

9 October 2025

Mr Stephen O'Donoghue  
Director Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney, NSW 2001

Lodged via the Major Projects Portal

## **RE: MOUNT PLEASANT OPERATION DEVELOPMENT CONSENT DA 92/97 – PROPOSED MODIFICATION**

Dear Steve,

The purpose of this Scoping Letter is to provide an overview of a proposed modification to the Mount Pleasant Operation Development Consent DA 92/97, herein referred to as the Modification.

### ***Background to the Modification***

#### *The Mount Pleasant Operation*

The Mount Pleasant Operation is an open cut coal mine and associated infrastructure, located approximately 3 kilometres north-west of Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1).

MACH Mount Pleasant Operations Pty Ltd (ACN 625 627 723) is the manager of the Mount Pleasant Operation as agent for and on behalf of the unincorporated Mount Pleasant Joint Venture between MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd (95 per cent [%] owner) and J.C.D. Australia Pty Ltd (5% owner)<sup>1</sup>.

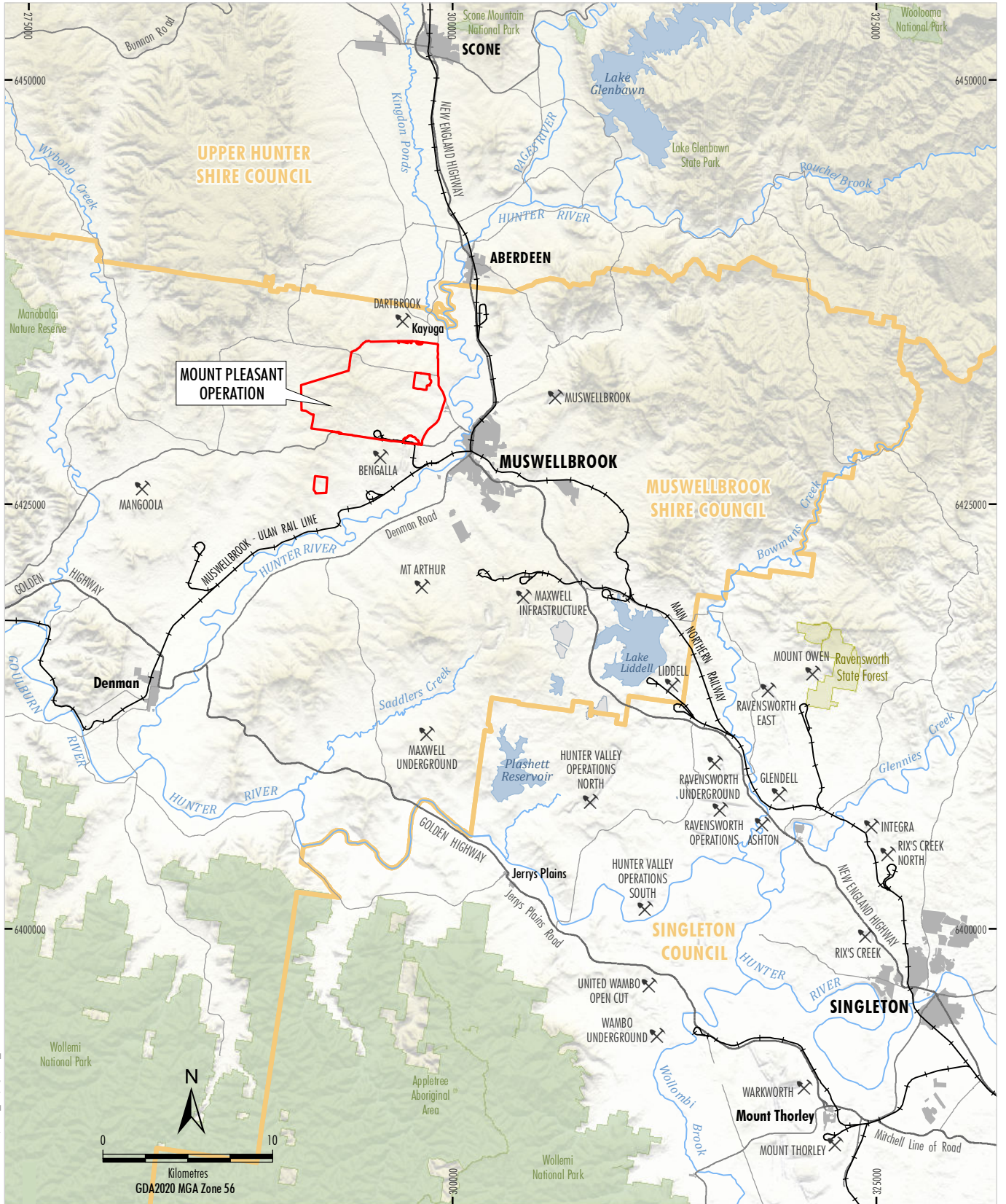
The Mount Pleasant Operation produces thermal coal using open cut mining methods and has an approved operational capacity of up to 10.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal until 22 December 2026 under Development Consent DA 92/97 (as modified).

