural production capacity in Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs › Minimise impacts to surface and groundwater resources used for agricultural purposes.	› Regularly liaise with adjacent landowners to discuss issues and concerns relating to the operation of BCM, including land use practices, and record results › Continue to maintain company owned land in agricultural production wherever possible. › Continue to monitor potential impacts to the surface and groundwater (including privately owned groundwater bores) in accordance with the SWMP and GWMP. › Obtain and maintain water licenses for water take.	› Monitor and review surface and groundwater results. › Monitor and record water usages against water licenses in the Annual Review.	› Report on outcome in the Annual Review
Opportunities for First Nations peoples			
› In consultation with the BCM Gomeroi Liaison Committee, maximise opportunities for local Aboriginal people to gain access to employment at the BCM. › In consultation with the BCM Gomeroi Liaison Committee, maximise opportunities for local Aboriginal-owned businesses to gain access to contracts at the BCM.	› Continue to implement the HMP › Investigate the development of an FNPP for operations. › Investigate the development of an LCP for operations.	› Record and monitor the number of First Nation employees, as a percentage of the overall employment. › Record and monitor the local spend, as a percentage of total operational expenditure.	› Report on outcomes in the annual Review.

Management		Monitoring	
Performance Goals	Proposed Measures	Actions	Timing
› Provide ongoing opportunities for local Aboriginal people regarding archaeology, cultural interpretation and environmental rehabilitation.			
› Traffic Management			
› Minimise the number of workforce vehicles using local roads for purposes other than travelling to and from home. › Minimise the wear and tear, dust, noise and safety issues on rural roads surrounding BCM. › Minimise rubbish on the local rural roads.	› Continue to implement the Traffic Management Plan	› Record and monitor the number of complaints relating to traffic through the BCOP Complaints register. › Conduct regular roadside inspections to identify the presence of rubbish which requires removal.	› Report on outcomes as required in the Annual Review.
› Cumulative Impacts			
› Contribute to ongoing avoidance, mitigation and management of cumulative impacts.	› Meet periodically with staff at NSC and GSC to understand social and community services and infrastructure and issues. › Follow-up with the Boggabri community following completion of new childcare centre and Glentarkie Units to understand the extent to which demand issues have been addressed.	› Monitor social baseline data and conduct trend analysis to identify cumulative impacts. › Monitor the number of complaints relating to amenity impacts received through the BCOP complaints register.	› Report on outcomes in the Annual Review and SIMP.

Management		Monitoring	
Performance Goals	Proposed Measures	Actions	Timing
	› Participation in the BCM CCC and BTM CCC. › Ongoing implementation of BCM Complaints Management Protocol. › Continue to undertake cropping and grazing activities within the BOAs, in accordance with the recommendations made in the Agricultural Suitability Assessment.		
› Environmental Values and Improved Outcomes			
› Improved visual outcomes with improved final landform at the end of the mine life.	› Ongoing and progressive rehabilitation. › Rehabilitation of exposed faces of the OEA. › Development and implementation of a Rehabilitation Management Plan, Forward Work Program, Rehabilitation Objectives and Completion Criteria as part of the Rehabilitation Reforms.	› Record and monitor complaints relating to visual impacts through the BCOP complaints register. › Monitor rehabilitation against criteria.	› Report on outcomes in the Annual Review.

8. Conclusion

This SIA has considered:

- › The Social Locality of the Modification;
- › Likely social impacts and opportunities, both positive and negative;
- › Any other activities or projects that may combine to produce cumulative impacts; and
- › Whether MOD 10 meets the objectives of relevant planning instruments.

The SIA has assessed the impacts and benefits of MOD 10 based on the needs, issues and values of the surrounding communities, largely Narrabri LGA, Gunnedah LGA and township of Boggabri. The SIA has considered potential socio-economic impacts of MOD 10 consistent with the NSW SIA Guideline.

Mitigation and management measures have been identified for all potential social impacts and opportunities associated with MOD 10, which will be incorporated into the existing SIMP. These measures are a combination of:

- › Standard mitigation / enhancement measures. These are commonly applied mitigation measures such as the discussion of environmental monitoring results at CCC meetings and complaints response procedures (e.g. the operation of a community information and complaints hotline); and
- › Modification-specific mitigation / enhancement measures. These are measures that have been specifically identified and tailored to address the particular social impacts or enhance the benefits of the Modification.

The Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs have an extensive mining history with many residents who reside in the local and regional social locality being employed in the mining and resources sector. There will be no increase in FTE employees for MOD 10, albeit employment would continue for an additional four years. As such there would be no notable change to the social and economic profile of the community except for the potential for continued employment.

SIA consultation was undertaken with key service and infrastructure providers, CCC members, RAPs and regulatory government agencies. The findings of SIA consultation have identified a lack of essential services within the local area including childcare, youth and aged care facilities, early childhood education institutions and healthcare (including mental health). Consultation also identified impacts on the property market as an issue of concern in the local area, given the housing shortages (including rental properties) and affordability issues that have been experienced within the Boggabri area. Other findings alluded to issues with road quality and a lack of government funding for repairs.

Technical environmental assessments were completed for MOD 10, with the findings concluding that significant impacts resulting from MOD 10 are not anticipated. Notwithstanding this, stakeholders raised concerns over potential amenity impacts (including cumulative) arising from the extension of mining at BCM coupled with the existing mining operations within the region. Cumulative impacts have historically been managed in accordance with the relevant environmental management plans at BCM, TCM and MCCM, which will continue to be implemented for MOD 10 to ensure potential environmental impacts are appropriately managed.

Consultation also identified that stakeholders recognised the potential benefits of MOD 10 as being the ongoing economic contribution to the local community and support to local business, and the continued employment associated with the additional four years of operations.

The outcomes of the social significance evaluation indicate that the potential social impacts are low to medium. These relate to:

- › Potential amenity impacts (including cumulative impacts) on nearby neighbours from noise, dust and visual as a result of continued operations;
- › Concern over potential impacts of critical water resources in the local area;
- › Potential impacts on cultural heritage in the disturbance area;
- › Contribution to GHG emissions;
- › Local community concerns over the condition of local roads and prolonged traffic impacts on local roads; and
- › Minor impacts on demand for social infrastructure, services and housing.
- › The outcomes of the significance evaluation identified the potential benefits of MOD 10 as medium to high. These include:
- › Ongoing employment opportunities for the local community and surrounds including the younger generation;
- › A positive social impact on livelihoods as employment and business opportunities that will continue to be realised for an additional four years;
- › The continuation of VPA and community contributions towards community infrastructure, services and facilities; and
- › The continuation of the financial benefits from the mine to the local community and wider State of NSW and Australia.

The economic impact assessment undertaken for the Modification (Gillespie Economics, 2025) predicts the following annual economic benefits to the local economy:

- › \$794 M in output;
- › \$476 M in value-added;
- › \$112 M in gross wages; and
- › 1,095 jobs.

Approval of MOD 10 will provide direct economic activity, including the extension of employment for an additional four years, to the local economy, and indirect economic activity to the local area via both wage and non-wage expenditure, while having no material adverse impacts.

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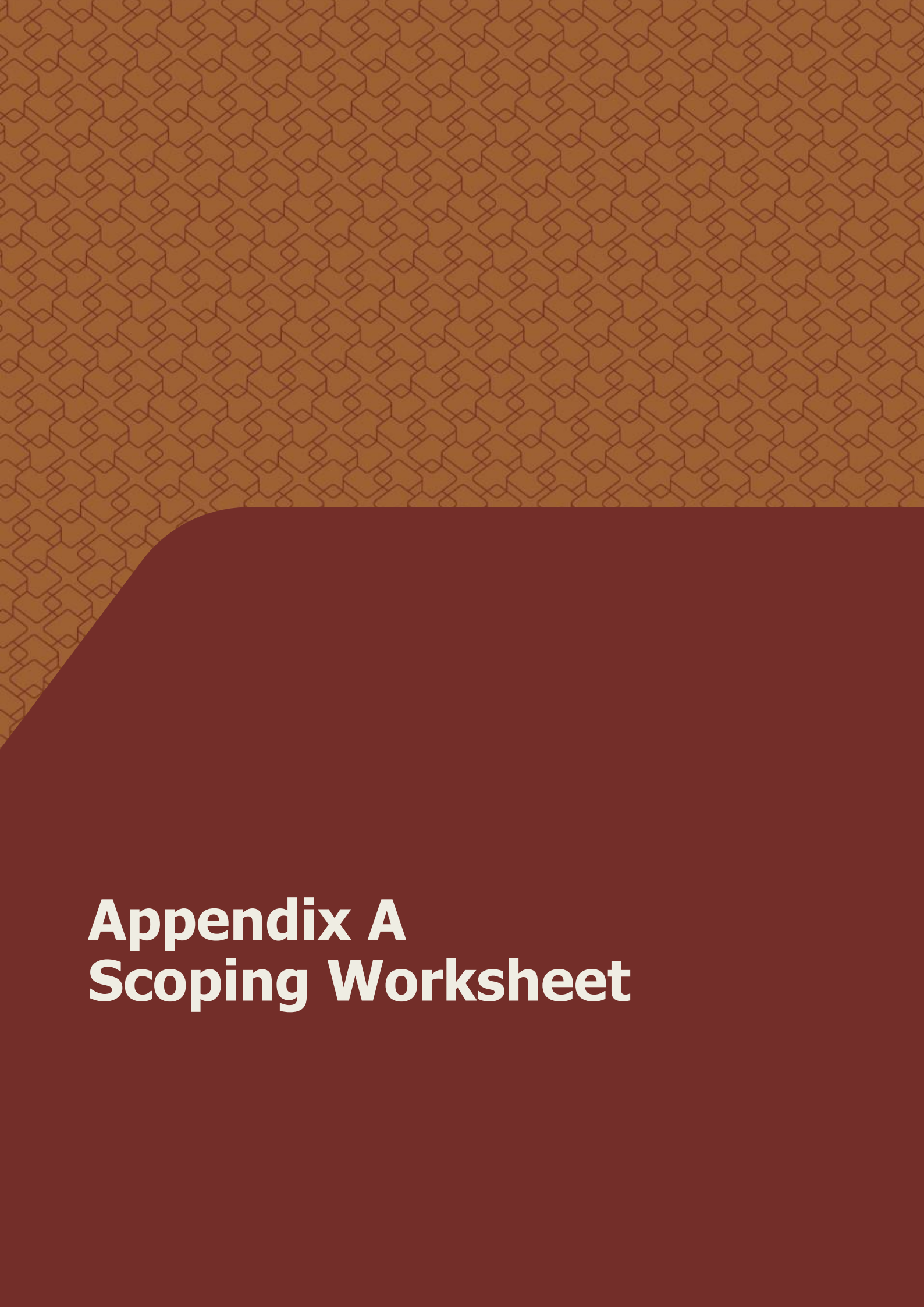
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10. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCF	Aboriginal Stakeholder Consultative Forum
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
BC Act	Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)
BCM	Boggabri Coal Mine
BCOPL	Boggabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd
BOA	Biodiversity Offset Area
BTM	Boggabri – Tarrawonga – Maules Creek
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CHPP	Coal Handling and Preparation Plant
DIDO	Drive-in drive-out
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
FIFO	Fly-in fly-out
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
GISERA	Gas Industry Social and Environment Research Alliance
GSC	Gunnedah Shire Council
ha	Hectares
HACC	Home and Community Care
IAR	Idemitsu Australia Resources
ICSEA	Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage
km	Kilometres
km ²	Square Kilometres
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local Government Area

Abbreviation	Meaning
LOM	Life of Mine
m	Metres
M	Million
MCCPL	Maules Creek Coal Pty Limited
Mt	Million tonnes
Mtpa	Million tonnes per annum
NENW	New England North West
NSC	Narrabri Shire Council
NSW	New South Wales
OEI	Overburden Emplacement Area
OOSH	Out of School Hours
PA	Project Approval
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
ROM	Run-Of-Mine
SA4	Statistical Area Level 4
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
2021 SIA	Social Impact Assessment prepared for Boggabri Coal Mine Modification 8
SIA	Social Impact Assessment prepared for Boggabri Coal Mine Modification 8 Amendment
SIA Guideline	Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Mining, Petroleum Production, and Extractive Industry Development
SIMP	Social Impact Management Plan
SRA	Southern Rehabilitation Area
SS	State Suburb
SSD	State Significant Development
t	Tonnes
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
TPCL	Tarrawonga Coal Pty Limited
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement
WHC	Whitehaven Coal



