



Wilpinjong Coal Mine



Wilpinjong Continuation Project

Scoping Report

Peabody

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine is an existing open cut coal mining operation located approximately 40 kilometres (km) north-east of Mudgee within the Mid-Western Regional Local Government Area (LGA), in central New South Wales (NSW) (Figures 1 and 2). The mine has operated for nearly 20 years with construction commencing in February 2006 and first coal railed from site in October 2006.

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine is owned and operated by Wilpinjong Coal Pty Ltd (WCPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Peabody Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Peabody).

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine produces thermal coal products which are transported by rail to domestic customers for use in electricity generation and/or to port for export. Open cut mining operations are undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

The approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine includes some eight named open cuts (i.e. Pits 1-8), plus significant ancillary and supporting infrastructure (Figure 3).

This infrastructure includes run-of-mine (ROM) coal storage, coal handling and processing, rail spur, rail loading, internal roads, pipelines, electricity distribution, workshops and water management structures (Figure 4).

WCPL is separately seeking a modification (Modification 3) to Development Consent (SSD-6764) to extend open cut mining within the Pit 8 Extension area and extend mining operations to 30 June 2034 (in addition to the development of other ancillary infrastructure and realignment of public infrastructure). Modification 3 was submitted in October 2025 and is currently under assessment by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) (Figure 3).

WCPL has identified an opportunity to build upon the proposed Modification 3 and extend open cut mining operations east of the Pit 8 Extension area into Pits 9 and 10 (the Project). The extended open cut mining operations would provide an additional 4.5 years of mining (to 2038), maintain ROM coal production at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine and increase the available operating areas for the mobile fleet.

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Approval History of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine

New South Wales Approval

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine originally operated under Project Approval (PA 05-0021) that was granted by the Minister for Planning under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) on 1 February 2006.

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine was initially approved to produce up to 13 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of ROM coal to be used for both domestic electricity production and export markets. The approved mine life was 21 years from the date of approval.

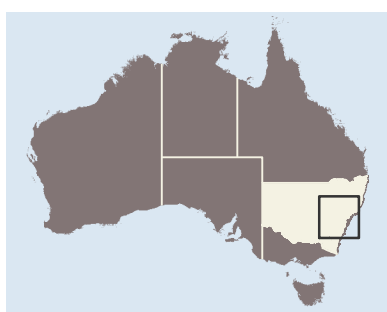
On 24 April 2017, WCPL was granted Development Consent (SSD-6764) for the Wilpinjong Extension Project. This Consent provides for the continued operation of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine at rates of up to 16 Mtpa of ROM coal, until 2033, and provided access to approximately 800 hectares (ha) of open cut extensions. However, since 2021 ROM coal production at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine has typically been less than 14 Mtpa and some of the approved open cut areas are now proposed to be relinquished under Modification 3.

Development Consent (SSD-6764) has superseded the Project Approval (PA 05-0021), which was surrendered by WCPL on 8 April 2020.

WCPL has modified its Development Consent (SSD-6764) on two occasions¹:

- Modification 2 sought approval to incorporate a temporary on-site accommodation facility and excise four parcels of Crown land from the Development Application Area in Development Consent (SSD-6764). Modification 2 was approved on 3 July 2024.
- Modification 4 sought an administrative amendment to Development Consent (SSD-6764) to facilitate the changes to the Wilpinjong Extension Project required for the approved Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (Central-West Orana REZ) Transmission Project. Modification 4 was approved on 12 September 2024.

¹ Wilpinjong Coal Mine Modification 1 (Water Supply Infrastructure) was withdrawn by WCPL.



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WILPINJONG COAL MINE
Regional Location

Figure 1

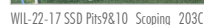
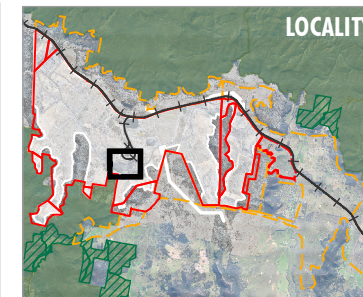


Figure 3



Source: WCPL (2026)
 Orthophoto: WCPL (Mar 2026)

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 WILPINJONG COAL MINE
 Existing Coal Handling and Preparation Plant
 and Mine Facilities Areas

Figure 4

Commonwealth Approval

Components of the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine have previously been referred and/or approved under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Wilpinjong Coal Mine (EPBC 2005/2309) was determined to be 'Not a Controlled Action' on 16 December 2005. The Wilpinjong Extension Project (EPBC 2015/7431) was determined to be a 'Controlled Action' (controlling provisions of listed threatened species and communities, and water resources), and subsequently approved on 8 August 2017.

In January 2025, an action associated with Modification 3 was referred to the Commonwealth Minister (EPBC 2025/10105). On 1 May 2025, a delegate of the Commonwealth Minister determined that the proposed action is a 'Controlled Action' for the purposes of the EPBC Act. The action is currently being assessed under the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and NSW.

1.2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.2.1 Project Summary

The Project would amend the Wilpinjong Coal Mine and facilitate the extension of open cut mining operations for an additional 4.5 years (to 2038), maintain ROM coal production at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine within existing approved limits and add new operating areas for the mobile fleet.

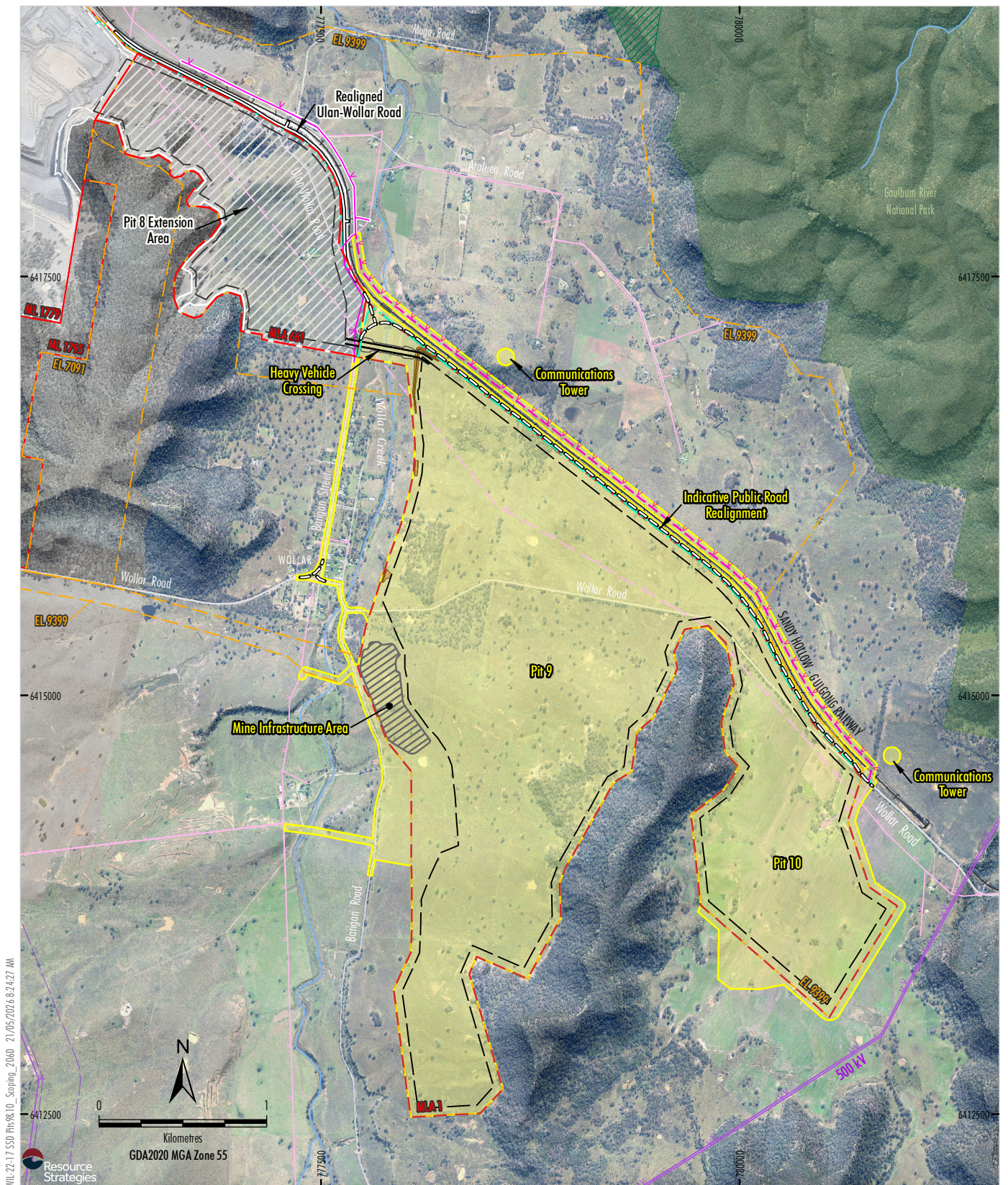
It is expected the Project would include the following activities:

- extension of open cut operations within Exploration Licence (EL) 9399 and proposed Mining Lease Application (MLA) areas to allow mining of additional coal reserves;
- approximately 550 ha of open cut extensions and associated infrastructure development (Figure 5);
- extension of the approved mine life to 31 December 2038²;
- conventional open cut mining activities extracting approximately 70 million tonnes (Mt) of ROM coal over the life of the Project at rates of up to 12 Mtpa;

- extension of employment of the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine operational workforce until 2038;
- use of the existing mobile fleet where practical, with replacement of major equipment and haul trucks where necessary;
- construction of a heavy vehicle haul road and bridge crossing over Wollar Creek to connect Pits 9 and 10 to the Pit 8 Extension area (Figure 6);
- construction of a new mine infrastructure area, including maintenance workshop, re-fuelling facilities, crib facilities, administration building and other supporting infrastructure adjacent to Pit 9 (Figure 6);
- realignment and upgrades of some public infrastructure to facilitate the construction of Pits 9 and 10 (e.g. sections of public roads, local low voltage powerlines and telecommunication services);
- continued use of the approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP), coal handling and rail loading infrastructure;
- continued disposal of CHPP coal reject materials on-site via a combination of in-pit co-disposal with waste rock and disposal in existing on-site tailings storage facilities (that may be augmented to increase capacity);
- rail transport of thermal coal to domestic and export customers (within existing maximum daily rail limits);
- augmentation and extension of water management infrastructure including additional water storages/dams, pumps, pipelines, drains, irrigation systems and controlled release infrastructure as required; and
- other associated infrastructure, plant, equipment and activities.

General arrangements of the approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine, incorporating the Project are provided on Figures 5 and 6, respectively. Land ownership in the vicinity of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine is provided on Figure 7.

² Extraction of ROM coal would only occur until 31 December 2037, and completion of associated void backfilling operations would occur until 31 December 2038 (with no extraction of coal planned during this last year).