The Mount Pleasant Operation Development Consent DA 92/97 has been modified pursuant to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act) as follows:

- Modification 1 (approved under section 75W of the EP&A Act on 19 September 2011) included construction of a conveyor and service corridor, relocation of approved mine infrastructure (within a design envelope) and contemporising operational noise conditions.
- Modification 2 (approved under section 75W of the EP&A Act on 29 March 2017) relocated the South Pit Haul Road.
- Modification 3 (approved under section 75W of the EP&A Act on 24 August 2018) extended both the time limit for open cut mining to 22 December 2026, and involved a toe extension to the Eastern Out-of-Pit Emplacement.

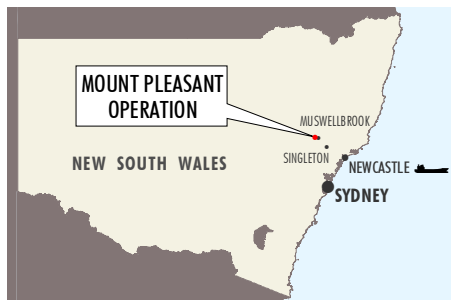
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<sup>1</sup> MACH Mount Pleasant Operations Pty Ltd and the unincorporated Mount Pleasant Joint Venture are herein referred to as MACH.



AMC18-02A.MOD7/updated\_Scoping Letter\_201A

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2025); EnergyCo (2024)



- LEGEND**
- Mining Operation
  - Railway
  - National Parks and Wildlife Estate
  - State Forest/Reserve
  - Local Government Boundary
  - Mining Lease Boundary (Mount Pleasant Operation)

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 MOUNT PLEASANT OPERATION  
 Mount Pleasant Operation Location

Figure 1

- Modification 4 (approved under section 75W of the EP&A Act on 16 November 2018) permits duplication of the approved rail spur, rail loop, conveyor, rail load-out facility (i.e. the Stage 2 rail infrastructure) and duplication of the Hunter River water supply pump station, water pipeline and associated services, and demolition and removal of the redundant approved infrastructure (including the Stage 1 rail infrastructure).
- Modification 5 (approved under section 4.55(1) of the EP&A Act on 28 June 2022) rectified an error to permit the operation of the Mount Pleasant Operation controlled discharge dam (DW1).
- Modification 6 (approved under section 4.55(1A) of the EP&A Act on 6 November 2023) allows for the construction and operation of a transmission tower, and associated infrastructure, to re-transmit local digital television signal from the existing Broadcast Australia site at Rossgole Lookout.

Modification 7 was similar in scope to this Modification and was withdrawn in November 2024.

The Mount Pleasant Operation as currently approved under Development Consent DA 92/97 (as most recently modified by Modification 6) includes a Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) and a rail loop and spur, conveyor and load-out facility connecting the mine to the Muswellbrook-Ulan Rail Line.

Major components include:

- multiple open cuts;
- multiple out-of-pit emplacements;
- mine infrastructure area;
- water management infrastructure;
- CHPP and coal stockpiles; and
- Fines Emplacement Area.

### *Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project*

#### NSW Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979

In 2020, MACH lodged a Development Application and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project for assessment under the EP&A Act. The Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project would allow the Mount Pleasant Operation to continue mining operations to 2048 and support the ongoing employment of the existing workforce and significant contributions to the local, NSW and Australian economy. The Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project involves extraction of additional coal reserves within the Mount Pleasant Operation Mining Leases and an increase in the rate of coal extraction.

On 6 September 2022, the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approved the Development Application for the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project (SSD 10418), in accordance with Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

The Denman, Aberdeen, Muswellbrook and Scone Healthy Environment Group Inc (DAMSHEG) applied for a judicial review of the IPC's decision to grant Development Consent SSD 10418 in the NSW Land and Environment Court (LEC), with the hearing occurring in November 2023. The LEC dismissed the judicial review application on all grounds in August 2024.

DAMSHEG subsequently commenced a proceeding in the NSW Court of Appeal appealing against part of the LEC's judgment. On 24 July 2025, the NSW Court of Appeal upheld a single ground of appeal relied on by DAMSHEG and remitted the matter to the LEC for the LEC to determine whether to make orders pursuant to the *Land and Environment Court Act 1979* (NSW) which, if complied with, would validate the development consent granted by the IPC (Validating Orders).

MACH has recently applied to the High Court for special leave to appeal against the NSW Court of Appeal's judgment to the extent that the NSW Court of Appeal upheld the relevant ground of appeal relied on by DAMSHEG. If the High Court grants MACH special leave to appeal and MACH's appeal is ultimately successful, MACH will be able to continue to rely on Development Consent SSD 10418. Otherwise, MACH's ability to continue to rely on Development Consent SSD 10418 will depend on whether the LEC determines to make Validating Orders.