Appendix A

Scoping Worksheet

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Worksheet				Project name: Boggabri Coal Mine Modification 10										Date: 18/6/24				
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON PEOPLE		PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION OF IMPACT		CUMULATIVE IMPACTS		ELEMENTS OF IMPACTS - Based on preliminary investigation					ASSESSMENT LEVEL FOR EACH IMPACT				PROJECT REFINEMENT	MITIGATION / ENHANCEMENT MEASURES
Which project activity / activities could produce social impacts ?	what social impact categories could be affected by the project activities	What impacts are likely, and what concerns/aspirations have people expressed about the impact?		Has this impact previously been investigated (on this or other project/s)?	If "yes - this project," briefly describe the previous investigation. If "yes - other project," identify the other project and investigation	Will this impact combine with others from this project (think about when and where), and/or with impacts from other projects (cumulative)?	If yes, identify which other impacts and/or projects	Will the project activity (without mitigation or enhancement) cause a material social impact in terms of its: You can also consider the various magnitudes of these characteristics					Level of assessment for each social impact	What methods and data sources will be used to investigate this impact?			Has the project been refined in response to preliminary impact evaluation or stakeholder feedback?	What mitigation / enhancement measures are being considered?
		Summarise how each relevant stakeholder group might experience the impact. NB. Where there are multiple stakeholder groups affected differently by an impact, or more than one impact from the activity, please add an additional row.	Is the impact expected to be positive or negative					extent i.e. number of people potentially affected?	duration of expected impacts? (i.e. construction vs operational phase)	intensity of expected impacts i.e. scale or degree of change?	sensitivity or vulnerability of people potentially affected?	level of concern/ interest of people potentially affected?		Secondary data	Primary Data - Consultation	Primary Data - Research		
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	health and wellbeing	Continued support of the heath and wellbeing of BCM personnel and their families by enabling income security and maintaining social connections.	Positive	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's and EIS for BCM.	Yes	Mining operations are located directly to the North and South of the Modification. These mining operations provide jobs for the local community	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	No	Additional employment for four years, with an average workforce of 740 FTE, and a peak FTE workforce of up to 876 workers. Continuation of existing workforce. Implementation of SIMP iincluding focus on local recruitment (through employment and contracting strategies) and encourage new employees to relocate to the social locality.
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	health and wellbeing	Continued support of the health and wellbeing of businesses who supply goods to BCM and the surrounding community.	Positive	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's and EIS for BCM.	Yes	Mining operations are located directly to the North and South of the Modification. These mining operations provide jobs for the local community	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	No	Continuation of contracting opportunities for business through BCM's supply arrangements for additional four years.
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	livelihoods	Extension of mining until 2040 will provide ongoing employment opportunities for the local community and surrounds	Positive	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's and EIS for BCM.	Yes	Mining operations are located directly to the North and South of the Modification. These mining operations provide jobs for the local community	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	No	Provision of employment for an additional four years for current workforce. Implementation of SIMP which includes Local Employment Strategies.
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	health and wellbeing	The potential to magnify the concerns of the local community in relation to biodiversity values.	Negative	Yes - this project	Biodiversity values have previously been assessed for BCM.	Yes	Impacts to biodiversity values previously assessed for the Project.	No	Yes	No	No	No	Minor	Required	Limited	Not required	Yes	Mine plan designed to minimise total area to be disturbed, whilst maximising coal recovery with currently approved Project Boundary. Maintain Vegetation corridor. A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) will be undertaken for MOD 10. Biodiversity Offsets. Community engagement. Complaints and Grievances mechanism, BCM CCC and BTM CCC for community to voice concerns.
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	way of life	Continued operations contributing to maintaining the local population and supporting social infrastructure investment in the local and regional area, including schools, health services and recreational groups.	Positive	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's and EIS for BCM.	Yes	Mining operations are located directly to the North and South of the Modification. These mining operations provide jobs for the local community	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	No	Continuation of contributions through the NSC VPA for an additional four years and continuation of voluntary community donations.
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	way of life	Continued employment of the BCM workforce places stress on existing social and community infrastructure in the local LGAs and reduces access to these services for other sectors of the community.	Negative	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's and EIS for BCM.	Yes	Other mining operations / expansions located in the area have the potential to exacerbate this issue.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	No	No increase in FTE. Mine extension restricted to 4 years. Local Employment Strategy. Continuation of community contributions and funding from the VPA.
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	way of life	Potential negative impact on property prices due to ongoing amenity impacts (e.g., noise, vibration, dust)	Negative	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's and EIS for BCM.	Yes	Other mining operations / expansions located in the area have the potential to exacerbate this issue by contributing to mining noise, vibration and dust generation.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	Yes	Nationwide housing affordability crisis. No increased in FTE's with a Peak workforce of up to 876 employees. Implementation of controls and measures outlined in the relevant management plans to manage environmental impacts. SIMP includes monitoring/ review of impact on property prices. Boggabri Housing Commitment.
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	livelihoods	The extension of mine life will ensure continued direct and indirect benefits for community structure and cohesion.	Positive	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's and EIS for BCM.	Yes	Other mining operations also support the surrounding community	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	No	Continuation of existing supply chains between local and regional businesses. Extension of BCM's financial investments into the community nd community run events/ activities. Employee Code of Conduct
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	health and wellbeing	Potential to exacerbate landowner frustration and annoyance in relation to continued operations.	Negative	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's and EIS for BCM.	Yes	Other mining operations also support the surrounding community	No	Yes	No	No	No	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	Yes	Mine extension restricted to 4 years, within approved Project Boundary. No change in mine equipment or processes. Implementation of management and mitigation measures in Environmental Management Plans to minimise potential impacts including noise and
Extension of Mine Life Until 2040	health and wellbeing	Additional GHG emissions contributing to climate change and contrary to government policies.	Negative	Yes - this project	GHG emissions have been previously assessed in EIS for the BCM.	Yes	Other mining expansions and continued operations contributing to cumulative GHG emissions.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	Yes	Extension restricted to 4 years. Continuation of mining in same mining seams. 'An AQGHG Assessment will be completed for MOD 10 and preparation of Greenhouse Gas Adaptation and Mitigation Plan. Development of a 6.5MWp/4.95MVA

PROJECT ACTIVITIES	CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON PEOPLE		PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION OF IMPACT		CUMULATIVE IMPACTS		ELEMENTS OF IMPACTS - Based on preliminary investigation					ASSESSMENT LEVEL FOR EACH IMPACT				PROJECT REFINEMENT	MITIGATION / ENHANCEMENT MEASURES
Which project activity / activities could produce social impacts ?	what social impact categories could be affected by the project activities	What impacts are likely, and what concerns/aspirations have people expressed about the impact? Summarise how each relevant stakeholder group might experience the impact. NB. Where there are multiple stakeholder groups affected differently by an impact, or more than one impact from the activity, please add an additional row.		Has this impact previously been investigated (on this or other project/s)?	If "yes - this project," briefly describe the previous investigation. If "yes - other project," identify the other project and investigation	Will this impact combine with others from this project (think about when and where), and/or with impacts from other projects (cumulative)?	If yes, identify which other impacts and/or projects	Will the project activity (without mitigation or enhancement) cause a material social impact in terms of its: You can also consider the various magnitudes of these characteristics					Level of assessment for each social impact	What methods and data sources will be used to investigate this impact?			Has the project been refined in response to preliminary impact evaluation or stakeholder feedback?	What mitigation / enhancement measures are being considered?
		Is the impact expected to be positive or negative						extent i.e. number of people potentially affected?	duration of expected impacts? (i.e. construction vs operational phase)	intensity of expected impacts i.e. scale or degree of change?	sensitivity or vulnerability of people potentially affected?	level of concern/ interest of people potentially affected?		Secondary data	Primary Data - Consultation	Primary Data - Research		
Mining Operations / Activities	health and wellbeing	The continued operation of the BCM until 2040 may impact air quality due to ongoing dust generation.	Negative	Yes - this project	Air quality impact assessments have previously been completed at BCM as part of the EIS (and Modifications).	Yes	Dust emissions from other mines and industry may cause cumulative impacts	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	Yes	Mining proposed within approved Project Boundary. Extension restricted to 4 years. Operate in accordance with procedures outlined in AQGGMP and associated Site-Specific Dust Management Pollution Reduction Programs. Implementation of air quality mitigation measures and controls in AQGGMP. Progressive rehabilitation. An AQGHG Assessment will be completed for MOD 10.
Mining Operations / Activities	health and wellbeing	Noise impacts on nearby residences from continued operation of the BCM until 2040.	Negative	Yes - this project	Noise Assessments have previously been completed at BCM as part of the EIS (and subsequent Modifications).	Yes	Noise emissions from other mines and industry may cause cumulative impacts	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	Yes	Mining proposed within approved Project Boundary. Extension restricted to 4 years. Operate in accordance with pocedures outlined in NMP. Implementation of noise mitigation and controls in NMP. A Noise Assessment will be completed for MOD 10.
Mining Operations / Activities	health and wellbeing	Vibrations caused by blasting at the BCM may cause damage to nearby properties and cause stress for the landowner.	Negative	Yes - this project	This issue has been considered in the Project EIS.	Yes	Blast vibrations may become cumulative due to several mines operating in the vicinity.	Yes	No	No	No	No	Minor	Required	Limited	Not required	No	Operate in accordance with measures outlined in approved Blast Management Plan.
Mining Operations / Activities	surroundings	Visual impacts from mine continuation on nearby landholders.	Negative	Yes - this project	This is addressed in the Visual Impact Assessment for the Modification and has been previously assessed in EIS for the BCM.	Yes	Loss of amenity use to surrounding mines and other potential and proposed industry (e.g. solar).	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Minor	Required	Limited	Not required	Yes	Mining proposed within approved Project Boundary. Progressive rehilitation. Enhancement of final landform VIA to be completed for MOD 10. Community consulation and engagement.
Mining Operations / Activities	culture	Ground disturbance has the potential to impact on Aboriginal or historic heritage sites or artefacts.	Negative	Yes - this project	The issue has previously been assessed in the BCM EIS.	Yes	Cumulative loss of heritage value	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Required	Yes	Disturbance area restricted to Project Boundary. Management of Aboriginal Cultural heritage will continue as outlined within the HMP. 'ACHA to be undertaken for MOD 10 with RAPs. ACSF committee
Rehabilitation and Final Landform	surroundings	Improved final landform and rehabilitation of the mine has the potential to support cropping and farming operations and result in an improved visual outcome than that currently approved	Positive	Yes - this project	Final landform and rehabilitation has previously been assessed and considered in previous assessments for BCM.	Yes	Cumulative loss of agricultural land to mining and other surrounding industry.	No	No	No	No	Yes	Minor	Required	Limited	Not required	Yes	Conceptual Final Landform designed with macro-relief features and integrated with the surrounding landscape with potential to support cropping and farming operations. MOD 10 proposes an improved rehabilitation and visual outcome than that already approved at the end of mine life.
Cumulative	surroundings	Cumulative amenity impacts from operation of other mines and industry to residents within nearby communities and LGA's.	Negative	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's for the BCM.	Yes	Cumulative amenity impacts from other nearby operating mines.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	No	Implementation of mitigation measures and controls in Environmental Management Plans. BTM CCC meeting.
Cumulative	way of life	Cumulative housing market impacts i.e. limited vacancy, increased rental/purchase price, arising from inflated wages and the continuation of other Projects in the region.	Negative	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's for the BCM.	Yes	Expansions of surrounding mines may have a cumulative impact on housing availability in the surrounding area.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	No	Potential impact dependant on timing of closure of nearby approved projects. Boggabri Housing Commitment. Commitments by other mining companies (e.g., Whitehaven) to also construct additional housing. Continuation of existing wrkforce for additional 4 years.
Cumulative	community	Increasing conflict between residents of nearby communities due to growth in the mining sector and cumulative impacts on other industry sectors e.g. agriculture.	Negative	Yes - this project	This issue has been assessed in previous SIA's for the BCM.	Yes	Other mines operate within the vicinity of the BCM which contribute to negative perceptions.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Standard	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially Targeted research	No	Cumulative alongside other resource and renewable projects in the area. No increase in FTE's Local Employment strategy. Community Engagement Plan BCM CCC and BTM CCC



Appendix B

Baseline Data

• Surrounding Industry

Table B-1 Nearby Existing Operations and Approved Projects

Project	Description	Location	Project life	Workforce
Existing Mining Operations				
Werris Creek (MOD 5)	Open cut coal mine	Liverpool Plains LGA	2005-2032	Approx. 140 FTE jobs
Tarrawonga Coal (MOD 10)	Open cut coal mine	Narrabri LGA	2006-2030	Approx. 211 FTE jobs
Rocglen Coal	Open cut coal mine	Gunnedah LGA	2008-2020 Production ceased in 2019. Current rehabilitation stage	NA
Narrabri Coal - Stage 3	Underground coal mine	Narrabri LGA	2010-2044 (Extension project from previous Stage 2 of the Narrabri Coal Mine).	Continued operational employment of 520 employees
Maules Creek Coal Mine (MOD 9)	Open cut coal mine	Narrabri LGA	2013-2034	Approx. 650 FTE jobs
Sunnyside Coal	Open cut coal mine	Gunnedah LGA	2009-2020 Current rehabilitation stage	Up to approx. 40 FTE jobs
Whitehaven Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (MOD 6)	CHPP	Gunnedah LGA	2002-2030	Approx. 30 FTE jobs
Vickery Coal Mine Project	Open cut coal mine	Gunnedah LGA	2014-2044	Operation approx. 250 FTE
Vickery Extension Project (extension to the approved Vickery Coal Mine Project)	Open cut coal mine	Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA	Until 2045 (25 years from date development consent was granted)	Construction approx. 500 FTE jobs; operation approx. 450 FTE jobs
Narrabri Gas Project	Approved petroleum extraction	Narrabri LGA	2020 20 year project life	Construction approx. 1,300 FTE jobs; operation approx. 200 FTE jobs

Project	Description	Location	Project life	Workforce
Wilga Park Power Station (MOD 7)	Approved MOD Power Station	Narrabri LGA	NA	NA
Approved Projects				
Narrabri South Solar Farm, Canadian Solar	Approved solar farm	Narrabri LGA	35 year operational life	Construction approx. 112 FTE jobs; operation approx. 5 jobs
Orange Grove Solar Farm	Approved solar farm	Gunnedah LGA	30 year project life	Construction approx. 100 FTE jobs; operation 3 FTE jobs
Narrabri Gas – Dewhurst Exploration Modification 3	Approved	Narrabri LGA	NA	NA
Narrabri Gas – Bibblewindi Gas Exploration Pilot Expansion Project	Approved	Narrabri LGA	NA	NA
Silverleaf Solar Farm	Approved solar farm	Narrabri LGA	35 year operational life	Construction approx. 120 FTE jobs; operation 6 FTE jobs
Inland Rail – Narrabri to North Star Phase 1	Approved	Narrabri LGA and others	44 months construction, expected to be operational in 2025.	Construction approx. 500 jobs (Narrabri to North Star Phase 1)
Inland Rail – Narromine to Narrabri	Approved	Narrabri LGA and others	48 months construction	Construction approx. 2000 jobs (500 people in each of the four construction areas)

Source: (DPHI, 2025)

