



MOOLARBEN COAL COMPLEX OC3 EXTENSION PROJECT

AMENDMENT REPORT

APPENDIX B

UPDATED SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES



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1 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

This Attachment provides a consolidated summary of Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Ltd (MCO) commitments in relation to mitigation and monitoring activities for the Moolarben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project (the Project), **incorporating additional measures as described in the Moolarben OC3 Amendment Report (refer to red text). Commitments no longer required as a result of the proposed amendments are indicated by a strike-through.**

References to Sections 1 to 8 in this Attachment are references to Sections in the main text of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) **unless stated otherwise**. References to Appendices A to S in this Attachment are references to Appendices of the EIS **unless stated otherwise**. References to Attachment 8 refer to Attachment 8 of the EIS.

1.1 KEY ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES

The Project incorporates various design features to mitigate potential environmental impacts, where reasonable and feasible (Sections 3 and 6 of the EIS **and the Amendment Report**), including the following:

- The Project would use existing and approved infrastructure and equipment at the Moolarben Coal Complex, eliminating the requirement to construct significant new infrastructure such as a coal handling and processing plant (CHPP) and train load out facilities.
- The Project would be integrated into the existing Moolarben Coal Complex operations, resulting in no change to the overall mine life or peak production rate and, therefore, no extension in duration of potential amenity impacts beyond those previously approved.
- The Project is located largely within land that has been previously cleared for low intensity agriculture.
- **There would be no mining-related disturbance within 100 metres (m) of the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve.**
- Direct disturbance **within 100 m** of mapped rocky habitat associated with threatened bat species (**specifically Large-eared Pied Bat and Eastern Cave Bat**) and the Broad-headed Snake would be avoided.
- Open cut mining would be setback 200 m from the high bank of Moolarben Creek consistent with the *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy* (NSW Government, 2012) (AIP), with the same setback conservatively applied to Murdering Creek.
- The Project has been designed so that no additional residences require acquisition or mitigation when compared to the existing Moolarben Coal Complex.
- The Project is located within the Moolarben Valley, and as such the surrounding elevated topography provides a natural barrier which limits amenity impacts at nearby private residences.
- Open cut voids within the Project area would be progressively backfilled to develop a free draining final landform rather than leaving a water filled void.
- Waste rock from the Project would also be used to backfill the approved OC3 final void associated with the Stage 1 Project Approval.
- Some areas of steeper slopes within the Project area would not be mined, enabling safe, stable final landforms to be developed.

In addition, key environmental mitigation measures and commitments to be implemented for the Project include:

- continued implementation of a comprehensive suite of reasonable and feasible mitigation measures on-site to minimise noise and dust generation during construction and operation;
- continued management of blasts to minimise impacts on sensitive receivers **and implementation of a blast vibration limit of 50 millimetres per second (mm/s) peak particle velocity (PPV) at sensitive geological features (including mapped rocky habitat) near the Project, unless further geotechnical investigation supports a higher value;**
- holding appropriate water access licences under the *Water Management Act 2000* for water taken for the Project;
- establishment of a Habitat Enhancement Area outside the proposed disturbance footprint (including the riparian zone along Moolarben and Murdering Creeks) with implementation of targeted management measures including revegetation; and
- biodiversity offsets for any residual impacts on threatened species and communities.

The key environmental mitigation measures and commitments are summarised in the sections below, with reference to the relevant sections of the EIS **and Amendment Report** where further detail is available.

1.1.1 Groundwater

Groundwater Licensing

Project groundwater licensing requirements are detailed in **Section 6.4 of the Amendment Report**.

Water Management Plan

The existing Water Management Plan, including the Groundwater Management Plan, would be revised to reflect the Project, or a new Water Management Plan would be prepared for the Project (subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project).

Numerical Model and Water Balance Review

The numerical model developed and used for the Groundwater Assessment (Appendix A of the EIS) **and updated in the Amendment Report**, would be used as a management tool for the periodic review and calibration of predicted groundwater impacts through the life of the Project.

The results of the groundwater monitoring program would inform progressive refinement of the numerical model. Revised outputs from the numerical model would be reported in the Annual Review, as relevant over the life of the Project and used to inform regular site water balance reviews (Section 6.4.5 of the EIS).

1.1.2 Surface Water

Surface Water Licensing

MCO would comply with water licensing requirements under the *Water Management Act 2000* over the life of the Project.

Water Management Plan

The existing Water Management Plan, including a Surface Water Management Plan would be reviewed and revised to incorporate the Project, or a new Water Management Plan would be prepared for the Project, subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project.

The Water Management Plan would describe the operational Project water management system and would include provisions for review of the site water balance, erosion and sediment controls, surface water (and groundwater) monitoring and management.

The Water Management Plan would describe the water management protocols and response procedures for the water management system that would be adhered to throughout the operation of the Project.