For the avoidance of doubt, MACH notes that Development Consent DA 92/97 has not been surrendered pursuant to Condition A14 of Development Consent SSD 10418. As such, MACH will be entitled to continue to rely upon Development Consent DA 92/97 for the Mount Pleasant Operation even if Development Consent SSD 10418 cannot ultimately be relied on.

#### Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

An action relating to the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project to increase open cut coal extraction to allow mining of additional coal reserves and increase processing operations at the Mount Pleasant Operation (being an action not already authorised by the Approval Decision EPBC 2011/5795) was referred to the Commonwealth Minister in July 2020 (EPBC 2020/8735).

A delegate of the Commonwealth Minister determined on 26 August 2020 that the proposed action was a "controlled action" and therefore the action required approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The EPBC 2020/8735 action was approved with conditions on 24 September 2024 under section 133(1) of the EPBC Act.

#### *Need for the Modification*

MACH currently has approval under Development Consent DA 92/97 to carry out mining operations on the site until 22 December 2026.

The recent NSW Court of Appeal judgment referred to above creates uncertainty regarding the validity of Development Consent SSD-10418 and the future of the Mount Pleasant Operation past the end of the currently approved mining period under Development Consent DA 92/97. This puts the following directly at risk:

- Over 700 direct full-time equivalent employees, including over 100 employees that have recently commenced employment.
- Significant local employment in the Hunter, with over 70% of employees living locally.
- The livelihood of multiple contractors, suppliers, and local businesses that rely on supplying operations such as Mount Pleasant.

- Contributions to the local Indigenous community through direct employment (5% of employees), contribution to the Aboriginal Cultural Development Fund (\$8.4 million to date) and a partnership with Blackrock Industries, a local 100% Indigenous owned service company.
- Royalty contributions to the NSW Government (noting that the Mount Pleasant Operation has paid over \$650 million in royalties since operations commenced).
- Supply of approximately 18% of NSW's expected domestic coal demand in 2026 (with access to supply Eraring, Vales Point and Bayswater Power Stations).

In this context, the Modification seeks an extension to the period of approved mining under Development Consent DA 92/97 to provide greater certainty of continued operations at the Mount Pleasant Operation to MACH, employees, contractors and the community.

### ***Proposed Modification***

Key aspects of the Modification would include:

- an extension of the permitted period of mining operations until 31 December 2032, to provide operational certainty that mining operations at the Mount Pleasant Operation will continue beyond 22 December 2026; and
- an increase of the approved ROM coal extraction rate under Development Consent DA 92/97 from 10.5 Mtpa to 12.5 Mtpa.

A comparison of the approximate currently planned pit progression at the end of 2026 and at the end of 2032 is provided on Figure 2.

The Modification would also incorporate some minor additions to the DA 92/97 Development Application area (Attachment B).