Table B-2 Projects in the Development Approvals Process

Project	Status	Location	Project life	Workforce
Inland Rail Narrabri to North Star (Phase 2)	Assessment	Narrabri LGA and others	Approx. 24 months construction	Construction peak approx. 150 jobs
Narrabri Lateral Pipeline	Prepare EIS	Narrabri LGA	Construction approximately 6 - 12 months	Construction approx. 200 FTE jobs; operation 4 FTE jobs
Narrabri Solar Farm	EIS Preparation	Narrabri LGA	30 year project life. Construction approximately 18 months	Construction approx. 100 FTE jobs; operation 3 FTE jobs
Narrabri South Solar Farm (MOD 1)	Prepare Mod Report	Narrabri LGA	NA	NA
Maules Creek Solar Farm	EIS Preparation	Narrabri LGA	Construction approximately 18 months	Construction approx. 150 jobs; operation 4 FTE jobs
Whitehaven Solar Farm	Response to Submissions	Narrabri LGA	Construction approximately 6 - 9 months. Design operational life of 50 years	Construction approx. 30 FTE jobs with 65 at peak construction;
Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System	EIS Preparation	Narrabri LGA	Construction approximately 12 months	NA
Maules Creek Continuation Project	EIS Preparation	Narrabri LGA	Until approx. 2045	Approx. 800 FTE jobs
Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 (MOD 1)	Assessment	Narrabri LGA	No change	No change
Vickery Mine Extension (MOD 1)	Assessment	Narrabri LGA	No change	No change
Whitehaven Coal Handling (MOD 7)	Prepare Mod report	Gunnedah LGA	NA	NA
Gunnedah Waste Facility	Assessment	Gunnedah LGA	NA	Construction up to 62 FTE jobs; operation up to 30 FTE jobs

Source: (DPHI, 2025)

Note: NA – Information is not available

• Population and Demography

Population and Population Growth

Table B-3 Population Growth, 2011-2021

Geographic Area	2011	2016	2021	Change 2011-2021 (%)
Boggabri SS	1,189	1,130	1,203	1.2
Gunnedah LGA	12,065	12,215	12,929	6.7
Narrabri LGA	12,926	13,084	12,703	-1.8
NENW SA4	176,193	181,555	185,560	5
NSW	6,917,656	7,480,228	8,072,163	14.3

Source: (ABS, 2011), (ABS, 2016), (ABS, 2021)

Indigenous Population

Table B-4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population - 2011-2021

Geographic Area	2011	2016	2021	Change 2011-2021 (%)
Boggabri SS	65	127	145	55.2
Gunnedah LGA	1,363	1,568	2,021	32.6
Narrabri LGA	1,388	1,595	1,881	26.2
NENW (SA4)	15,797	18,415	22,058	28.4
NSW	172,620	216,176	278,043	37.9

Source: (ABS, 2011), (ABS, 2016), (ABS, 2021)

Table B-5 Population Projections, 2021-2041

Geographic Area	2021	2026	2036	2041	Change 2021 - 2041 (%)
Gunnedah LGA	13,088	13,265	13,626	13,746	4.9%
Narrabri LGA	12,808	12,858	12,958	12,997	1.5
NENW Region ¹	185,681	188,935	194,910	197,514	6.0%
NSW	8,097,062	8,680,294	9,622,204	10,070,467	19.6%

Source: (DPHI, 2024a).

Note: Data available for New England North West Region (NENW Region).

NENW Region boundary is consistent with the NENW SA4.

Age and Gender

Table B-6 Age and Gender Indicators, 2021

Location	% Males	Median Age (persons) (#)	<15 years (persons) (%)	>65 years (persons) (%)
Boggabri SS	50.1	43	18.4	24.0
Gunnedah LGA	49.8	37	22.4	18.9
Narrabri LGA	50.4	40	20.1	19.2
NENW (SA4)	49.2	41	19.1	21.2
NSW	49.4	39	18.2	17.6

Source: (ABS, 2021)

• Population Mobility

Table B-7 Population Mobility, 2016 – 2021

Geographic Area	Same usual address in 2016 as:		Same usual address in 2021 as:	
	1 Year Ago (%)	5 Years Ago (%)	1 Year Ago (%)	5 Years Ago (%)
Boggabri SS	77	55	73	51
Narrabri LGA	77	58	77	58
Gunnedah LGA	77	55	77	53
NENW (SA4)	76	55	75	53
NSW	77	54	79	54

Source: (ABS, 2016), (ABS, 2021)

• Family and Household Composition

Household Composition

Table B-8 Household Composition, 2021

Geographic Area	Households (%)			Total Households
	Family	Lone Person	Group	
Boggabri SS	65.3	30.1	3.2	438
Narrabri LGA	68.3	28.7	2.9	4,574
Gunnedah LGA	69.3	27.7	3.0	4,697
NENW (SA4)	67.0	29.9	3.1	68,894
NSW	71.2	25.0	3.8	2,900,468

Source: (ABS, 2021)

Family Composition

Table B-9 Family Composition, 2021

Geographic Area	Couple Family:		One Parent Family (%)	Other Family (%)
	No Children (%)	With Children (%)		
Boggabri SS	45.8	24.9	14.9	2.4
Gunnedah LGA	39.3	41.3	17.2	2
Narrabri LGA	43.5	38.8	16.2	1.4
NENW (SA4)	44.1	36.4	17.8	1.7
NSW	37.9	44.7	15.8	1.6

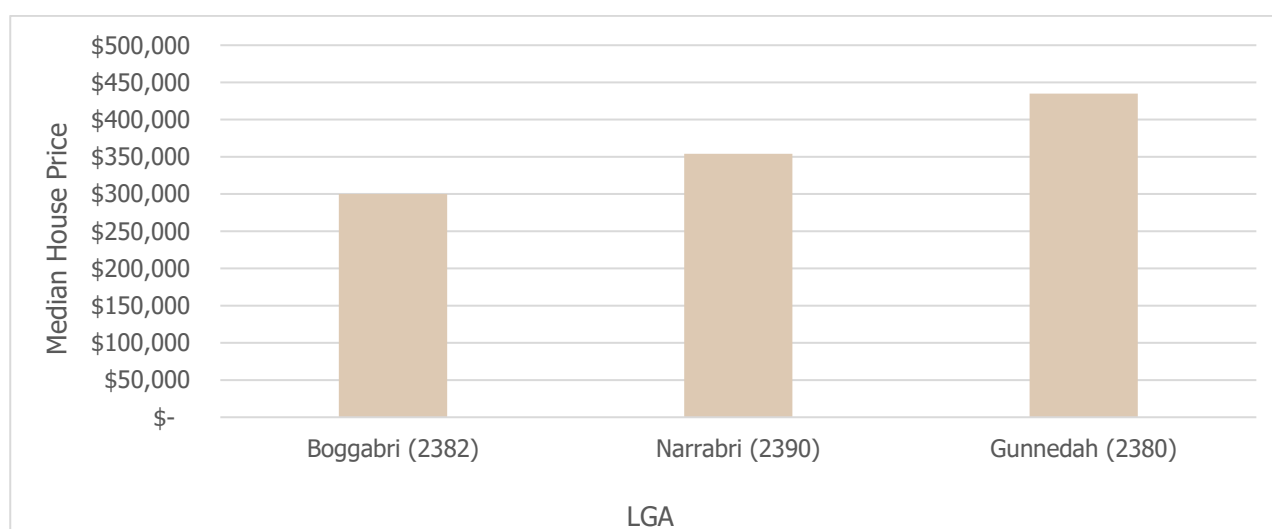
Source: (ABS, 2021)

Note: The Family Composition is calculated based on Total Couple family with or with no children per Total Family Households (i.e., number persons usually resident).

• Housing and Accommodation Profile

Median House Prices

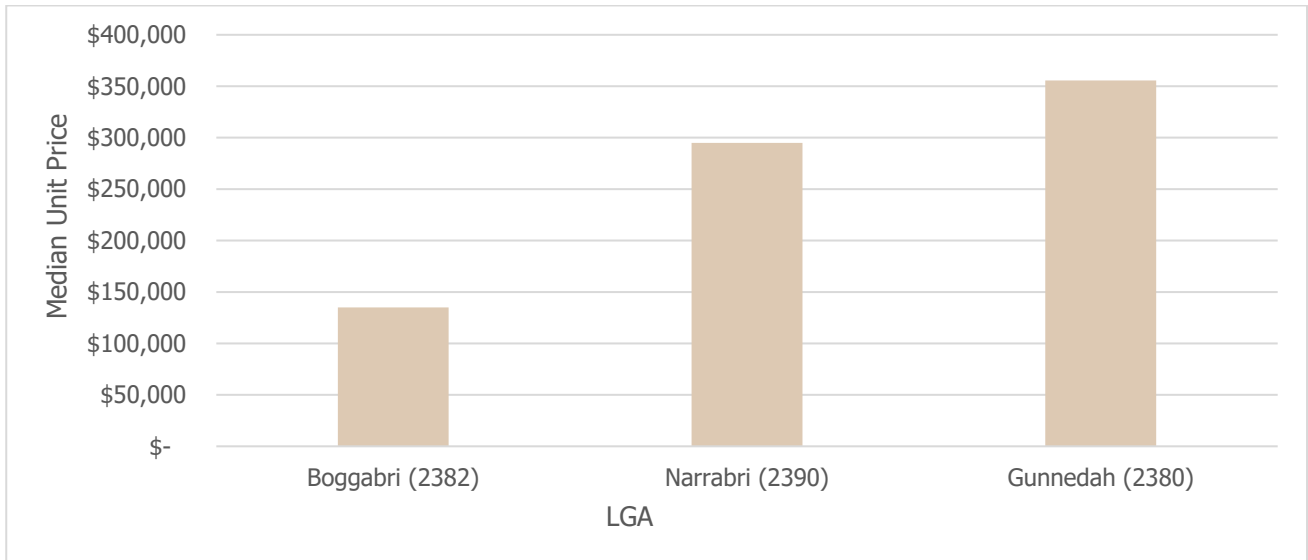
Figure B-1 Median House Prices (past 12 months)



Source: (CoreLogic, 2025a)

Median Unit Prices

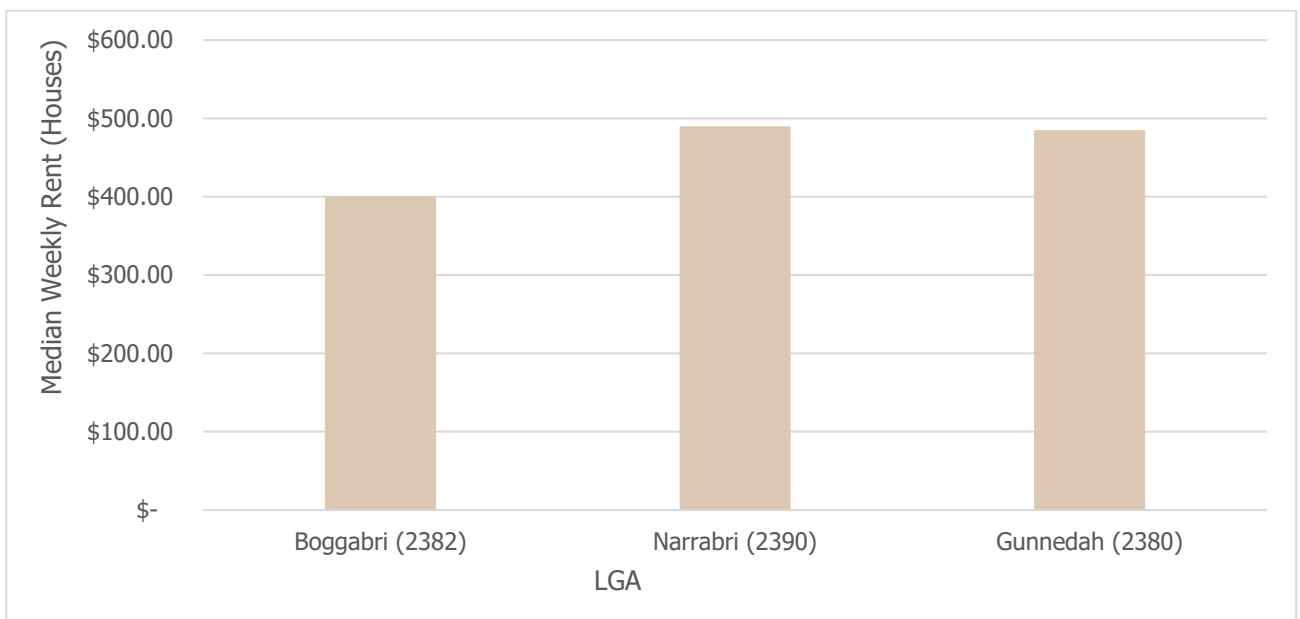
Figure B-2 Median Unit Prices (past 12 months)



Source: (CoreLogic, 2025a)

Median House Weekly Rent

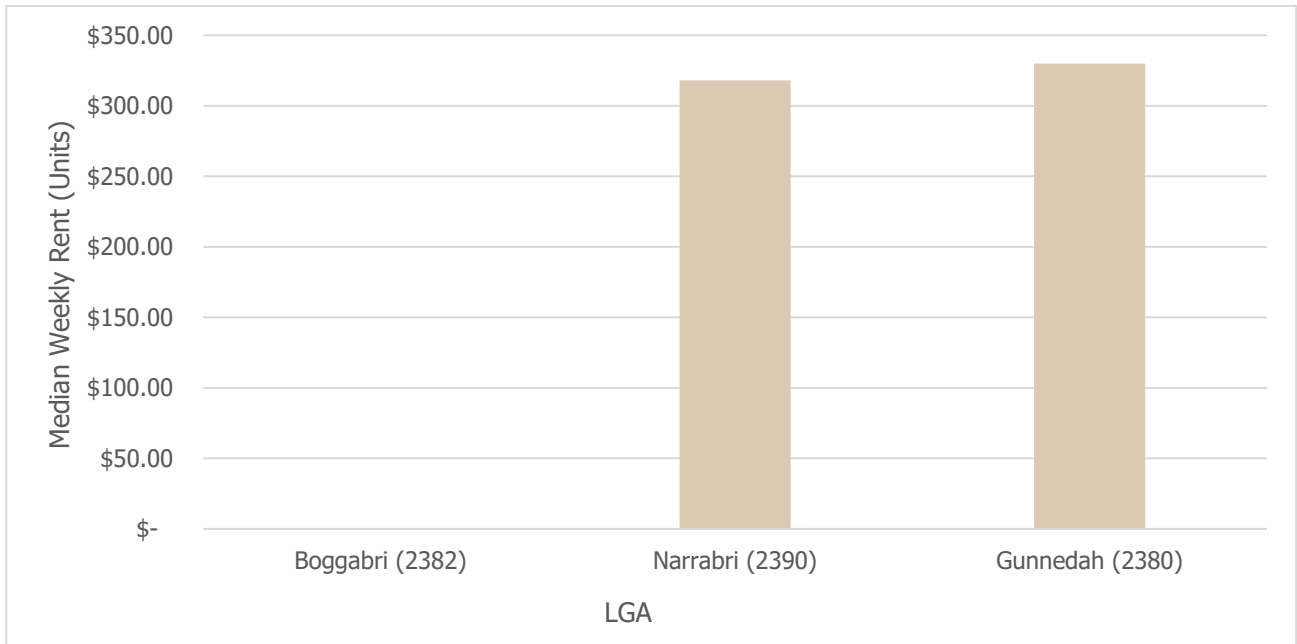
Figure B-3 Median Weekly Rent for Houses (past 12 months)



