

Metropolitan Coal Mine

Attachment 2
Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report

Peabody

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: SCOPING REPORT

For the Metropolitan Coal Continuation Project

Provided for

METROPOLITAN COLLIERIES PTY LTD

Author

DANIEL HOLM

SQUARE PEG SOCIAL PERFORMANCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metropolitan Collieries Pty Ltd (Metropolitan Coal), a wholly owned subsidiary of Peabody Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Peabody), is seeking approval to continue underground operations at the Metropolitan Colliery (Metropolitan Coal Mine) for a further 12 years. Development Consent for the Metropolitan Continuation Project (the Project) is being sought under the State Significant Development provisions (i.e. Division 4.7) under Part 4 of the NSW *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Project would extract up to 2.7 million tonnes per annum of Run of Mine coal using conventional longwall underground mining methods. The longwall design would include narrow panel voids of 163 metres width, and chain pillars of 55 m width to reduce subsidence effects on upland swamps and watercourses. It would continue to use the existing mine Surface Facilities Area located near Helensburgh in the northern extent of the Wollongong City Council Local Government Area in New South Wales.

The Project would continue to provide employment to the approximately 400 employees at the Metropolitan Coal Mine, the majority of which reside in the Illawarra region. It would also enable the continuation of a local steelmaking supply chain within the Southern Coalfield economic ecosystem, which includes the BlueScope Steel Limited Port Kembla Steelworks, the Port Kembla Coal Terminal and other industries.

This document is the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Scoping Report for the Project, and has been developed in accordance with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's *Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects* (2026a). The SIA Scoping Report identifies likely affected stakeholder groups, defines a social locality for the Project, provides an initial understanding of the social baseline of the affected community, and proposes a methodology for the Social Impact Assessment to support the Environmental Impact Statement for the Project. Ten potential social impacts and benefits have been identified for the SIA to support the EIS for the Project, variously requiring a minor, standard or detailed assessment. The potential social impacts identified in this SIA Scoping Report are:

- Continued contribution to the coal and steelmaking economic ecosystem in Wollongong for an additional 12 years.
- Continuation of operational employment with associated social and economic benefits for an additional 12 years.
- Continued opportunities for businesses to supply goods or services to the Project, thus contributing to a diversified and resilient business community.
- Potential disturbance to cultural heritage sites due to subsidence.
- Short-term employment and contracting opportunities during construction.
- Continued contribution to the vitality of community groups.
- Potential amenity impacts (noise, dust, traffic) from workforce and construction activities during construction of the VAM abatement plant.
- Community members may be concerned about potential biodiversity impact to the Royal National Park from water management practices at the Pit Top.
- Community members may be concerned about the potential for additional subsidence, and related water and biodiversity impacts (this impact may be reduced by the Project's longwall design), as well as operational water usage.

- Continuation of operational noise, dust and traffic, affecting residents near the pit top, train loadout facility and rail line, as well as those near the contingency route for coal rejects transportation.

The SIA will analyse and evaluate the potential benefits and impacts of the Project, drawing on primary and secondary data collection and community consultation. Importantly, as the Project represents a continuation of an existing mine, the degree of change these impacts represent is likely to be relatively small, primarily representing an extension in time of existing processes. By contrast, should the Project not proceed and the operations at the Metropolitan Coal Mine close, the change experienced by the affected community would likely be greater, both relating to the negative and positive impacts.

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Meaning
%	Per cent
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CCL	Consolidated Coal Lease
CHPP	Coal Handling and Preparation Plant
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EL	Exploration Licence
ELA	Exploration Licence Application
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
EPL	Environmental Protection Licence
IAIA	International Association of Impact Assessment
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
km	Kilometre
LGA	Local Government Area
m	Metre
Metropolitan Coal	Metropolitan Collieries Pty Ltd
ML	Mining Lease
MPL	Mining Purposes Lease
Mt	Million tonnes
Mtpa	Million tonnes per annum
NSW	New South Wales
Peabody	Peabody Energy Australia Pty Ltd
PRP	Preferred Project Report
ROM	Run-of-mine
SAL	Suburb and Locality
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SIA Guideline	*Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects* (DPHI, 2026)
SSD	State Significant Development
Technical Supplement	*Technical Supplement - Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects* (DPHI, 2025b)
The Mine	The Metropolitan Coal Mine / Metropolitan Collieries
The Project	the Metropolitan Continuation Project

VAM	Ventilation Air Methane
VAM abatement plant	Ventilation Air Methane abatement plant

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and purpose

The Metropolitan Collieries (the Metropolitan Coal Mine or the Mine) is owned and operated by Metropolitan Collieries Pty Ltd (Metropolitan Coal), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Peabody Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Peabody). The Mine is located 30 kilometres (km) north of Wollongong, near Helensburgh, a small town in the northern part of the Wollongong City Council Local Government Area (LGA), in the Illawarra region of New South Wales (NSW) (see Figure 1).

The Metropolitan Coal Mine is one of the earliest established and longest running coal mining operations in Australia, with history dating back to the 1880s and provides employment to approximately 400 personnel.

The potential environmental impacts of the existing Metropolitan Coal Mine were assessed in the *Metropolitan Coal Project Environmental Assessment* (Helensburgh Coal Pty Ltd, 2008). A Preferred Project Report (PPR) was submitted to the then NSW Department of Planning in April 2009. The key changes in the PPR were a reduction to the extent of the longwall mining area to avoid subsidence impact to pool drainage along the downstream section of Waratah Rivulet and reorientation of the longwall panels. Project Approval (08_0149) for the Metropolitan Coal Mine was granted on 22 June 2009 by the Minister for Planning under former section 75J of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Metropolitan Coal is separately seeking a modification (Modification 4) to Project Approval 08_0149 to extend underground mining operations and relocation of the approved (but not yet constructed) Ventilation Shaft 4. Modification 4 was submitted in June 2025 and is currently under assessment by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). A general arrangement of the current mine layout is shown on Figure 2.

Metropolitan Coal is seeking approval to continue underground operations at the Metropolitan Coal Mine for a further 12 years, from June 2032 to 31 December 2044. Development Consent for the Metropolitan Continuation Project (the Project) is being sought under the State Significant Development provisions, i.e. Division 4.7, under Part 4 of the EP&A Act. Figure 3 shows the general arrangement of the Project.

The application will be supported by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which will include a Social Impact Assessment (SIA). Metropolitan Coal has engaged Square Peg Social Performance Pty Ltd to carry out the SIA as part of the EIS for the Project. In accordance with the NSW Social Impact Assessment Guideline (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure [DPHI], 2026a) (henceforth the SIA Guideline), the SIA process commences with a scoping phase which is to be reported in a SIA Scoping Report that supports the application for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.

This document is the SIA Scoping Report, and reports on the process and outcomes of the scoping phase of the SIA. It has been prepared in accordance with the SIA Guideline and its supporting *Technical Supplement - Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects* (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure [DPHI], 2025) (herein referred to as the Technical Supplement). The key purposes of the SIA scoping process are to determine the size and scale of likely social impacts of the Project, and identify the stakeholders and communities which may be affected. Specifically, the SIA scoping process seeks to (DPHI, 2026a, p. 11):

- Gain an initial understanding of all aspects of the project.
- Conduct an initial evaluation of the likely social impacts, both positive and negative, across the eight categories of impact identified in the SIA Guideline.
- Consider potential refinements or approaches in response to likely social impacts.
- Gain an initial understanding of the project's social locality.
- Gain an initial understanding of the characteristics of the communities within the project's social locality (described as the social baseline).
- Consider how people might experience impacts differently.
- Determine the level to which each impact needs to be assessed in the SIA.
- Consider and plan the remainder of the SIA tasks, including engagement.



Source: Geoscience Australia, 2006; NSW Saptial Services (2025) Metropolitan Coal (2026)



LEGEND

- Mining Lease Boundary[1]
- Exploration Licence (EL 9364)
- Exploration Licence Application Boundary (ELA 6929)
- Road
- Railway
- National Parks and Wildlife Estate
- Local Government Area
- Mining Operation (in Operation)
- Mining Operation (in Care and Maintenance)

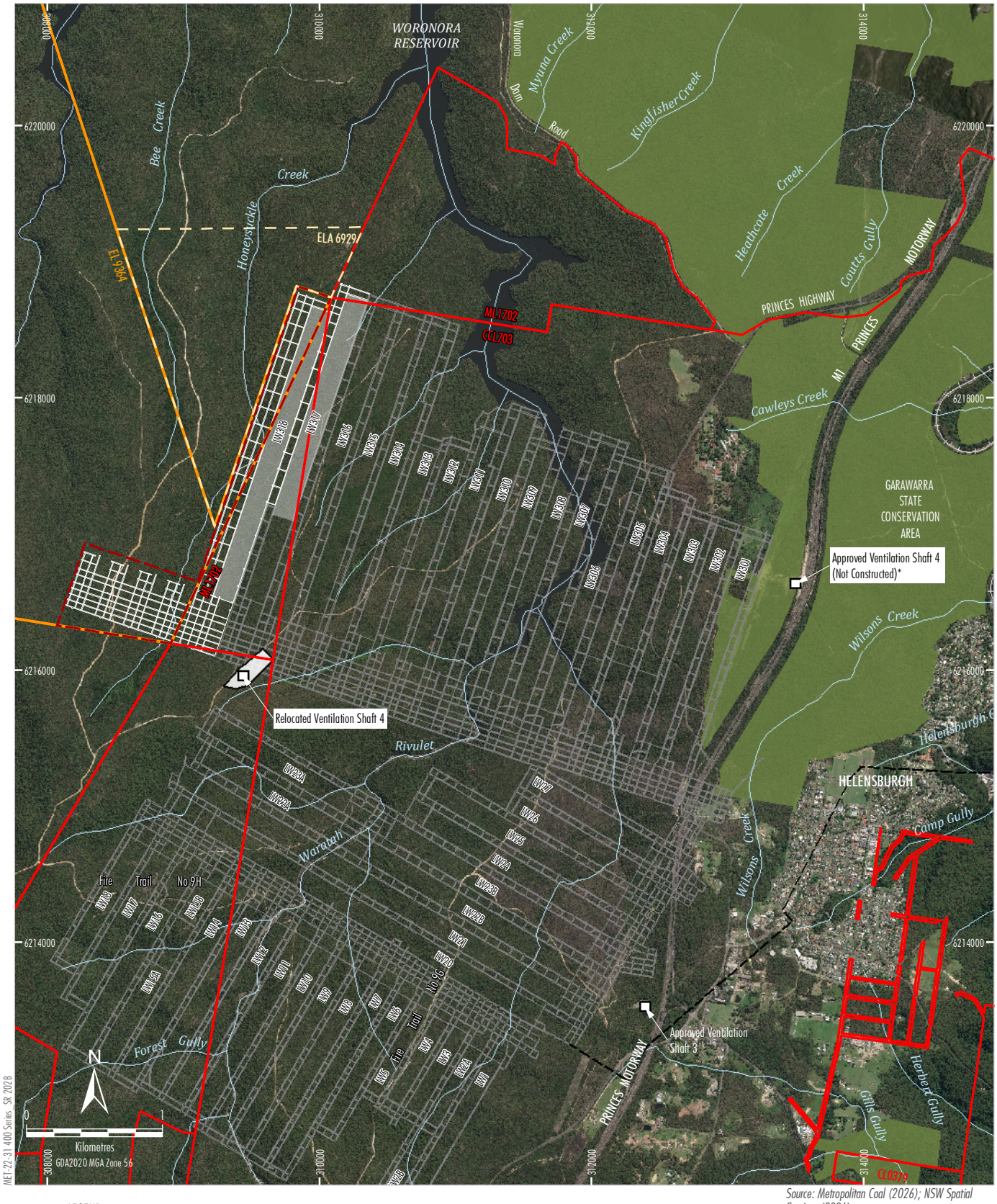
* CCL 724 is a tenement held by Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd.

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Regional Location

Figure 1



Source: Metropolitan Coal (2026); NSW Spatial Services (2026)
Orthophoto: Metropolitan Coal (2023); ESRI (2023)

LEGEND

- Mining Lease Boundary
- Exploration Licence Boundary (EL 9364)
- Exploration Licence Application Boundary (ELA 6929)
- Railway
- Watercourse
- National Park
- Shafts
- Existing Underground Access Drive (Main Drift)
- Current Metropolitan Coal Mine Longwall Layout

Longwalls 317 and 318 Modification (MOD 4)*

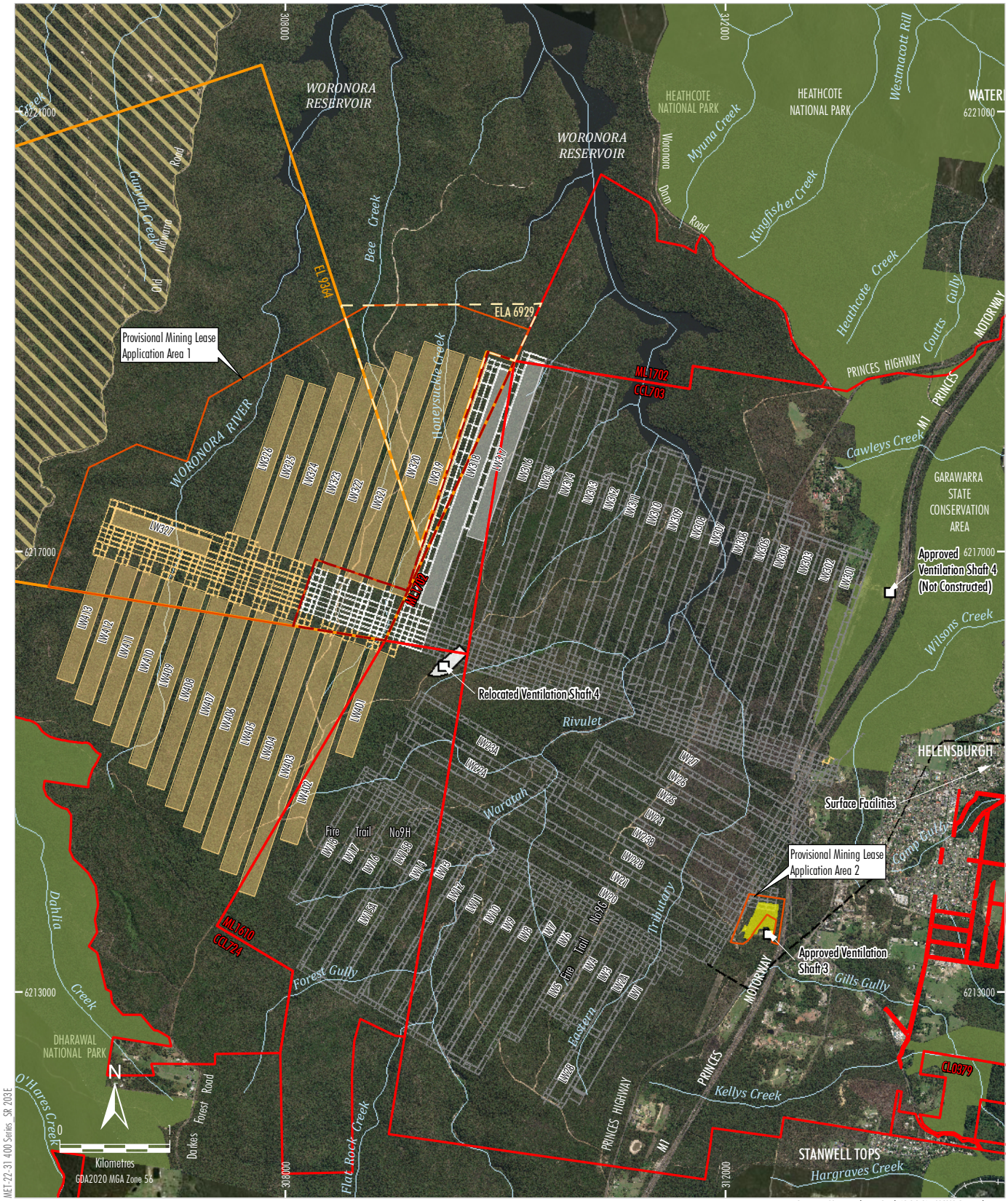
- Modification Proposed First Workings
- Modification Proposed Secondary Extraction Area
- Relocated Ventilation Shaft 4
- Indicative Mining Lease Application Area

*Currently under assessment by DPHI.