Erosion and Sediment Control

The erosion and sediment control measures described in the approved Water Management Plan would be reviewed and updated for the Project (i.e. to address additional surface disturbance areas and relevant construction activities) or a new Water Management Plan would be prepared for the Project, subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project.

Activities that could cause soil erosion and generate sediment would be identified and specific controls (including locations, function and structure capacities) would be described to minimise the potential for soil erosion and transport of sediment off-site.

1.1.3 Terrestrial Ecology

Measures to mitigate impacts from the Project are outlined in Section 6.5.4 of the EIS **and Section 6.2 of the Amendment Report**, including habitat enhancement, rehabilitation and blast mitigation measures.

MCO would review and where relevant, revise the approved Biodiversity Management Plan at the Moolarben Coal Complex to include the Project, or a new Biodiversity Management Plan would be prepared for the Project (subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project), as described in Section 6.5.4 of the EIS **and Section 6.2 of the Amendment Report**, including:

- implementation of a vegetation clearance protocol including delineation of areas to be cleared, pre-clearing surveys, management of impacts to fauna, vegetation clearance procedures, collection and reuse of habitat features (where feasible);
- collection and use of locally sourced native seeds and supplementary tubestock planting;

- preparation of Ground Disturbance Permits to be approved by the Environment and Community Manager (or delegate) prior to the commencement of clearing activities;
- collection and stockpiling of habitat features important to threatened fauna species for reinstatement in rehabilitation areas or adjoining areas of remnant vegetation (e.g. enhancement of riparian vegetation) where practical and feasible;
- progressive rehabilitation of the Project landforms;
- implementation of management measures for weeds and pests; and
- progressive stockpiling of rehabilitation resource (topsoil, rock, timber) removed for later use in rehabilitation areas.

The Project disturbance areas would be progressively rehabilitated throughout the life of the Project as described in Attachment 8 of the EIS.

To further mitigate potential impacts to threatened species habitat, the amended Project would extend the Habitat Enhancement Area to increase revegetation (Section 6.2 of the Amendment Report).

Biodiversity Offset Strategy

A Biodiversity Offset Strategy has been developed to address the potential residual impacts on biodiversity values associated with the Project in accordance with the offset rules under the New South Wales (NSW) Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (as required by the SEARs for the Project).

NSW Offset

MCO would address the ecosystem and species credit requirement associated with each disturbance stage prior to commencement of relevant disturbance (**Figure 3-3 of the Amendment Report**).

As such, the NSW offset requirements for the Project would be addressed via one, or a combination, of the following:

- The retirement of biodiversity credits (either like-for-like or in accordance with the variation rules).
- The funding of a biodiversity conservation action.

- Undertaking ecological mine rehabilitation that creates the same ecological community or threatened species habitat.
- Payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

Commonwealth Offset

MCO would address the Commonwealth offset requirement consistent with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme under the Bilateral Agreement, which includes the *NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method* (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2020), the offset rules, the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017*, and payments to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

MCO would provide offsets for the following *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) listed threatened or vulnerable ecological communities and species in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme:

- Box-Gum Woodland Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC);
- ~~Commersonia procumbens;~~
- *Pomaderris cotoneaster*;
- Pink-tailed Legless Lizard;
- ~~Broad-headed Snake;~~
- Regent Honeyeater;
- Koala; and
- Large-eared Pied Bat.

1.1.4 Aquatic Ecology

The Project has been designed to avoid and minimise impacts on aquatic ecology by:

- avoiding open cut mining within 200 m of Moolarben Creek and Murdering Creek;
- minimising disturbance of riparian vegetation associated with Moolarben and Murdering Creeks (i.e. three haul road creek crossings only);
- condensing the indicative surface disturbance extent as far as practicable by locating infrastructure areas immediately adjacent to open cut mining areas;

- progressively back-filling open cut pits to minimise the required disturbance footprint (out-of-pit overburden emplacements), creating a final landform with no voids; and
- progressively rehabilitating and revegetating the post-mine landform.

Control measures to mitigate impacts on water quality, aquatic and riparian habitats and biota would include:

- limiting the area of riparian zone and aquatic habitat to be disturbed;
- implementing a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan to protect aquatic habitats and biota immediately downstream of the Project area, consistent with existing measures implemented for the Moolarben Coal Complex;
- storage of fuels, oils and other contaminants in accordance with Australian standards;
- timing any instream works to take place during low flow periods, where feasible;
- implementing a vegetation or revegetation plan to enhance the riparian zone; and
- managing water for the Project in accordance with the Water Management Plan that includes a monitoring strategy, acceptable water quality trigger values, and trigger response actions for surface water and groundwater.

The enhancement of the riparian vegetation zone, as discussed in Section 6.5.3 of the EIS, would also mitigate impacts on aquatic habitat and facilitate ecological restoration and maintenance of riparian vegetation along Moolarben Creek and Murdering Creek (Appendix D of the EIS).