Source: (CoreLogic, 2025a)

Median Unit Weekly Rent

Figure B-4 Median Weekly Rent for Units (past 12 months)



Source: (CoreLogic, 2025a)

Properties for Sale

Table B-10 Housing Available for Sale, October 2024

Property Type and Location	Lowest Purchase Price (\$)	Highest Purchase Price (\$)	Number of Properties
Boggabri	60,000	3,800,000	17
Narrabri	\$210,000	\$960,000	60
Gunnedah	\$99,000	\$990,000	69

Source: (Realestate.com.au, 2024)

Rental Housing Availability

Table B-11 Rental Housing Availability, October 2024

Property Type and Location	Lowest Rent (\$p/w)	Highest Rent (\$p/w)	Number of Properties
Boggabri (postcode 2382)			
All Properties	200	600	3
3-bedroom + houses	N/A	N/A	0
2-bedroom houses	N/A	N/A	0
Narrabri (postcode 2390)			
All Properties	200	600	15
3-bedroom + houses	450	600	12
2-bedroom houses	200	290	3
Gunnedah (postcode 2380)			
All Properties	35	800	27
3-bedroom + houses	450	800	14
2-bedroom houses	35	500	13

Source: (Realestate.com.au, 2024)

¹Note: The lowest rent and highest rent are not necessarily reflective of the median weekly rent but rather provides a snapshot of rent captured at a certain point in time, i.e., 10 October 2024, thus reflecting the varying nature of the housing market.

Median Weekly Rent

Table B-12 Median Rent, 2011-2021

Geographic Area	2011	2016	2021	Change 2011-2021 (%)
Boggabri SS	\$150	\$250	\$300	50
Narrabri LGA	\$141	\$200	\$250	43.6
Gunnedah LGA	\$180	\$240	\$300	40
NENW (SA4)	\$175	\$220	\$270	35.2
NSW	\$300	\$380	\$420	28.6

Source: (ABS, 2011; ABS, 2016; ABS, 2021)

Social Housing Provision

Table B-13 Rented Dwellings by Selected Landlord Type, 2021

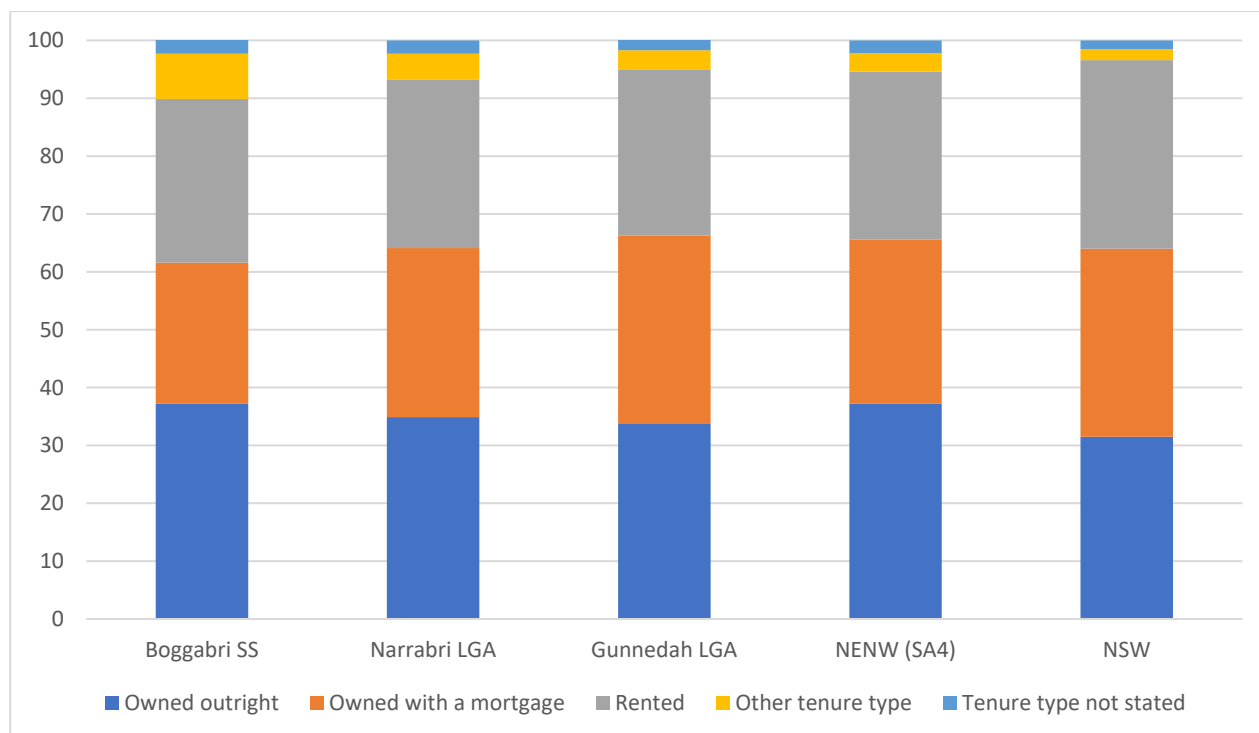
Geographic Area	Selected Landlord Type		Total (%)
	State or Territory Housing Authority (%)	Housing Co-Operative/ Community / Church Group (%)	
Boggabri SS	0.0	1.1	1.1
Narrabri LGA	3.8	1.8	5.6
Gunnedah LGA	2.4	1.4	3.8
NENW (SA4)	2.5	1.5	4
NSW	3.2	1	4.2

Source: (ABS, 2021)

Notes: Rented Dwellings by Selected Landlord Type is calculated based on the number of residents of State Housing Authority and Community Housing over the total number of dwellings. Data retrieved from 2021 Census of Population and Housing, General community profile – Tenure and Landlord Type by Dwelling Structure.

Housing Tenure

Figure B-5 Housing Tenure, 2021



Source: (ABS, 2021)

Dwelling Type

Table B-14 Dwelling Type, 2021

Geographic Area	Separate House	Semi-detached	Flat, Unit or Apartment	Other	Total
% Total Dwellings					
Boggabri SS	95.2	3.4	0.0	0.9	438
Narrabri LGA	89.9	7.7	0.7	0.7	4,574
Gunnedah LGA	89.9	6.7	1.8	1.8	4,697
NENW (SA4)	89.2	7.6	2.0	2.0	68,894
NSW	65.6	11.7	21.7	21.7	2,900,468

Source: (ABS, 2021)

Dwelling Projections

Table B-15 Implied Dwelling Projections, 2021-2041

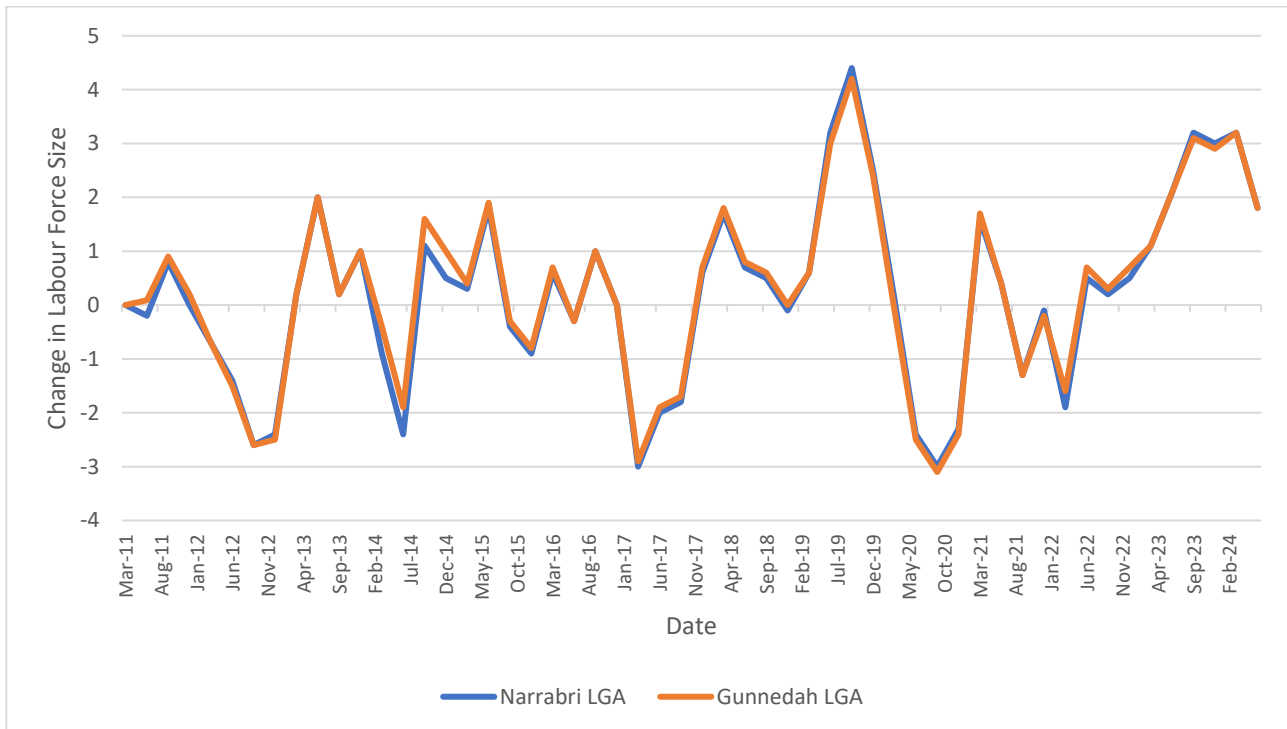
Geographic Area	2021	2026	2036	2041	Change 2021-2041 (%)
Narrabri LGA	6,048	6,063	6,148	6,175	2.1
Gunnedah LGA	5,965	6,055	6,383	6,500	8.2

Source: (DPHI, 2024a)

• Employment and Industry

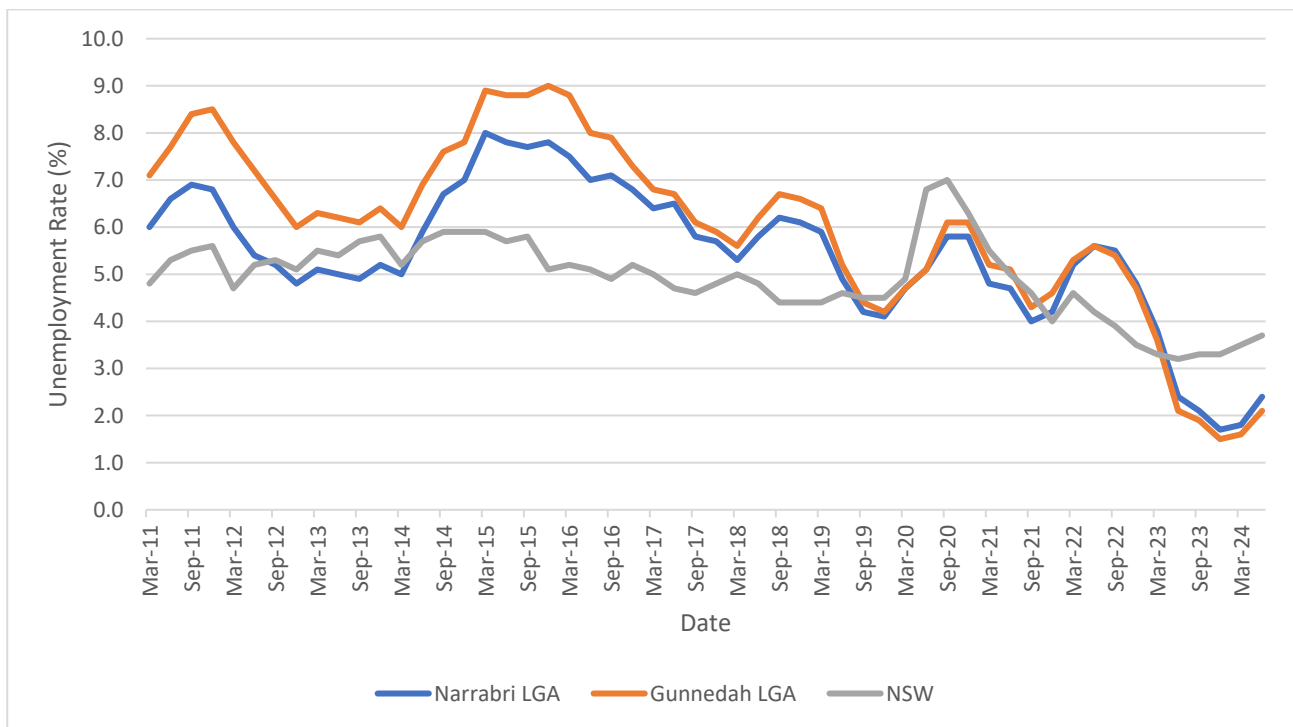
Labour Force Characteristics

Figure B-6 Change in Labour Force Size, 2011-2024



Source: (DESE, 2024)