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Current Metropolitan Coal Mine Layout (Plus Proposed Modification 4)

Figure 2



Source: Metropolitan Coal (2026); NSW Spatial Services (2025)
Orthophoto: Metropolitan Coal (2023); ESRI (2023)

LEGEND

- Mining Lease Boundary[1]
- Exploration Licence Boundary (EL 9364)
- Exploration Licence Application Boundary (ELA 6929)
- Mining Lease Application Area (MOD 4)
- Provisional Mining Lease Application Area
- Railway
- Watercourse
- National Park
- Holsworthy Military Reserve
- Shafts
- Existing Underground Access Drive (Main Drift)
- Current Metropolitan Coal Mine Longwall Layout
- Longwalls 317 and 318 Modification (MOD 4)[2]
- Modification Proposed First Workings
- Modification Proposed Secondary Extraction Area
- Relocated Ventilation Shaft 4
- Metropolitan Continuation Project
- Proposed First Workings
- Proposed Secondary Extraction Area
- VAM Abatement Plant Footprint

[1] CCL 724 is a tenement held by Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd.
[2] Currently under assessment by DPHI.

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Conceptual Project General Arrangement

Figure 3

In accordance with the SIA Guideline (DPHI, 2026a, p.12), the SIA Scoping Report can include:

- The identified impacts.
- The level of proposed assessment of each impact.
- A description of how the scoped impacts will be researched in the SIA.
- A description of any project refinements that have been made to address social impacts and improve social outcomes.

1.2 Document structure

This SIA Scoping Report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 provides a Project description;
- Section 3 outlines the SIA scoping methodology;
- Section 4 describes the consultation that has informed this SIA Scoping Report;
- Section 5 defines the social locality for the Project and identifies likely impacted stakeholders;
- Section 6 contains a preliminary description of the existing social environment;
- Section 7 provides a preliminary impact identification;
- Section 8 describes the methodology for the SIA to support the EIS (Phase 2); and
- Section 9 provides a conclusion of the preliminary SIA.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 The Proponent

Metropolitan Coal engages pro-actively with the Helensburgh community and beyond. Key engagement mechanisms include operating a Community Consultative Committee (CCC). The CCC meets triannually and is chaired by an independent chairperson. The Mine also operates a complaints mechanism. All complaints are addressed in accordance with a complaints procedure and summary information is made publicly available in a complaints log. Information, including approvals, assessments, management plans, reports and results from water monitoring are published on the Mine's website.

Metropolitan Coal also financially supports community organisations and initiatives in Helensburgh and beyond. In 2024, Metropolitan Coal supported local community organisations with over $190,000 contributed to local groups, clubs and initiatives. Projects supported by the Mine include (Peabody, 2025):

- Donation to the Helensburgh Tigers Rugby League Club.
- Donation to the Helensburgh Tigers Junior Rugby League Club.
- Donation to Helensburgh Netball Club.
- Donation to Helensburgh Thistles Soccer Club.
- Ongoing sponsorship of the Helensburgh Public School and Holy Cross Primary School gardening and environment programs.
- Donation to Helensburgh Hope Church Community Pantry.
- Donation to the Illawarra Cycle Club.
- Donation to Helensburgh Mens Shed.
- Funding of "Carols in the Burgh" fireworks display.
- Donation to Helensburgh Bricks Fair.
- A three-year sponsorship of Symbio Wildlife Park to assist with the reintroduction of the Southern Stuttering Frog to parts of its former range on the NSW south coast including the Royal National Park.

Additionally, in 2025 Metropolitan committed to a three-year sponsorship of the University of New South Wales's Platypus Conservation Initiative, to assist the reintroduction of platypuses to the Royal National Park, which neighbours the Metropolitan Coal Mine Surface Facilities Area.

2.2 Existing Metropolitan Coal Mine

The Metropolitan Coal Mine has played an important role in the Illawarra region from a social and economic perspective through its ongoing production of metallurgical coal product for BlueScope's Port Kembla Steelworks and sale of product to international market via the Port Kembla Coal Terminal.

Mining operations at the Metropolitan Coal Mine are approved until 22 June 2032 at a maximum ROM coal extraction rate of 3.2 Mtpa. Mining operations are undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

The Metropolitan Coal Mine comprises an underground mining area and Surface Facilities area. The Surface Facilities Area includes administration buildings, workshop, bath house and ablution facilities, haul roads, access road, fuel and consumable storage facilities, hardstand areas, water management infrastructure, a Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP), stockpiles (including ROM coal, product coal and coal reject stockpiles) and associated coal handling infrastructure.

As described above, Metropolitan Coal is separately seeking a modification to Project Approval 08_0149 (Modification 4) which is currently under assessment by DPHI. Modification 4 proposes to extract additional ROM coal through the extension of Longwall 317 and additional Longwall 318 and would provide for the continuation of mining for a further two years (i.e. coal extraction until approximately 30 June 2031).

2.3 The Project

Metropolitan Coal has identified an opportunity to build upon the proposed Modification 4 and extend underground operations to the west of the existing underground mining area. The Project would amend the Metropolitan Coal Mine and facilitate the extension of underground mining operations for an additional 12 years to allow for the extraction of additional metallurgical coal, and development of a Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) abatement plant to treat methane emissions.

The Project would extract up to 2.7 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal using conventional longwall underground mining methods. The longwall design would include narrow panel voids of 163 metre (m) width, and chain pillars of 55 m width to reduce subsidence effects on upland swamps and watercourses (Figure 3).

As part of the Project, Metropolitan Coal is proposing the development of a VAM abatement plant to treat methane from the underground extraction area at a rate of approximately 300 cubic metres per second. The VAM abatement plant would be located adjacent to the existing Ventilation Shaft 3. Metropolitan Coal is also investigating the feasibility of operating a power station at Ventilation Shaft 3 comprising gas-powered generators to utilise the methane in an energy sustainable manner to generate electricity instead of flaring the gas. This would decrease the external electricity demand of the operation.

It is expected the Project would include, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- extension of the 300-series Mains to the west, continuation of the 300-series longwalls and addition of the 400-series longwalls (Longwalls 319-327 and Longwalls 401-413);
- extraction of an additional 31 million tonnes (Mt) of ROM coal over the life of the Project at rates up to 2.7 Mtpa;
- continued employment of the Metropolitan Coal Mine workforce for a further 12 years;
- extension of mine life to 31 December 2044;
- construction and operation of a VAM abatement plant, including electrical infrastructure to allow destruction of at least 75 per cent (%) of methane emissions at Ventilation Shaft 3 as per the NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Guide for NSW Coal Mines* (NSW Environment Protection Authority, 2026);

- continued operation of the ventilation system and the gas drainage plant with enclosed flaring facility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- continued transportation of coal rejects off-site for the life of mine via rail and, as a temporary contingency measure, by road;
- surface access and associated works within the Woronora Special Area and surrounds that are required for environmental monitoring, management of mine infrastructure, management and remediation of mine subsidence;
- continued use of the CHPP and existing supporting infrastructure systems (e.g. rail infrastructure, underground access, water management system, yard area, conveyor transfers and drives, ventilation, gas management and electrical systems);
- train loading and train movements associated with the transport of product coal to Port Kembla Steelworks or to Port Kembla Coal Terminal for international markets would continue up to 24 hours per day, seven days per week;
- continued underground in-seam drilling and pre-drainage of gas;
- upgrades and/or extension of the existing supporting infrastructure systems (e.g. underground access, water management system, yard area, buildings, conveyor transfers and drives, ventilation, gas management and electrical systems) as required;
- decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure of the Metropolitan Coal Mine; and
- other associated minor infrastructure, plant, equipment and activities.

Metropolitan Coal would apply for a new mining lease (ML) within Exploration Licence (EL) 9364 and Exploration Licence Application (ELA) 6929[1] to facilitate underground mining to the west of the approved operations (Figure 3). Metropolitan Coal would also vary Consolidated Coal Lease (CCL) 703 to regulate ancillary mining activities associated with the proposed VAM abatement plant at Ventilation Shaft 3 (Figure 3).

Should Development Consent be granted for the Project (which incorporates and extends upon the approved Metropolitan Coal Mine), subject to the Proponent being satisfied with the consent conditions, Project Approval 08_0149[2] for existing Metropolitan Coal Mine would be surrendered so that the Project would operate under the new consent only.

Table 1 provides a comparative summary of activities associated with the Project compared to the approved Mine.

[1] ELA 6929 is required to be granted and in force prior to lodgement of the development application.
[2] Activities approved under Development Consent D90/832 would continue for the Project and the consent would be surrendered.

TABLE 1 COMPARISON OF THE APPROVED AND MODIFIED METROPOLITAN COAL MINE AND THE PROJECT

Project component	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (as modified)	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (including Modification 4) (under assessment)	The Project
Underground Mining Area	As per Appendix 3 of Project Approval (08_0149).	Extension of Longwall 317, addition of Longwall 318 and addition of the extended 300-series Mains to the west. Relinquishment of some approved underground mining areas.	Extension of 300-series and addition of 400-series through an additional 22 longwalls.
Hours of Operation	Mining operations can be carried out 24 hours per day, seven days per week.	No change.	No change.
Operational Mine Life	Underground mining operations may be carried out until 22 June 2032.	No change.	Extension of mine life until 31 December 2044.
Coal Resource	Extraction of approximately 54.4 Mt of ROM coal from the 300-series longwalls.	Extraction of approximately 3.2 Mt of additional ROM coal to produce primarily high quality metallurgical coal associated with the extended Longwall 317, addition of Longwall 318 and the extended 300-series Mains. Due to the relinquishment of longwall areas, approximately 40.4 Mt of ROM coal would be extracted from the 300-series longwalls over the life of the Metropolitan Coal Mine.	Extraction of approximately 31 Mt of ROM coal to produce primarily high quality metallurgical coal from the Project longwalls.
ROM Coal Extraction Limits	Up to 3.2 Mt from the underground mining area in any calendar year.	No change.	Up to 2.7 Mt of ROM coal from the underground mining area in any calendar year.
Product Coal Transport Limits	Up to 2.8 Mt may be transported from the Metropolitan Coal Mine in any calendar year.	No change.	Up to 2.3 Mt of product coal may be transported from the Metropolitan Coal Mine in any calendar year.

Project component	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (as modified)	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (including Modification 4) (under assessment)	The Project
Coal Rejects Management	Transport of coal rejects off-site by train or road to 31 December 2026 as a contingency measure*.	Transportation of coal rejects off-site to international customers via rail to Port Kembla Coal Terminal. Temporary transportation of coal rejects off-site by road to domestic customers as a contingency measure.	No change to coal reject management compared to Modification 4, with up to 0.6 Mt of coal rejects transported by rail in any calendar year. Transportation of coal rejects off-site to occur until 31 December 2044.
	No emplacement of coal rejects on the surface of the Metropolitan Coal Mine.	No change.	No change.
Longwall Layout and Panel Design	As per Appendix 3 of Project Approval (08_0149) and correspondence from the Secretary of DPHI approving the re-orientation of the longwall panels. Longwall void width of between 138 m and 163 m for the 300-series. Pillar widths between 45 m and 70 m for the 300-series.	Extension of Longwall 317 and addition of Longwall 318. Shortened Longwall 317 finishing position. Longwall void width of 163 m for Longwalls 317 and 318. Increased pillar widths of 55 m for Longwalls 317 and 318 to reduce subsidence effects.	The Project would continue to employ 22% wider pillar widths of 55 m and continue with narrow longwall voids of 163 m wide for the additional longwalls to reduce subsidence effects.
Underground Mine Target Seam	Extraction from the Bulli Seam.	No change.	No change.
Surface Facilities	Comprises a CHPP, administration buildings, workshop, bath house and ablution facilities, haul roads, access road, fuel and consumables storage facilities, hardstand areas, water management infrastructure, stockpiles (including ROM coal, product coal and coal reject stockpiles) and associated coal handling infrastructure (e.g. conveyors, transfer points and buffer bins).	No change.	No change.

Project component	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (as modified)	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (including Modification 4) (under assessment)	The Project
Water Management	A network of water storages is utilised to manage surface water that accumulates on-site. Make-up water demand is met by sourcing stored water in historical workings, surface water runoff recovered from the Surface Facilities Area and purchase from Sydney Water as required. Water treatment, reuse and off-site release in accordance with the Environment Protection Licence (EPL) No. 767.	No change.	No change to key water sources or management practices. Continued use and (where required) upgrade and augmentation of existing water management infrastructure, including upgrade of underground management systems.
Gas Management	Operation of ventilation shafts to manage gas emissions.	Relocation of the approved (but not yet constructed) Ventilation Shaft 4. Relinquishment of the currently approved Ventilation Shaft 4 development footprint.	Construction and operation of a VAM abatement plant located adjacent to the approved Ventilation Shaft 3. Continued use of existing ventilation system, gas drainage system and flaring system.
Mining Tenements	CL 379, CCL 703, ML 1610, ML 1702, Mining Purposes Lease (MPL) 320, EL 9364.	New ML to be sought over part of Longwall 318 and extension of the 300-series Mains.	New ML to be sought over the extended underground mining area within EL 9364 and ELA 6929. Mining within CCL 724 currently held by Endeavour Pty Ltd. Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd, the tenement holder for CCL 724, has provided consent for Metropolitan Coal to lodge the Project Scoping Report and undertake activities within CCL 724 for the purpose of preparing an EIS. CCL 703 to be varied to regulate ancillary mining activities for the construction and operation of the VAM abatement plant.

Project component	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (as modified)	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (including Modification 4) (under assessment)	The Project
Operational Workforce	Current workforce of approximately 400 personnel at the Metropolitan Coal Mine.	No change to the operational workforce. Continued employment for a further two years.	No change to the operational workforce. Continued employment for a further 12 years.
Construction Activities and Workforce	Approximately 50 people at peak.	No change to peak construction workforce.	A peak construction workforce of up to 50 personnel would be required for the VAM abatement plant.