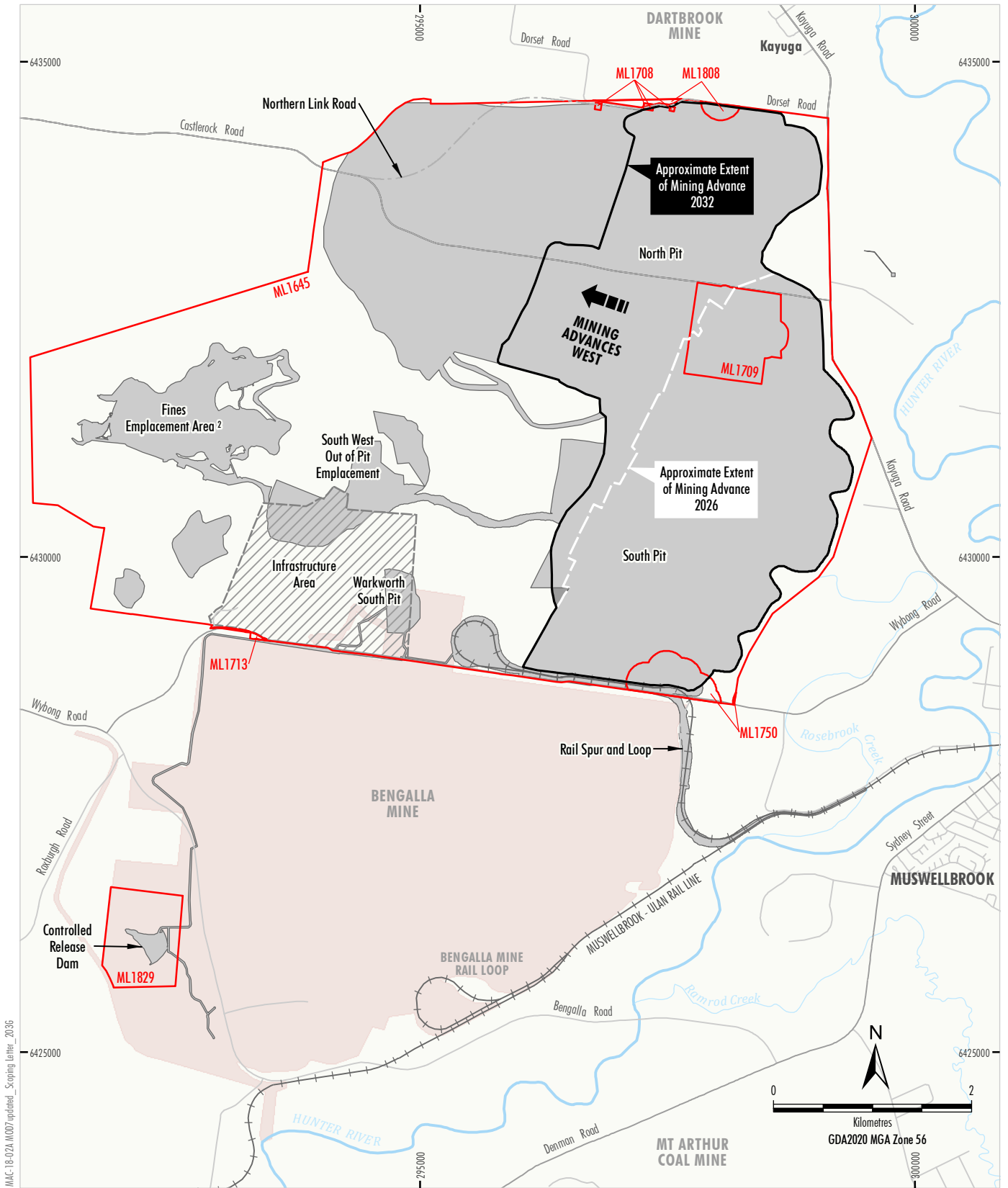
### ***Modification Pathway***

MACH intends to apply for approval of the Modification pursuant to section 4.55(2) of the EP&A Act.

#### ***Substantially the Same Development***

Under section 4.55(2) of the EP&A Act, the consent authority may modify a development consent if the consent authority is satisfied that the proposed modified development is 'the same or substantially the same development' as the originally approved development. Section 4.55(2) states:

- (2) ***Other modifications*** A consent authority may, on application being made by the applicant or any other person entitled to act on a consent granted by the consent authority and subject to and in accordance with the regulations, modify the consent if—
- (a) *it is satisfied that the development to which the consent as modified relates is the same or substantially the same development as the development for which consent was originally granted and before that consent as originally granted was modified (if at all), ...*



Source: MACH (2025); NSW Spatial Services (2025); Department of Planning and Environment (2016)

**LEGEND**

- Mining Lease Boundary (Mount Pleasant Operation)
- Approved Surface Disturbance Plan - DA 92/97 <sup>1</sup>
- Extension of Open Cut Mining and Emplacement Area (Land Lawfully Disturbed under SSD-10418)
- Revised Infrastructure Area Envelope
- Bengalla Mine Approved Disturbance Boundary (SSD-5170)

<sup>1</sup> Excludes some incidental Project components such as water management infrastructure, access tracks, topsoil stockpiles, power supply, temporary offices, other ancillary works and construction disturbance.

<sup>2</sup> The general arrangement of the Fines Emplacement Area has been amended from the area shown in DA 92/97 to reflect as-built structures.

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MOUNT PLEASANT OPERATION  
Overview of the Modification

**Figure 2**

Under section 4.55(2)(a) of the EP&A Act, the relevant baseline comparator for the 'substantially the same development' test for the Modification is the Mount Pleasant Operation as originally approved in 1999 (the Originally Approved Development Comparator).

However, it is noted that clause 3BA(6) of Schedule 2 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment (Savings, Transitional and Other Provisions) Regulation 2017* also relevantly provides:

**3BA Winding-up of transitional Part 3A modification provisions on cut-off date of 1 March 2018 and other provisions relating to modifications**

...

(6) *In the application of section 4.55(1A) or (2) or 4.56(1) of the Act to the following development, the consent authority need only be satisfied that the development to which the consent as modified relates is substantially the same development as the development authorised by the consent (as last modified under section 75W) –*

(a) *development that was previously a transitional Part 3A project and whose approval was modified under section 75W,*

(b) *development that was taken to be an approved project pursuant to clause 8J of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 and whose consent was modified under section 75W.*

...

As a consequence of the application of clause 3BA(6)(b) of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment (Savings, Transitional and Other Provisions) Regulation 2017*, an alternative baseline comparator for the Modification is the Mount Pleasant Operation as approved by the last modification under the former section 75W of the EP&A Act (i.e. MOD 4) (the MOD 4 Development Comparator). This is because the Mount Pleasant Operation was taken to be an approved project pursuant to clause 8J of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* and Development Consent DA 92/97 was modified under section 75W (most recently, by the approval of MOD 4).

Both the Originally Approved Development Comparator and the MOD 4 Development Comparator are available to the consent authority in order to reach the required state of satisfaction that the proposed modified development meets 'the substantially the same development' test under section 4.55(2) of the EP&A Act.

A summary overview of the originally approved development, MOD 4 Development and proposed modified development is provided in Attachment A.