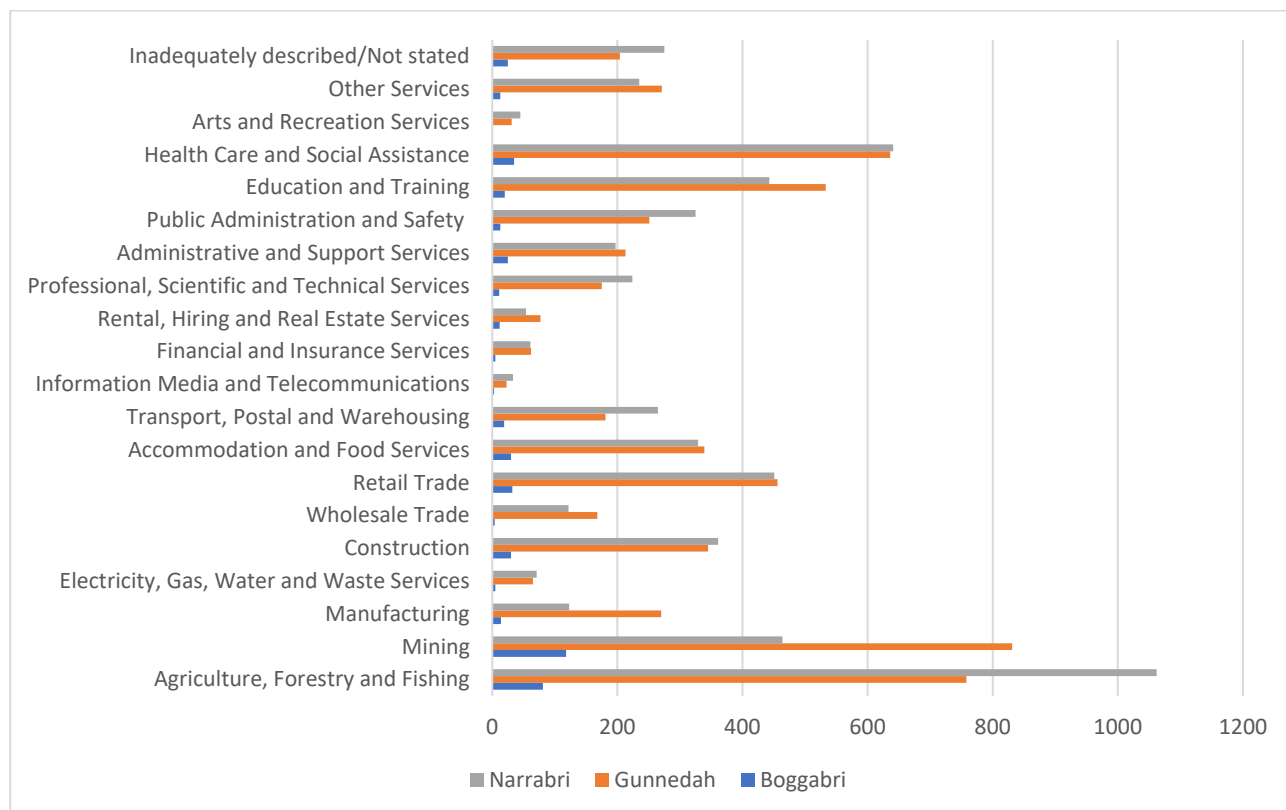
Figure B-7 Unemployment Rate, 2011-2024



Source: (DESE, 2024)

Industry of Employment

Figure B-8 Industry of Employment, 2021



Source: (ABS, 2016)

• Health and Vulnerability

Diversity and Vulnerability

Table B-16 Population Diversity and Vulnerability Indicators, 2021

Geographic Area	People born overseas (%)	Language other than English spoken at home (%)	Disability (need for core assistance) (%)
Boggabri SS	4.2	2.3	8.5
Narrabri LGA	4.4	2.4	6
Gunnedah LGA	5.3	3.2	6.1
NENW (SA4)	8.2	5	6.4
NSW	29.3	26.6	5.8

Source: (ABS, 2021)

Crime and Major Offences

Table B-17 Major Offences in Gunnedah and Narrabri LGAs, 2015-2024

Offence Type	GUNNEDAH Ten year trend (annual average % change) ^^	NARRABRI Ten year trend (annual average % change) ^^
Murder^	nc**	nc**
Domestic violence related assault	8.2%	2.0%
Non-domestic violence related assault	Stable	-4.4%
Sexual assault	nc**	nc**
Sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences	nc**	nc**
Robbery	nc**	nc**
Break and enter dwelling	Stable	Stable
Break and enter non-dwelling	nc**	nc**
Motor vehicle theft	nc**	Stable
Steal from motor vehicle	Stable	Stable
Steal from retail store	Stable	nc**
Other stealing offences	-3.3%	-6.0%
Malicious damage to property	Stable	-4.8%

Source: (BOCSAR, 2025)

Notes: For the ten year trend, the average annual percentage change is provided if the trend was significant.

^ For murder and manslaughter, the data are counts of recorded victims, not criminal incidents.

^^ The trend test used was a two-tailed Kendall's rank-order correlation test with a 0.05 level of significance.

*** Trend information is not calculated (nc) if at least one 12-month period in the selected timeframe had less than 20 incidents.*

Disadvantage

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas

Table B-18 SEIFA, 2021

Geographic Area	Index of Relative Socio-economic disadvantage	Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage	Index of Economic Resources	Index of Education and Occupation
Boggabri SS	912	881	960	837
Narrabri LGA	974	943	975	912
Gunnedah LGA	960	932	980	895
NENW (SA4)	N/A2			
NSW	1000	1000	1000	1000

Source: (ABS, 2021e)

Notes:

1. Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage.

2. SEIFA data is not available at the SA4 level.

Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage

Table B-19 ICSEA Rating Trend Data for Selected Schools

Selected School	ICSEA 2008	ICSEA 2014	ICSEA 2018	ICSEA 2019	ICSEA 2020	ICSEA 2021	ICSEA 2022	ICSEA 2023	ICSEA 2024
Boggabri SS									
Boggabri Public School	911	861	855	852	853	854	858	859	874
Sacred Heart Primary School	983	1,035	950	983	981	1,007	1038	995	1001
Narrabri LGA									
Narrabri High School	1,008	939	906	913	906	895	883	878	873
Narrabri Public School	873	921	880	861	848	850	847	830	830
Narrabri West	894	947	920	911	912	914	894	907	896

Selected School	ICSEA 2008	ICSEA 2014	ICSEA 2018	ICSEA 2019	ICSEA 2020	ICSEA 2021	ICSEA 2022	ICSEA 2023	ICSEA 2024
Public School									
St Francis Xavier's Primary School	949	1,020	1,021	1,032	1018	1,016	1016	1009	995
Fairfax Public School	946	1035	1,040	1,013	961	1,005	928	N/A	N/A
Wee Waa High School	873	843	838	866	850	862	843	834	865
Gunnedah LGA									
Carinya Christian School Gunnedah	983	1,008	1,000	1,000	986	977	968	970	977
Gunnedah High School	886	851	823	830	833	827	795	818	828
Gunnedah Public School	789	714	738	750	756	770	781	778	791
Gunnedah South Public School	902	914	891	888	883	884	888	876	894
St Mary's College	964	982	976	981	987	985	980	978	980
St Xavier's Primary School	966	1,006	1,007	1,013	1012	1,012	1013	1014	997

Source: (ACARA, 2025)

Median Weekly Income

Table B-20 Median Weekly Income, 2021

Geographical Area	Weekly Median Income (\$)		
	Personal	Family	Household
Boggabri SS	695	1,893	1,506
Narrabri LGA	778	1,944	1,498
Gunnedah LGA	780	2,001	1,557
NENW (SA4)	702	1,719	1,328
NSW	813	2,185	1,829

Source: (ABS, 2021)

Low Income Households and Welfare Dependency

Table B-21 Low Income Households, 2023

Geographical Area	Low Income Households (Bottom 40% of Income Nationally)	
	Number of Households	Percentage of Households (%)
Narrabri LGA	1,954	47.1
Gunnedah LGA	2,005	46.4
NSW	1,108,691	40.8

Source: (Torrens University Australia, 2024)

Table B-22 Welfare Dependant Families, 2023

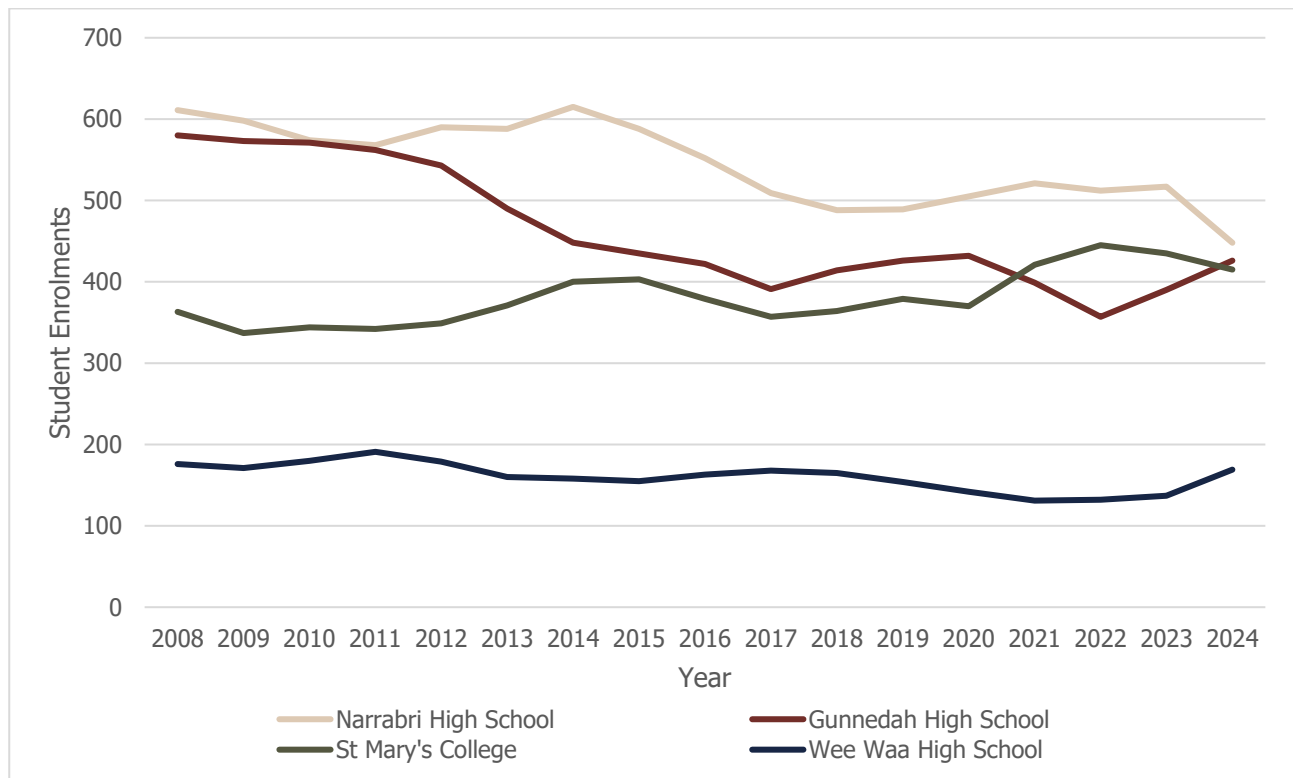
Geographical Area	Low Income Welfare Dependant Families with Children	
	Number of Families	Percentage of Families (%)
Narrabri LGA	250	7.8
Gunnedah LGA	245	7.4
NSW	89,965	4.2

Source: (Torrens University Australia, 2024)

• Social Infrastructure and Services

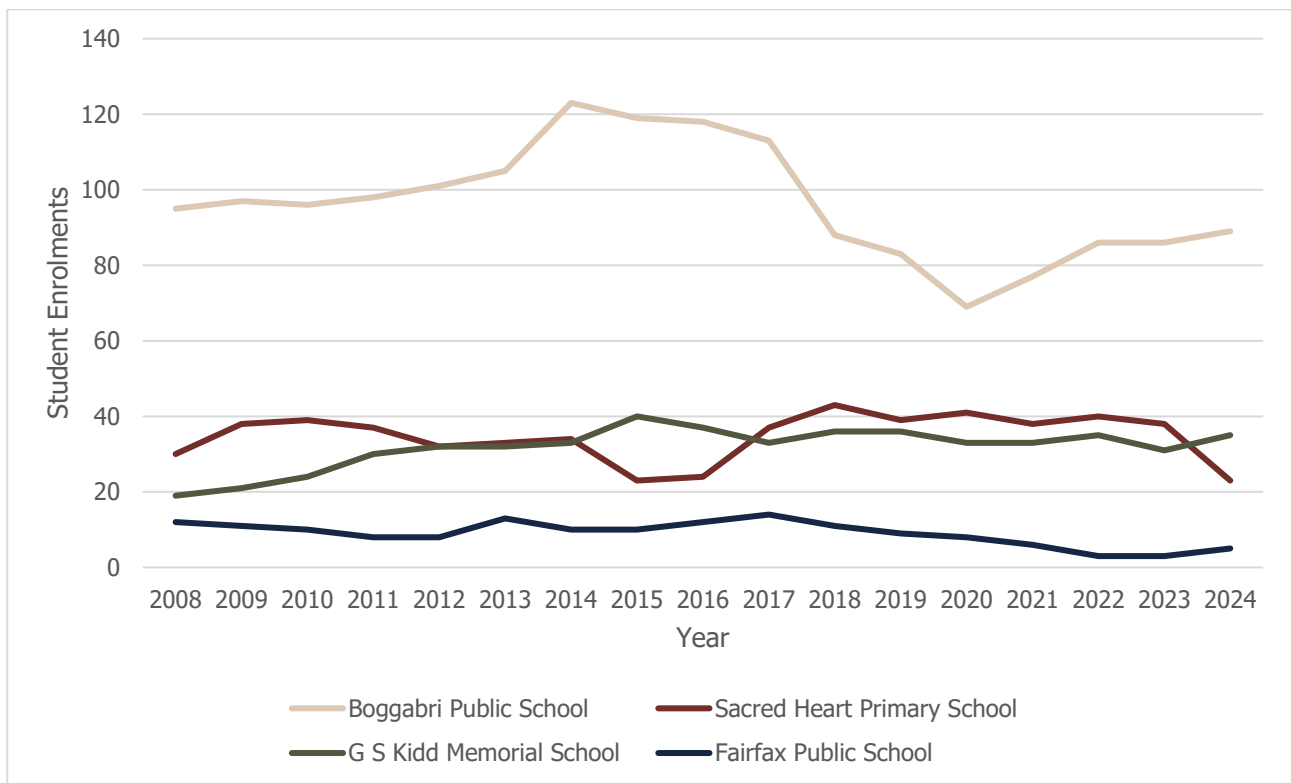
Education

Figure B-9 Regional High School Enrolments, 2008-2024



Source: (ACARA, 2025)