** Condition 7, Schedule 2 of Project Approval (08_0149) prohibits the export of coal rejects from the site after 2021 without the written approval of the Director-General (now Secretary of DPHI). On 14 November 2023, the Secretary of the DPHI provided approval of the transport of coal rejects off-site by train or road to 31 December 2026 as a contingency measure.*

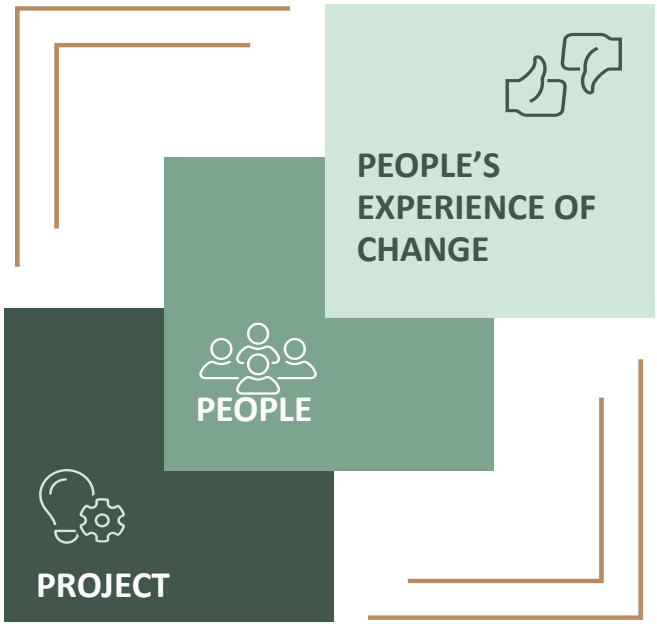
3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overview, approach and strategy

The methodology for this SIA Scoping Report has been developed following the process set out in the SIA Guideline and the Technical Supplement (DPHI, 2026a, 2025) as well as taking into account good practice SIA literature, in particular the guideline by Vanclay and colleagues issued by the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) (Vanclay et al., 2015).

The IAIA considers social impacts to be "all the issues associated with a planned intervention (i.e. a project) that affect or concern people, whether directly or indirectly. Specifically, a social impact is considered to be something that is experienced or felt in either a perceptual (cognitive) or a corporeal (bodily, physical) sense, at any level" (Vanclay et al., 2015). Likewise, the SIA Guideline states that social impacts generally mean "the consequences that people experience when a new project brings change" (DPHI, 2026a, p. 5). Importantly, the definition above and the categorisation place *people* and their *experience* of change at the centre of the notion of social impacts (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 4 SOCIAL IMPACTS ARE PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCE OF CHANGE



Source: Based on the SIA Guideline (DPHI, 2026a, p. 5)

Various categorisations of social impacts exist, and for the purposes of this report those in the SIA Guideline (DPHI, 2026a) have been adopted (see Figure 5).

FIGURE 5 SOCIAL IMPACT CATEGORIES



WAY OF LIFE
including how people live, how they get around, how they work, how they play, and how they interact each day



COMMUNITY
including composition, cohesion, character, how the community functions, resilience, and people's sense of place



ACCESSIBILITY
including how people access and use infrastructure, services and facilities, whether provided by a public, private, or not-for profit organisation



CULTURE
both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, including shared beliefs, customs, practices, obligations, values and stories, and connections to Country, land, waterways, places and buildings



HEALTH AND WELLBEING
including physical and mental health especially for people vulnerable to social exclusion or substantial change, psychological stress resulting from financial or other pressures, access to open space and effects on public health



SURROUNDINGS
including ecosystem services such as shade, pollution control, erosion control, public safety and security, access to and use of the natural and built environment, and aesthetic value and amenity



LIVELIHOODS
including people's capacity to sustain themselves through employment or business



DECISION-MAKING SYSTEMS
including the extent to which people can have a say in decisions that affect their lives, and have access to complaint, remedy and grievance mechanisms

Source: Based on the SIA Guideline (DPHI, 2026a, pp. 12-13)

This SIA Scoping Report has been developed based on an exploratory study involving multiple data sources. Commensurate with the SIA Guideline, it seeks to answer the following three questions:

1) Who are the stakeholders that are likely to experience social impacts from the Project, including whether these include any vulnerable groups?
2) What are the social impacts they are likely to experience, how significant are these likely to be, and what is their nature and socio-geographic extent?

3) How can these impacts and stakeholders best be studied for the second phase of the SIA, including engaging with communities?

3.2 SIA scoping process

The SIA Scoping process was undertaken between March and July 2026, and involved the following steps:

1) Project establishment and initial data gathering.
2) Consultation with the Metropolitan CCC and the Wollongong City Council (reported in Section 4).
3) Defining the social locality and identifying likely affected people (see Section 5).
4) Preparation of a preliminary social baseline for the social locality (provided in Section 6).
5) Identifying potential social impacts and conducting a preliminary assessment (Section 7).
6) Development of a methodology for the subsequent phases of the SIA (See Section 8).

It is important to note the SIA Scoping process is not linear, but recursive; the definition of a social locality, likely impacts, and likely affected stakeholders is a recursive process, where the various steps progressively inform each other. This recursiveness is likely to extend into the subsequent SIA phases. As new information emerges, stakeholders, impacts, and localities may require re-consideration.

3.3 Data sources

A wide variety of data sources have been used for this SIA Scoping Report, including a desktop analysis of project information, targeted stakeholder and community consultation and complaints data provided by the proponent, and publicly available social, demographic and economic information about the nearby communities. Figure 6 summarises the data sources used for this SIA Scoping Report.

FIGURE 6 DATA SOURCES



PROJECT AND OPERATIONAL DATA

- Project description
- Relevant Metropolitan Coal plans, publications and strategies, including the Submissions Report for Modification 4



SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2016 and 2021 Census
- Data from various NSW government departments



LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANS

- Wollongong City Council Community Strategic Plan
- The Illawarra – Shoalhaven Regional plan 2041



CONSULTATION

- Consultation with CCC and Wollongong City Council.
- Review of past consultation and complaints data.

3.4 Assumptions and limitations

All SIA processes and methodologies come with limitations and rely on certain assumptions. For this SIA Scoping Report, the following should be noted:

- This SIA Scoping Report has been developed seeking to follow the approach outlined in the SIA Guideline and Technical Supplement (DPHI, 2026a, 2025). Findings and conclusions should be interpreted in that context.
- Secondary social, economic and demographic data about communities always have a time lag between data gathering and publication. Although this SIA Scoping Report uses the most recent data available, there is always a possibility of change occurring between the time of data gathering and publication.
- All findings are based on the information available at the time of writing. It is possible that social, economic, demographic, cultural, environmental or Project-related information may change following the publication of this SIA Scoping Report.
- Secondary data sources have been produced using various methodologies, which themselves come with assumptions and limitations. To ensure the data is credible and robust, official sources (e.g. Government) have been prioritised, and relevant limitations have been noted.
- The statistical data provided in the preliminary social baseline sometimes consists of averages or medians. It is important to note that although this data provides a description of the population in that area, it should not be inferred that it necessarily represents all social entities within these areas.
- All SIAs make statements about the future; about anticipated change processes and how these may be experienced by stakeholders. There is always an element of uncertainty associated with these change processes (Geisler, 1993), and as such, the findings in this report should not be interpreted as exact predictions.
- Finally, the SIA scoping process is not mechanistic, but one which relies to some extent on the judgements of the SIA practitioner. This SIA has aimed to transparently describe these judgements and the processes applied to identify them.

4. SIA SCOPING CONSULTATION

4.1 Overview

A targeted, qualitative consultation approach was used for this SIA Scoping Report, relying on consultation with the Metropolitan CCC and Wollongong City Council.

The aim of the SIA scoping consultation process was to:

- Build an initial understanding of the potentially affected communities (i.e. the social locality and social baseline).
- Seek stakeholder input into social impact identification and preliminary significance assessment, and stakeholders to consult for the second phase of the SIA.

A remote meeting was held with the Wollongong City Council on the 1st of July 2026, with five council representatives in attendance. The lead author for this SIA Report also attended and presented at a Metropolitan CCC meeting on the 28th of July, with five community members in attendance, in addition to the CCC chairperson.

In addition to the direct consultation, this SIA Scoping Report has also been informed by a review of the Modification 4 Submissions Report, as an indication of community views and perspectives on an application to modify the approved Mine. APPENDIX A contains the consultation material.

4.2 Consultation findings

Overall, as the Project represents a continuation of an existing operation, the stakeholders who participated in consultation did not anticipate much change from the Project. Participants suggested the following should be considered in the SIA Report:

- It was suggested that the SIA should consider the impact on the coal and steelmaking ecosystem in the Illawarra if the Project were not to proceed. This should include impacts on BlueScope's Port Kembla Steel Works, suppliers and workers. Some also framed this impact around the risks of Australia becoming more dependent on imports should coal mining for steelmaking cease.
- The Mine was inextricably linked to the history and identity of the Helensburgh community.
- Participants acknowledged that there were community concerns around potential impacts to the Sydney drinking water catchment, as the Mine was located in the vicinity of the Woronora Special Area, and that this concern extended beyond the Helensburgh and Wollongong areas. At least one participant commented that these concerns appeared overblown.
- Some participants commented about the positive social and economic impact on the Helensburgh community, including through investment in community organisations, and spend with local businesses.
- One participant noted that the Mine had put in place measures to address concerns from the nearby community, and that this should be taken into account in the assessment. As an example, it was mentioned that the Mine no longer transports coal rejects via trucks under its normal operations, and this had reduced amenity impacts on the nearby community.

- Some participants believed that many residents in Helensburgh would be unaware of the Mine's presence, suggesting that current impacts are limited.

The most frequently raised issues in submissions on Modification 4 included surface water (135 submissions), socio-economic (130 submissions), Modification design and justification (116 submissions), followed by biodiversity (86 submissions) (Peabody, n.d., p. 16). Issues related to water include concerns around impacts to upland swamps and watercourses, as well as potential for water quality impacts to the Sydney drinking water catchment in the Woronora Special Area. The potential impact of subsidence and effects to surface water was also seen as a key driver of potential biodiversity impact associated with the Modification. Submissions discussing socio-economic impacts and benefits considered the benefits of employment, community contribution, and the Mine's role in the local steelmaking economic ecosystem. Some submissions queried whether the social and economic benefits outweighed the risks associated with the proposed Modification.

5. SOCIAL LOCALITY AND POTENTIALLY AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 Defining the social locality

According to the SIA Guideline, the social locality is the area where people are likely to experience the social impacts of a project. The SIA Guideline does not contain a predetermined definition for a social locality. Rather, it should be defined for each project, taking into account the "nature of the project, the characteristics of affected communities and how different people may reasonably perceive or experience positive and negative impacts" (DPHI, 2026a, p.16).

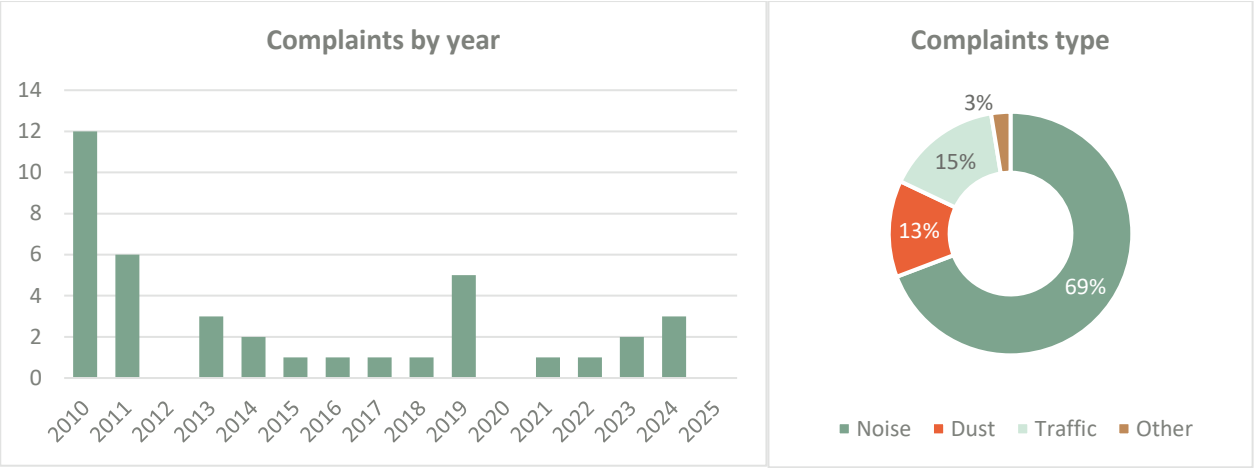
In defining the social locality for this Project, the following data points have been considered:

- The location of the Project and its workforce.
- The nature and scale of the Project.
- Current experiences of the Metropolitan Coal Mine.
- The nature of the surrounding community.

The Project is located adjacent to the existing Metropolitan Coal Mine, near the town of Helensburgh in the Wollongong City Council LGA in the Illawarra Region of NSW. Parts of the underground mining area of the Project extend into the neighbouring Campbelltown City Council LGA and a small portion extends into the Wollondilly Shire Council LGA. Surface infrastructure such as ventilation shafts, and the Pit Top area are all located in the Wollongong City Council LGA. To the west and north of the Project are the Dharawal National Park, the Woronora Special Area, and the Holsworthy Military Reserve, which have limited public access, and as such, the Project is not accessible from the west.

The Mine received three complaints in 2024 and two in 2023. No complaints were received in 2025. Historically, complaints mostly relate to noise, dust and traffic. No complaints relating to traffic have, however, been received since 2018 (see Figure 7). All complaints where the complainants' address was recorded originate from stakeholders who reside on streets near the Pit Top.

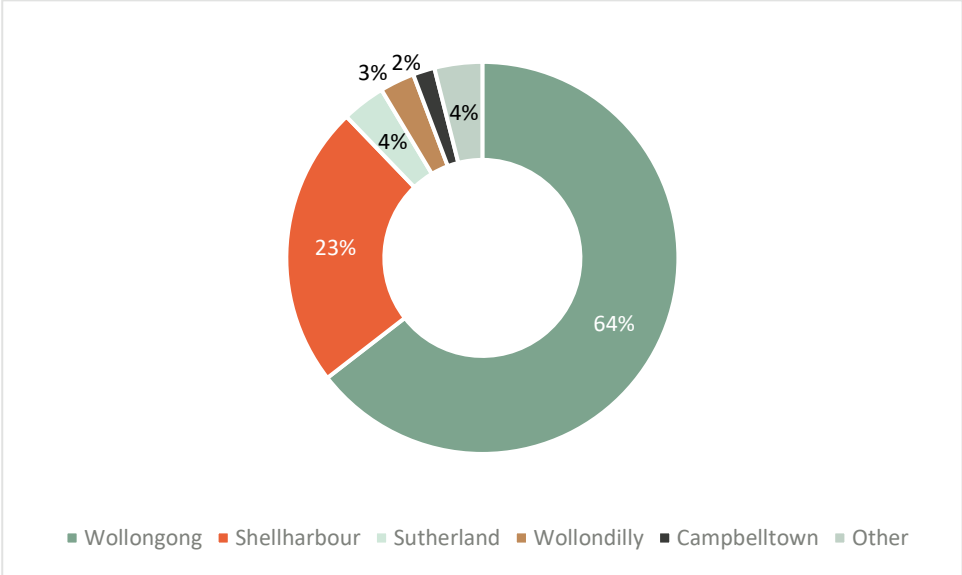
FIGURE 7 COMPLAINTS DATA



Source: Proponent supplied.