WIL-22-17 SSD Pits 9&10_Soping_2040_21/05/2026 8:24:27 AM

Resource Strategies

LEGEND

- Existing Local Electricity Transmission Line
- Existing Local Electricity Transmission Line to be Removed
- Existing TransGrid Electricity Transmission Line
- National Park
- Existing Biodiversity Offset Transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Estate
- Exploration Licence Boundary (EL)
- Mining Lease Boundary (ML)
- Mining Lease Application Boundary (MLA)
- Proposed Mining Lease Application Boundary (MLA)
- Approved/Existing Surface Development Area
- Approved/Existing Open Cut and Contained Infrastructure Area

Proposed Pit 8 Extension (MOD3) *

- Pit 8 Extension Development Footprint
- Conceptual Pit Boundary
- Indicative Public Road Realignment
- Indicative Local Electricity Transmission Line Realignment
- Indicative Communications Realignment
- Project - Pits 9 and 10 (Wilpinjong Continuation Project) #
- Indicative Surface Development Area
- Indicative Mine Infrastructure Area
- Conceptual Pit Boundary
- Proposed Flood Bund
- Indicative Public Road Realignment
- Indicative Local Electricity Transmission Line Realignment
- Indicative Communications Realignment

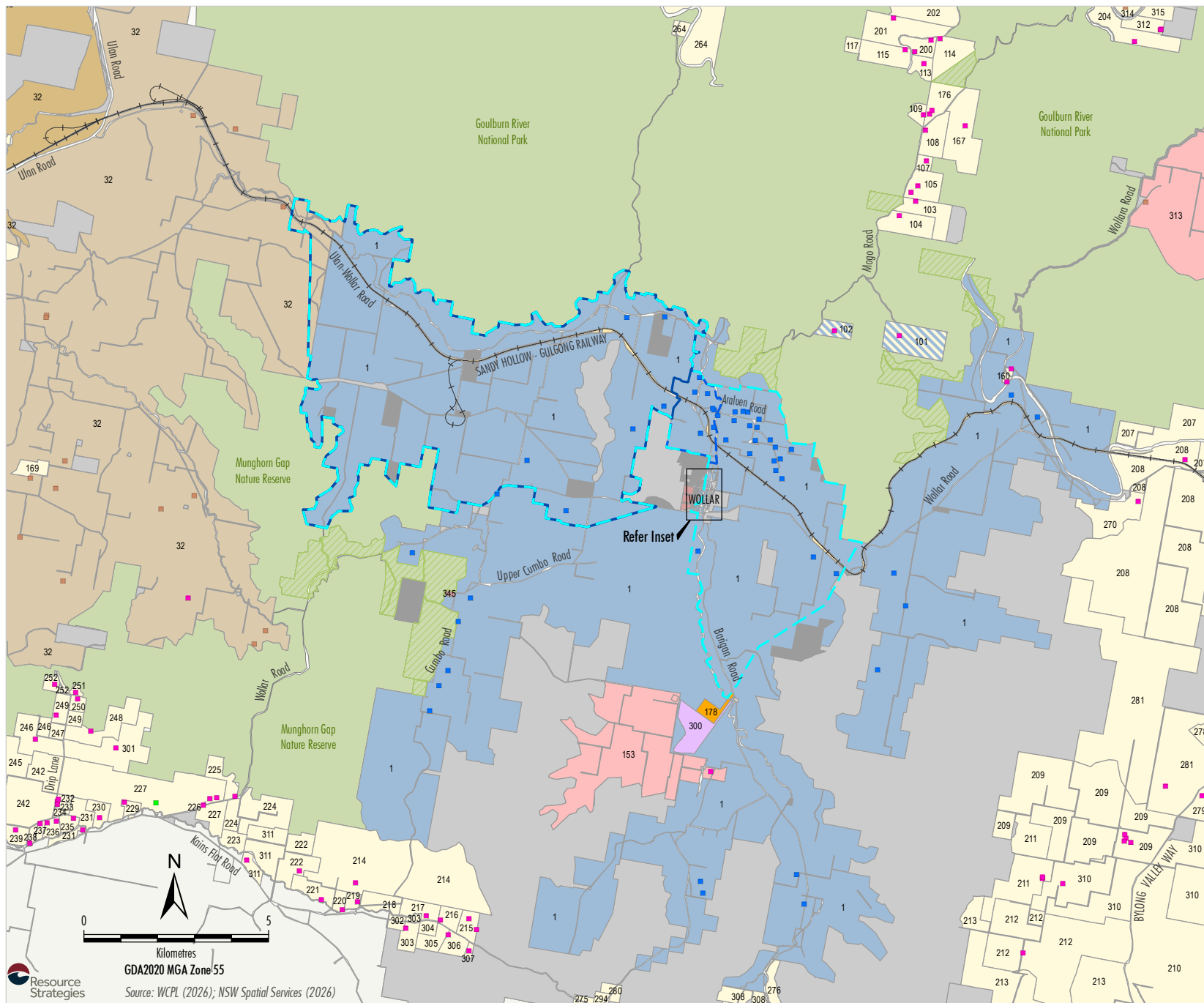
Source: WCPL (2026); NSW Spatial Services (2026); Phronis (2026)
Orthophoto Mosaic: WCPL (Mar 2026 - Oct 2022)

* Currently under assessment by DPHI
Further disturbance (e.g. associated with water management measures and linear infrastructure) may arise from ongoing environmental and engineering studies.

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WILPINJONG COAL MINE
Conceptual Project General Arrangement

Figure 6



- LEGEND**
- Development Application Area (SSD-6764)
 - Proposed Development Application Area Extension (MOD3)
 - Conceptual Project Development Application Area (Wilpinjong Continuation Project)
 - Peabody-controlled Land
 - Crown Land (Peabody Leased)
 - Crown Land
 - Moolarben Coal Mine
 - Ulan Coal Mine
 - Solar Farm
 - EnergyCo
 - TransGrid
 - Railway Land
 - Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council
 - Private Landholder
 - Private Landholder Subject to Noise Agreement in Accordance with Condition 3, Schedule 3
 - Owner Not Identified
 - National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Estate
 - Existing Biodiversity Offset Transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Estate
 - Peabody-owned Dwelling
 - Moolarben-owned Dwelling
 - Community Building
 - Private Dwelling

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WILPINJONG COAL MINE
Land Ownership Plan

Figure 7

Should Development Consent be granted for the Project (which incorporates and extends upon the approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine), subject to the Proponent being satisfied with the consent conditions, Development Consent (SSD-6764) would be surrendered so that the Project would operate under the new consent only.

1.2.2 Project Objectives

The objectives of the Project are to:

- maximise the recovery of coal resources within an existing EL and proposed MLA area(s) through conventional open cut mining methods and efficient mine planning;
- enable the orderly and efficient continuation of coal mining at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine by facilitating access to additional coal reserves, thereby supporting the long-term viability of the operation within an established mining precinct;
- design a project that produces positive economic outcomes and facilitates continued employment opportunities at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine;
- optimise the use of existing approved infrastructure and services to minimise additional land disturbance, while maintaining safe, efficient and reliable mining operations;
- promote the conservation of biodiversity, including threatened species and communities, through establishment of offsets and rehabilitation of the Project;
- facilitate the establishment of a final landform and post-mining land use that creates environmental values consistent with those surrounding the Wilpinjong Coal Mine; and
- maintain and enhance the safety, reliability and long-term functionality of the public road and services network in the vicinity of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine.

These objectives will be expanded upon in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

1.2.3 Key Mitigation and Offset Strategies

Key strategies that would be adopted to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the Project would include:

- use of the existing mobile fleet where practical, with replacement of major equipment and haul trucks where necessary;
- continued use of the approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine CHPP, coal handling and rail loading infrastructure;
- continued disposal of CHPP coal reject materials on-site via a combination of in-pit co-disposal with waste rock and disposal in existing on-site tailings storage facilities;
- extension of WCPL's real-time air quality and noise monitoring system and continuation of the adaptive management of mining activities to maintain compliance with applicable Development Consent criteria at the nearest private receivers without negotiated noise or air quality agreements;
- continuing to minimise the on-site combustion of diesel, which is linked to the greenhouse gas emissions-intensity of on-site thermal coal production;
- mine sequencing and progressive in-pit backfilling operations in combination with some temporary waste rock emplacements, to avoid the need for a third final void at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine;
- maintaining safe public road access and meeting applicable current (i.e. higher) design standards for the relocated sections of local roads, inclusive of improved flood immunity for any relocated public road bridges; and
- extending WCPL's current visual amenity mitigation measures, including the construction of temporary or permanent visual bunds adjacent to public roads and the progressive revegetation of the Project disturbance areas with native plant species representative of local ecological communities.

The Project would include development of a biodiversity offset strategy as per the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). The preference for the Project would be to establish land-based biodiversity offsets as part of the biodiversity offset strategy, where this is practical.

Additional avoidance, minimisation and offset strategies would be developed and described in the EIS.

1.2.4 Related Developments

A description of the Project's interaction with other surrounding developments, including how cumulative impacts will be assessed, is provided in Section 2.3 and Attachment 3.

Development Consent for the Project is being sought for the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine and the Project under the State Significant Development provisions (i.e. Division 4.7) under Part 4 of the EP&A Act. WCPL would surrender Development Consent (SSD 6764) for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine, as necessary and at an appropriate time, following the commencement of the Project.

EPBC 2005/2309 and EPBC 2015/7431 for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine would continue to be relied upon under the Project. Referral of the new Project activities under the EPBC Act will also be made.

1.3 PROPONENT

The Applicant for the Project is:

Wilpinjong Coal Pty Ltd
ABN 87 104 594 694
Locked Bag 2005
Mudgee NSW 2850

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine site webpage can be found on the Peabody website:

<https://www.peabodyenergy.com/Operations/Australia-Mining/New-South-Wales-Mining/Wilpinjong-Mine>

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine is located at 1434 Ulan-Wollar Road, Wilpinjong NSW 2850.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been prepared to provide a description of the Project to key State regulatory agencies to initiate the preparation of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) in accordance with clause 173 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation).

Soil investigations indicate the presence of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) within the Project area. WCPL has, therefore, prepared an application for a Gateway Certificate (Gateway Application) for the Project, consistent with Division 4 of the NSW *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021* (Resources and Energy SEPP).

The Project will also be referred to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water for consideration as to whether the Project meets the criteria of a 'Controlled Action' and requires approval under the EPBC Act.

The SEARs will identify matters that will need to be addressed in the EIS for the Project and will be prepared by DPHI in consideration of:

- this document;
- key issues raised by relevant regulatory agencies;
- any recommendations of the Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel set out in the Gateway Certificate;
- the decision of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water regarding the referral of the relevant 'Action' under the EPBC Act; and
- applicable guidelines and statutory considerations.

1.5 STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been prepared in consideration of the *State Significant Development Guidelines* (DPHI, 2026a), in particular, *State significant development guidelines – preparing a scoping report* (NSW Department of Planning and Environment [DPE], 2022a).

Other relevant State Significant Development Guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of this document include:

- *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPHI, 2026b).
- *Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for state significant Projects* (DPHI, 2026c).
- *Social Impact Assessment Guideline for state significant projects* (DPHI, 2026d).

This document is structured as follows:

Section 1	Introduction – provides a summary of the Project and describes the purpose and structure of this Scoping Report.
Section 2	Strategic Context – identifies the key issues relevant to the justification and evaluation of the Project, including how the Project relates to existing land uses in the area.
Section 3	Project Details – describes the context of the Project and provides an initial description of the Project.
Section 4	Statutory Context – outlines the permissibility of the Project and identifies potentially relevant statutory planning instruments.
Section 5	Engagement during Project Scoping – outlines consultation with stakeholders that has already been undertaken for the Project and the consultation proposed to be carried out for the EIS.
Section 6	Matters and Impacts – identifies key environmental issues for the Project, outlines the proposed level and scope of environmental assessment, and identifies strategies to address potential impacts identified.
Section 7	Conclusion – provides a summary of what is proposed to be included in the EIS.
Section 8	References.

Attachments supporting this Scoping Report include:

Attachment 1	Provisional Development Application Area and Preliminary Schedule of Lands.
Attachment 2	Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report.
Attachment 3	Cumulative Impact Assessment Scoping Table.
Attachment 4	Pre-conditions to Granting Consent and Mandatory Matters for Consideration.

2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT

WCPL is currently completing mining operations in Pits 3, 5, 6, and 8 and will cease mining in 2033 under Development Consent (SSD-6764) based on WCPL's current production schedule.

Modification 3 proposes to extract additional ROM coal from the Pit 8 Extension and would include an additional six months of mining operations until 30 June 2034 (backfilling).

The Project extended open cut mining operations would therefore provide an additional 4.5 years of mining (from 30 June 2034 [as proposed for Modification 3] to 31 December 2038).

Peabody has elected to proceed with the Project proposal, as the Project would:

- increase working areas for the existing mobile fleet and mine workforce to operate as the existing Pits 1-8 are progressively completed;
- help to maintain a target ROM coal production range of 8 Mtpa to 12 Mtpa from the mine during the completion of approved Pits 1-8;
- maximise use of the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine infrastructure and facilities, including substantial capital savings associated with continued use of the existing CHPP;
- provide for an additional 4.5 years of employment for the existing workforce; and
- facilitate continued local and regional employment and community contributions.

2.1.1 NSW Coal Industry 2026-50

The *NSW Coal Industry 2026-50* (NSW Government, 2026) outlines the long-term approach that the NSW Government is taking to ensure a balanced and responsible framework is in place for the State's coal sector and coal regions.