Figure B-10 Small Local School Enrolments, 2008-2024



Source: (ACARA, 2025)

Children's Services

Table B-23 Early Childhood Services in Narrabri LGA and Gunnedah LGA

Services	Service Location
Community Kids - Narrabri Early Education Centre	Narrabri
Nurruby Early Education Centre	Narrabri
Nurruby OOSH	Narrabri
Nurruby Narrabri OOSH	Narrabri
Gumnut Cottage Child Care and Pre-school	Narrabri
Esteem Kids St Francis Xaviers Narrabri	Narrabri
Narrabri West Public Preschool	Narrabri
Kogil Street Pre-school	Narrabri
Nurraby Boggabri Early Learning Facility	Boggabri
Nurruby Boggabri OOSH	Boggabri
Gunnedah Baptist Community Pre-School	Gunnedah
Grow Early Education Gunnedah	Gunnedah
Gunnedah Preschool	Gunnedah
Mary Ranken Child Care Centre (pre-school and daycare)	Gunnedah
Goodstart Early Learning (pre-school and daycare)	Gunnedah
Gunnedah Family Day Care	Gunnedah
Gunnedah Supported Playgroups	Gunnedah
Lil Achievers (Pre-School & Daycare)	Gunnedah
Gunnedah Early Childhood Intervention	Gunnedah
Winanga-Li Early Learning and Care Service	Gunnedah
Ooranga Family Mobile Resource Unit Assoc. Inc.	Gunnedah
Esteem Kids St Xaviers Gunnedah	Gunnedah
Puggles School of Early Learning	Gunnedah
Nurruby Wee Waa Community Child Care Centre and Preschool	Wee Waa
Wee Waa and District Preschool	Wee Waa
Nurraby Wee Waa OOSH	Wee Waa

Source: (ACARA, 2025), (NSC, 2024), (GSC, 2024a)

Health and Emergency Services

Table B-24 Services and Organisations in the Regional Study Area

Service / Organisation	Description
GoCo	GoCo provides aged and community care within the Gunnedah LGA. GoCo services include Transport, Home Care Packages, Carer Support, Aboriginal Support and Commonwealth Home Support Program (GoCo, 2024).
Boggabri Home and Community Care (HACC)	HACC is a partially government funded non-for-profit organisation providing community services i.e., transport, meals on wheels and social support to 72 clients in Boggabri SS.
Boggabri Rotary Club	The Boggabri Rotary club operates with approximately nine members and is a volunteer based and social support organisation.
Boggabri Lions Club	The Boggabri Lions Club celebrated their 50 th Anniversary in 2022. Membership started with 25 people and over the years it has grown and shrunk. The club has recently inducted five new members with a further three to be inducted, bringing the total membership to 24 (The Courier, 2024). The club has provided substantial community services and monetary value to the Boggabri community over the years.
Narrabri Summit Community Services	The Narrabri Summit Community Services is a not for profit organisation that is governed by a Management Board of up to 10 community members and provides home care for aged persons and disabled persons.
Narrabri and District Community Aid Service (NDCAS)	NDCAS is a not for profit community service. Services include the Neighbourhood Centre, Narrabri homelessness support, Narrabri families and youth service, women and children's refuge, NDCAS youth centre, Namoi Toy Library and supported playgroup (busy little hands at play) (NDCAS, 2025).
Narrabri Aquatic Centre	The Narrabri Aquatic Centre has a range of services for individuals that have mobility issues. The Centre provides swimming and water based activities to the community which can improve quality of life through improved cardiovascular fitness, mobility and flexibility. In 2022, the Council developed a <i>Disability Inclusion Action Plan</i> to assist planning to make the community more accessible (NSC, 2022).