Product coal and coal reject material from the Mine are transported via rail to the Port Kembla Coal Terminal near Wollongong for domestic or export use. Wollongong city is the main urban centre, with most of the Mine's employees residing in the Wollongong and nearby Shellharbour LGAs (See Figure 8).

FIGURE 8 WORKFORCE RESIDENTIAL LOCATION

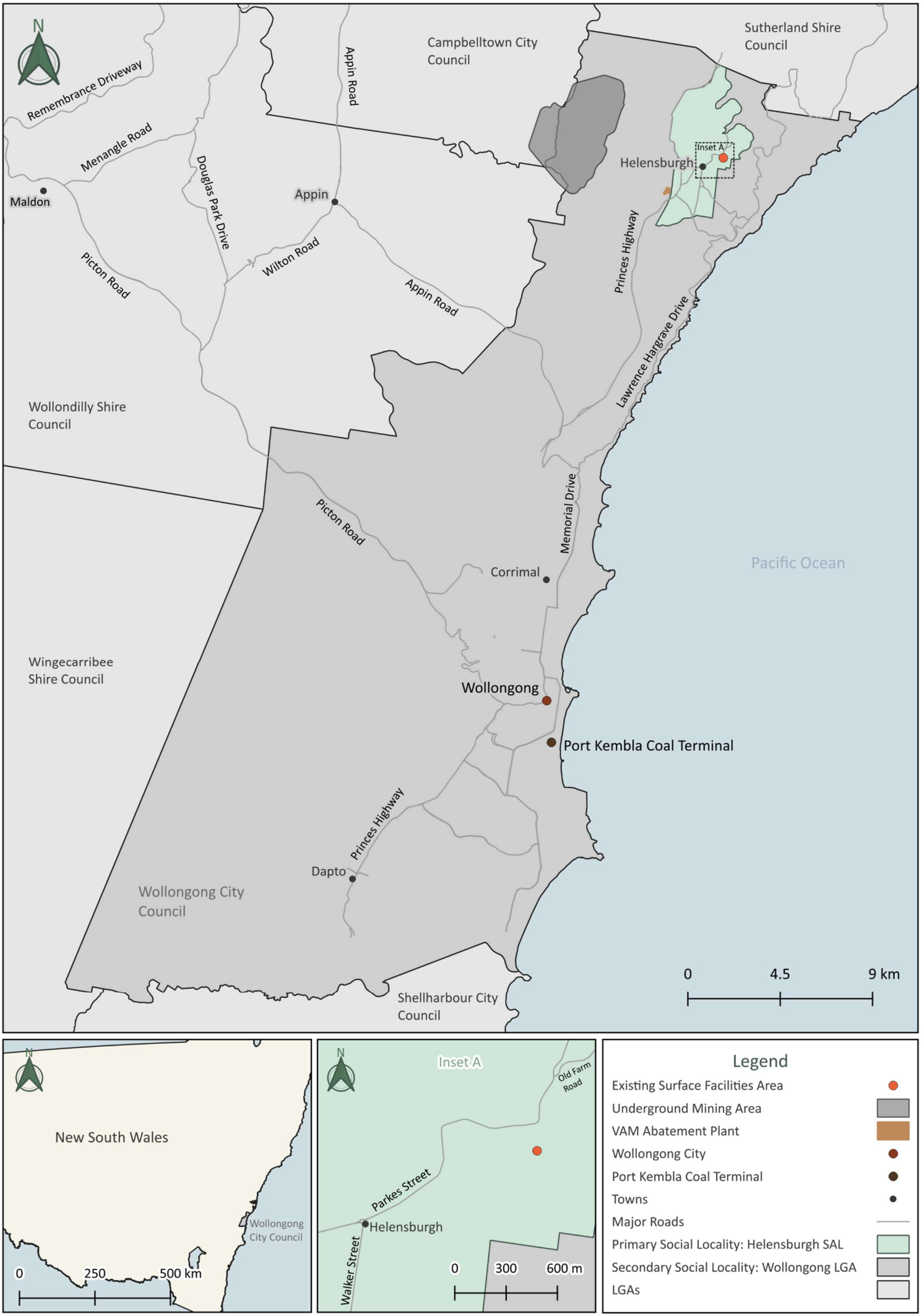


Source: Proponent supplied.

5.2 Proposed social localities

Taking these aspects into account, a primary social locality comprising the Helensburgh Suburb and Locality (SAL) has been defined for the Project. The Pit Top and most of the mine and Project surface infrastructure are located in this area. Most stakeholders who may experience amenity-related impacts reside in this area, as do many small and medium-sized businesses that benefit from the Mine's presence. A secondary social locality has been defined comprising the Wollongong City Council LGA. This is the area where much of the socio-economic benefits of the Project are likely to accrue, including relating to employment and business opportunities, and the continuation of the steelmaking economic ecosystem. Whilst a portion of the proposed underground mining area extends into the neighbouring Wollondilly Shire Council and Campbelltown City Council, any social impact on these areas is likely to be limited, due to the restricted accessibility to these areas from the west. Figure 9 shows the primary and secondary social localities for the Project.

FIGURE 9 SOCIAL LOCALITIES



5.3 Potentially affected stakeholders

Table 2 below provides a preliminary identification of the potentially affected stakeholders. Stakeholder groups are categorised based on the broad stakeholder categories provided in the SIA Guideline[3] .

TABLE 2 SIA STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Stakeholder group	Detail
Aboriginal people and groups	• The relevant Local Aboriginal Land Councils • Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Project • Indigenous residents within the primary and secondary social locality
Existing and in-migrating residents and businesses	• Residents in the direct vicinity of the Pit Top, primarily on Parkes Street, Oxley Place and Old Farm Road • Residents and businesses in Helensburgh • Residents and businesses within the secondary social locality of Wollongong City Council
Councils	• The Wollongong City Council
Community, including stakeholder groups, industry etc.	• Chambers of commerce in primary and secondary social locality • Economic development groups • Regional Development Australia – Illawarra • Local environmental and community organisations • Firms and organisations in the Australian coal and steelmaking supply chain • Other local mining companies reliant on export services through Port Kembla Coal Terminal
Workers, contractors and suppliers	• Existing employees of the Metropolitan Coal Mine • Trade union representing employees • Existing suppliers to the Metropolitan Coal Mine • Potential construction contractors • BlueScope's Port Kembla Steel workforce
Public and private service and infrastructure providers and regulatory agencies	• Schools in the primary social locality • Rural fire brigades in the primary social locality • NSW Police Force • NSW Illawarra Health Department • WaterNSW

[3] Other than local governments and state government departments and agencies, no names of organisations or individuals have been included in this table in order to protect their privacy. Note also that elected representatives which are included in the categorisation in the SIA Guideline have been omitted. The overall EIS engagement will include these.

6. PRELIMINARY SOCIAL BASELINE

This section provides an initial description of the existing social environment, its history, features and people. In doing so it provides a preliminary baseline intended to build an understanding of the community. An expanded social baseline will be developed for the SIA to support the EIS.

6.1 History and general location

6.1.1 Helensburgh

The Project is located near Helensburgh, a small town in the northern part of the Wollongong City Council LGA, approximately 35 km north of the city of Wollongong, and 45 km south of Sydney. Wollongong is the third largest city in NSW and is located approximately 70 km south of central Sydney. It is the traditional home to the Dharawal people who have occupied the area for 20,000 years (Attenbrow, 2010).

Initially, the town was mostly a tent town known as Camp Creek, hosting railway workers. Coal was found in the area in 1884, and the development of what is now the Metropolitan Coal Mine by the Metropolitan Coal Company of Sydney led to the growth of the village of Helensburgh. Soon, a school, a post office, and a miners' hall were opened, and the railway station was established in 1888. The Metropolitan Coal Mine was bought by Australian Iron & Steel, Port Kembla, in 1965. Now owned by Peabody, the Metropolitan Coal Mine is one of the oldest operating coal mines in Australia (Wollongong City Council, 2019b).

6.1.2 Wollongong LGA

The City of Wollongong LGA was formed by the amalgamation of four councils in 1947 (Wollongong City Council, 2019a). The council consists of three wards with four Councillors from each, and a directly elected Lord Mayor (Wollongong City Council, 2024). The City of Wollongong stretches along the coastline and includes a city centre, residential suburbs, beaches, Lake Illawarra to the south, and the industrial area at Port Kembla.

The *Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan* describes a vision and priorities for the Wollongong City Council LGA and was developed with input from the community. The plan defines the vision for the area as "On Dharawal Country, from the mountains to the sea, we value our natural environment, we respect each other, our past and future. We will be a sustainable, connected, vibrant, and innovative city, with a diverse economy" (Wollongong City Council, 2025, p. 8).

The plan sets out objectives, strategies, and indicators across four goals, related to being a sustainable and climate resilient city, having well planned, connected and liveable spaces, fostering a diverse economy and valuing innovation, culture and creativity, and having a healthy, respectful and inclusive community (Wollongong City Council, 2025).

6.2 Demographic profile

Table 3 shows key demographic indicators for Helensburgh SAL and Wollongong LGA, and compares these to NSW. At the time of the 2021 Census, Wollongong LGA had a population of 214,564 persons, making it the third largest city in NSW, after Sydney and Newcastle. The population in Helensburgh was 6,576 at the same time. The population across all three areas grew between the 2016 and 2021 Census years, with population growth slowest in Helensburgh (0.6% per year), followed by Wollongong (1.05% per year) and NSW at 1.53%.

Approximately 3% of the population in the primary and secondary social localities are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, comparable to NSW at 3%. There are several cultural, political and community groups within the Indigenous community in the Wollongong area. In addition to the Dharawal people, Indigenous people within the Wollongong LGA belong to, among others, the Yuin, Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi, Bundjalung, Dunghutti and Gumbayggir Nations (Wollongong City Council, 2021).

The population in Helensburgh is slightly more culturally homogenous compared to Wollongong LGA, with relatively high proportions of people born in Australia and who speak only English at home. Wollongong in turn is slightly more homogenous than NSW across the same indicators (see Table 3).

TABLE 3 KEY DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

	Helensburgh SAL	Wollongong LGA	NSW
Population 2021	6,576	214,564	8,072,163
Population 2016*	6,383	203,630	7,480,228
Annual pop. change 2016-21*	0.6%	1.05%	1.53%
Projected population to 2041**	-	288,673	10,070,467
Median age	38	39	39
Sex ratio	99:100	97:100	97:100
Born in Australia	86%	75%	65%
Speaking English only at home	93%	80%	68%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	3%	3%	3%

Source: ABS 2021 Census General Community Profiles (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022b) unless otherwise noted.

** Based on ABS 2016 and 2021 Census General Community Profiles (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017, 2022b).*

*** NSW Planning (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, n.d.). Projections reflect the common planning assumption projections.*

Note: The ABS uses a technique called introduced random error, or perturbation, to protect the anonymity of Census respondents. This means that data points with small values are unreliable (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022c). Hence, these values have been omitted in this and subsequent tables.

Note: sex ratio denotes the number of males per 100 females.

6.3 Socio-economic indicators

Table 4 shows key socio-economic indicators for the social localities, including relating to income, employment, relative disadvantage and education. Overall, the Helensburgh SAL displays higher income levels and lower degrees of disadvantage, compared to the Wollongong LGA and NSW.

Unemployment rates in both the primary and secondary social localities were comparable to the NSW rates of 3%. Education levels – including the proportion of people who had finished year 12 of schooling and who had a Bachelor degree or higher – are comparable in Helensburgh and across the Wollongong LGA, although both are slightly lower than across NSW.

In terms of economic development priorities, The *Wollongong City Council Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029* targets growth within sectors in the knowledge economy, such as Information and Communications Technology, Financial and Insurance Services and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. The strategy notes the importance of the metallurgical coal mining industry as a key aspect of the regional economy for the foreseeable future. It notes that the industry provides stable, high paying jobs that are often full time, and its linkages to steelmaking in the region (Wollongong City Council, n.d., pp. 7, 43). The *Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041* also sets an objective to sustainably maximise the productivity of resource lands, including for mining (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2021, p. 43).

TABLE 4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Helensburgh SAL	Wollongong LGA	NSW
Median Personal Income ($/week)	$981	$754	$813
Median household income ($/week)	$2,490	$1,682	$1,829
SEIFA IRSD (decile within Aus)*	9	7	-
Top three industries of employment**	Construction (14%) Health Care (13%) Education (10%)	Health Care (17%) Education (11%) Construction (9%)	Health Care (14%) Retail Trade (9%) Professional Services (9%)
Highest year of schooling yr 12 or equivalent***	54%	54%	59%
Bachelor's degree or higher****	34%	34%	43%
Unemployment rate	3%	3%	3%

Source: ABS 2021 Census General Community Profiles (ABS, 2022b) unless otherwise noted.

** ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023a, 2023b). SEIFA is the Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia, and IRSD is the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage. Decile within Australia.*

*** Percentage of employed persons aged 15 years and over. Health Care encompasses 'Health Care and Social Assistance', Education encompasses 'Education and Training', and Professional Services encompasses 'Professional, Scientific and Technical Services'.*

**** Percentage of persons aged fifteen years and over who are no longer attending primary or secondary school.*

***** Percentage of persons aged fifteen years and over with a non-school qualification.*

6.4 Housing

Table 5 shows housing indicators for the primary and secondary social localities and compares these to NSW. At the time of the 2021 Census there were a total of 2,169 occupied private dwellings in the primary social locality and close to 81,000 in the secondary social locality of Wollongong City Council LGA. Housing costs are higher in the primary social locality across most indicators. Median mortgage repayments and median rents at the time of the 2021 Census were higher than for Wollongong LGA and NSW, and median sales prices and rent for new bonds were also higher for the most recent quarters with data available.

A search of National Shelter's Rental Affordability Index suggests that the 2508 postcode is considered unaffordable for the average rental household income in the region (SGS Economics and Planning, 2025).

TABLE 5 HOUSING DATA

	Helensburgh SAL	Wollongong LGA	NSW
Occupied private dwellings (#)	2,169	80,658	2,900,468
Median mortgage repayment ($/month)	$2,500	$2,167	$2,167
Median rent ($/week)	$535	$390	$420
Median weekly rents for new bonds (Dec qtr. '25) *	$800	$680	$700
Median dwelling sales price (Sep qtr. '25)*	$1,450,000	$950,000	$950,000
Household mortgage payments greater than 30% **	13%	14%	17%
Household rental payments greater than 30% **	36%	37%	36%

Source: ABS 2021 Census General Community Profiles (ABS, 2022b) unless otherwise noted.

** NSW Department of Communities and Justice (Department of Communities and Justice, 2025). Data for Helensburgh is for postcode 2508, which is larger than the Helensburgh SAL. 30 or fewer bonds were lodged during the relevant quarter in that postcode.*

*** Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census – QuickStats (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022a).*

6.5 Community connectedness and wellbeing

Wollongong City Council undertakes regular wellbeing surveys among its population. The most recent survey was conducted in 2024 and found relatively high levels of community and personal wellbeing. Residents in Wollongong were generally satisfied with their lives (87%), how safe they felt (86%), their personal relationships (86%) and their standard of living (84%). 90% agreed with the statement that Wollongong was a good place to live. A composite 'Happiness Index' rated at 77.6 for Wollongong residents, compared to a national benchmark of 74.4 (Taverner Research Group, 2024).