The *NSW Coal Industry 2026-50* recognises that coal mining is a strategic industry that continues to (NSW Government, 2026):

- support regional employment and local economies;
- contribute materially to NSW revenue through royalties; and
- contribute to energy security for key trading partners and steelmaking supply chains.

The *NSW Coal Industry 2026-50* confirms that the NSW Government will not support new standalone greenfield coal mines. However, it will continue to consider extensions to existing coal mining operations through the NSW planning system.

Extensions to existing mines are acknowledged as fundamentally different from new developments as they build on established infrastructure and occur within long-standing mining precincts.

A key focus of the *NSW Coal Industry 2026-50* is employment certainty and workforce stability, recognising that coal mining supports thousands of skilled jobs across regional NSW.

By supporting extensions of existing operations where mining is already occurring, the NSW Government seeks to provide greater certainty for the workforce, maintain regional economic stability, and allow time for orderly transition planning as coal demand evolves over coming decades (NSW Government, 2026).

In this context, the Project aligns closely with the objectives of the *NSW Coal Industry 2026-50* as it would facilitate continued access to the State's coal resources, continuation of existing operational employment, and the ongoing generation of royalties from the Wilpinjong Coal Mine³.

Continuation of the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine would also facilitate continuation of existing relationships with customers in NSW and Asian trading partners who rely on coal from NSW to meet their industrial and domestic energy needs.

³ It is noted that as of 31 March 2026, the Wilpinjong Coal Mine has contributed more than \$950 million in royalty payments to the NSW Government since it commenced.

2.1.2 Central-West Orana Regional Plan

The Project is located within the *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041* (the Regional Plan) area (DPE, 2022b). The Regional Plan provides a strategic framework to ensure the region's ongoing prosperity.

The Regional Plan acknowledges that the critical minerals and energy resource sectors make a significant economic contribution to the region (DPE, 2022b).

The Regional Plan describes the need to consider the life cycle of resource extraction opportunities and notes that the *NSW Coal Industry 2026-50* sets out the NSW Government's approach to managing the life cycle impacts of coal mining in mining communities and the global transition to a low carbon future.

2.1.3 Other Strategic Planning Documents

The following strategic planning documents will also be considered in the planning of the Project and the preparation of the EIS:

- *Mid-Western Region Community Plan – Towards 2040* (Mid-Western Regional Council [MWRC, 2022]);
- *Mid-Western Regional Local Strategic Planning Statement – Our Place 2040* (MWRC, 2020);
- *Upper Hunter Land Use Strategy 2024 – 2041* (Upper Hunter Shire Council, 2024); and
- *Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan* (Department of Planning and Infrastructure, 2012).

Further consideration of the Project on social, environmental and economic grounds, including consideration of the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, consideration of alternatives and a cost-benefit analysis, will be included in the EIS.

2.2 KEY FEATURES OF THE SITE AND SURROUNDS

2.2.1 Local and Regional Context

The Project is situated in a recognised coal mining precinct in the Western Coalfields (Figure 1), which includes the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine, Moolarben Coal Complex and Ulan Coal Mine.

The Project also lies within the Central-West Orana REZ.

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine is located approximately 40 km north-east of Mudgee between the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and the Goulburn River National Park (Figure 2).

The proposed Project open cut extension areas (Pits 9 and 10) are located within EL 9399 and proposed MLA area(s) (Figures 5 and 6), comprising a combination of Peabody-owned land and some parcels of Crown land⁴ (Figure 7).

A Preliminary Schedule of Lands for the provisional; Project Development Application Area is provided in Attachment 1.

Since the Wilpinjong Extension Project was approved in 2017, WCPL has progressively purchased nearby private landholdings in Wollar as they have become available. As a result, WCPL owns all private landholdings in Wollar, with the exception of one private dwelling, and three vacant land parcels recently granted by the Crown to the Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council. WCPL has developed negotiated agreements with the three nearest private dwelling owners to the existing mine, including the one private dwelling owner remaining in Wollar.

The majority of the valley floors in the locality have been extensively cleared for historical agricultural land uses. Land use within the vicinity of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine is today characterised by a combination of coal mining operations, rural land uses, conservation lands, stock grazing, rural residential uses, as well as proposed renewable energy developments.

The Project open cut extension areas consist of moderately undulating lower and mid slopes, with some limited areas of steeper slopes associated with the ridgeline that separates Pits 9 and 10.

⁴ It is noted that the Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council is progressively being granted freehold title to some Crown land parcels in the region. WCPL notes some parcels that are currently Crown land in the provisional Development Application Area may be converted to freehold tenure prior to determination of the Project proposal.

Elevations range from approximately 540 metres Australian Height Datum (m AHD) on the central ridgeline between Pits 9 and 10 to approximately 355 m AHD near the proposed haul road crossing of Wollar Creek.

2.2.2 Natural and Built Features

A preliminary review of environmentally sensitive areas of State significance (as defined in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* [Planning Systems SEPP]) with respect to the Project has identified the following:

- The provisional Development Application Area is not within coastal waters of the State.
- No lands identified as 'coastal wetlands' or 'littoral rainforest' within the meaning of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018* or reserved as an aquatic reserve under the *NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act), or as a marine park under the *NSW Marine Parks Act 1997* occur within the provisional Development Application Area.
- No lands within a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention or lands within a World Heritage area under the World Heritage Convention occur in or near the provisional Development Application Area.
- No lands identified in an Environmental Planning Instrument as being of high Aboriginal cultural significance or high biodiversity value have been identified within the provisional Development Application Area.
- No lands reserved as a State conservation area under the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, or places, buildings or structures listed on the State Heritage Register under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* occur within the provisional Development Application Area.
- No lands declared as critical habitat under the BC Act or FM Act occur within the provisional Development Application Area.
- Crown land within the provisional Development Application Area is shown on Figure 7.

2.2.3 Hazards and Risks

Key risks and hazards to be considered for the Project include management of public roadworks, in-stream bridge construction activities, water management including the potential for flooding afflux, indirect impacts to adjacent rocky habitat, and final landform stability and safety in the long term, including consideration of the influence of climate change.

Potential hazards and risks associated with the Project will be considered in the Project EIS.

2.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The EIS will consider whether the Project is likely to generate cumulative impacts with other developments/projects (including solar and renewable energy projects within the Central West Orana REZ), in accordance with the *Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPHI, 2026c).

An initial list of existing developments and future projects that will be considered with respect to potential cumulative impacts in the EIS is provided in Attachment 3.

2.4 THIRD PARTY AGREEMENTS

2.4.1 Mid-Western Regional Council Voluntary Planning Agreement

WCPL has an existing Voluntary Planning Agreement with the MWRC (signed in 2011) comprising a range of benefits for the local community, including an annual:

- community infrastructure contribution;
- road maintenance contribution; and
- social amenity/infrastructure contribution.

These payments are linked to the number of permanent employees and contractors at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine. In financial year 2023-2024, WCPL's Voluntary Planning Agreement payments amounted to almost \$600,000.

2.4.2 Ulan Road Strategy

The *Ulan Road Strategy* (ARRB Group Ltd, 2011) reviewed the condition and performance of Ulan Road and recommended upgrades and maintenance required to meet and maintain Ulan Road at the required design standards in consideration of use by mining operations.

The *Ulan Road Strategy* applies to Ulan Road from Short Road, Mudgee, to the Ulan Coal Mine administrative entrance.

Along with the proponents of the Ulan Coal Mine and the Moolarben Coal Complex, WCPL continues to contribute financially to the implementation of the *Ulan Road Strategy* in accordance with Development Consent (SSD-6764).

2.4.3 Noise Agreements

WCPL has developed negotiated agreements with the three nearest residential private landholders (i.e. within approximately 7 km of the Project area), including the one private landholder remaining in Wollar. These negotiated agreements allow the mine to potentially exceed amenity limits that are set at these individual receivers under Development Consent (SSD-6764).

3 PROJECT DETAILS

3.1 TARGET RESOURCE

3.1.1 Mining and Exploration Tenements

The Project proposes extraction of additional coal reserves within existing EL 9399 held by WCPL, on Peabody-owned freehold land (Figure 7).

WCPL would apply for a new mining lease (ML) within EL 9399 with indicative MLA area(s) for Pits 9 and 10 shown on Figures 5 and 6.

3.1.2 Geology

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine is located in the north-western part of the Sydney Basin in the Western Coalfields (Figure 1).

The Late Permian Illawarra Coal Measures, consisting of conglomerate, mudstones, siltstones and coal seams, contain the coal seams mined by the Wilpinjong Coal Mine (Figure 8). The target Project coal resources are largely contained in the Ulan and Moolarben Coal Seams, however, other named coal seams are also present (Figure 9).

The Illawarra Coal Measures are overlain by the Triassic Narrabeen Group (locally known as the Wollar Sandstone) and comprise mainly conglomerate and sandstone. A number of igneous intrusions and Tertiary basalts have been mapped in the region.

The Ulan Coal Seam typically ranges from 14 to 16 metres (m) thick and comprises plies of good to fair quality coal, plies of poorer quality (i.e. high ash) stony coal and partings of carbonaceous claystone, tuffs and other non-coal lithologies.

3.1.3 Exploration Activities

Exploration at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine has occurred since the early 1950s when the Joint Coal Board first developed cored boreholes in the area. Since acquiring the Wilpinjong Coal Mine in 2006, Peabody has completed over 1,120 boreholes (including approximately 130 boreholes in the proposed open cut extension areas).

Geological exploration activities would continue to be undertaken over the life of the Project to provide input to mine planning and engineering studies to refine the understanding of coal quality and geological structures.

3.1.4 Coal Resource and Reserve

The total coal resource (excluding coal reserves) at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine is approximately 95 Mt (as at 31 December 2025)⁵.

The total proved and probable ROM coal reserves at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine are approximately 40 Mt and 47.5 Mt respectively (as of 31 December 2025)⁵.

The Project would recover approximately 70 Mt of ROM coal over the life of the Project, and approximately 45 Mt of this coal would be from the proposed Pits 9 and 10. In total, the Wilpinjong Coal Mine incorporating the Project would recover approximately 350 Mt of ROM coal.

3.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Table 1 provides a summary of the key characteristics of the Project.

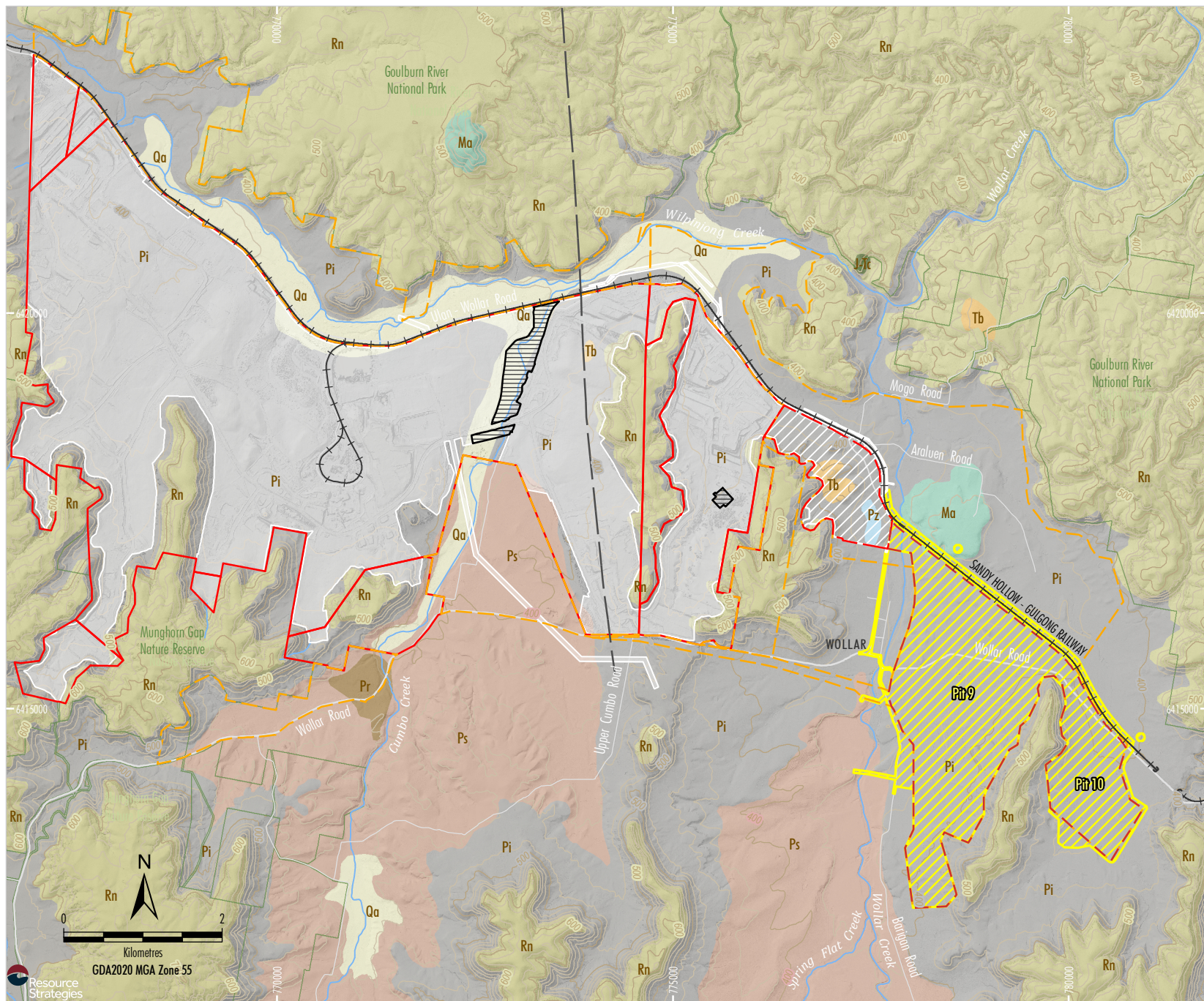
3.2.1 Project Development and Construction Activities

The Project would include the continued use of existing approved CHPP, coal handling and rail loading infrastructure.