The Modification Report would outline why the consent authority can be satisfied that the proposed modified development is 'substantially the same development' as the MOD 4 Development, and is also 'substantially the same development' as the originally approved development.

## ***Environmental Review and Proposed Scope of Modification Report***

MACH is preparing a Modification Report to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Modification. The Modification Report would include:

- a description of the currently approved Mount Pleasant Operation (including background information on previous modifications) and the proposed Modification, and a discussion of the interaction with other developments/mining operations;
- a description of the strategic and statutory context of the Modification;
- a summary of the stakeholder engagement undertaken for the Modification;
- an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the Modification, including comparison with potential and observed environmental impacts of the approved Mount Pleasant Operation;
- an assessment of the proposed Modification as compared to the originally approved development and the MOD 4 Development;
- a justification for the Modification and an evaluation of merits; and
- an outline of progressive rehabilitation of the Mount Pleasant Operation to a proposed post-mining final landform.

The proposed scope of the Modification Report considers the outcomes of initial consultation undertaken with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and would include the technical studies detailed in Attachment C.

## ***Consultation Proposed***

MACH met with DPHI to discuss the proposed Modification in October 2025.

MACH would consult further with DPHI, as well as, but not limited to, the following government agencies and stakeholders regarding the Modification:

- Muswellbrook Shire Council;
- NSW Resources (including the Strategy, Performance and Industry Development and Resources Regulator branch);
- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCEEW), including:
  - Water Group; and
  - NSW Environment Protection Authority.
- the Aboriginal community, through the Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Mount Pleasant Operation;
- the Community Consultative Committee (CCC);
- neighbouring mining operations; and
- affected landholders and other community members.

Consultation activities would also occur as part of the Social Impact Assessment for the Modification.

## **Next Steps**

It is anticipated that the Modification application and Modification Report would be lodged in Q4 2025.

MACH kindly request DPHI to contact the undersigned if further information is required.

Yours sincerely,



## **Chris Lauritzen**

General Manager – Resources Development

Mount Pleasant Operation

## **Encl:**

Attachment A – Overview of the Originally Approved Mount Pleasant Operation, MOD 4 Development and the Proposed Modification

Attachment B – Proposed Additions to the Development Application Area

Attachment C – Specialist Assessment Context Summary

## **Attachment A**

### **Overview of the Originally Approved Mount Pleasant Operation, the MOD 4 Development and the Proposed Modification**

**Table A1**  
**Overview of the Originally Approved Mount Pleasant Operation, the MOD 4 Development and the Proposed Modification**

Component	Development for which Consent was Originally Granted	Development as Approved by Modification 4 (Last Modification under section 75W)	Development Incorporating the Modification
Site Subject to the Consent	The original development consent boundary is depicted in Figure 3.1 in the Mod 1 Environmental Assessment (EA) Main Report (see "Existing development consent boundary", "Mount Pleasant rail loadout conveyor" and "Rail line and rail loop").	The land listed in Appendix 1 to the Consent, excluding four lots included as part of MOD 5.	Minor updates and additions to reflect the current status of land parcels within the Development Application Area.
Use of the Site Subject to the Consent	Development for the purpose of open cut coal mining.	Unchanged.	Unchanged.
Mining Operations Period	The original 1997 EIS contemplated 21 years of mining and the original Consent allowed for up to 21 years of mining operations.	Until 22 December 2026, which allows for 9 years of mining operations from the commencement of mining operations in 2017.	Until 31 December 2032 (i.e. 6 year extension), which would allow for 15 years of mining operations from the commencement of mining operations in 2017.
Maximum Coal Extraction Rate	10.5 million tonnes (Mt) of ROM coal per year.	Unchanged.	12.5 Mt of ROM coal per calendar year.
Coal Extraction	Approximately 197 Mt ROM coal.	Approximately 85 Mt ROM coal extracted prior to 22 December 2026 based on the indicative mine schedule used for MOD 3.	Approximately 142 Mt ROM coal extracted prior to 31 December 2032.
Mining Method	Open cut mining, including truck and shovel and dragline operations.	Unchanged.	Open cut mining with truck and shovel operations only.