Within the primary social locality, rates of volunteering are higher, as are the percentage of people who report not having a long-term health condition. Likewise, the percentage of people with a core need for assistance are lower (see Table 6).

TABLE 6 HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING INDICATORS

	Helensburgh SAL	Wollongong LGA	NSW
Volunteering*	16%	11%	11%
Need for assistance	5%	7%	6%
No long term health condition**	68%	62%	65%

Source: ABS 2021 Census General Community Profiles (ABS, 2022b).

** Percentage of persons fifteen years and over.*

*** The Census question measures the number of people who reported that they have been told by a doctor or nurse that they have one or more of the following selected long-term health conditions: arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia (including Alzheimer's), diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina), kidney disease, lung condition (including COPD or emphysema), mental health condition (including depression or anxiety) and stroke. This count excludes 'Any other long-term health condition(s)'.*

6.6 Social infrastructure and services

Wollongong city is the main centre in the Wollongong LGA, with a multiplicity of social infrastructure and services, including a tertiary hospital, a university, a TAFE, and multiple other social and recreational facilities. The primary social locality of Helensburgh hosts, among other facilities and services, a public and a catholic primary school, parks, sports fields, a public pool, a mountain bike park and a library. The town is also home to a number of churches and a Hindu temple. The Symbio Wildlife Park is located on the outskirts of Helensburgh.

6.7 Summary of the preliminary social baseline

The initial understanding of the social localities arising from this brief analysis can be summarised as:

- The Wollongong LGA is located in a region with strong historical and current connections to the mining and steelmaking industry, where mining is seen as an important part of the economy for the near future, and where diversification into highly skilled sectors such as information and communications technology, advanced manufacturing and mining services is prioritised. Helensburgh is intimately connected to that history, with coal mining commencing at what is now the Metropolitan Coal Mine in the 1880s.
- The population of Helensburgh is generally culturally homogeneous and relatively affluent, with low degrees of disadvantage. Housing costs are generally high. The population is growing at a slower rate than across the LGA and NSW.
- There are higher degrees of volunteerism among the Helensburgh community, lower degrees of people with a core need for assistance, and relatively high proportions of people who report not having a long-term health condition, suggesting that community health and wellbeing is relatively high.

7. PRELIMINARY SOCIAL IMPACT IDENTIFICATION

7.1 Overview

To identify potential social impacts associated with the Project, a preliminary impact identification process was undertaken. Aligned with the process articulated in the Technical Supplement (DPHI, 2025), the following process was followed:

1) All aspects of the Project were listed and analysed as to whether these may give rise to a change with regard to the social impact categories described in Figure 5.
2) For all identified impacts, the potentially affected stakeholder groups – i.e. those people who may experience the change – were then described.
3) A preliminary significance analysis was then carried out considering the likely duration, severity and scale, sensitivity of people affected and their level of concern or interest. This analysis formed the basis for the proposed level of assessment to be carried out in the SIA to support the EIS.

APPENDIX B details all aspects, likely experienced change and potential impacts of the Project proceeding. Potential impacts have been assigned the category that is considered to fit best, in accordance with the SIA Guideline (DPHI, 2026a, p. 13), which notes that "neatly" categorising impacts is less important than identifying them.

7.2 Preliminary impacts and proposed level of assessment

Table 7 below summarises the identified impacts of the Project proceeding, and discusses the proposed level of assessment to be deployed in the SIA to support the EIS, based on the definition of each level of assessment in the Technical Supplement (DPHI, 2025):

- **Detailed –** The project may result in a significant negative social impact, including cumulative impacts.
- **Standard –** The project may result in a moderate social impact, including cumulative impacts.
- **Minor –** The project may result in a minor social impact.
- **Not relevant –** The project will have no social impact, or the social impact of the project will be so small that it does not warrant consideration.

Should the Project not proceed, these impacts would not occur. By contrast, as the Project represents a continuation of an operating mine, impacts of the Project not proceeding would include earlier cessation or reduction of current impacts and benefits.

TABLE 7 POTENTIAL SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT PROCEEDING

Category	Potential Impact	Potentially affected stakeholder groups	Proposed level of assessment	Rationale
 **LIVELIHOODS**	Continuation of operational employment with associated social and economic benefits for an additional 12 years.	Current and future employees and their families.	Standard assessment	Large number of stakeholders affected (approximately 400 employees and their families), with high intensity and for over a decade. Likely to constitute high community priority.
	Continued opportunities for businesses to supply goods or services to the Project, thus contributing to a diversified and resilient business community.	Local and regional businesses and suppliers to the Mine.	Standard assessment	Large number of stakeholders affected, with high intensity and for over a decade. Likely to constitute high community priority.
	Short-term employment and contracting opportunities during construction.	Construction contractors and employees.	Minor assessment	Small number of stakeholders affected. Short-term benefit.
 **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**	No impacts have been identified in the health and wellbeing category, although impacts discussed in the community, way of life, surroundings and culture categories may contain health and wellbeing aspects.	N/A	N/A	N/A
 **COMMUNITY**	Continued contribution to the vitality of community groups.	Community organisations in Helensburgh and the broader region	Minor assessment	Medium number of organisations likely to be affected.

Category	Potential Impact	Potentially affected stakeholder groups	Proposed level of assessment	Rationale
 **SURROUNDINGS**	Community members may be concerned about the potential for additional subsidence, and related water and biodiversity impacts, as well as operational water usage. This impact may be reduced by the Project's longwall design.	Local and regional residents	Detailed assessment	The proximity of the underground mining area to the Dharawal National Park and the Woronora Special Area may result in concern among community members. There is a concern in the broader community around potential impacts to the Sydney drinking water catchment from underground mining in the region – albeit not always directly related to the Mine.
	Continuation of operational noise, dust and traffic, affecting residents near the Pit Top, train loadout facility and rail line, as well as those near the contingency route for coal rejects transportation.	Residents near the Pit Top, particularly along Parkes Road, Oxley Place and Old Farm Road	Detailed assessment	Main source of community complaints, albeit from a small number of stakeholders. However, no traffic related community complaints have been received by the Mine since 2018, suggesting traffic is not a major concern.
	Community members may be concerned about potential biodiversity impact to the Royal National Park from water management practices at the Pit Top.	Local and regional residents	Standard assessment	The Pit Top is located close to the Royal National Park, and the water management practices at site may affect the biodiversity of this area. This was raised in a number of submissions to the proposed Modification 4.
	Potential amenity impacts (noise, dust, traffic) from workforce and construction activities during construction of the VAM abatement plant.	Local residents	Minor assessment	Construction of the VAM abatement plant is short term, and a relatively small number of stakeholders would be affected.

Category	Potential Impact	Potentially affected stakeholder groups	Proposed level of assessment	Rationale
	Potential amenity impacts (noise and visual) from operation of the VAM abatement plant.	Local residents	Standard assessment	Potential amenity impacts from the VAM is being investigated and will be assessed in detail for the EIS by noise and air quality specialists. Impacts may include operational noise and vapour. However, the VAM would be adjacent to the existing Ventilation Shaft 3.
 **ACCESSIBILITY**	No impacts to accessibility have been identified, although the traffic-related impact in the surroundings category may have an accessibility aspect.	N/A	N/A	N/A
 **CULTURE**	Potential disturbance to cultural heritage sites due to subsidence	Aboriginal people and groups. RAPs for the Project.	Standard assessment	Small number of stakeholders affected. Impact likely to be of high value. Potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites would also be considered in an ACHA for the Project. The SIA would consider potential cultural and spiritual values associated with the Project area.
 **WAY OF LIFE**	Continued contribution to the coal and steelmaking economic ecosystem in Wollongong for an additional 12 years.	Regional residents and businesses connected to the steelmaking ecosystem.	Detailed assessment	Large number of stakeholders affected. Likely a key regional priority. The Project's contribution is cumulative in nature.

Category	Potential Impact	Potentially affected stakeholder groups	Proposed level of assessment	Rationale
 **DECISION MAKING SYSTEMS**	No impacts to decision making systems have been identified.	N/A	N/A	N/A

These impacts will be further investigated in the subsequent SIA phases, including an analysis of the significance and the development of mitigation measures. A cumulative impact assessment will also be included in the SIA to support the EIS.

7.3 Project Refinements

No refinements to the Project have been identified as a result of the SIA Scoping phase. As the Project is a continuation of an existing operation, learnings from these have been incorporated into the Project design. Key improvements which have been incorporated in the Project at the time of submission of the Scoping Report include:

- Conservative longwall geometry design comprising narrow panel voids of 163 m width and wider chain pillars of 55 m width to reduce subsidence effects resulting in no surface to seam cracking.
- Incorporation of a double pillar between Longwalls 318 and 319 to reduce subsidence effects to Honeysuckle Creek and Swamp 106.
- Implementation of a stand-off to swamps to the south of the 400-series longwalls, noting Metropolitan Coal has incorporated several stand-offs of swamps throughout longwall mining.
- Continued implementation of comprehensive monitoring programs and Trigger Action Response Plan system to reduce risks to environmental features.
- Incorporation of a VAM abatement plant to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Metropolitan Coal Mine, aligning with NSW government initiatives on emissions reductions targets.

Further refinement of the Project design will be conducted during the EIS stage.

8. METHODOLOGY FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SIA

8.1 Overview

The second phase of the SIA process will include confirming the preliminary impact identification undertaken in this SIA scoping exercise, conducting a detailed assessment of impact significance, and proposing responses to significant impacts.

8.2 SIA consultation and primary research

Consultation and primary data collection with community stakeholders is a key step in the second phase of the SIA. The objectives for the SIA consultation have been developed to align with the community engagement objectives in the SIA Guideline (DPHI, 2026b) including:

- Collecting and confirming primary data about the potentially affected community.
- Seeking stakeholder input into social impact identification and significance assessment, particularly seeking to understand how impacts may be experienced from the stakeholder perspective.
- Ensuring stakeholders have an opportunity to provide feedback into project planning and design.
- Collaborating on impact evaluation and prioritisation of mitigation measures.

Two consultation and primary data collection methods will be implemented for the SIA. The primary social research method for the SIA will be dedicated stakeholder interviews and meetings, supplemented with collaborative focus group meetings with the CCC.

8.2.1 Stakeholder interviews

Commensurate with a qualitative research strategy, a purposive sampling strategy has been developed for the stakeholder interviews and meetings. Stakeholders will be selected with the aim of achieving the following criteria:

1) Participation from all stakeholder categories in Table 2.
2) Prioritising directly affected stakeholders, particularly those related to impacts with a proposed detailed or standard assessment.
3) Balancing voices representing social, cultural, environmental and economic perspectives.
4) Involvement of potentially vulnerable stakeholders, or where their direct involvement is not possible, organisations that represent their interest.
5) Balanced representation of males and females.

BOX 1 INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

Stakeholder Interview Structure
1) Understanding the stakeholder and their role in the community. 2) Input to social baseline; what is valued within the community, its features, people and their fears / aspirations. 3) Current experience of impacts, including potential cumulative impacts (where relevant). 4) Their views and prioritisation of potential social impacts of Project proceeding versus not proceeding. 5) Thoughts about mitigation measures.

The interviews and stakeholder meetings will be semi-structured in nature and focus primarily on providing community input to the social baseline, social impact identification and prioritisation, and in the case of directly affected stakeholders, determine their experiences of current and likely future impacts. A flexible interview protocol has been developed (see Box 1 for an outline). Approximately 20 to 30 stakeholders will be approached for participation in interviews.

8.2.2 Focus group

The existing Metropolitan Mine CCC will be mobilised to function as a focus group for the SIA, seeking input to the impact significance evaluation and prioritisation of impact responses.

BOX 2 FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Structure
• Seek community input to social impact evaluation. • CCC input to prioritisation of mitigation measures.

8.2.3 Validity, privacy and consent

For both the interviews and focus group activities, stakeholders will be informed about the context and purpose of the consultation, and notes from the consultation will be shared to seek their feedback. The aim of this is to ensure the findings adequately represent the participants' information, as well as to achieve communicative validity.

Further, a core consideration for the consultation process is for it to be carried out in an ethical fashion, particularly seeking to ensure that participants understand how their information will be stored, analysed and presented, and giving them the opportunity to determine how their information will be attributed. An information sheet and consent form has been prepared and will be provided to participants prior to or at the meetings.

8.3 EIS consultation and information disclosure

The SIA consultation will be complemented by an overall EIS consultation and information disclosure process with the aim of informing stakeholders about the Project and providing them with an opportunity to provide input to EIS studies. All input provided into the EIS engagement methods will be reviewed for references to social impacts.

Key EIS consultation and information disclosure methods (in addition to the SIA consultation) include:

- A dedicated website detailing the Metropolitan Coal Mine and proposed Project (*www.metropolitanmine.com.au*), available to the public.
- CCC meetings triannually to facilitate Metropolitan Coal consultation and engagement with community members.

8.4 Additional desktop research and analysis

Although primary research and consultation will provide the main data input for the remainder of the SIA, further secondary (desktop) research will also be conducted. This will include expanding the social baseline with additional social, economic and demographic data and conducting further documentary analysis.

Furthermore, the SIA will involve review and integration of findings from other relevant EIS studies, including the ACHA, Historical Heritage Assessment, Subsidence Assessment, Road Transport Assessment, Economic Assessment, Noise and Blasting Assessment, Air Quality Assessment, Groundwater Assessment, Greenhouse Gas assessment, Biodiversity Development Assessment Report, Aquatic Ecology Assessment, Environmental Risk Assessment and Surface Water Assessment.

A cumulative impact assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the *Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (Department of Planning and Environment, 2022), and drawing on publicly available data about other potential projects as well as feedback from community stakeholders.

9. CONCLUSION

This SIA Scoping Report has identified three social impacts and opportunities where a minor assessment is proposed, four where a standard assessment is proposed, and three where a detailed assessment is likely to be required (see Figure 10). Overall, as the Project represents a continuation of an existing, long-standing operation, most social impacts of the Project proceeding would constitute continuations of existing experiences with minor changes in intensities.

FIGURE 10 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND PROPOSED LEVEL OF ASSESSMENT

Impacts for which a Minor Assessment is proposed	Impacts for which a Standard Assessment is proposed	Impacts for which a Detailed Assessment is proposed
• Short-term employment and contracting opportunities during construction. • Continued contribution to the vitality of community groups. • Potential amenity impacts (noise, dust, traffic) from workforce and construction activities during construction of the VAM abatement plant.	• Continuation of operational employment with associated social and economic benefits for an additional 12 years. • Continued opportunities for businesses to supply goods or services to the Project, thus contributing to a diversified and resilient business community. • Community members may be concerned about potential biodiversity impact to the Royal National Park from water management practices at the Pit Top. • Potential disturbance to cultural heritage sites due to subsidence.	• Community members may be concerned about the potential for additional subsidence, and related water and biodiversity impacts, as well as operational water usage. • Continuation of operational noise, dust and traffic, affecting residents near the Pit Top, train loadout facility and rail line, as well as those near the contingency route for coal rejects transportation. • Continued contribution to the coal and steelmaking economic ecosystem in Wollongong for an additional 12 years.