- **Workforce Survey**

Figure B-11 Workforce Residence Summary

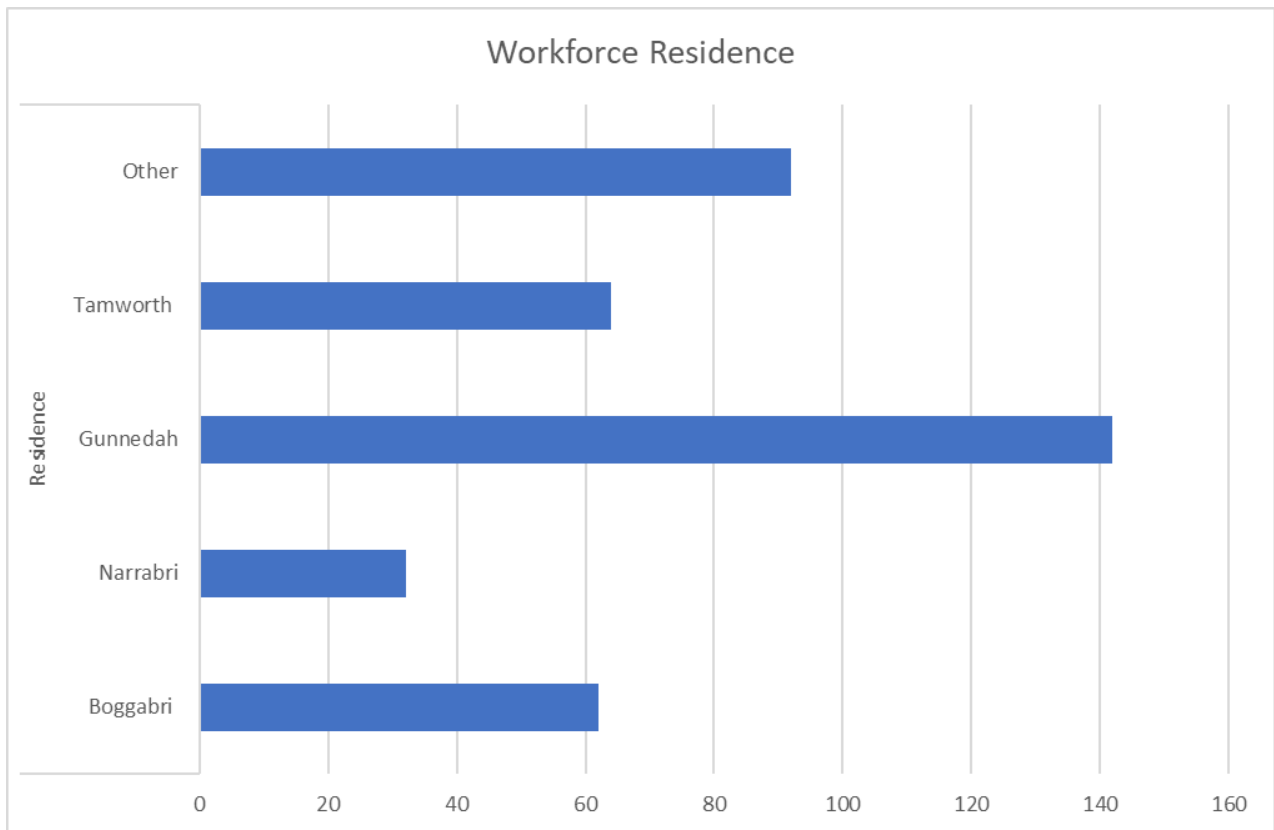


Figure B-12 Workforce Age Summary

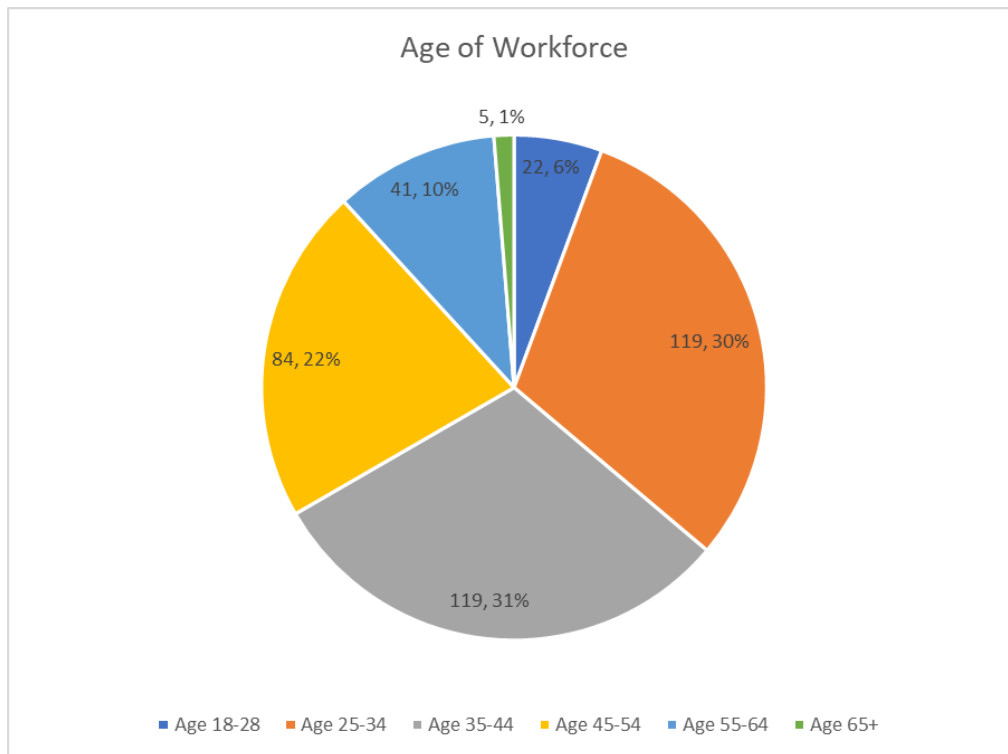


Figure B-13 Workforce Cultural Background Summary

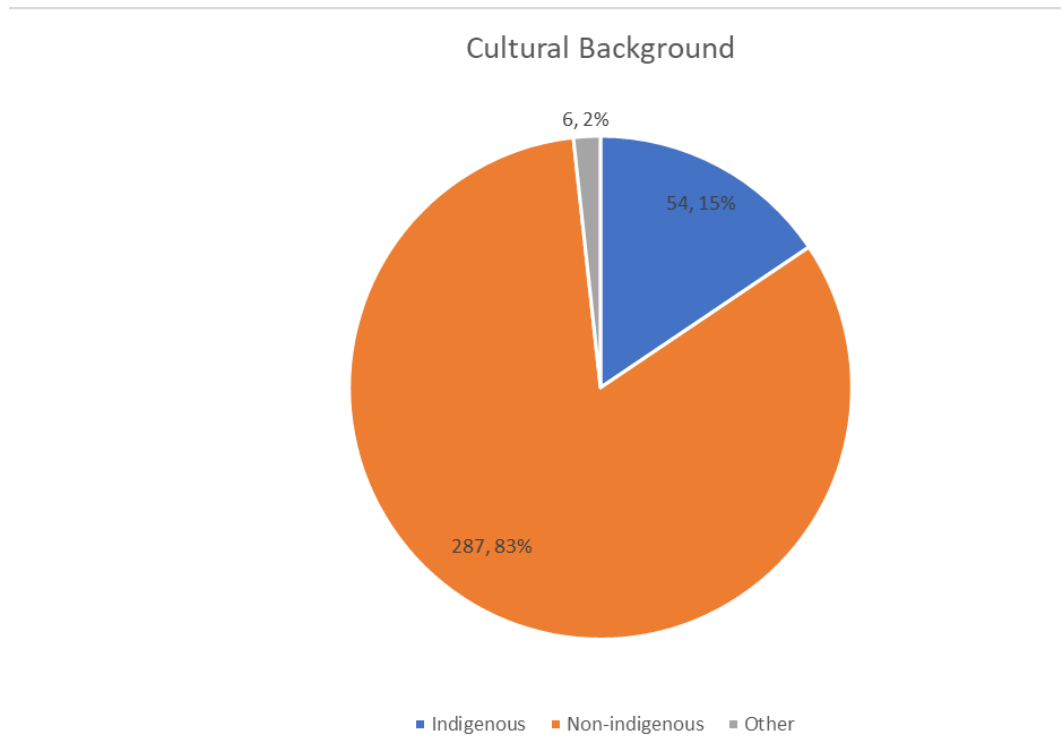


Figure B-14 Narrabri Service Access Summary

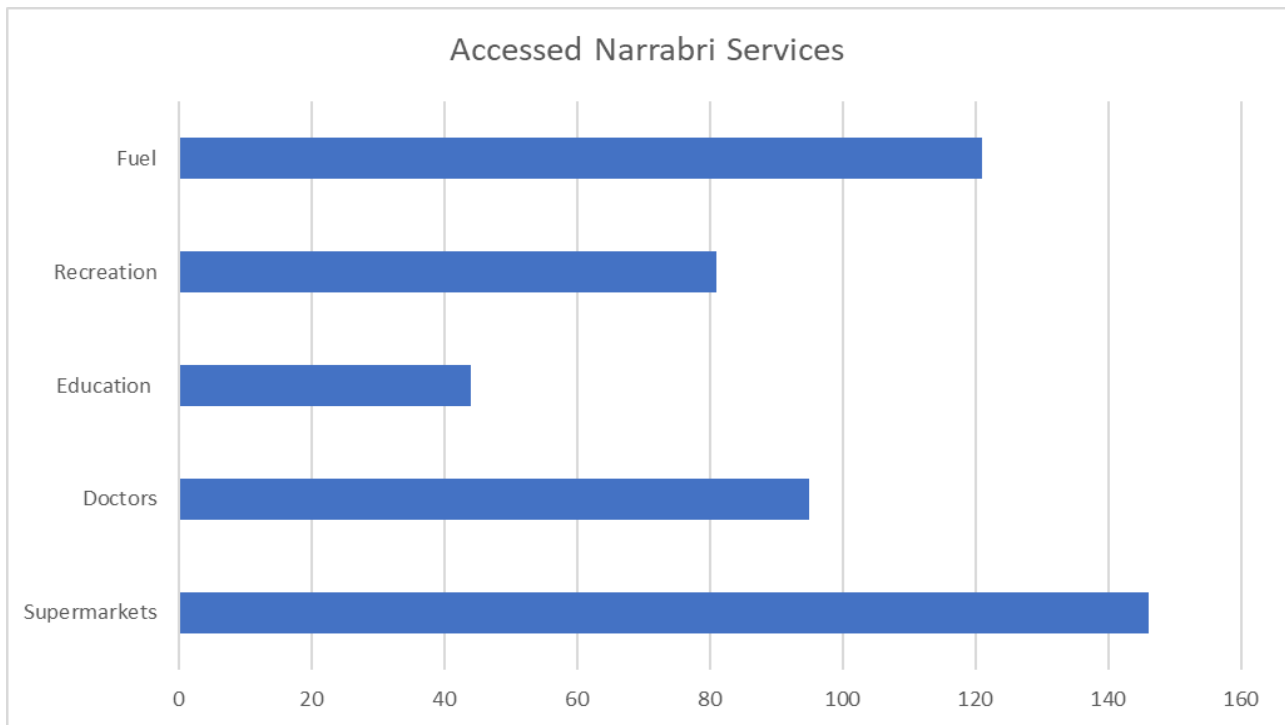


Figure B-15 LGA Service Access Summary

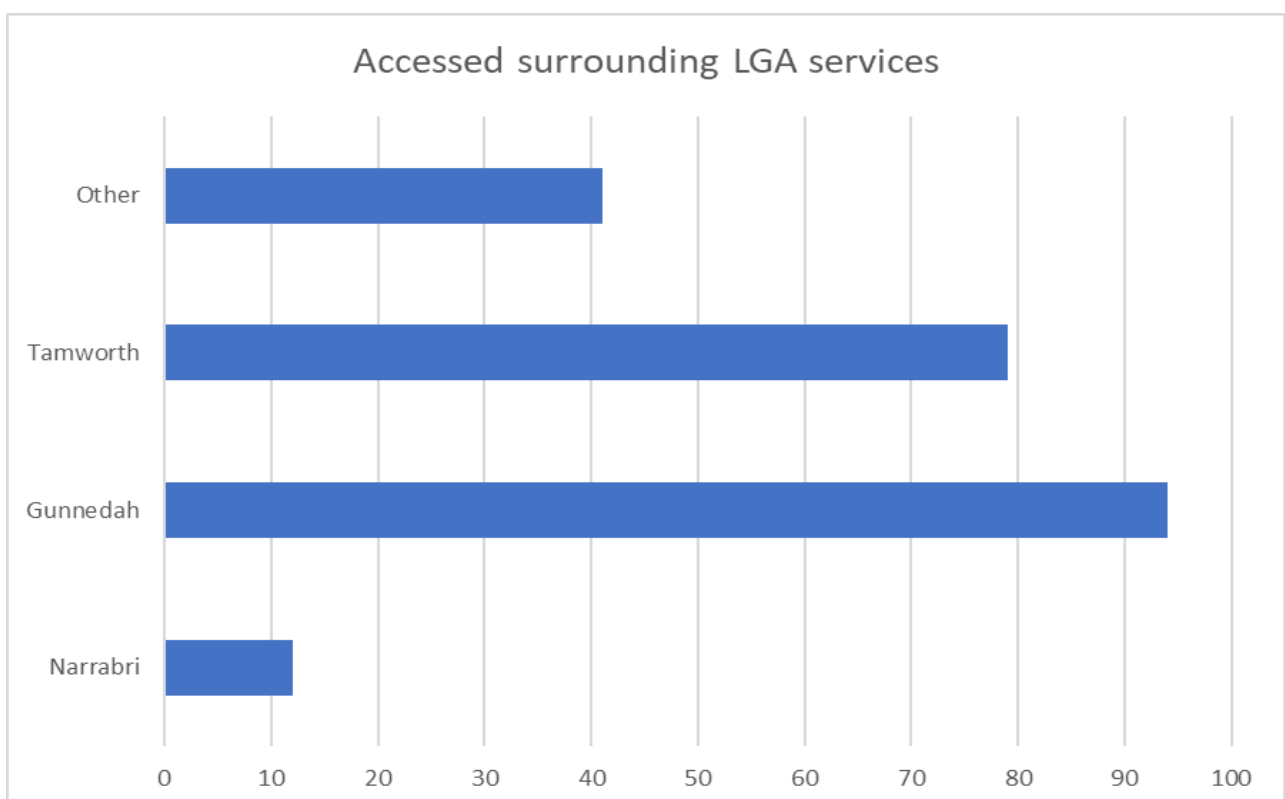
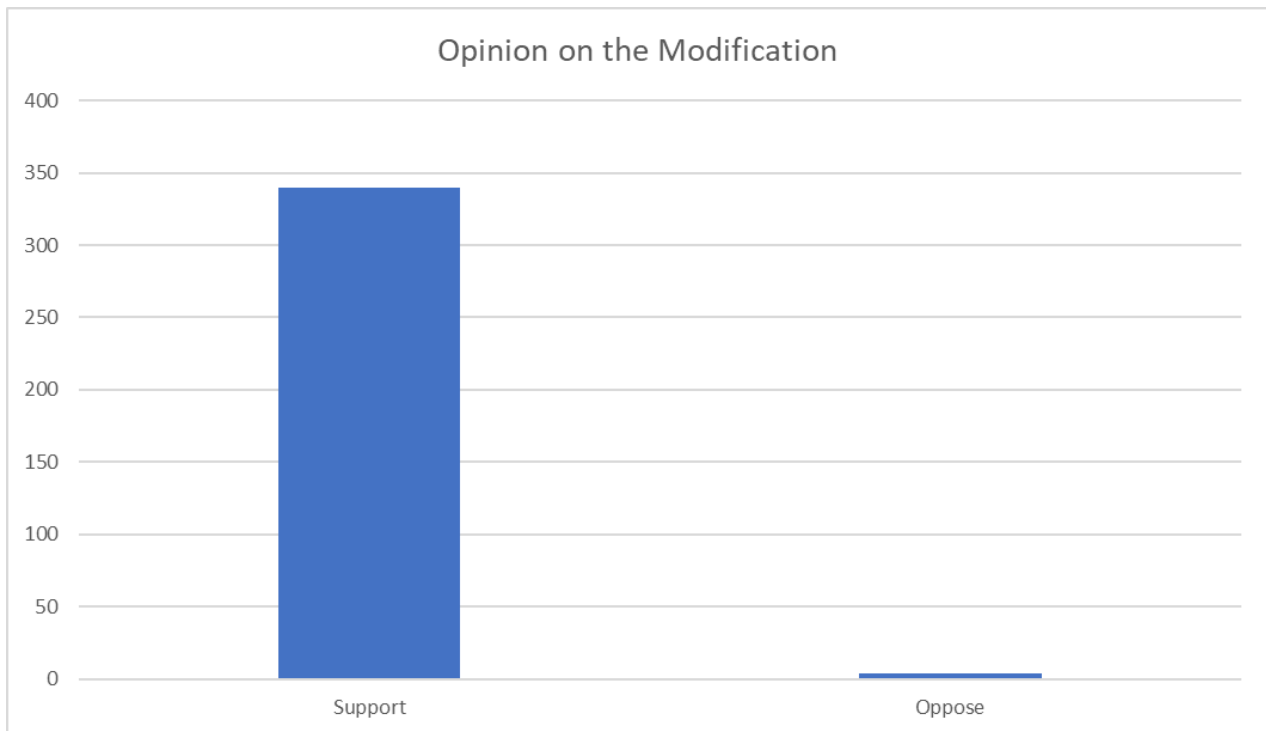
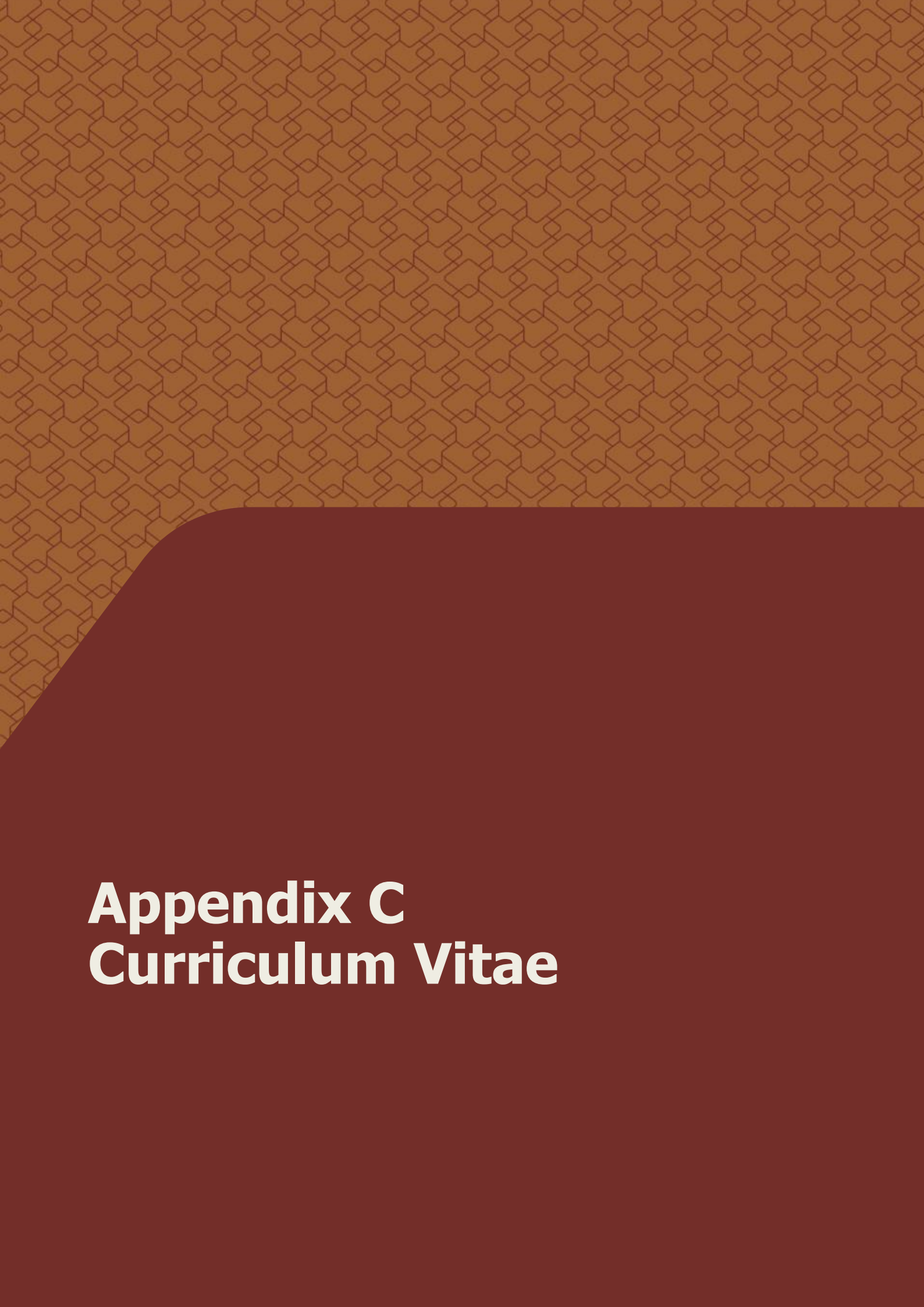


Figure B-16 Respondent's Opinions on MOD 10





Appendix C

Curriculum Vitae

Consultant profile



Fiona Bailey

Principal Environmental
& Social Scientist

Qualifications, Courses & Memberships

- › Bachelor of Science, University of New England 1998
- › Social Impact Assessment in the Extractives: Critical Perspective Course, University of Queensland, Sustainable Minerals Institute, 2024
- › Essentials of Community Engagement Training, IAP2, 2024
- › Effective Negotiations and Influencing, ENS International
- › Hazard Identification and Risk Management, National Safety Council of Australia
- › OHS Consultation, WorkCover NSW
- › Environmental Auditor Training, NATA
- › People Performance Growth Leadership Program

Membership

- › Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc (EIANZ)
- › International Association and Public Participation (IAP2)

Expertise

- › Environment and Social Impact Assessment
- › Stakeholder and Community Engagement
- › Environmental Management
- › Social Baseline Studies
- › Research and Data Analysis
- › Report Writing



Fiona Bailey holds a Bachelor of Science and has over 25 years of experience. Fiona has worked as an Environment and Community professional at a number of mines in NSW as well as in the construction industry. Fiona is currently a Principal Environmental and Social Scientist for Xenith having worked for the company (previously James Bailey & Associates) for more than 12 years.

Fiona has extensive experience in environmental and social impact assessments (SIA's), stakeholder and community engagement as well as the preparation of various reports and post approval documents including Social Impact Management Plans.