The Project would largely comprise open cut extensions that would extend the life of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine by some 4.5 years⁶. These open cut extensions would require the relocation of some existing public and private infrastructure and the development of general facilities and infrastructure in support of mining.

⁵ As per Wilpinjong Mine Technical Report Summary (Peabody Energy Corporation, 2022) prepared in accordance with the requirements of United States Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-K (subpart 1300) at 31 December 2025.

⁶ Modification 3 which seeks approval to extend mining operations from 31 December 2033 to 30 June 2034 is currently under assessment by DPHI.



- LEGEND**
- 400 — Natural Surface Contour
 - National Park or Nature Reserve
 - Exploration Licence Boundary (EL)
 - Mining Lease Boundary (ML)
 - Mining Lease Application Boundary (MLA)
 - Proposed Mining Lease Application Boundary (MLA)
 - Approved/Existing Surface Development Area
 - Proposed Pit 8 Extension (MOD3) *
 - Pit 8 Extension Development Footprint
 - Mine Exclusion Area
 - Project - Pits 9 and 10 (Wilpinjong Continuation Project) #
 - Indicative Surface Development Area
 - Geological Mapping**
 - Qa Alluvium
 - Tb Tertiary Basalt
 - J-Tc Jurassic Tertiary
 - Ps Shoalhaven Group (Nile Subgroup)
 - Rn Narrabeen Group
 - Pi Illawarra Coal Measures
 - Pr Rylstone Volcanics
 - Ma Mesozoic Igneous Rocks
 - Pz Undifferentiated Palaeozoic Metamorphic Rock
 - — Concealed Hingeline

* Currently under assessment by DPHI
 # Further disturbance (e.g. associated with water management measures and linear infrastructure) may arise from ongoing environmental and engineering studies.

Source: WCPL (2026); Western Coalfield Regional Geological Map (2004); NSW Spatial Services (2026)

Peabody
 WILPINJONG COAL MINE
 Regional Geological Mapping

Figure 8

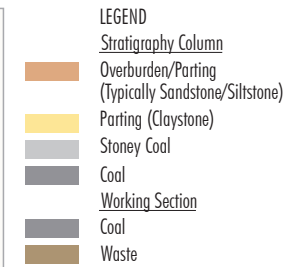
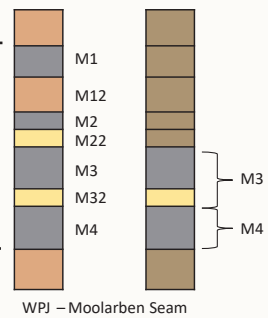
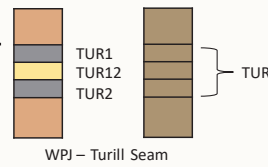
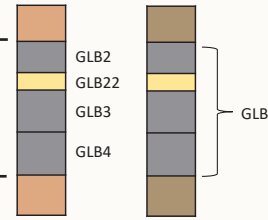
PERIOD	GROUP	SUBGROUP /FORMATION /MEMBER		
TRIASSIC	NARRABEEN GROUP	GROSE SUBGROUP		
PERMIAN (LATE)	ILLAWARRA COAL MEASURES	WALLERAWANG SUBGROUP	Farmers Creek Formation	Middle River Coal Member
			Gab Sandstone	
		CHARBON SUBGROUP	State Mine Creek Formation	
			Moolarben Member	
			Watts Sandstone	
			Denman Formation	
			Bungaba Coal Member	
			Glen Davis Formation	
			Newnes Formation	
			Irondale Coal (MLC)	
			Ulan Coal Upper	
			Ulan Coal Lower	
		CULLEN BULLEN SUBGROUP	Blackmans Flat Formation	
			Lithgow Coal	
			Marrangaroo Formation	
		NILE SUBGROUP		

TYPICAL
STATIGRAPHY
COLUMN

TYPICAL
WORKING
SECTION

TYPICAL
STATIGRAPHY
COLUMN

TYPICAL
WORKING
SECTION



After: Yoo EK, Tadros NZ and Bayly KW (2001) A compilation of the geology of the Western Coalfield. Report GS2001/204. Geological Survey of New South Wales, Sydney

Peabody

WILPINJONG COAL MINE

Typical Wilpinjong Coal Mine
Stratigraphic Section

Figure 9

Table 1
Summary of the Approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine, Modification 3 and the Project

Component	Approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine under Development Consent (SSD-6764)	Proposed Modification 3	The Project
Mining Method and Open Cut Extent	- Open cut mining operation with an indicative mine program for the extraction of approximately 349 Mt of total ROM coal over the life of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine¹. - Eight open cut pits and associated contained infrastructure area comprising approximately 3,000 ha.	- Relinquishment of approved extraction of more than 7 Mt of ROM coal (Cumbo Creek corridor and Rocky Hill complex). - Extraction of approximately 14 Mt of additional ROM coal from the Pit 8 Extension area. - Extension of Pit 8 by approximately 115 ha, and a reduction in disturbance of approximately 50 ha associated with the Cumbo Creek corridor and Rocky Hill complex.	- Extraction of approximately 45 Mt of additional ROM coal from Pits 9 and 10 (approximately 70 Mt of ROM coal over the life of the Project). - Extension of open cut mining operations east of Pit 8 Extension area into Pits 9 and 10 (approximately 550 ha).
Maximum Annual ROM Coal Production	Up to 16 Mtpa of ROM coal.	No change.	Extraction of up to 12 Mtpa of ROM coal.
Mine Life	28 years with mining authorised until 31 December 2033.	- No change to timeframe for ROM coal production (ceases in 31 December 2033). - Additional six months of mining operations to backfill voids and shape final landform.	Extension of the approved mine life to 31 December 2038.
Waste Rock Management	Waste rock is placed predominantly within mine voids and select waste rock used for construction of mine components.	No change, however, in-pit crushing of select waste rock for beneficial use is also proposed.	No change.
Annual Waste Rock Production	Annual waste rock production of up to approximately 43 million bank cubic metres (Mbcm).	No change.	Extraction of up to approximately 40 Mbcm of waste rock per annum.
Coal Washing and Handling	- Beneficiation of ROM coal in the CHPP. - Facilities for the handling and stockpiling of both washed and unwashed (bypass) coal.	No change.	No change.
Maximum Annual Product Coal Production	Up to approximately 13 Mtpa of thermal product coal for domestic electricity generation and export.	No change.	Production of up to 10 Mtpa of product coal.
Coal Transport	- An average of six and a maximum of 10 laden trains per day leaving the mine. - Transport via the Sandy Hollow-Gulgong Railway.	No change.	No change to maximum daily laden trains or train routes.

Table 1 (Continued)
Summary of the Approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine, Modification 3 and the Project

Component	Approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine under Development Consent (SSD-6764)	Proposed Modification 3	The Project
Coal Rejects Management	- Coal rejects placed predominantly within mine voids. - Tailings filter press to allow co-disposal of tailings with coarse rejects.	Continuation and extension of existing methodology.	Continuation and extension of existing methodology, inclusive of additional or extended tailings storage facilities as required.
Water Supply	- Make-up water demand to be met from runoff recovered from mine operational areas, recovery from tailings, open cut dewatering, advanced dewatering of pit areas and supply from borefield. - Water recovery from tailings via tailings filter press.	No change to key sources of water supply.	No change to key sources of water supply.
Water Disposal	Mine water treated in a reverse osmosis plant/water treatment facility and discharged to Wilpinjong Creek in accordance with Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) 12425.	No change to key aspects of water disposal.	- Subject to additional water management studies, the existing system may be augmented, options include: - Additional water treatment facility. - New licenced water discharge points. - Irrigation to land approved to be disturbed by mining.
Hours of Operation	Open cut mining, handling and processing of ROM coal at the CHPP and train loading at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine is undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days per week.	No change.	No change.
General Infrastructure	Access roads, electricity supply and distribution, rail loop, CHPP, train loading infrastructure, ROM coal stockpiles, coal handling equipment, flood bunds, diesel storage, administration, workshop, ablution buildings, stores, heavy vehicle workshop, parking and washdown facilities.	Continued use of existing approved infrastructure and progressive modifications to support the operations as required.	Construction of a new mine infrastructure area, including maintenance workshop, re-fuelling facilities, crib facilities, administration building and other supporting infrastructure adjacent to Pit 9.

Table 1 (Continued)
Summary of the Approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine, Modification 3 and the Project

Component	Approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine under Development Consent (SSD-6764)	Proposed Modification 3	The Project
Infrastructure Relocations	Realignment of a 330 kilovolt Electricity Transmission Line, Ulan-Wollar Road and associated rail level crossing and local powerlines and services.	Realignment of sections of public roads, local powerlines and services.	Continuation of realignment of sections of public roads, local powerlines and services.
Operational Workforce	Approximately 625 at peak².	No new workforce. The Modification would counteract natural workforce decline rates.	Operational workforce peaking at approximately 705 people before slowly declining in the last 5 years.
Construction Workforce	Approximately 100 people at peak.	No change.	Peak construction workforce of approximately 135 people.

¹ Comprised 254 Mt from the *Wilpinjong Coal Project EIS* and 95 Mt from the *Wilpinjong Extension Project EIS*.

² The current (Quarter 1 2026) operational workforce of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine is approximately 705 people.

Construction activities would occur throughout the life of the Project, however key construction activities associated with the Project include:

- Construction of a heavy vehicle haul road and bridge crossing over Wollar Creek to connect Pits 9 and 10 to the Pit 8 Extension area.
- Construction of a new mine infrastructure area, including maintenance workshop, re-fuelling facilities, crib facilities, administration building and other supporting infrastructure adjacent to Pit 9 (Figure 6).
- Realignment and upgrade of Wollar Road to facilitate the construction of Pits 9 and 10.
- Upgrade of Barigan Street to support Wollar Road realignment and provide flood immunity.
- Relocation (and potential augmentation) of local low-voltage electricity transmission lines.
- Relocation of telecommunication systems.
- Augmentation of existing on-site tailings storage facilities to accommodate disposal of additional pumped tailings when the existing tailings filter press is not operating at full capacity.
- Construction of a new reverse osmosis plant and EPL water discharge point, major water storages or operational water irrigation systems may be required (to be determined during detailed Project water management design).

Development of additional water management infrastructure would also occur progressively over the life of the Project (Section 3.2.8).

While construction/development activities would occur at a number of stages over the life of the operation, the major construction period would be in the first 12 months of the Project.