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APPENDIX A Consultation material

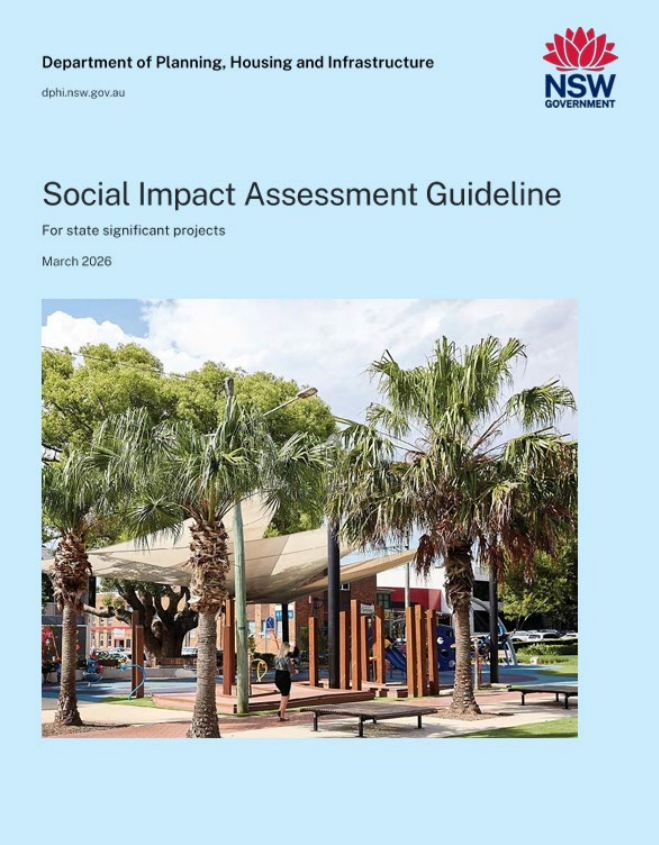
SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

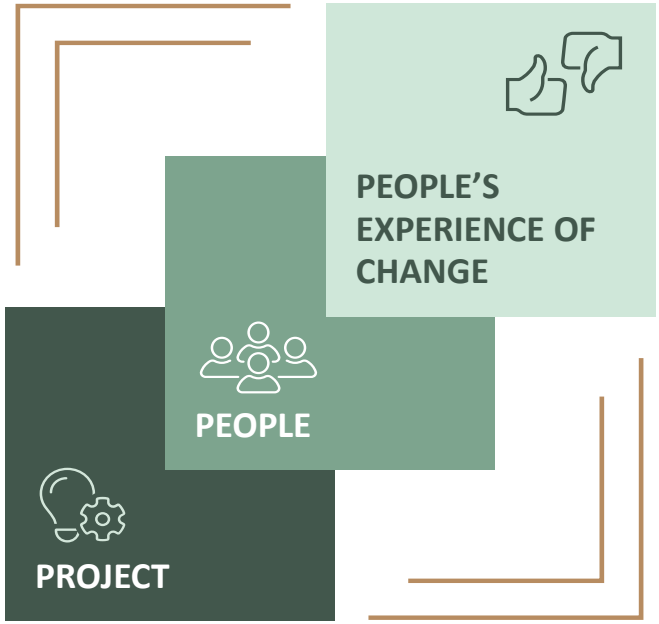
For the Metropolitan Continuation Project

July 2026

SQUARE PEG
SOCIAL PERFORMANCE

SOCIAL IMPACTS ARE THE CONSEQUENCES PEOPLE EXPERIENCE WHEN A NEW PROJECT BRINGS CHANGE





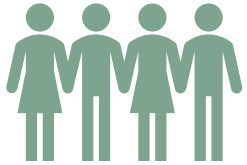
Source: Based on DPHI SIA Guideline

*SIA puts **people** and their experience of **change** at the centre of the assessment*

THE SIA PROCESS IS DESIGNED TO ANSWER THREE KEY QUESTIONS



What are the social impacts associated with a project?



How might those impacts be experienced, and by whom?



What can be done to mitigate negative and enhance positive impacts?

KEY DATA SOURCES FOR THE SIA

Consultation with potentially affected stakeholders.

Analysis of secondary data about the existing community.

Project description and specialist studies.



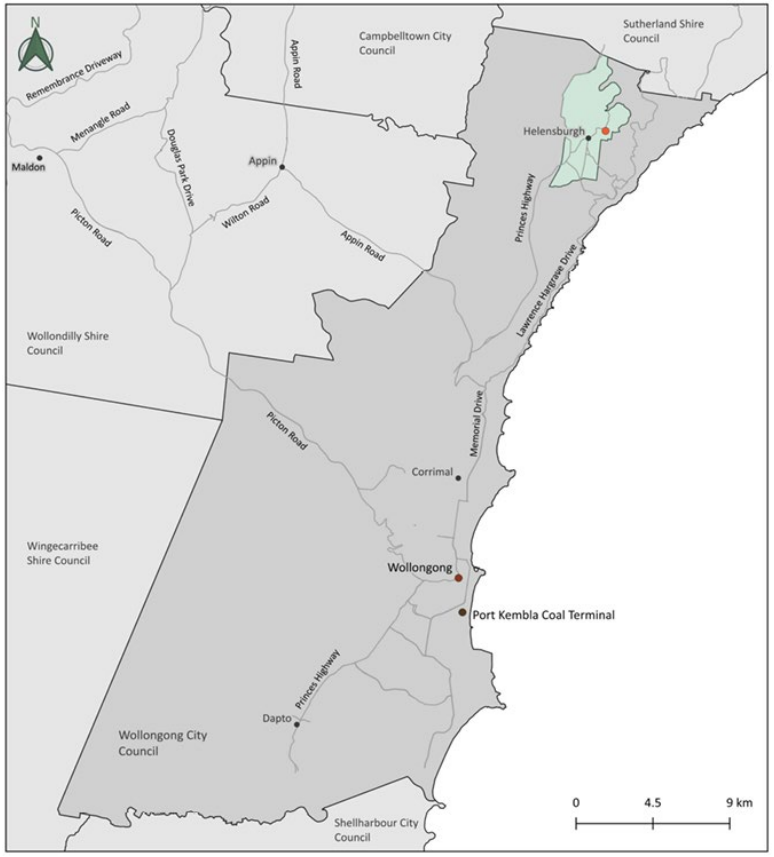
A SOCIAL LOCALITY IS THE AREA WHERE SOCIAL IMPACTS ARE EXPERIENCED

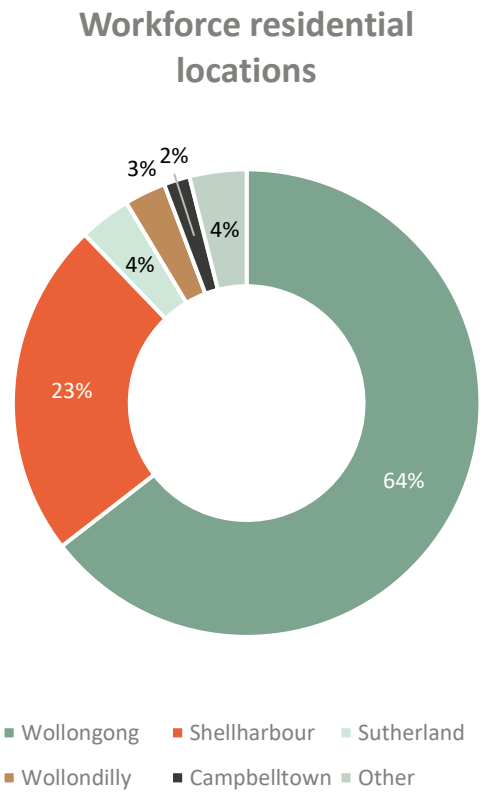
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- Location of pit top and VAM abatement plant
- Direct, amenity and traffic related impacts

Secondary social locality: Wollongong City LGA.

- Most employees reside in the LGA
- Likely to experience socio-economic impacts/benefits





EVALUATING SOCIAL IMPACTS

Each potential social impact will be assessed based on likelihood and magnitude definitions provided in the SIA Guideline.

RISK MATRIX

		Magnitude Level				
		1. Minimal	2. Minor	3. Moderate	4. Major	5. Transformational
Likelihood Level	A. Almost certain	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Very High
	B. Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
	C. Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	D. Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	E. Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

LIKELIHOOD DEFINITIONS

Likelihood Level	Meaning
Almost certain	definite or almost definitely expected (e.g. has happened on similar projects)
Likely	high probability
Possible	medium probability
Unlikely	low probability
Very unlikely	Improbable or remote probability

MAGNITUDE DEFINITIONS

Magnitude Level	Meaning and Examples
Transformational	Substantial change experienced in community wellbeing, livelihood, infrastructure, services, health and / or heritage values; permanent displacement or addition of at least 20% of a community.
Major	Substantial deterioration / improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an indefinite time, or affecting many people in a widespread area.
Moderate	Noticeable deterioration / improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an extensive time or affecting a group of people.
Minor	Mild deterioration / improvement, for a reasonably short time, for a small number of people who are generally adaptable and not vulnerable.
Minimal	No noticeable change experienced by people in the locality.

SIA CONSULTATION

- **SIA Scoping phase:**

  Limited consultation with Council and CCC

- **Main SIA Report:**

  Broad consultation, including nearby residents, community organisations, service providers etc.

QUESTIONS…



What impacts/benefits are most important to consider in the SIA?



Anticipated mitigation measures?



Who do you think are most important to consult for the main SIA phase?

NEXT STEPS

- Submission of Scoping Report targeted for August 2026.
- Main SIA to be prepared during 2026 / 2027.

THANK YOU!







BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

Metropolitan Continuation Project

Briefing for Wollongong City Council | 1 JULY 2026

Peabody

Location

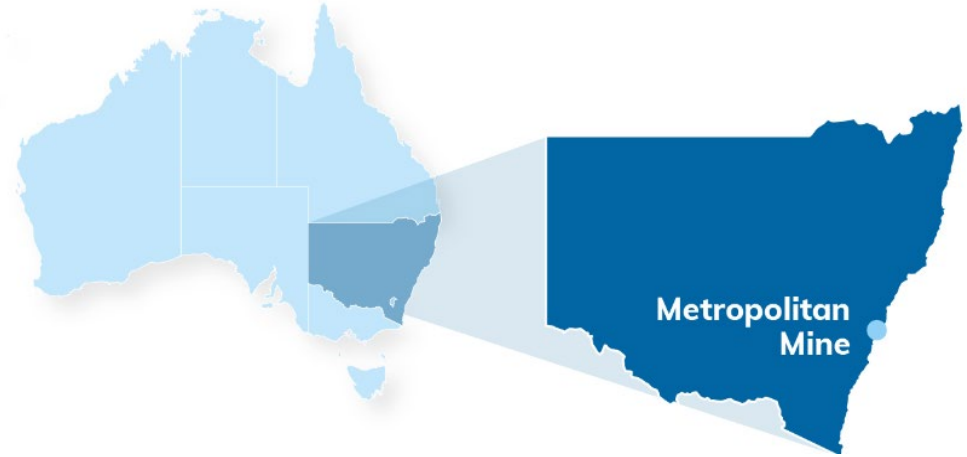


Metropolitan Coal - Helensburgh

- 30 km north of Wollongong
- 40 km south of Sydney
- Underground mine
- NSW Southern Coalfield

Peabody Representatives

James Hannigan	General Manager
Jon Degotardi	Approvals Manager
Paul Keene	Director Government Relations
Jonathon Baque	Acting Director Govt Relations



Metropolitan Coal

Peabody

About Us

~ $40 Million

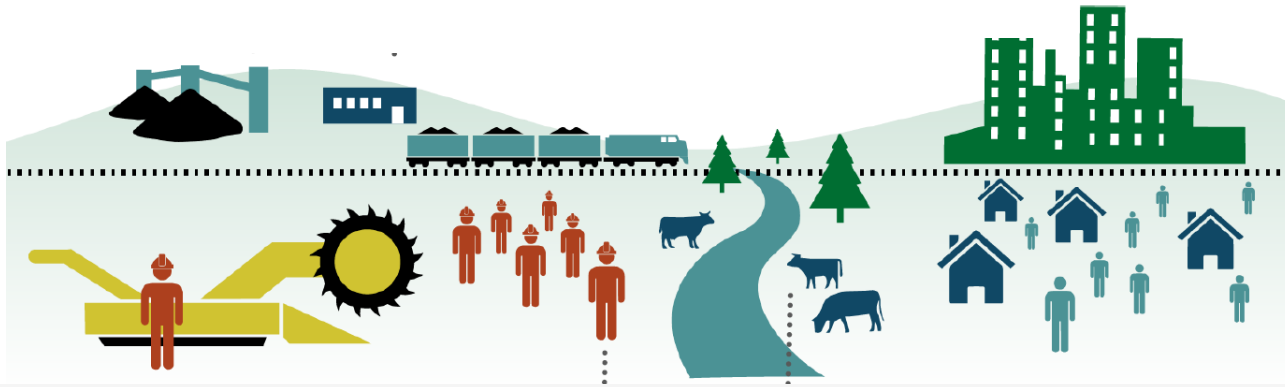
Annual Royalties to NSW

1888

138 years of operations and employment at Helensburgh

Port Kembla Steelworks

We deliver **25%** of the coal required to operate Australia's largest steelworks



Community

~ $1 M

Over the last 10 years, Peabody has contributed more than $1M to over 50 community organizations across the Illawarra region.