Component	Development for which Consent was Originally Granted	Development as Approved by Modification 4 (Last Modification under section 75W)	Development Incorporating the Modification
Mining Areas	Open cut mining operations in four pits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South;</li> <li>• North;</li> <li>• Warkworth South; and</li> <li>• Piercefield.</li> </ul>	Open cut mining operations in the South Pit (incorporating the Piercefield Pit) until 22 December 2026.	Open cut mining operations in the South Pit (incorporating the Piercefield Pit) and North Pit until 31 December 2032.
Extent of approved surface disturbance area	The approximate extent of surface disturbance is presented in Figure 12 (Mine Plan – Year 20) of the Mount Pleasant Mine Environmental Impact Statement.	Figure 3 of Appendix 2 in the MOD 4 Notice of Modification.	As per Figure 3 of Appendix 2 in the MOD 4 Notice of Modification, with minor changes as a result of ongoing mine planning and with all extension areas already lawfully cleared of vegetation (such that the Modification does not involve disturbance of any extension areas that are outside of the surface disturbance area depicted and described in Figure 3 of Appendix 2 in the MOD 4 Notice of Modification).
Coal Beneficiation	Beneficiation of ROM coal in an on-site Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP).	Unchanged.	Unchanged.
Coal Transport	By rail via the "Stage 1" rail loop and spur, to the Muswellbrook-Ulan Rail Line and Main Northern Railway, and to the Port of Newcastle.  Average of three and a maximum of nine laden trains per day.	By rail via the "Stage 2" rail loop and spur, to the Muswellbrook Rail Line and Main Northern Railway to the Port of Newcastle (as described in Mod 4), and decommissioning of the "Stage 1" infrastructure.  Average of three and a maximum of nine laden trains per day.	Continued use of "Stage 2" rail loop and spur. Average of up to four and a maximum of nine laden trans per day.
Waste Rock Production Rate	Up to approximately 53 million bank cubic metres per year (see Figure 7 in the 1997 EIS).	Up to approximately 31.5 million bank cubic metres per year (see Table 2 of MOD 3 EA).	Up to approximately 47 million bank cubic metres per year.

Component	Development for which Consent was Originally Granted	Development as Approved by Modification 4 (Last Modification under section 75W)	Development Incorporating the Modification
Waste Rock Management	<p>Waste rock emplaced in-pit and within three out-of-pit waste emplacements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Eastern Out-of-Pit Emplacement;</li> <li>South West Out-of-Pit Emplacement; and</li> <li>North West Out-of-Pit Emplacement.</li> </ul>	<p>Waste rock emplaced in the Eastern Out-of-Pit Emplacement area and in-pit.</p>	<p>Waste rock emplaced in the Eastern Out-of-Pit Emplacement area and in-pit.</p>
Coal Rejects	<p>Coarse rejects placed in waste emplacements and used to build the walls of the Fines Emplacement Area.</p> <p>Fine rejects stored in the Fines Emplacement Area.</p>	<p>Coarse rejects placed in the Eastern Out-of-Pit Emplacement or in-pit and used to build the walls of the Fines Emplacement Area.</p> <p>Fine rejects stored in the Fines Emplacement Area.</p>	<p>Coarse rejects placed in the Eastern Out-of-Pit Emplacement or in-pit.</p> <p>Fine rejects stored in the Fines Emplacement Area.</p>
Final Landform and Rehabilitation	<p>A final landform generally consistent with Figure 13 in the 1997 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).</p>	<p>In the absence of an extension of mining operations beyond 22 December 2026, a final landform generally consistent with the conceptual final landform depicted in Figure 4 in the Consent.</p> <p>Site rehabilitated generally consistent with the rehabilitation objectives in Table 11 in the Consent.</p>	<p>The final landform would be larger than that depicted in Figure 4 in Development Consent DA 92/97.</p> <p>Site rehabilitated generally consistent with the rehabilitation objectives in Table 11 in Development Consent DA 92/97.</p>
Final Voids	<p>A North Pit final void, South Pit final void and a smaller final void located in a low-lying area between the two larger final voids (see Figure 13 in the 1997 EIS).</p>	<p>In the absence of an extension of mining operations beyond 22 December 2026, a South Pit final void (see Figure 4 in the Consent).</p>	<p>Two interconnected/integrated voids, one in South Pit and one in North Pit.</p>
Water Supply Sources	<p>Water requirements for the mine and CHPP met from pit groundwater inflows, catchment runoff and make-up water from the Hunter River.</p>	<p>Water requirements for the mine and CHPP met from pit groundwater inflows, catchment runoff, recovered water and make-up water from the Hunter River (and potentially the Bengalla or Dartbrook Mines).</p>	<p>Unchanged compared to the MOD 4 development.</p> <p>Water requirements for the Mount Pleasant Operation and CHPP met by additional source/s (i.e. recovered water and potentially water from the Bengalla or Dartbrook Mines) when compared with the originally approved development.</p>

Component	Development for which Consent was Originally Granted	Development as Approved by Modification 4 (Last Modification under section 75W)	Development Incorporating the Modification
Water Management System	An extensive range of water management structures (see Figures 33 and 34 in the 1997 EIS). The 1997 EIS contemplated the discharge of surplus water from the main storage dam to the natural watercourse and into the Hunter River.	Comprised of a number of dams, the open cut, the Fines Emplacement Area, a system of pumped transfers and drains and a controlled water release system to the Hunter River.	Unchanged water management system when compared to the MOD 4 development, however, includes additional water management dams and other works associated within mining in North Pit.
Operational Workforce	An average of 332 over the life of the mine and a peak of 380 (see Figure 22 in the 1997 EIS).	Average operational workforce throughout the life of the mine of approximately 330 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, and an estimated peak of 380 FTE employees (currently a maximum of 440 FTE employees).	Continuation of employment for existing MACH employees and contractors. Increase in the operational workforce during the life of the mine.
Hours of Operation	24 hours per day, 7 days per week.	Unchanged.	Unchanged.