Within the Wilpinjong Coal Mine mining tenements, on-site infrastructure construction would continue to be undertaken up to 24 hours per day and seven days per week, providing these activities can be undertaken in compliance with Development Consent noise criteria.

Construction activity for the realignment of Wollar Road and local services would be generally limited to standard construction hours. Activities for these elements that are undertaken outside of the standard construction hours would prioritise lesser noise generating activities.

3.2.2 Open Cut Mining Operations

There would be no increase to the currently approved maximum annual ROM coal production or annual waste rock production rates for the Project.

The Project would involve extraction of up to 12 Mtpa of ROM coal using conventional open cut mining methods (such as drilling and blasting, consistent with the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine operations [Plate 1]).



Plate 1 Open Cut Mining Activities at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine (Pit 6)

Extraction of ROM coal would occur until 31 December 2037, and completion of associated void backfilling operations would occur until 31 December 2038 (with no proposed extraction of coal during this period).

It has been assumed that Project mining activities would commence in 2030, therefore, the Project encompasses continued and altered production rates in Pits 1-8 to reflect parallel extraction from Pits 9 and 10. On this basis, an indicative ROM coal production schedule for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine incorporating the Project is provided in Table 2.

Table 2
Provisional Annual Project ROM Coal
Production Rates

Calendar Year	Annual ROM Coal (Mtpa)
2030	10.7
2031	11.3
2032	8.1
2033	11.6
2034	6.1
2035	8.5
2036	9.0
2037	4.4
2038	0.0
Total	70.0*

* Totals do not equal the sum of each row due to rounding.

Haulage of ROM coal extracted from Pits 9 and 10 would occur via the new Wollar Creek haulage crossing to the Pit 8 Extension area and hence connect to the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine haul road network. To facilitate management of ROM coal volumes between pits, a temporary ROM coal stockpile area would also be established in the Pit 8 Extension area.

Open cut mining activities (Plate 1) and associated mobile equipment movements at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine would continue to be undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days per week, subject to compliance with relevant environmental management criteria (e.g. real-time air quality and noise operational trigger levels).

3.2.3 Waste Rock Management

The Project would generate waste streams that would be similar in nature to the existing operations at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine. The key waste streams would continue to comprise:

- waste rock;
- CHPP rejects;
- sewage and wastewater;
- recyclable and non-recyclable wastes; and
- other wastes from mining and workshop activities (e.g. scrap metal, used tyres, waste hydrocarbons and oil filters).

Mine waste rock (including interburden and overburden) generated from the Project would be progressively placed within mine voids once the coal has been mined (or is transferred to temporary out-of-pit emplacement areas where necessary prior to rehandling later in the mining sequence).

Waste rock production for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine (inclusive of Modification 3) incorporating the Project would remain less than the maximum waste rock production level of the approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine (i.e. 43 Mbcm).

3.2.4 Coal Processing, Handling and Transport

As the Project proposes no change to the maximum annual ROM coal production rate, no CHPP upgrades are proposed in support of the Project. However, regular maintenance, and where necessary replacement, of equipment within the CHPP would continue over the life of the Project.

Product coal at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine is loaded onto trains 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

The existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine is approved to have an average of six laden trains and a maximum of 10 laden trains leaving the site on any day. Wilpinjong Coal Mine trains use the Australian Rail Track Corporation rail network to transport products east to domestic power generation customers and/or the Port of Newcastle for export.

The Project proposes no change to the existing train loading infrastructure, typical train routes or approved daily maximum train movements. Average train movements under the Project would reduce to reflect the lower rate of ROM coal production relative the currently approved 16 Mtpa ROM rate (Tables 1 and 2).

The existing rail infrastructure, product coal stockpiles and rail loading infrastructure are shown on Figure 4.

3.2.5 Coal Reject Management

Coarse rejects and tailings from the CHPP are selectively placed within mine voids, waste rock emplacements and approved tailing storage facilities. Fine rejects and slimes from the thickener are dewatered in a tailings filter press to allow co-disposal of dewatered tailings with coarse rejects and to increase water efficiency.

Coarse and dewatered fine CHPP rejects are hauled back to the mining operation and deposited below the natural surface in the mine voids (i.e. co-disposal with waste rock).

When the tailings filter press is not operational (e.g. scheduled maintenance, breakdown or if the ROM coal being washed is not suitable for the filter press), tailings are directed to purpose-built tailings storage facilities constructed within mine voids or may alternatively be transferred to temporary dewatering cells.

Consistent with existing operations, over the life of the Project tailings would, therefore, continue to be pumped as a slurry and deposited in purpose-built tailings storages constructed within the mine voids (tailings dams) or directed to temporary holding cells near the CHPP when the tailings filter press is not operating at full capacity.

To maintain sufficient capacity for the continued production of some tailings from the CHPP that are not dewatered over the life of the Project, additional temporary or permanent tailings storage capacity would be constructed in the vicinity of the CHPP.

Tailings storage capacity design work is currently being undertaken, and the proposed tailings storage strategy for the Project will be described in the EIS.

3.2.6 Infrastructure and Services

The Project would involve the construction of a new mine infrastructure area adjacent to Pit 9 which would indicatively include a maintenance workshop, re-fuelling facilities, crib facilities, administration building, electricity supply and other supporting infrastructure.

A heavy vehicle haul road and bridge crossing would be constructed over Wollar Creek to facilitate the movement of mobile fleet directly between the proposed Pit 8 Extension area and Pits 9 and 10.

Realignment and upgrades of some public infrastructure is also required to facilitate the construction of Pits 9 and 10 (e.g. sections of public roads, local low voltage powerlines and telecommunication services). As a component of the proposed realignment of Wollar Road for the Project, a new Wollar Creek bridge would be constructed and the new alignment would also include upgrades to Barigan Street, Wollar (Figure 6).

The Project would continue to utilise the use of the existing mobile fleet where they remain suitable, with progressive replacement of some major equipment and haul trucks with somewhat smaller equipment to suit anticipated mining conditions in Pits 9 and 10 as necessary.

WCPL is also seeking to extend the operational duration of the existing Temporary Accommodation Facility in Pit 1 (Figure 3) to align with the proposed extension in mining (to 31 December 2038), which would provide ongoing accommodation as required for existing workforce and contractors that would continue to be utilised for the Project.

3.2.7 Final Voids

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine has two approved final voids, located in Pits 2 and 6. The Project would not change the total number, location, size or catchment areas of the approved final voids associated with the Wilpinjong Coal Mine.

The mine plan for the Project has been designed to include progressive backfilling of voids during mining and some rehandling of waste rock in the final Project year to achieve a free draining final landform, consistent with the approach adopted by WCPL for the existing approved Pit 8.

The Pit 10 final void backfilling operation would extend the duration of mining by 12 months and would require a lesser workforce and fleet following the cessation of ROM coal mining operations in 2037 (Table 2).

3.2.8 Water Management

The existing water management system at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine would continue to support ongoing mining activities under the Project.

Wilpinjong Coal Mine has had a water excess and been forced to retain significant in-pit water storage volumes during some historical high rainfall climatic periods. WCPL is, therefore, evaluating a range of options to manage the addition of the proposed Pits 9 and 10 (approximately 550 ha) to the Wilpinjong Coal Mine operational water management area.

The existing surface water runoff controls to reduce up-catchment runoff water from entering open cut mining operations would be retained and augmented for the Project. Other augmentations may include additional water storages/dams, pumps, pipelines, drains, irrigation systems, water treatment, and controlled release infrastructure, as required.

As a component of water management studies conducted for the Project EIS, WCPL would resolve any necessary additions to the existing water management and controlled release systems to meet WCPL's water management objectives.

Consistent with existing Development Consent (SSD-6764) conditions, the proposed Project open cut pits would also be banded as necessary to exclude a 1:100 average recurrence interval flood event from entering the active pit during mining.

3.2.9 Other Activities

Other activities that would be conducted as a component of the Project include environmental monitoring and minor associated infrastructure including provision of communications and data to the mine infrastructure areas and Pits 9 and 10 as required.

3.2.10 Final Landform and Land Use

Progressive rehabilitation (i.e. reshaping, topsoil placement and revegetation) of the Project landforms would be undertaken over the life of the Project.

The mine plan for the Project has been designed to include progressive backfilling of voids during mining and some rehandling of waste rock in the final Project year to achieve a free-draining geomorphic final landform (i.e. without a final void waterbody).

The final land use for the Project is expected to largely comprise nature conservation (woodland), consistent with contemporary rehabilitation objectives for the site. This aligns with regulatory expectations set during the previous Wilpinjong Extension Project, which emphasised returning mined lands to self-sustaining native woodland communities to improve regional ecological outcomes. However, this would be a matter that would be resolved during the Project consultation and detailed design stages.

3.3 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Preliminary strategies to address potential impacts associated with the Project are outlined in Section 6.

These strategies would be developed and refined through the environmental assessment process and are expected to include both physical controls (e.g. bunding/cladding) and adaptive management measures (e.g. real-time monitoring and adaptive management of noise).

3.4 PROJECT SCHEDULE

It is anticipated that construction and operational activities associated with the Project would commence as soon as practicable after all necessary consents, approvals and licences for the Project have been obtained. At this stage the nominal commencement date for Project open cut mining for the EIS is 1 January 2030.

The Project would extend open cut mining operations at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine by approximately 4.5 years.

3.5 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Should Development Consent be granted for the Project (which incorporates and extends upon the approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine), subject to the Proponent being satisfied with the consent conditions (and subject to the resolution of any related legal challenges), Development Consent (SSD-6764) would be surrendered so that the Project would operate under the new consent only.

The Wilpinjong Coal Mine is located in an established mining precinct including the Ulan Coal Mine and Moolarben Coal Complex. Potential interactions with these mines (both direct and cumulative interactions) and other renewable energy and mining developments in the region will be considered where relevant in the Project EIS.

3.6 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The location and extent of the Project is constrained by the location of existing mining and exploration tenements and Peabody-owned land, the extent of recoverable coal resource and key infrastructure (such as the existing Sandy Hollow-Gulgong Railway), while also having regard to significant environmental constraints (such as existing ridgelines and the Goulburn River National Park).

A number of alternatives to the proposed Project have been considered by Peabody to date and have not been adopted, including:

- ceasing the Wilpinjong Coal Mine following the completion of the proposed Pit 8 Extension (Modification 3) and the approved Pits 1-8;
- mining the coal resources in the Project area at rates up to the maximum currently approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine open cut ROM coal production rate (16 Mtpa);
- relocation of the Sandy Hollow-Gulgong Railway, or construction of major rail haul road crossings, to facilitate mining occurring both north and south of the current railway line within EL 9399;
- mining the coal resources in EL 9399 via underground rather than open cut methodology; and
- development of a new southern infrastructure connection corridor between the proposed Pit 9 and the approved Pit 7 and existing mine infrastructure area.

The above alternatives have not been adopted as they had potential outcomes that were not aligned with Peabody's objectives for the Project. Further discussion of Peabody's objectives and why these alternatives were not adopted for the Project will be included in the EIS.

As a component of comprehensive assessment undertaken for the EIS, further analysis and consideration of a range of alternatives would be undertaken (including measures to avoid, mitigate, rehabilitate and monitor the potential impacts of the Project).

4 STATUTORY CONTEXT

This section concisely outlines the planning framework and statutory context relevant to the assessment of the Project.

4.1 POWER TO GRANT CONSENT

4.1.1 Applicability of Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act provides a threefold classification of development under the EP&A Act. The threefold classification is:

- development that may be carried out without development consent;
- development that may be carried out with development consent; and
- development that is prohibited.

The Project falls into the classification of development that may be carried out with development consent.

Development Consent for the Project (incorporating the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine) will be sought under the State Significant Development provisions (i.e. Division 4.7) under Part 4 of the EP&A Act. The EP&A Act and EP&A Regulation generally set the framework for planning and environmental assessment in NSW. WCPL would surrender Development Consent (SSD-6764) for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine, as necessary and at an appropriate time, following the commencement of the Project.

Under section 4.36 of the EP&A Act, a class of development, such as mining, may be declared State Significant Development by the Planning Systems SEPP. Section 2.6 of the Planning Systems SEPP provides that development is declared to be State Significant Development for the purposes of the EP&A Act if:

- the development on the land concerned is, by the operation of an environmental planning instrument, not permissible without Development Consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act (first criterion); and
- the development is specified in Schedule 1 or 2 of the Planning Systems SEPP (second criterion).