Social Impact Assessment Highlights

- › Rix's Creek North Continuation Project SIA Scoping Report
- › Rix's Creek North Continuation Project SIA (in progress)
- › Cooranbong Entry Site Modification SIA
- › Dartbrook Mine Modification 8 SIA
- › Boggabri Mine Modification 8 Amendment SIA
- › Bengalla Mine Modification 8 SIA (in progress)
- › Bengalla Mine Social Baseline Study and Community Needs Analysis
- › Assisted in preparation of SIA's for the Bowmans Creek Windfarm, Bylong Coal Project, Shenhua Watermark Project, Bengalla Continuation Project and the Drayton Mine Extension
- › Community and service provider engagement and surveys for the Bylong Project SIA
- › Review of social impacts and drafting of social sections in several Modification Reports for Glencore Operations
- › Situation Report and Analysis of Singleton Council Local Strategic Planning Statement
- › Submissions Reports for various Mines including review and respond to community concerns, data analysis and graphic presentation
- › Preparation of Annual Reviews and Sustainability Reports for various mining companies, including data analysis, graphics and reporting

Community Engagement Highlights

- › Preparation of Stakeholder Engagement Plan for Rix's Creek Mine, Bengalla Mine and Boggabri Mine
- › Preparation of Community Newsletters and engagement materials
- › Facilitation of Community Consultative Committees
- › Environmental and Community professional at a number of Mines and construction project

When there is value to be realised,
we show the way.

When the options are complex,
we find the best.



Professional Experience

2012 – Current

Xenith (previously James Bailey & Associates and Hansen Bailey)

Principal Environmental and Social Scientist

Environment and Social Impact Assessments

- › Completion of Environment and Social Impact Assessments, Modification Reports, Submissions Reports, Advices and presentations for various mines and renewable projects in NSW, including Drayton South Coal Mine Development, Bengalla Mine, Wallarah Mine, Bylong Coal Project, Centennial Coal operations, Dartbrook Mine, Boggabri Coal Mine and the Bowman's Creek Windfarm Project
- › Management of sub-contractors, budgets, forecasting and project schedules for State Significant Project Approvals
- › Development and implementation of community engagement programs, including facilitation of community surveys and completion of telephone surveys for State Significant Projects
- › Preparation of newsletters and other stakeholder consultation materials
- › Liaising with clients, regulators and other stakeholders over planning approvals and other environment and social matters

Social & Environmental Management and Reporting

- › Preparation of Mining Operation Plans and Annual Reviews for a number of Mines in the Hunter Valley
- › Preparation of a range of post-approval documentation, including Environmental Management Plans, Social Impact Management Plans, Stakeholder Engagement Strategies and Environmental Management System procedures for various Mines, exploration programs, construction sites and other industrial facilities
- › Completion of strategic regulatory, licencing documents and advices for NSW clients
- › Review of draft local government policies and planning statements and preparation of submissions to provide feedback

Environment and Community Seconded

- › Mount Owen Glendell (Glencore), Wambo United (Glencore) and Ashton Coal (Yancoal Australia Ltd)

Feb 2009 – Dec 2010, Dec 2011 – Apr 2012

John Holland Construction, Hunter 8 Alliance

Senior Environmental Coordinator

Fiona was responsible for the development and implementation of the Environmental Management Strategy, and ensuring compliance with environmental licenses and approvals during the construction of the Minimbah rail project. Fiona was also involved in developing and maintaining near neighbour relationships and engagement with Indigenous Groups.

2004 – 2009

Anglo Coal (Dartbrook Management) Pty Ltd

Senior Environment and Community Coordinator (2004 – 2007) & Safety, Health, Environment and Community Coordinator (2007 – 2009)

Fiona was employed as the Senior Environment and Community Coordinator for Dartbrook Mine located in the Upper Hunter Valley, responsible for day-to-day environment and community management. She successfully obtained certification of the Mine's Safety, Health, Environment and Community (SHEC) Management System to ISO/ AS standards.

When there is value to be realised,
we show the way.

When the options are complex,
we find the best.



Fiona provided direction and technical environment and stakeholder advice to management and employees, prepared internal, corporate and external SHEC reports, newsletters and publications, facilitated the Dartbrook Community Consultative Committee and negotiated Land Access Agreements to facilitate mining. Fiona was responsible for near neighbour relations, complaints management, stakeholder engagement, land access arrangements as well as managing community capacity building and sponsorships programs.

Fiona was involved in the Upper Hunter Mine Community Network Forum, a collaboration between the Mines in the Upper Hunter to build community relations, including hosting the annual Bursting with Energy Upper Hunter Mine Expo.

Fiona successfully project managed a River Restoration Project, a joint 5-year project between Dartbrook and the Hunter- Central Rivers Catchment Authority.

Following the placement of the Mine on Care & Maintenance in 2007, Fiona continued to manage the environmental aspects of the Mine as well as safety and health. She was also involved in the constraints analysis and preliminary assessments for a future Project within the Dartbrook resource.

May 2003 – February 2004

United Collieries (Xstrata)

Contract Environment and Community Officer

Key Responsibilities included the management of the day-to-day environment and community issues associated with the coal mine operation.

2003

Carbon Based Environmental (2003)

Environmental Consultant

Key Responsibilities included environmental monitoring, preparation of environmental training packages, environmental monitoring reports, Greenhouse Gas reports and Annual Environmental Management Reports.

2002 – 2003

BeMaX Resources NL, Broken Hill, NSW

Environmental Officer

Fiona's main role was to develop Environmental Management Plans and Environmental Systems for a Mineral Sands Development in the Murray Basin. This work was undertaken with minimal supervision, within budget to the specified timeframe.

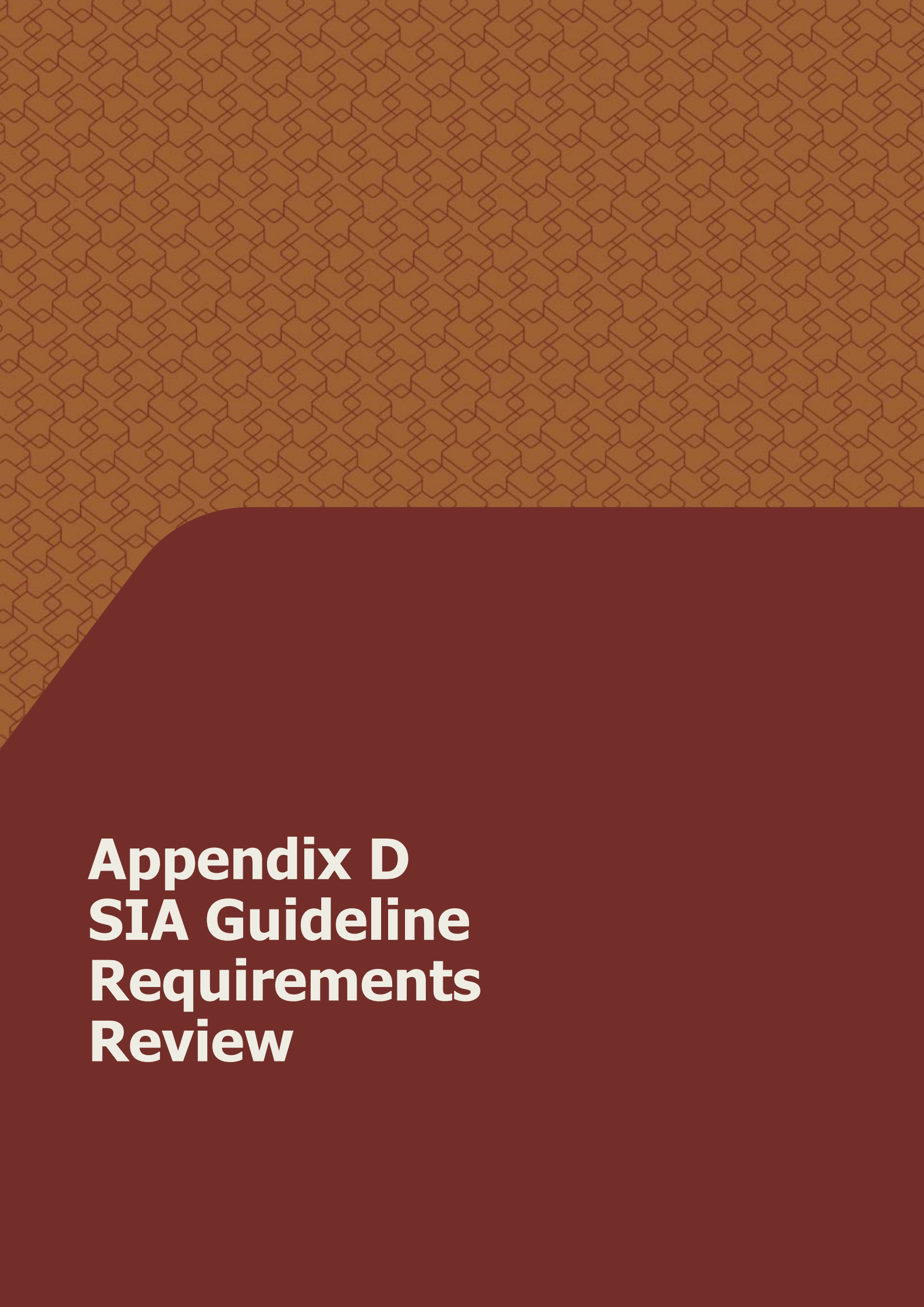
1999 – 2002

CSA Mine (Cobar Management Pty Limited)

Environment and Community Coordinator

As the first environment and community professional to be employed at the CSA Mine, an underground copper mine, Fiona played a major role in the establishment and implementation of environmental management and community engagement systems to manage all environmental and community aspects of the operation.

Fiona was responsible for near neighbour relations, complaints management, stakeholder consultation and engagement including regulatory authorities, local and wider community and community capacity building and sponsorships.

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Appendix D SIA Guideline Requirements Review

Table D-1 Review Questions

No.	Review Questions	Response
General		
1.	Does the lead author meet the qualification and experience requirements?	A copy of the lead Author's curriculum vitae is included in Appendix C
2.	Has the lead author provided a signed declaration?	Signed declaration is provided in page 8
3.	Would a reasonable person judge the SIA report to be impartial, transparent and suitably rigorous given the nature of the project?	Yes. The SIA has been prepared by an independent consultancy firm
Project's social locality and social baseline		
1.	Does the SIA report identify and describe all the different social groups that may be affected by the project?	Yes. Section 4.4.3
2.	Does the SIA report identify and describe all the built or natural features that have value or importance for people, and explain why people value those features?	Yes. Section 5.3.4
3.	Does the SIA report identify and describe historical, current, and expected social trends or social changes for people in the locality, including their experiences with this project and other major development projects?	Yes. Section 5.10
4.	Does the social baseline study include appropriate justification for each element, and provide evidence that the elements reflect both relevant literature and the diversity of views and likely experiences?	The extent, duration, intensity, sensitivity and level of concern/ interest was considered in assessing the social impacts in Section 6.5
5.	Does the social baseline study demonstrate social-science research methods and explain any significant methodological or data limitations?	Yes. Section 4.2 and Section 4.3
Identification and description of social impacts		
1.	Does the SIA report adequately describe likely social impacts from the perspectives of how people may experience them, and explain the research used to identify them? When undertaken as a part of SIA scoping and initial assessment, has the plan for the SIA report been detailed?	Section 4 and Section 6 . A formal scoping assessment is provided in Appendix A .

No.	Review Questions	Response
2.	Does the SIA report apply the precautionary principle to identifying social impacts, and consider how they may be experienced differently by different people and groups?	Technical studies completed for the Modification Report informed the SIA. Section 4.4.3 considers the stakeholders that will be potentially affected. Section 6 discusses Stakeholder Engagement findings.
3.	Does the SIA report describe how the preliminary analysis influenced project design and EIS engagement strategy?	Yes. Section 4.1, Section 4.2, Section 6.1 and Section 6.3 . A scoping worksheet is provided in Appendix A .
Community engagement		
1.	Were the extent and nature of engagement activities appropriate and sufficient to canvass all relevant views, including those of vulnerable or marginalised groups?	Yes. Section 4.4
2.	How have the views, concerns and insights of affected and interested people influenced both the project design and each element of the SIA report?	Yes. Section 6 considers the findings of stakeholder engagement. Design alternatives are discussed in Section 6.5.10
Predicting and analysing social impacts		
1.	Does the SIA report impartially focus on the most important social impacts to people at all stages of the project, without any omissions or misrepresentations?	Yes. Section 6 and Table 26 describes the potential social impacts and opportunities of the Modification for all phases.
2.	Does the SIA report analyse the distribution of both positive and negative social impacts, and identify who will benefit and who will lose from the project?	Yes. Section 6 and Table 26 describes the potential social impacts and opportunities of the Modification
3.	Does the SIA report identify its assumptions, and include sensitivity analysis and alternative scenarios? (including 'worst-case' and 'no project' scenarios where relevant)	Section 4.3 and Section 6.5.10 describes the consequences of not proceeding.
Evaluating significance		
1.	Do the evaluations of significance of social impacts impartially represent how people in each identified social group can expect to experience the project, including any cumulative effects?	Yes Section 6 and 6.5.7 describes cumulative impacts and is also included in Table 26 .
2.	Are the evaluations of significance disaggregated to consider the likely different experiences for different people or groups, especially vulnerable groups?	Yes. Section 5.8, Table 14 and Section 6 .

No.	Review Questions	Response
Responses, monitoring and management		
1.	Does the SIA report propose responses that are tangible, deliverable, likely to be durably effective, directly related to the respective impact(s) and adequately delegated and resourced?	Yes. Section 6, Table 26 and Section 7.
2.	Does the SIA report demonstrate how people can be confident that social impacts will be monitored and reported in ways that are reliable, effective and trustworthy?	Yes. Section 7 describes monitoring and reporting.
3.	Does the SIA report demonstrate how the proponent will adaptively manage social impacts and respond to unanticipated events, breaches, grievances and non-compliance?	Yes. Section 3.6.3, Table 26 and Section 7.



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