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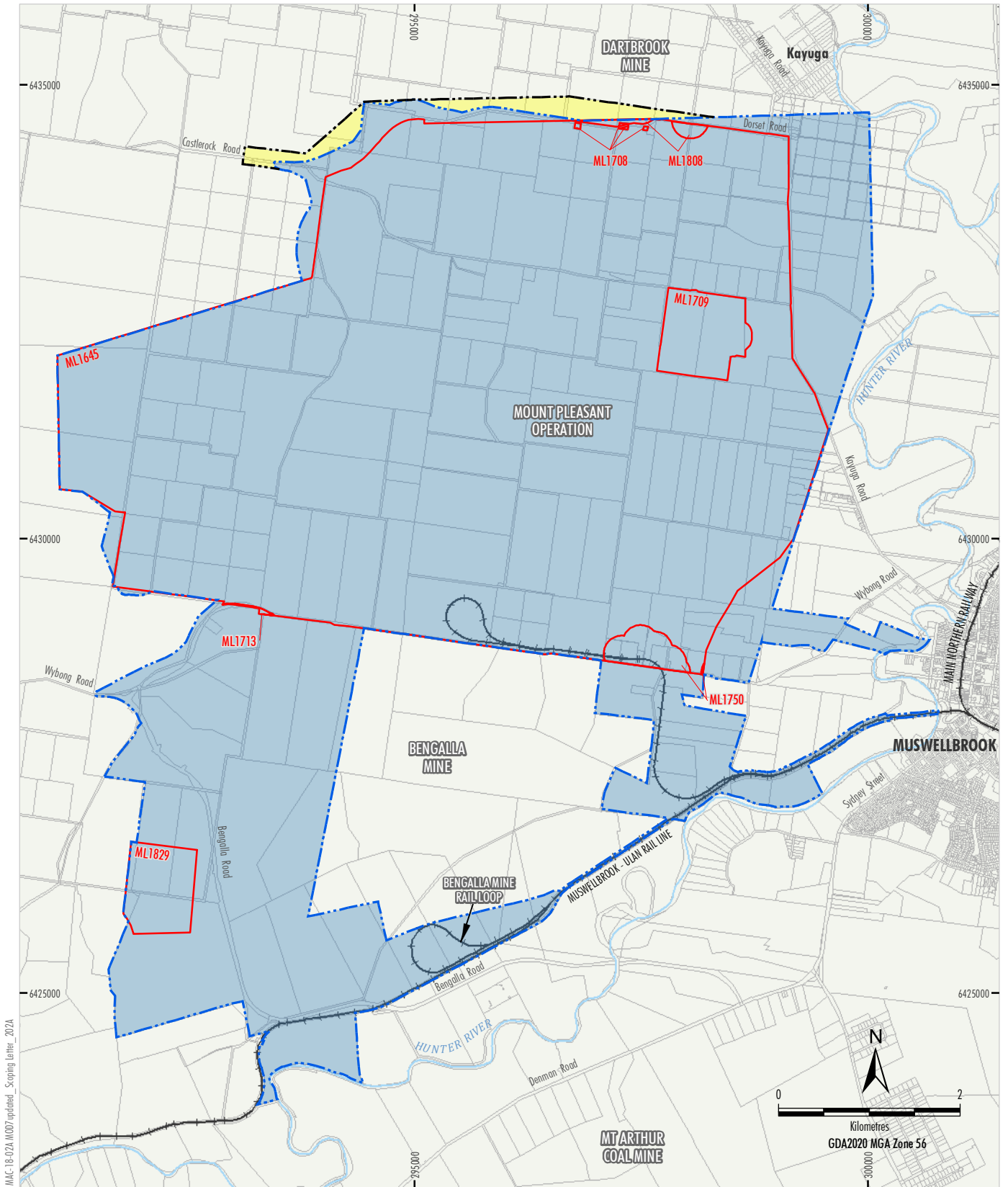
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## **Attachment B**

**Proposed Additions to the Development Application Area**



MACH-18-02A.MOD7.updated\_Scoping.Letter\_202A

Source: MACH (2025); NSW Spatial Services (2025)

- LEGEND**
- Mining Lease Boundary (Mount Pleasant Operation)
  - Development Consent Boundary (DA 92/97)
  - Proposed Addition to the Development Application Area

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Proposed Additions to the Development Application Area