With respect to the first criterion, the Project may be carried out only with Development Consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act, pursuant to section 2.9(1) of the Resources and Energy SEPP (further described below).

In regard to the second criterion, development for the purposes of mining that is coal mining, is specified in Schedule 1, Item 5 as being State Significant Development.

The Project is a development for the purposes of mining that is coal mining. Therefore, the development would be State Significant Development for the purposes of the EP&A Act.

Pursuant to section 4.5(a) of the EP&A Act and section 2.7 of the Planning Systems SEPP, the consent authority for the development application will either be the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces or the Independent Planning Commission.

4.2 PERMISSIBILITY

The aims of Chapter 2 of the Resources and Energy SEPP include the aim of facilitating the orderly and economic use and development of land containing mineral resources and promoting the development of significant mineral resources (section 2.1 of the Resources and Energy SEPP).

Section 2.9(1) of the Resources and Energy SEPP provides that certain mining related development is permissible with development consent.

Chapter 2 of the Resources and Energy SEPP prevails to the extent of any inconsistency with a local environmental plan (section 2.6 of the Resources and Energy SEPP and section 3.28 of the EP&A Act).

Section 4.38(3) of the EP&A Act also provides that development consent may be granted (in respect of State Significant Development) despite the development being partly prohibited by an environmental planning instrument (however, development consent may not be granted if the development is wholly prohibited by an environmental planning instrument). As such, the consent authority would not be precluded from granting development consent if the Project were to be partly prohibited by an environmental planning instrument.

The Project provisional Development Application Area is located within the Mid-Western Regional LGA, for which the *Mid-Western Regional Local Environmental Plan 2012* (Mid-Western Regional LEP) is relevant. Clause 1.9(1) of the Mid-Western Regional LEP states that the Mid-Western Regional LEP is subject to the provisions of any State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) that prevails over it as provided by section 3.28 of the EP&A Act (see also section 2.10 of the Resources and Energy SEPP).

The provisional Development Application Area includes land zoned under the Mid-Western Regional LEP as:

- RU1 – Primary Production.
- RU5 – Village.
- R5 – Large Lot Residential.
- SP2 – Infrastructure.
- C3 – Environmental Management.

Under the Mid-Western Regional LEP, development for the purposes of “open cut mining” is permissible with consent on lands zoned as RU1 (Primary Production) and C3 (Environmental Management). As it is not listed as a prohibited form of development, “open cut mining” is also permissible with consent in Zone R5 (Large Lot Residential).

In contrast, development for the purposes of “open cut mining” is prohibited on lands zoned as RU5 (Village) and SP2 (Infrastructure).

However, clause 2.5 of the Resources and Energy SEPP states that the SEPP applies across all of NSW.

Clause 2.6(1) further establishes that, in the event of any inconsistency between the SEPP and the Mid-Western Regional LEP, the provisions of the SEPP prevail.

Clause 2.9(1) of the Resources and Energy SEPP provides that certain mining development is permissible with development consent.

Clause 2.9(1)(b) states:

- (1) *Mining Development for any of the following purposes may be carried out only with development consent—*
- ...
- (b) *mining carried out—*
 - (i) *on land where development for the purposes of agriculture or industry may be carried out (with or without development consent), or*
 - (ii) *on land that is, immediately before the commencement of this section, the subject of a mining lease under the Mining Act 1992 or a mining licence under the Offshore Minerals Act 1999,*

In this regard, as “Extensive agriculture” (which is a type of “agriculture”) is permissible under the Mid-Western Regional LEP without consent in Zone SP2 (Infrastructure), clause 2.9(1)(b) of the Resource and Energy SEPP has the effect that development for the purpose of mining carried out on this land can be carried out with development consent.

RU5 (Village) land zoned within the Project provisional Development Application Area is not proposed for any mining activities. Rather it has been included in the provisional Development Application Area to support public road realignment and upgrades.

“Open cut mining” is prohibited on land zoned RU5 (Village) under the Mid-Western Regional LEP, however “roads” are permitted without consent.

4.2.1 Planning Provisions

State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021

The EIS will include detailed consideration of the aims in Part 2.1 of the Resources and Energy SEPP and the matters for consideration in Part 2.3 of the Resources and Energy SEPP, based on the Project description and findings of the key environmental impact assessment studies.

Section 30(2) of the EP&A Regulation and Part 2.4 of the Resources and Energy SEPP require that development applications for certain mining development which requires a new ML to be issued (i.e. for proposed mining areas not subject to a ML) must be accompanied by either a current Gateway Certificate or a Site Verification Certificate (SVC).

Soil investigations indicate the presence of potential BSAL within the Project area. WCPL has, therefore, prepared a Gateway Application for the Project, consistent with Division 4 of the Resources and Energy SEPP.

The Gateway Application was submitted to the Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel on 7 May 2026.

Other State Environmental Planning Policies

The EIS will include detailed consideration of relevant environmental planning instruments for the Project. In addition to the Resources and Energy SEPP, the following SEPPs may also potentially be relevant to the Project:

- Planning Systems SEPP;
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*;
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* (Resilience and Hazards SEPP); and
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*.

4.3 OTHER REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

In accordance with section 1.3 of the BC Act, the purpose of the BC Act is to maintain a healthy, productive and resilient environment for the greatest well-being of the community, now and into the future, consistent with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

The BC Act provides the approach to be followed for assessing a development's impacts on threatened species and ecological communities.

More specifically, Part 7 of the BC Act provides for biodiversity assessment and approvals under the EP&A Act.

Section 7.9, Part 7 of the BC Act states:

- (2) *Any such application is to be accompanied by a biodiversity development assessment report unless the Planning Agency Head and the Environment Agency Head determine that the proposed development is not likely to have any significant impact on biodiversity values.*

The Development Application for the Project will be accompanied by a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) prepared in accordance with the relevant biodiversity assessment requirements under the *Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020* (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment [DPIE], 2020a).

Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023

The *NSW Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023* (Net Zero Act) sets out NSW's approach to climate change and legislates whole-of-government climate action.

The objects of the Net Zero Act are identified in section 4 of the Act as follows:

- (a) *to establish guiding principles for action to address climate change,*
- (b) *to set targets for the reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales until 2050,*
- (c) *to set an objective for New South Wales to be more resilient to a changing climate,*

- (d) *to establish the Net Zero Commission to independently monitor, review and report on progress in New South Wales towards the targets, the adaptation objective and other matters.*

Part 2 of the Net Zero Act sets out guiding principles (section 8), targets for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions in NSW (section 9), an adaptation objective (section 10) and a provision relating to achieving the 2050 net zero target (section 11).

The Net Zero Act sets progressive reduction targets for NSW's net greenhouse gas emissions as follows:

- 50 percent (%) reduction on 2005 levels by 30 June 2030;
- 70% reduction on 2005 levels by 30 June 2035; and
- 'net zero' by 30 June 2050.

The Net Zero Act also legislates the establishment of an independent, expert Net Zero Commission to monitor, review, report on and advise on progress towards these targets.

The EIS will consider and assess the Net Zero Act NSW emission reduction targets and provide consideration of these targets relative to the estimated greenhouse gas emissions of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine incorporating the Project.

4.3.3 Crown Land Management Act 2016

WCPL is currently working to streamline the administration of compensation and licensing with NSW Crown lands under the *Mining Act 1992* for mining activities on various Crown Land parcels within its existing MLs in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Should WCPL require access to incidental Crown Land parcels to facilitate the Project within the provisional Development Application Area, provisions under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* are available to authorise such access.

In accordance with sections 5.21 and 5.3 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, the use or occupation of Crown Land can be authorised through a Crown Licence. If required to support the Project, WCPL may obtain such licences following the completion of detailed infrastructure design.

4.3.4 Mining Act 1992

Exploration activities for the Project would be regulated under the existing tenements held for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine. WCPL would apply for a new ML with NSW Resources (within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development [DPIRD]) within EL 9399 with indicative MLA area(s) for Pits 9 and 10 shown on Figures 5 and 6.

Under section 4.42(1)(c) of the EP&A Act, if the Project is approved as a State Significant Development, the grant of one or more MLs under the *Mining Act 1992* cannot be refused if those leases are necessary for the carrying out of the approved Project, and the leases are to be substantially consistent with the Development Consent issued for the Project.

Under the *Mining Act 1992*, environmental protection and rehabilitation are regulated by conditions included in all MLs, including requirements for the submission of a Rehabilitation Management Plan and Annual Rehabilitation Report.

4.3.5 Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

The NSW *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (PoEO Act) and the NSW *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022* set out the general obligations for environmental regulation in NSW.

Under section 4.42(1)(e) of the EP&A Act, if the Project is approved as a State Significant Development, an EPL cannot be refused if it is necessary for the carrying out of the approved Project, and it is to be substantially consistent with the Development Consent issued for the Project.

The approved Wilpinjong Coal Mine currently operates under EPL 12425, granted under the PoEO Act for the scheduled activities of coal works, and mining for coal. EPL 12425 contains conditions that relate to emission and discharge limits, operations, environmental monitoring and reporting. If approved, the Project would require some variations to EPL 12425 under the PoEO Act, which would include an extension of the EPL premises to correspond with the expanded Project area and potential change to discharge conditions.

4.3.6 Water Management Act 2000

Under section 4.41(1)(g) of the EP&A Act, if the Project is approved as a State Significant Development, water use approvals under section 89, water management work approvals under section 90 and activity approvals (excluding aquifer interference approvals) under section 91 of the *Water Management Act 2000* would not be required for the Project.

The EIS will include detailed consideration of the Project against the relevant water management principles and access licence dealing principles under the *Water Management Act 2000*. The EIS will also address the *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy* (Department of Primary Industries [DPI], 2012) and identify the water access licences required for each water source associated with the Project.

4.3.7 Roads Act 1993

If the Project is approved, WCPL would apply for any necessary consents under section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993* associated with works in relevant roads such as the construction of the realigned Wollar Road.

WCPL and MWRC would also address relevant requirements of the *Roads Act 1993* and *Conveyancing Act 1919* with respect to dedication of new sections of public road and previous public road closures during the life of the Project.

4.3.8 Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The Project will be referred to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water for consideration as to whether the incremental development associated with the Project constitutes a 'Controlled Action' and requires approval under the EPBC Act.

If the Project is assessed under the assessment bilateral agreement with the NSW Government for impacts on water resources, the NSW and Commonwealth Governments may jointly obtain the advice of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Unconventional Gas Development and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) on the Project.

4.4 PRE-CONDITIONS TO EXERCISING THE POWER TO GRANT CONSENT

A summary of relevant pre-conditions to the consent authority exercising its power to grant consent is presented in Attachment 4. The EIS will include more detailed consideration of all relevant pre-conditions (including matters that the consent authority must be satisfied of in order to grant development consent).

4.5 MANDATORY MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

A summary of matters that the consent authority is required to consider in deciding whether to grant approval for the Project is also presented in Attachment 4 (including matters that the consent authority must be satisfied of in order to grant development consent). The EIS will include more detailed consideration of the relevant matters for consideration.

5 ENGAGEMENT DURING PROJECT SCOPING

5.1 ENGAGEMENT CARRIED OUT BY WCPL

WCPL consults with relevant State, Commonwealth and local government agencies on a regular basis in relation to the Wilpinjong Coal Mine operations.

WCPL maintains open lines of communication with the community through a number of community initiatives and local involvement, including, but not limited to:

- engagement with the Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee (CCC) operated in accordance with *Community consultative committee guideline* (DPE, 2023a);
- meetings with the existing Registered Aboriginal Parties Consultation Committee (RAPCC) and the combined Cultural Heritage Liaison Sub Committee and Native Title Implementation Committee;
- maintenance of a website within the Peabody web domain (<https://www.peabodyenergy.com/>) and a Facebook page for the general public to keep up to date with the operations of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine;
- established points of contact for the community to ask specific questions or provide feedback, including a Community Hotline, a Community Blasting Hotline and an email address;
- regular contact with local community groups through WCPL's active support of groups through sponsorships and donations;
- monthly 'Have A Chat' sessions where local residents are encouraged to use the sessions to voice any questions or concerns they have in relation to the Wilpinjong Coal Mine; and
- involvement and partnerships with local and regional contractors and suppliers.