~ $1 M

Peabody actively supports environmental programs, including the reintroduction of Platypus and Stuttering Frog into the Royal National Park

Our contributions to the community

400
Jobs

$73 M
In wages to local employees

$324 M
Direct economic contribution to NSW

25%
Of coal to support Port Kembla Steelworks



Metropolitan Continuation Project

Proud History, Strong Future

Peabody

Our Future Plans

Where we stand

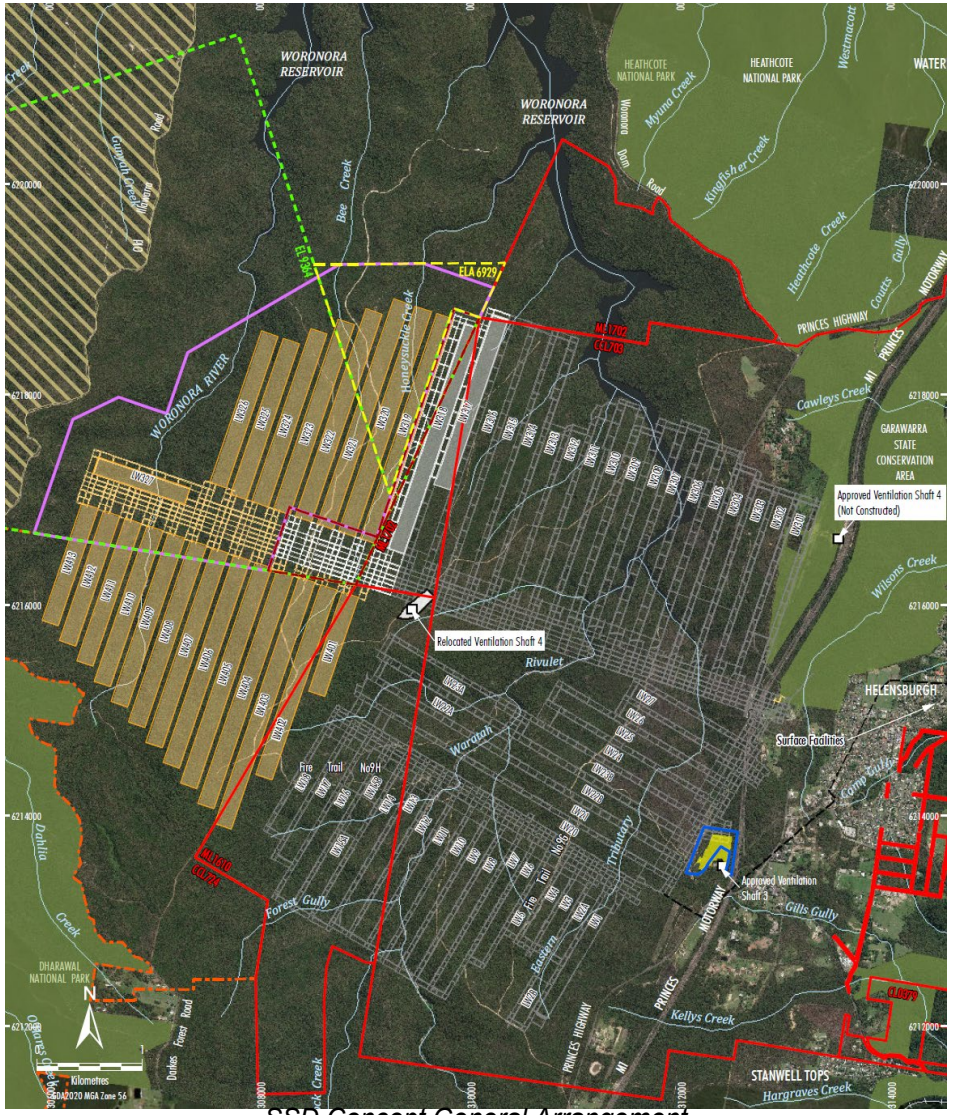
- Metropolitan has been part of the community since in 1888 as a coal and railway town.
- The mine has shaped Helensburgh's history and remains an integral part of the Illawarra region.
- Peabody has owned and operated the mine for 20 years
- Project approved to June 2032, however geological and environmental constraints have reduced the underground lifespan to 2029
- Metropolitan has lodged a Modification Application to operate to 2031
- Metropolitan is preparing a State Significant Development application to continue operations into the 2040's



Continuation Project

Our Future Plans

- Continue operations to the west for a further 12 years, 2032 to 2044
- No change to production intensity and the existing facilities remain suitable for the continued use
- Mining would occur south of Woronora Reservoir
- Continuing to provide jobs and coal royalties for people in New South Wales while safely providing steelmaking coal.
- The SSD scope - next slide



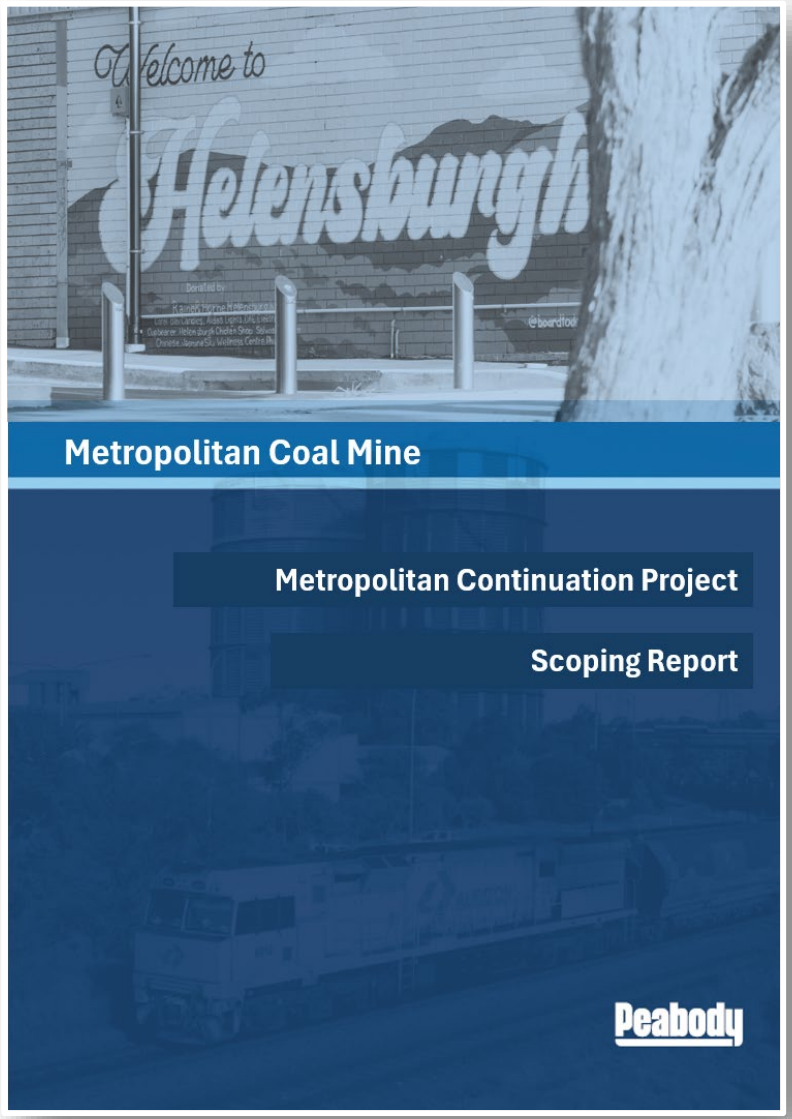
SSD Concept General Arrangement

Metropolitan Continuation Project

Project Scope

To secure the mines future beyond 2031 we are seeking State Significant Development (SSD) for:

- 22 Longwalls
- 31 Million ROM tonnes / 24 Million Product tonnes
- 12-year project continuation (2032 to 2044) with ongoing employment of the 400-person workforce
- Emission reductions with construction of VAM Abatement Plant
- 50-person construction workforce
- Continued use of existing surface facilities
- Rail transport of coal to Port Kembla Steelworks and Coal Terminal



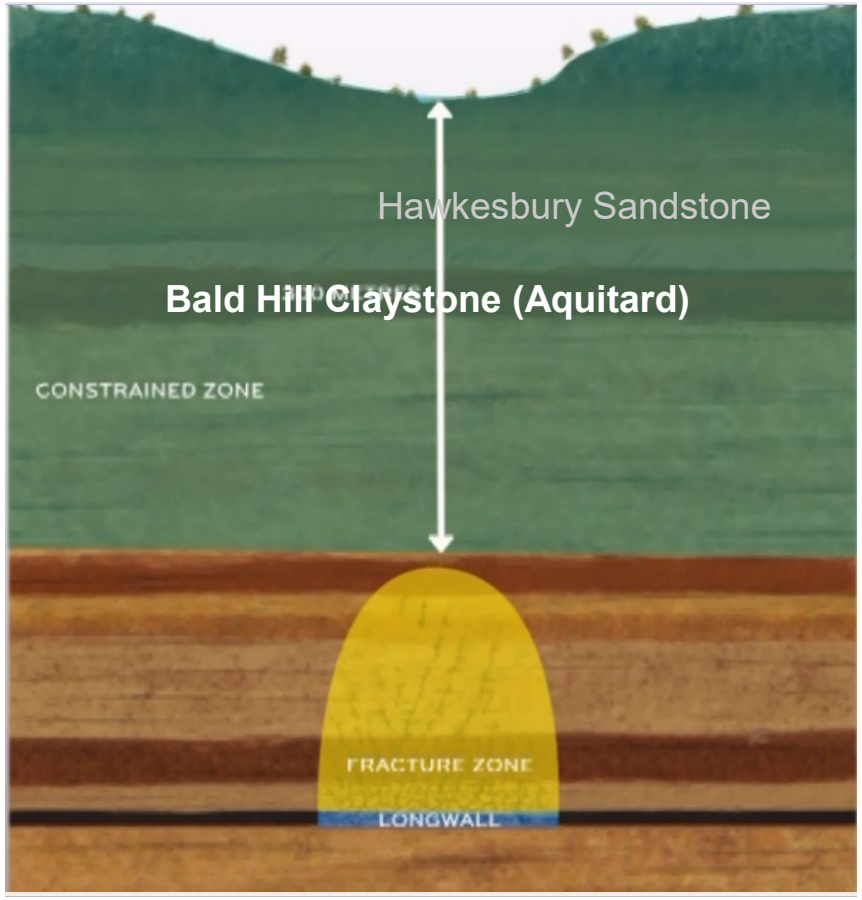
Our Future Plans



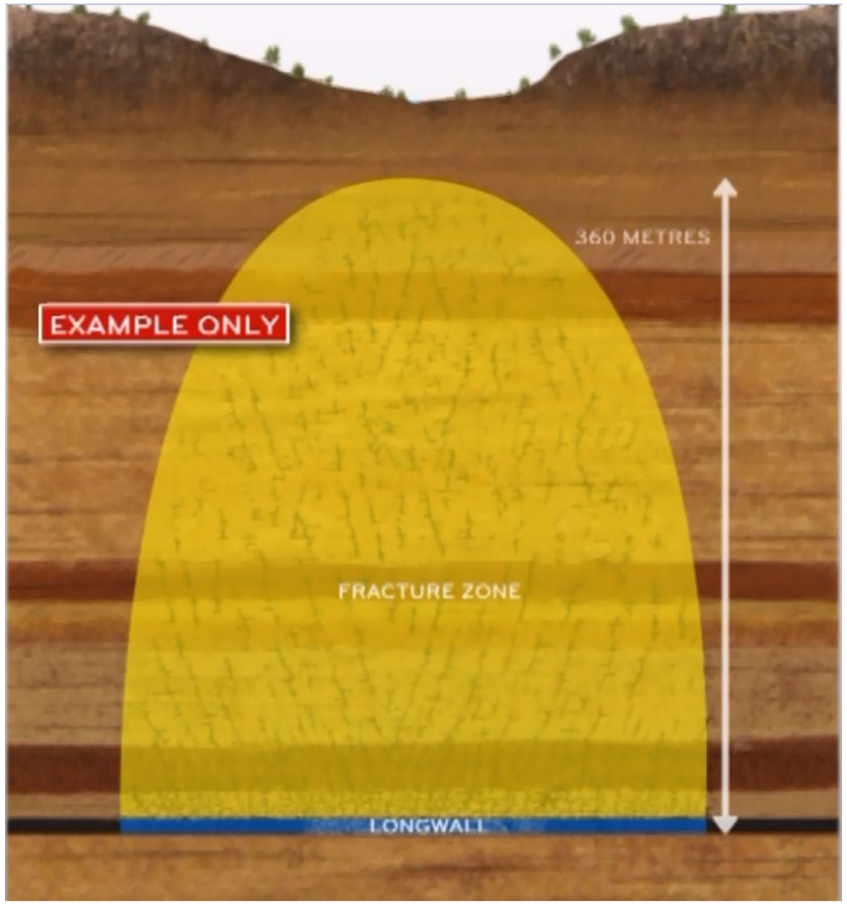
Metropolitan Narrow Longwall Method

Highly conservative underground mining layouts to minimise surface impacts

Deep mining 500 m to 550 m



Narrow Extraction 163 m



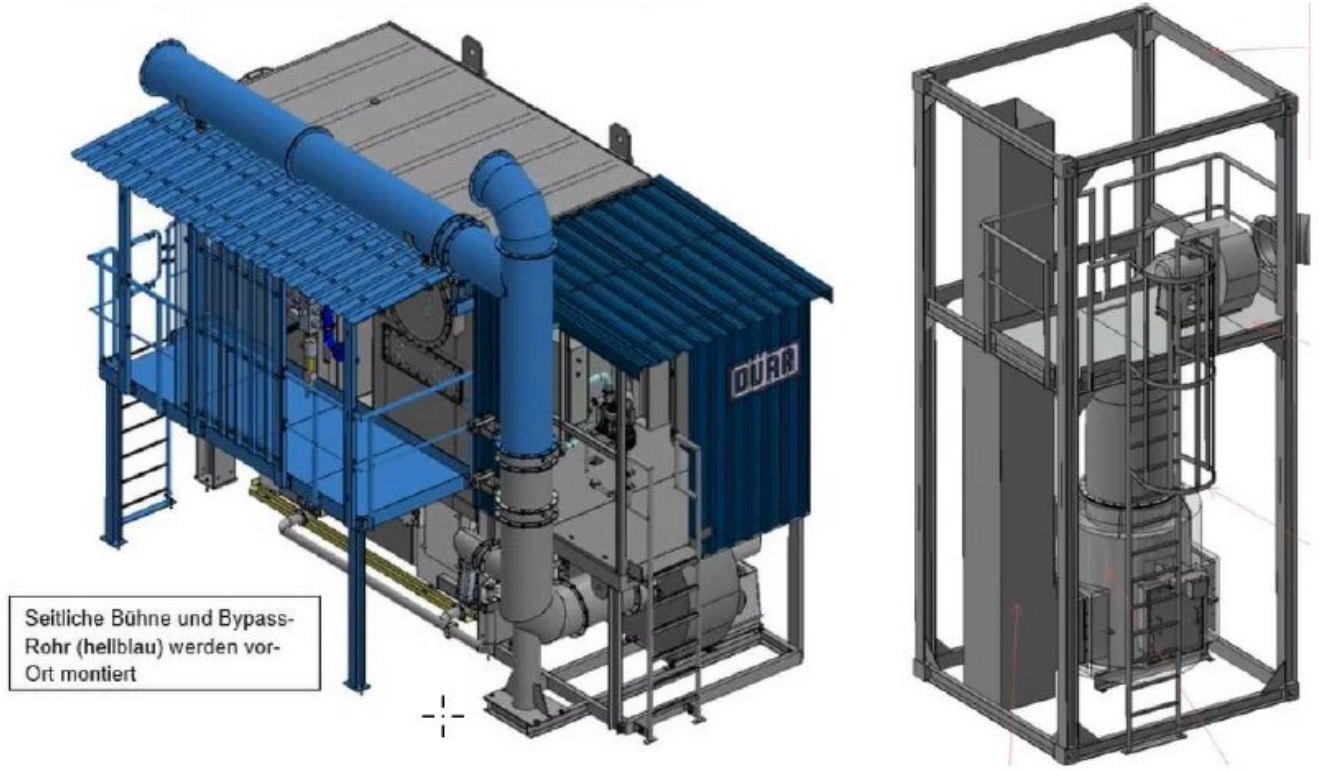
Typical Australian Longwall 1.8 to 2.5 times wider

Managing Emissions

SSD to include Ventilation Air Methane Abatement Plant

Scoping Report

- Commitment to provision for the construction and operation of a Ventilation Air Methane Plant
- In line with the 2030's EPA NSW Greenhouse Gas Mitigation guide to treat at least 75% of the air stream for methane
- Site Catalytic VAM trials to commence 2027 with Mining3 and $10M funding from LETA
- Full scale plant with RTO technology will be included in the SSD application



1m3/s Demonstration unit for Metropolitan Trial in 2027

Timeline

State Significant Development (SSD)