## Attachment C

### Specialist Assessment Context Summary

**Table C1**  
**Specialist Assessment Context Summary**

Specialist Assessment	Specialist	Key NSW Guideline/Policy	Assessment Context
Noise and Blasting Assessment	RWDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>NSW Noise Policy for Industry (NPfI)</i></li> <li>• <i>Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Assessing Vibration: a technical guideline</i></li> <li>• <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting Overpressure and Ground Vibration</i></li> <li>• <i>NSW Road Noise Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>NSW Rail Infrastructure Noise Guideline</i></li> <li>• <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key context – life extension of operations and increase in mining rate.</b></p> <p>Operational noise and blasting impacts of the Modification would be assessed for all relevant sensitive receivers, and would be compared to current noise criteria in Development Consent DA 92/97 and project-specific trigger levels determined in accordance with the NPfI. Noise generated from road traffic and rail activity would also be considered.</p> <p>Contemporary cumulative assessment would be undertaken.</p> <p>Consideration of the incremental effects relative to if mining operations cease in 2026.</p>
Air Quality	Todoroski Air Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales</i></li> <li>• <i>Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key context – life extension of operations and increase in mining rate.</b></p> <p>The Air Quality Assessment would assess the outcomes of quantitative air quality modelling due to the Modification (with consideration of cumulative sources) compared to relevant assessment criteria.</p> <p>Contemporary cumulative assessment would be undertaken.</p> <p>Consideration of the incremental effects relative to if mining operations cease in 2026.</p>
Greenhouse Gas Assessment	Resource Strategies/ Todoroski Air Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) Factors</i></li> <li>• <i>Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020 - 2030</i></li> <li>• <i>NSW Guide for Large Emitters</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key context – life extension of operations and increase in mining rate.</b></p> <p>The Greenhouse Gas Assessment would consider the potential greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Modification and the incorporation of reasonable and feasible measures to reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. The Greenhouse Gas Assessment would also consider the potential impacts of climate change on the environment at both global and local scales.</p>

Specialist Assessment	Specialist	Key NSW Guideline/Policy	Assessment Context
Social Impact Assessment	Just Add Lime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Social Impact Assessment Guideline (July 2025)</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key context – life extension of operations and increase in mining rate.</b></p> <p>Just Add Lime would undertake engagement with key stakeholders.</p> <p>The Social Impact Assessment would consider potential social impacts of the Modification and change in mining operations timeframe from 2026 to 2032.</p> <p>A management and monitoring framework to mitigate potential negative social impacts and enhance potential positive social impacts would be developed.</p>
Surface Water Assessment	ATC Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i></li> <li><i>Significant impact guidelines 1.3: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments – impacts on water resources</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key context – life extension of operations, increase in mining rate and revision of mine landforms including final landform.</b></p> <p>The Surface Water Assessment would consider the site water balance, numerical surface water modelling outcomes and potential on- and off-site surface water impacts due to the Modification.</p> <p>Assessment would consider the outcomes of a Final Void Water Balance based on a 3D final landform and model inputs from groundwater studies.</p> <p>Consideration of the incremental effects relative to if mining operations ceased in 2026.</p>
Groundwater Assessment	Australasian Groundwater and Environmental Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>NSW Aquifer interference Policy</i></li> <li><i>Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines</i></li> <li><i>Significant impact guidelines 1.3: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments – impacts on water resources</i></li> <li><i>NSW State Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key context – life extension of operations and revision of mine landforms including final landform.</b></p> <p>The Groundwater Assessment would consider previous hydrogeological modelling outcomes, numerical groundwater modelling, potential impacts due to the Modification and a review of management measures.</p> <p>Assessment of potential post-mining impacts to groundwater quality would also form part of the assessment.</p> <p>Consideration of the incremental effects relative to if mining operations ceased in 2026.</p>

Specialist Assessment	Specialist	Key NSW Guideline/Policy	Assessment Context
Road Transport Assessment	The Transport Planning Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Guide to Traffic Generating Developments</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key context – life extension of operations and increase in mining rate.</b></p> <p>The Road Transport Assessment would assess the potential road transport impacts of the Modification on the road network associated with continued operations.</p> <p>The assessment would confirm operational access routes, the continued performance of existing intersections and the potential impact on traffic generation due to the Modification.</p> <p>Consideration of the incremental effects relative to if mining operations ceased in 2026.</p>
Economic Assessment	AnalytEcon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Guidelines for the economic assessment of mining and coal seam gas proposals</i></li> <li><i>Technical Notes supporting the Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key context – life extension of operations and increase in mining rate.</b></p> <p>The Economic Assessment Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) would consider the incremental economic benefits of the Modification (i.e. if mining operations were to cease in 2032) compared to the scenario where mining operations were to cease in 2026.</p> <p>The Local Effects Analysis (LEA) would assess the net benefits the Modification would deliver to the local region. The LEA would consider potential socio-economic impact on the local community.</p>
Visual and Landscape Assessment	Resource Strategies with assistance from Greenpond Technical Services Group	-	<p><b>Key context – life extension of operations and revision of mine landforms including final landform.</b></p> <p>The potential visual impact of the Modification landforms would be assessed in consideration of the visual sensitivity of potential receptors and the visual effect at representative viewing locations during the Modification and in the long-term (i.e. following rehabilitation of the final landform).</p> <p>Consideration of the increased effects relative to if mining operations ceased in 2026.</p>