In addition, consultation undertaken during public exhibition of the proposed Modification 3 and the publication of WCPL's future plans on the Wilpinjong Coal Mine website has highlighted that WCPL would be seeking a further State Significant Development extension (this Project).

WCPL remains committed to continue constructive and open dialogue with the local community and key stakeholders for the duration of the Project, environmental studies and assessment by the NSW Government.

During the preparation of this Scoping Report, Square Peg Social Performance Pty Ltd (Square Peg) and WCPL have identified relevant stakeholders for the Social Impact Assessment (SIA). Key social localities were identified based on the location of the Project, origins of Wilpinjong Coal Mine community complaints, Wilpinjong Coal Mine workforce locations and built and natural features near the Project (Attachment 2). Relevant social localities were also informed through community consultation and feedback obtained during the SIA process for Modification 3, and the submissions received on the Modification Report during the public exhibition process.

It is noted that the SIA consultation for Modification 3 involved a total of 20 consultation events with a cross-section of the relevant community. As outlined in the Modification SIA Report (Square Peg, 2025), much of the discussion throughout this consultation program included anticipated potential impacts from the Project, as opposed to impacts from the Modification.

Therefore, Square Peg considers the consultation for the Modification provides adequate information to prepare a robust SIA Scoping Report for Project, as presented in Attachment 2.

To further inform and refine the SIA Scoping Report, a targeted qualitative consultation approach was conducted by Square Peg and WCPL to provide stakeholders the opportunity to provide additional direct input on the impact assessment process that will be completed for the Project SIA.

Accordingly, Square Peg conducted additional consultation with the following stakeholders for the SIA Scoping Report:

- Meeting with MWRC on 30 March 2026.
- Meeting with Registered Aboriginal Parties on 30 April 2026.
- An offer was extended by WCPL to CCC members on 25 March 2026 to provide input to the SIA Scoping Report.

In addition to the SIA consultation as outlined above, consultation has been conducted with key State government agencies, landholders and CCC in relation to the Project.

A pre-lodgement scoping meeting was held with DPHI on 20 May 2026 to provide an overview of the Project and proposed environmental assessments.

5.2 COMMUNITY VIEWS

The feedback obtained during the SIA scoping phase as well as feedback received during previous consultation for Modification 3, largely consisted of acknowledgement that the population in the region (particularly Mudgee) was growing, and attributed that to the mining industry (including the Wilpinjong Coal Mine) as well as renewable energy projects within the Central-West Orana REZ (Attachment 2).

Regional residents and employees described how they anticipated that the Project would mean employment would be maintained at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine for longer, and they described how that would provide confidence to the workforce and the community.

Key concerns associated with the Project were associated with the continuation of amenity impacts, primarily noise and air quality and issues relating to coal mining and greenhouse gas emissions.

Fear and insecurity about future individual, family and quality of life or sense of place impacts were also raised.

5.3 ENGAGEMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT

A stakeholder engagement program has been developed for the Project that will support both the EIS and SIA processes in accordance with the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPHI, 2026b) and *Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects – Technical Supplement* (DPHI, 2025). The key objectives of this program include:

- constructive engagement with key government and public stakeholders regarding the Project;
- seeking feedback from key stakeholders on various elements of the Project; and
- continuing the ongoing dialogue between WCPL and key stakeholders regarding the Wilpinjong Coal Mine, incorporating the Project.

The issues raised and outcomes of the community and stakeholder engagement program will be reported in the EIS and SIA. The community and stakeholder engagement program will include, but not be limited to, the following government agencies and authorities:

- NSW DPHI;
- Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW);
- NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA);
- MWRC;
- NSW Conservation, Planning and Offset Division (CPO);
- NSW Resources (within DPIRD);
- NSW Resources Regulator;
- NSW DCCEEW – Water;
- NSW Crown Lands;
- NSW DPIRD (including DPI Agriculture and DPI Fisheries);
- NSW Health;
- Transport for NSW;
- Heritage NSW;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service;
- NSW Local Land Services;
- NSW Police;
- NSW Ambulance; and
- NSW Rural Fire Service.

The community and stakeholder engagement program also recognises other key stakeholders, including:

- the community surrounding the Wilpinjong Coal Mine;
- the Wilpinjong Coal Mine CCC;
- the Aboriginal community and groups;
- the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine workforce and suppliers;
- public and private service and infrastructure providers;
- other industries and businesses in the area;
- neighbouring mining operations (Moolarben Coal Complex and Ulan Coal Mine);

- renewable project developers and operators in the Central-West Orana REZ;
- infrastructure owners;
- potential downstream infrastructure providers (e.g. Australian Rail Track Corporation); and
- environment and community groups.

The community and stakeholder engagement program will keep the community informed about the Project and obtain their feedback through the use of a variety of consultation mechanisms, such as:

- public availability of key documents (e.g. this Scoping Report and the proposed EIS);
- consultation with the Aboriginal community in accordance with the requirements of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW], 2010a);
- Project newsletter/factsheet updates;
- community engagement mechanisms to present and discuss more detailed aspects of the Project and environmental assessments; and
- meetings with government agencies and other stakeholders.

Feedback would be sought from the community through the engagement outlined above. Engagement would be developed and undertaken in consideration of the Community Participation Objectives outlined in the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPHI, 2026b):

- open and inclusive;
- easy to access;
- relevant;
- timely; and
- meaningful.

The level of engagement with the community will vary depending on their social localities (e.g. those in the primary social locality will be consulted with to a greater degree) and interest in specific Project or assessment matters.

WCPL will seek feedback on the effectiveness of its engagement during consultation with the community. The approach to community engagement may be refined during the preparation of the EIS, in response to community feedback, outcomes of assessments and/or Project design developments.

6 MATTERS AND IMPACTS

6.1 OVERVIEW

The matters requiring further assessment in the EIS have been identified in accordance with the *State significant development guidelines – preparing a scoping report* (DPE, 2022a), the *Social Impact Assessment Guideline for state significant projects* (DPHI, 2026d) and the supporting *Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Project – Technical Supplement* (DPHI, 2025).

As the Project largely involves the continuation and extension of the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine, the matters requiring further assessment in the EIS are well understood.

The proposed level and scope of assessments have been identified for each matter to assist DPHI with issuing of the SEARs for the Project under section 3 of Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation, based upon:

- the activities proposed by the Project;
- the scale and nature of the likely impacts;
- the sensitivity of the receiving environment;
- potential cumulative impacts of the Project and other operations (e.g. Moolarben Coal Complex, Ulan Coal Mine and nearby renewable energy developments);
- the ability to avoid, minimise and/or offset the impacts of the Project;
- the complexity of the technical assessments relevant to the Project; and
- feedback from stakeholder consultation undertaken to date, including engagement with regulatory agencies regarding Modification 3 (Section 5).

6.2 KEY MATTERS REQUIRING FURTHER ASSESSMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The key matters identified as requiring further assessment in the EIS for the Project, the proposed assessment approach and the level of engagement are summarised in Table 3.

Suitably qualified and experienced specialists have been and will be commissioned to conduct the studies outlined in Table 3, and independent peer reviews will be conducted for select key studies in consideration of the *State significant development guidelines – preparing an environmental impact statement* (DPHI, 2026e).

Table 3 also outlines the environmental assessment matters that will include a cumulative impact assessment. Cumulative impact assessments in the EIS will:

- take into consideration past, present and reasonably foreseeable planned developments that are relevant due to their proximity and/or potential to interact with potential impacts of the Project;
- outline how cumulative impacts may be managed through strategic planning and/or policy; and
- document how cumulative impacts have been considered and, to the fullest extent practical, the Project's relative contribution to those potential cumulative impacts.

The relevant government plans, policies and guidelines in Table 3 are indicative and not an exhaustive list of those that will be considered in the EIS environmental studies.

In addition to consideration of the key matters in Table 3, potential impacts on the following other environmental aspects will also be addressed in the EIS:

- potential odour emissions; and
- preliminary hazard analysis in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP.

Table 3
Key Matters Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

Environmental/Social Matter		Relevant Government Plans, Policies and Guidelines	Proposed Level and Approach to Assessment
Biodiversity	Terrestrial Flora and Fauna	• <i>Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020</i> (DPIE, 2020a) and relevant survey requirements. • <i>Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 Operational Manuals</i>: – Stage 1 (DPE, 2022c). – Stage 2 (DPE, 2023b). – Stage 3 (DPIE, 2020b). • <i>The NSW State Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (Department of Land and Water Conservation, 2002). • <i>Information Guidelines Explanatory Note: Assessing groundwater-dependent ecosystems</i> (Doody, Hancock and Pritchard, 2019).	Detailed BDAR will be prepared for the EIS in accordance with the <i>Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020</i> (DPIE, 2020), including: • Assessment of potential impacts on any terrestrial species, populations, ecological communities or their habitats, including consideration of aquatic ecology, groundwater and surface water assessments. • Identification of measures that would be implemented to maintain or improve the biodiversity values of the surrounding region in the medium to long-term. • Consideration of environmental assessment outcomes during detailed mine planning. • Inclusion of surface disturbance protocols, including pre-clearance surveys, and weed and feral animal control measures. • Implementation of avoidance and minimisation measures. • Development of a biodiversity offset strategy and compensatory measures in accordance with relevant NSW and Commonwealth Government policies. • Expert peer review of the BDAR. Specific engagement with DPHI and CPO during preparation of the BDAR. General engagement with the community as part of broader Project engagement.
	Aquatic Ecology	• <i>The NSW State Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (Department of Land and Water Conservation, 2002). • <i>Policy and guidelines for fish habitat conservation and management</i> (DPI, 2013). • <i>Information Guidelines Explanatory Note: Assessing groundwater-dependent ecosystems</i> (Doody, Hancock and Pritchard, 2019).	Detailed Aquatic Ecology Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: • Assessment of potential impacts on aquatic species, populations, ecological communities or their habitats, including consideration of water releases and findings of groundwater and surface water assessments. • Identification of measures that would be implemented to maintain or improve the aquatic ecology values of the surrounding region in the medium to long-term. • Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate, monitor and manage the potential impacts of the Project. General engagement with the community as part of broader Project engagement.

Table 3 (Continued)
Key Matters Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

Environmental/Social Matter		Relevant Government Plans, Policies and Guidelines	Proposed Level and Approach to Assessment
Amenity	Noise Vibration	• <i>Noise Policy for Industry</i> (EPA, 2017). • <i>NSW Road Noise Policy</i> (DECCW, 2011). • <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i> (Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2009). • <i>Draft Construction Noise Guidelines</i> (EPA, 2020). • <i>Rail Infrastructure Noise Guideline</i> (EPA, 2013). • <i>Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy for State Significant Mining, Petroleum and Extractive Industry Developments</i> (NSW Government, 2018). • <i>Approved methods for the measurement and analysis of environmental noise in NSW</i> (EPA, 2022a). • <i>Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline</i> (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2006). • <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting Overpressure and Ground Vibration</i> (Australian and New Zealand Environment Council, 1990).	Detailed Noise and Blasting Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: • Modelling and assessment of potential noise impacts as a result of construction activities and mining operations, and road and rail traffic generated by the Project. • Assessment of potential cumulative impacts resulting from the Project, Moolarben Coal Complex, Ulan Coal Mine and other nearby developments (as relevant to construction, operational, road and rail noise). • Assessment of potential vibration and overpressure impacts as a result of blasting conducted for the Project, including consideration of blasting impacts on surrounding operations and land. • Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate and/or monitor the potential impacts of the Project including consideration of mine design (e.g. location of primary haul routes) and continued implementation of the proactive noise management system. • Expert peer review of the Noise and Blasting Assessment. An assessment of potential blasting impacts on surrounding unmined strata will also be included in the EIS. Specific engagement with the local community and landholders and infrastructure owners concerned about potential impacts on acoustic amenity and potential blasting impacts.
	Visual	• <i>Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline – Technical Supplement for Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment</i> (DPHI, 2024)¹. • <i>Dark Sky Planning Guideline</i> (DPE, 2023c).	Standard Landscape and Visual Assessment, including: • Simulation of potential landscape and visual impacts as a result of mining operations, particularly from publicly accessible viewpoints. • Visibility of mining extensions to be confirmed. General engagement with the community as part of broader Project engagement.