- June / July — Stakeholder briefings
- July — Community Consultative Committee
- August — Scoping Report submission
- September — SEAR's

- 2026 / 2027 — Environmental studies to inform the EIS application
  Ongoing consultation with stakeholders



We are here

Exploration	Mining Studies	Environmental Studies	Application & Assessment	Determination	Mining Lease & Extraction Plan	Mining
• 2024 • Complete	• 2025 • Complete	• 2026 • 2027	• 2028 • 2029 • 2 years	• 2029 • EP&A • EPBC	• 2030	• 2031 • 2044



Social Impact Assessment

Social Impact Assessment

For the Metropolitan Continuation Project

July 2026

SQUARE PEG
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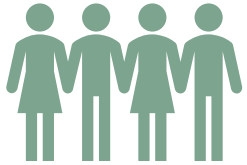
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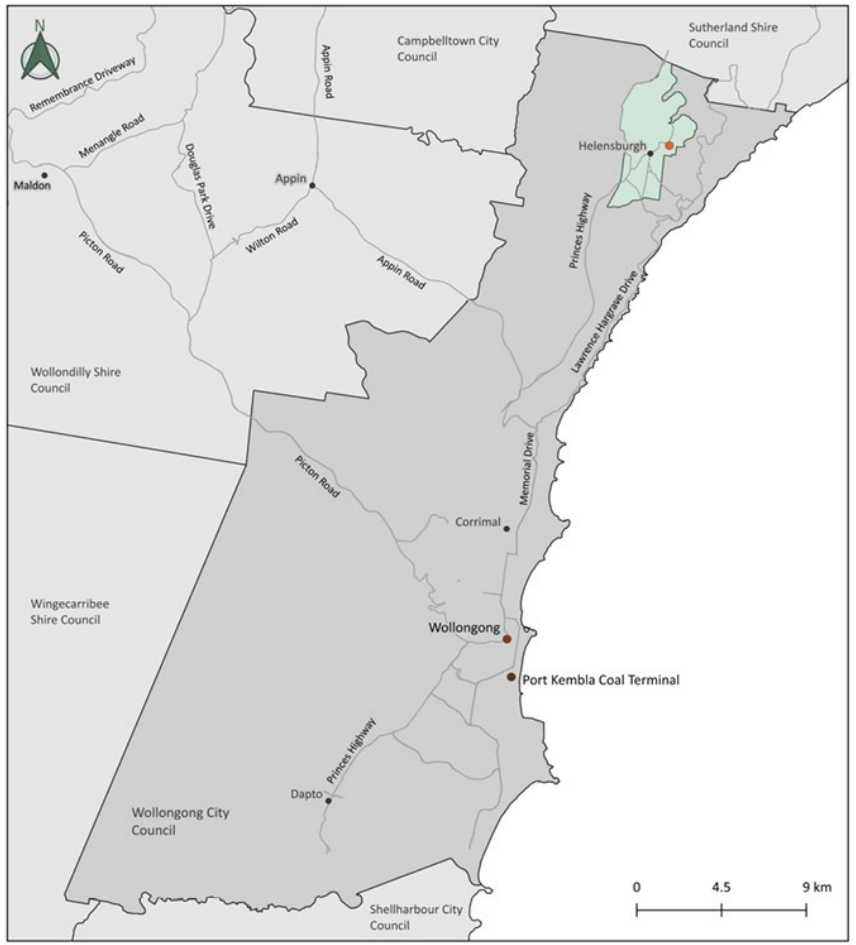
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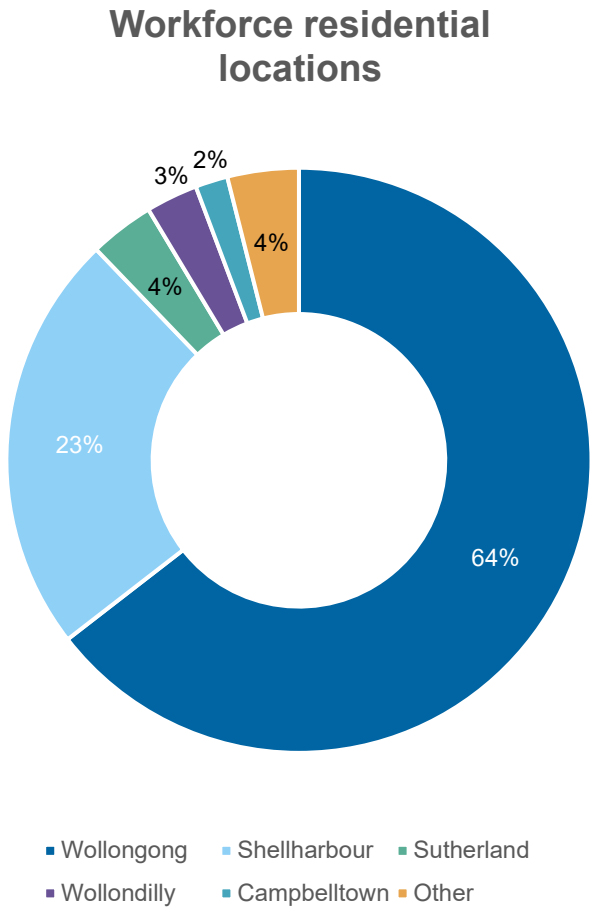
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	C. Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	D. Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	E. Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

LIKELIHOOD DEFINITIONS

Likelihood Level	Meaning
Almost certain	definite or almost definitely expected (e.g. has happened on similar projects)
Likely	high probability
Possible	medium probability
Unlikely	low probability
Very unlikely	Improbable or remote probability

MAGNITUDE DEFINITIONS

Magnitude Level	Meaning and Examples
Transformational	Substantial change experienced in community wellbeing, livelihood, infrastructure, services, health and / or heritage values; permanent displacement or addition of at least 20% of a community.
Major	Substantial deterioration / improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an indefinite time, or affecting many people in a widespread area.
Moderate	Noticeable deterioration / improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an extensive time or affecting a group of people.
Minor	Mild deterioration / improvement, for a reasonably short time, for a small number of people who are generally adaptable and not vulnerable.
Minimal	No noticeable change experienced by people in the locality.

SIA CONSULTATION

- **SIA Scoping phase:**
  - Limited consultation with Council and CCC

- **Main SIA Report:**
  - Broad consultation, including nearby residents, community organisations, service providers etc.

QUESTIONS...



What impacts/benefits are most important to consider in the SIA?



Anticipated mitigation measures?



Who do you think are most important to consult for the main SIA phase?

NEXT STEPS

- CCC meeting 28 July 2026.
- Submission of Scoping Report targeted August.
- Main SIA to be prepared during remainder of 2026 / 2027.



Thank You!

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

Peabody

APPENDIX B Preliminary impact analysis

TABLE B-1 IMPACT IDENTIFICATION – WITH THE PROJECT

Project component	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (as modified)	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (including MOD 4) (under assessment)	The Project	Potential impact
Underground Mining Area	As per Appendix 3 of Project Approval (08_0149).	Extension of Longwall 317, addition of Longwall 318 and addition of the extended 300-series Mains to the west. Relinquishment of some approved underground mining areas.	Extension of 300-series and addition of 400-series through an additional 22 longwalls.	**Surroundings:** Community members may be concerned about the potential for additional subsidence, and related water and biodiversity impacts. **Culture:** Potential impact to Aboriginal heritage sites affecting Indigenous peoples in the area.
Hours of Operation	Mining operations can be carried out 24 hours per day, seven days per week.	No change.	No change.	N/A
Operational Mine Life	Underground mining operations may be carried out until 22 June 2032.	No change.	Extension of mine life until 31 December 2044.	**Community / way of life:** Continued contribution to the coal and steelmaking economic ecosystem in Wollongong for an additional 12 years. **Community:** Continued contribution to the vitality of community groups. **Livelihoods:** Continued opportunities for businesses to supply goods or services to the Project, thus contributing to a diversified and resilient business community. Continuation of current most experiences / impacts of the Mine for an additional 12 years.

Project component	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (as modified)	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (including MOD 4) (under assessment)	The Project	Potential impact
Coal Resource	Extraction of approximately 54.4 Mt of ROM coal from the 300-series longwalls.	Extraction of approximately 3.2 Mt of additional ROM coal to produce primarily high quality metallurgical coal associated with the extended Longwall 317, addition of Longwall 318 and the extended 300-series Mains. Due to the relinquishment of longwall areas, approximately 40.4 Mt of ROM coal would be extracted from the 300-series longwalls over the life of the Metropolitan Coal Mine.	Extraction of approximately 31 Mt of ROM coal to produce primarily high quality metallurgical coal from the Project longwalls.	**Surroundings:** Continuation of operational noise, dust and traffic, affecting residents near the Pit Top.
ROM Coal Extraction Limits	Up to 3.2 Mt from the underground mining area in any calendar year.	No change.	Up to 2.7 Mt of ROM coal from the underground mining area in any calendar year.	N/A
Product Coal Transport Limits	Up to 2.8 Mt may be transported from the Metropolitan Coal Mine in any calendar year.	No change.	Up to 2.3 Mt of product coal may be transported from the Metropolitan Coal Mine in any calendar year.	**Surroundings:** Continuation of potential amenity impacts from the Train Loadout Facility and train movements.
Coal Rejects Management	Transport of coal rejects off-site by train or road to 31 December 2026 as a contingency measure*.	Transportation of coal rejects off-site to international customers via rail to Port Kembla Coal Terminal. Temporary transportation of coal rejects off-site by	No change to coal reject management compared to MOD 4. Transportation of coal rejects off-site to occur until 31 December 2044.	**Surroundings / Accessibility:** Potential for temporary traffic impacts associated with contingency transportation of rejects.

Project component	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (as modified)	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (including MOD 4) (under assessment)	The Project	Potential impact
		road to domestic customers as a contingency measure.		
	No emplacement of coal rejects on the surface of the Metropolitan Coal Mine.	No change.	No change.	N/A
Longwall Layout and Panel Design	As per Appendix 3 of Project Approval (08_0149) and correspondence from the Secretary of DPHI approving the re-orientation of the longwall panels. Longwall void width of between 138 m and 163 m for the 300-series. Pillar widths between 45 m and 70 m for the 300-series.	Extension of Longwall 317 and addition of Longwall 318. Shortened Longwall 317 finishing position. Longwall void width of 163 m for Longwalls 317 and 318. Increased pillar widths of 55 m for Longwalls 317 and 318 to reduce subsidence effects.	The Project would continue to employ wider pillar widths of 55 m and narrower longwall voids of 163 m wide for the additional longwalls to reduce subsidence effects.	**Surroundings:** Potential for reduced concern around water and biodiversity impacts associated with subsidence.
Underground Mine Target Seam	Extraction from the Bulli Seam.	No change.	No change.	N/A
Surface Facilities	Comprises a CHPP, administration buildings, workshop, bath house and ablution facilities, haul roads, access road, fuel and consumables storage facilities,	No change.	No change.	**Surroundings:** Community members may be concerned about potential biodiversity impact to the Royal National Park from water management practices at the Pit Top (noting that the

Project component	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (as modified)	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (including MOD 4) (under assessment)	The Project	Potential impact
	hardstand areas, water management infrastructure, stockpiles (including ROM coal, product coal and coal reject stockpiles) and associated coal handling infrastructure (e.g. conveyors, transfer points and buffer bins).			Project proposes no change to the Pit Top facilities).
Water Management	A network of water storages is utilised to manage surface water that accumulates on-site. Make-up water demand is met by sourcing stored water in historical workings, surface water runoff recovered from the Surface Facilities Area and purchase from Sydney Water as required. Water treatment, reuse and off-site release in accordance with the EPL No. 767.	No change.	No change to key water sources or management practices. Continued use and (where required) upgrade and augmentation of existing water management infrastructure, including upgrade of underground management systems.	**Surroundings:** Potential for continued concern around water take.
Gas Management	Operation of ventilation shafts to manage gas emissions.	Relocation of the approved (but not yet constructed) Ventilation Shaft 4. Relinquishment of the currently approved	Construction and operation of a VAM abatement plant located adjacent to the approved Ventilation Shaft 3. Continued use of existing ventilation system, gas drainage system and flaring system.	N/A

Project component	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (as modified)	Metropolitan Coal Mine Project Approval (08_0149) (including MOD 4) (under assessment)	The Project	Potential impact
		Ventilation Shaft 4 development footprint.		
Mining Tenements	CL 379, CCL 703, ML 1610, ML 1702, MPL 320, EL 9364.	New ML to be sought over part of Longwall 318 and extension of the 300-series Mains.	New ML to be sought over the extended underground mining area within EL 9364 and ELA 6929. Mining within CCL 724 currently held by Endeavour Pty Ltd. Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd, the tenement holder for CCL 724, has provided consent for Metropolitan Coal to lodge the Project Scoping Report and undertake activities within CCL 724 for the purpose of preparing an EIS. CCL 703 to be varied to regulate ancillary mining activities for the construction and operation of the VAM abatement plant.	N/A
Operational Workforce	Current workforce of approximately 400 personnel at the Metropolitan Coal Mine.	No change to the operational workforce. Continued employment for a further two years.	No change to the operational workforce. Continued employment for a further 12 years.	**Livelihoods:** Continuation of employment with associated social and economic benefits for an additional 12 years.
Construction Activities and Workforce	Approximately 50 people at peak.	No change to peak construction workforce.	A peak construction workforce of up to 50 personnel would be required for the VAM abatement plant.	**Livelihoods:** Short-term employment and contracting opportunities during construction. **Surroundings**: Potential amenity impacts (noise, dust, traffic) from workforce and construction activities during construction of the VAM abatement plant.

DOCUMENT PROPERTIES

Version	Purpose	Issued	Contributors	Approver
1.0	Final for publication	13/08/2026	Daniel Holm	Daniel Holm

DECLARATION

The lead author of this SIA Scoping Report is Lars Daniel Holm (Daniel). Daniel is the director and principal consultant of Square Peg Social Performance Pty Ltd. He holds a master's degree in political science from Uppsala University in Sweden and has approximately 20 years of professional experience in the field of social impact assessment, social performance, social policy and communications, and is a member of the International Association of Impact Assessment. Daniel has contributed to or led more than fifteen SIAs or other projects studying community and stakeholder experiences of projects or policy interventions. He is currently undertaking PhD studies at the University of Queensland.

In submitting this SIA Report, the following declarations are made:

- This SIA Scoping Report has been prepared to inform the consent authority for the Project. Specifically:
  - This SIA Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects (DPHI, 2026a).
  - To the knowledge of the lead author, all consultation informing this SIA Scoping Report has been undertaken in accordance with the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure [DPHI], 2026b).
  - The methodology for this SIA Scoping Report has furthermore been informed by the IAIA SIA Guidance (Vanclay et al., 2015).
  - The lead author is aware of and has endeavoured to abide by the ethical principles and considerations outlined in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (National Health and Medical Research Council, 2023) and the Principles for ethical research involving humans: ethical professional practice in impact assessment Part I (Vanclay et al., 2013).
- Limitations and assumptions pertaining to the preparation of this SIA Scoping Report are set out in section 3.4.
- The qualifications, experience and professional memberships of the lead author are set out in the paragraph above.

Signed and dated:



13/08/2026

Lars Daniel Holm



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