Table 3 (Continued)
Key Matters Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

Environmental/Social Matter		Relevant Government Plans, Policies and Guidelines	Proposed Level and Approach to Assessment
Air	Atmospheric Emissions Particulate Matter	<i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales</i> (EPA, 2022b). <i>Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy for State Significant Mining, Petroleum and Extractive Industry Developments</i> (NSW Government, 2018). <i>Approved methods for the sampling and analysis of air pollutants in NSW</i> (EPA, 2022c).	Detailed Air Quality Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: - Modelling and assessment of potential air quality impacts as a result of construction activities and mining operations. - Assessment of potential cumulative impacts resulting from the Project, Moolarben Coal Complex and other nearby developments. - Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate and/or monitor the potential impacts of the Project including consideration of mine design (e.g. location of primary haul routes) and continued implementation of the proactive air quality management system. - Expert peer review of the Air Quality Assessment. Specific engagement with the local community and landholders concerned about potential impacts on air quality.
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<i>Climate Change Licensee Requirements</i> (EPA, 2026a). <i>Emissions Reporting and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans: Guidance for environmental protection licensees</i> (EPA, 2026b). <i>Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Guide for NSW Coal Mines</i> (EPA, 2026c). <i>Australian National Greenhouse Accounts Factors 2025</i> (NSW DCCEEW, 2025). <i>NSW Climate Change Policy Framework</i> (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH], 2016). <i>Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030</i> (DPIE, 2020c) and relevant implementation updates. <i>Climate Change Action Plan 2023–26</i> (EPA, 2023a). <i>NSW Coal Industry 2026-50</i> (NSW Government, 2026). <i>EPA Climate Change Policy</i> (EPA, 2023b).	Detailed Greenhouse Gas Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: - Estimation of Scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions in consideration of contemporary policies and plans. - Consideration of potential impacts of climate change (including potential impacts on the locality) based on contemporary projections (and incorporation into relevant environmental impact assessments where relevant). - Incorporation of reasonable and feasible measures to reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. - Consideration of Scope 3 emissions and international and national actions under the Paris Agreement. General engagement with the community as part of broader Project engagement.

Table 3 (Continued)
Key Matters Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

Environmental/Social Matter		Relevant Government Plans, Policies and Guidelines	Proposed Level and Approach to Assessment
Heritage	Aboriginal cultural heritage	• <i>Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW</i> (OEH, 2011). • <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales</i> (DECCW, 2010b). • <i>Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010</i> (DECCW, 2010a). • <i>The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance</i> (Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites [ICOMOS], 2013). • <i>Ask First: A Guide to Respecting Indigenous Heritage Places and Values</i> (Australian Heritage Commission, 2002). • <i>Engage Early: Guidance for proponents on best practice Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)</i> (Commonwealth Department of the Environment, 2016). • <i>Interim Engaging with First Nations People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals Under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth DCCEEW, 2023).	Detailed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: • Assessment of impacts on items of Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal cultural values. • Involvement of Aboriginal stakeholders during the assessment and operational phases. • Consideration of environmental assessment outcomes during detailed Project design work (e.g. locations of Aboriginal heritage sites). • Assessment of potential cumulative impacts resulting from the Project, Moolarben Coal Complex, Ulan Coal Mine and other nearby developments (including renewable energy developments) on Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the region. • Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate, monitor and manage the potential impacts of the Project. • Implementation of management measures to mitigate and monitor potential impacts on Aboriginal heritage. Specific engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders and the local community concerned about potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage.
	Non-Aboriginal heritage	• <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i> (NSW Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996). • <i>Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'</i> (Department of Planning, 2009). • <i>Assessing heritage significance</i> (DPE, 2023d). • <i>The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance</i> (Australia ICOMOS, 2013).	Detailed Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: • Assessment of potential impacts on non-Aboriginal heritage and landscapes. • Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate, monitor and manage the potential impacts of the Project. General engagement with the local community and landholders concerned about potential impacts on historic heritage.

Table 3 (Continued)
Key Matters Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

Environmental/Social Matter		Relevant Government Plans, Policies and Guidelines	Proposed Level and Approach to Assessment
Water	Hydrology	NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (DPI, 2012).	Detailed Groundwater Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: - Assessment of the impacts of the Project on the quantity and quality of the region's water resources, connectivity between water sources, water-dependent assets and water-related infrastructure. - Assessment of potential cumulative impacts resulting from the Project, Moolarben Coal Complex, Ulan Coal Mine and other nearby developments in accordance with the relevant water sharing plans under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>. - Numerical groundwater modelling in accordance with relevant guidelines, plans and policies, including prediction of groundwater licensing requirements for the Project. - Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate, remediate, monitor and/or offset the potential impacts of the Project. - Expert peer review of the Groundwater Assessment in accordance with the IESC Information Guidelines. Detailed Surface Water Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: - Assessment of the impacts of the Project on the quantity and quality of the region's water resources. - Assessment of potential cumulative impacts resulting from the Project, Moolarben Coal Complex, Ulan Coal Mine and other nearby developments in accordance with the relevant water sharing plans under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> (including water licensing requirements). - Detailed site water balance for the Project and identification of water supply requirements for the life of the Project. - Flooding assessment of Wollar Creek and assessment of flood risk on new public road realignments. - Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate, remediate, monitor and/or offset the potential impacts of the Project. General engagement with the local community and landholders concerned about potential impacts on water resources.
	Water Quality	<i>Australian groundwater modelling guidelines</i> (Barnett et al., 2012).	
	Water Availability	<i>Information Guidelines Explanatory Note: Characterisation and modelling of geological fault zones</i> (Murray and Power, 2021).	
	Groundwater Quality	<i>Minimum Groundwater Modelling Requirements for SSD/SSI Projects</i> (DPE, 2022d). <i>Guidelines for Groundwater Documentation for SSD/SSI Projects. Technical guideline</i> (DPE, 2022e). <i>Information guidelines for proponents preparing coal seam gas and large coal mining development proposals</i> (IESC, 2024). <i>Information Guidelines Explanatory Note: Using impact pathway diagrams based on ecohydrological conceptualisation in environmental impact assessment</i> (Commonwealth of Australia, 2024). <i>Guide to Groundwater Management in NSW</i> (DPE, 2023e). <i>Australian and New Zealand guidelines for fresh and marine water quality</i> (Australian and New Zealand Guidelines, 2018). <i>Flood risk management manual</i> (DPE, 2023f). <i>Floodplain Risk Management Guide</i> (OEH, 2019). <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 1</i> (Landcom, 2004). <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction</i>: (Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2008): <i>Volume 2A Installation of services.</i> <i>Volume 2B Waste landfills.</i> <i>Volume 2C Unsealed roads.</i> <i>Volume 2D Main roads construction.</i> <i>Volume 2E Mines and quarries.</i>	
	Flooding		

Table 3 (Continued)
Key Matters Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

Environmental/Social Matter		Relevant Government Plans, Policies and Guidelines	Proposed Level and Approach to Assessment
Social	Community	<i>Social Impact Assessment Guideline for state significant projects</i> (DPHI, 2026d) <i>Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Project – Technical Supplement</i> (DPHI, 2025).	Detailed SIA will be prepared for the EIS, including: - Consideration of the community feedback from SIA consultation in the mine design planning, environmental assessments and further consultation. - Consideration of community feedback received from Modification 3. - Assessment of potential cumulative impacts resulting from the Project, renewable development associated with the Central-West Orana REZ, Moolarben Coal Complex, Ulan Coal Mine and other nearby developments. - Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate and/or monitor the potential impacts of the Project. - Consideration of strategies to maintain local employment and support of local businesses. - Community contributions by WCPL. - Implementation of feasible and reasonable mitigation measures on-site to minimise amenity impacts from the Project. Specific engagement with relevant stakeholders as outlined in the SIA Scoping Report (Attachment 2).
	Way of Life		
Access	Accessibility	<i>Guide to Transport Impact Assessment</i> (Transport for NSW, 2024) <i>Guide to Traffic Management Part 3: Transport Studies and Analysis Methods</i> (Austroads, 2020a). <i>Guide to Traffic Management Part 12: Integrated Transport Assessments for Developments</i> (Austroads, 2020b).	Detailed Road Transport Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: - Assessment of changes in traffic volumes on the surrounding road network. - Review of potential travel time implications for drivers travelling from Mudgee to site via Wollar Road versus Ulan-Wollar Road. - Assessment of the appropriate layout and design standards for the proposed road realignments and intersections. Review of the implication of the proposed road realignments and Pit 9 access point on vehicle travel times. - Assessment of potential cumulative impacts resulting from the Project, renewable development associated with the Central-West Orana REZ, Moolarben Coal Complex, Ulan Coal Mine and other nearby developments. - Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate and/or monitor the potential incremental impacts of the Project. General engagement with the MWRC, local community, landholders and infrastructure owners concerned about potential impacts on the local road network.
	Culture		
	Surrounds		
	Livelihoods		
	Decision-making Systems		
	Health and Wellbeing		

Table 3 (Continued)
Key Matters Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

Environmental/Social Matter		Relevant Government Plans, Policies and Guidelines	Proposed Level and Approach to Assessment
Economic	Natural Resource Use	<i>Guidelines for the economic assessment of mining and coal seam gas proposals</i> (NSW Government, 2015).	Detailed Economic Assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: - Economic assessment of potential impacts on the regional and NSW economies and a cost-benefit analysis. - Consideration of the significance of the coal resource. - Consideration of strategies to maximise local employment and support local businesses. General engagement with other industries and businesses in the area, including the agriculture industry, retail and hospitality businesses and mining-related support services.
	Livelihood Opportunity Cost	<i>Technical Notes supporting the Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals</i> (DPE, 2018).	
Land	Land Capability Soil Chemistry	<i>Interim Protocol for site verification and mapping of biophysical strategic agricultural land</i> (NSW Government, 2013). <i>Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites</i> (Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, 1992). <i>The land and soil capability assessment scheme: second approximation</i> (OEH, 2012). <i>Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook</i> (National Committee on Soil and Terrain, 2024). <i>Guidelines for Surveying Soils and Land Resources</i> (McKenzie et al., 2007).	Detailed Land and Soil Capability Assessment, including: - Delineation of soil landscape units present in the study area using laboratory testing of soil characteristics where required. - Identification of Land and Soil Capability classes in the study area. Detailed Agriculture Assessment, including: - Assessment of potential impacts to agricultural enterprises and industry as a result of the Project, including consideration of water availability, change in land use and socio-economic effects. - Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate, monitor and manage the potential impacts of the Project. Detailed Geochemistry Assessment, including: - Assessment of geochemistry of overburden, interburden, coal and coal reject material within the study area. - Investigation of measures to avoid, mitigate, monitor and manage potential impacts.
	Stability	<i>Mine Rehabilitation – Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry</i> (Australian Government, 2016a). <i>Mine Closure – Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry</i> (Australian Government, 2016b).	Detailed final landform assessment will be prepared for the EIS, including: - Analysis of stability of post-mining free-draining landform and associated geotechnical stability of drainage options given the absence of a final void. - Implementation of assessment findings into the mine design and final landform design for the Project. General engagement with the interested stakeholders concerned about potential geomorphic stability matters relevant to the Project.

Table 3 (Continued)
Key Matters Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

Environmental/Social Matter		Relevant Government Plans, Policies and Guidelines	Proposed Level and Approach to Assessment
Hazard and Risk	Bushfires	<i>Cudgegong Bush Fire Risk Management Plan</i> (Cudgegong Bush Fire Management Committee, 2025).	Standard assessment of potential bushfire risk. Specific engagement with local NSW Rural Fire Service.
	Land Contamination	- Resilience and Hazards SEPP. <i>Sampling design part 1 – application</i> (EPA, 2022d) <i>Sampling design part 2 – interpretation</i> (EPA, 2022e).	Detailed Land Contamination Assessment will be prepared for the EIS in accordance with Chapter 4 of Resilience and Hazards SEPP, including: - Assessment of potential for contaminated land within the Project area and identification of contaminated sites. - Investigation of required remediation works to be undertaken prior to the commencement of the Project. General engagement with the local community and landholders concerned about potential land contamination matters relevant to the Project.

¹ Not directly applicable but provides useful quantitative visual assessment guidance.

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