The Project would not involve construction of physical barriers within watercourses in the Project area that might impede fish passage. MCO would undertake the detailed design and construction of haul road creek crossings of Moolarben Creek and Murdering Creek in compliance with relevant guidelines (Appendix D of the EIS).

The erosion and sediment control measures and surface, groundwater and stream health monitoring described in the approved Water Management Plan would be revised to reflect the Project (i.e. to address additional surface disturbance areas and relevant construction activities), or a new Water Management Plan would be prepared for the Project (subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project).

Monitoring and mitigation measures specific to groundwater and surface water are detailed in Sections 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, respectively. These measures are designed to manage water quality and flow in the vicinity of the Project and, therefore, are also relevant to mitigating potential impacts on aquatic ecology.

1.1.5 Operational and Construction Noise

Operational Noise

Noise mitigation and management measures for the Moolarben Coal Complex are described in the approved Noise Management Plan (detailed in Section 6.7.2 of the EIS). The existing noise mitigation measures would be reviewed and revised to reflect the Project in an updated Noise Management Plan or a new Noise Management Plan would be prepared for the Project (subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project).

The existing noise control and management measures implemented at the Moolarben Coal Complex would continue to be implemented for the Project.

Construction Noise

Construction noise from the Project is expected to be indistinguishable compared to operational noise from the Moolarben Coal Complex.

Construction activities for the Project would be temporary in nature, and general construction noise management measures would be implemented to minimise noise levels at the nearest private residences and non-residential receivers, where applicable.

1.1.6 Blasting

Blast management measures for the Moolarben Coal Complex are described in the Blast Management Plan (detailed in Section 6.8.2 of the EIS) and would continue to be implemented for the Project. This plan would be reviewed and updated for the Project (e.g. updates with respect to any proximal infrastructure or Aboriginal cultural heritage rock shelters to the Project disturbance footprint) or a new Project-specific Blast Management Plan would be developed.

Blast design and execution would be adjusted as required for blasts located in close proximity to sensitive features (e.g. public infrastructure, private residences and recreational areas [when in use]) to maintain compliance with relevant vibration or airblast criteria.

Blast vibration levels would be limited to 50 mm/s PPV at sensitive geological features (including mapped rocky habitat) near the Project, unless further geotechnical investigation supports a higher value.

Consistent with existing blast management measures, MCO would monitor blasts from the Project area occurring within 500 m of public infrastructure and within 230 m of Aboriginal cultural heritage rock shelter sites to ensure compliance is maintained with relevant criteria.

MCO would also implement additional vibration monitoring at representative sites of mapped rocky habitat adjacent to the Project.

The Project blast mitigation measures for Aboriginal cultural heritage rock shelter sites would be consistent with existing measures undertaken for the approved Moolarben Coal Complex and would be detailed in a Heritage Management Plan, in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).

1.1.7 Air Quality

Best practice dust mitigation measures implemented for the Moolarben Coal Complex are detailed in the Air Quality Management Plan and are described in Section 6.9.3 of the EIS.

MCO has undertaken studies into best practice control for wheel generated dust and for disturbing and handling overburden in adverse (i.e. dust enhancing) weather conditions as part of a series of completed Pollution Reduction Programs imposed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) through Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 12932 for the Moolarben Coal Complex.

In accordance with EPL 12932, MCO completed the following investigations into particulate matter control:

- Particulate Matter Control Best Practice Implementation – Wheel Generated Dust;
- Particulate Matter Control Best Practice Implementation – Disturbing and Handling Overburden in Adverse Weather Conditions; and
- Particulate Matter Control Best Practice Implementation – Trial of Best Practice Measures for Disturbing and Handling Overburden.

Real-time Air Quality Monitoring and Management

A number of meteorological monitoring stations currently operate within the region. MCO also operates multiple meteorological stations in addition to real-time air quality monitoring stations for the Moolarben Coal Complex.

The real-time monitoring network and associated trigger levels for the existing Moolarben Coal Complex would be reviewed for the Project, and any required updates detailed in a revised or new Air Quality Management Plan.

Air Quality Management Plan

The existing air quality mitigation and management measures, and predictive and real-time air quality management system and associated response protocols would continue to be implemented for the Moolarben Coal Complex and would also apply to Project operations, consistent with the Air Quality Management Plan. An Air Quality Management Plan would be developed for the Project, or the existing plan would be reviewed and, where necessary, updated to incorporate the Project (subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project).

Blast Management Plan

MCO would implement blast fume management measures consistent with the Blast Fume Management Strategy within the Blast Management Plan for the Moolarben Coal Complex, in accordance with the *Code of Practice: Prevention and Management of Blast Generated NOx Gases in Surface Blasting* (Australian Explosives Industry and Safety Group Inc., 2011).

Spontaneous Combustion

The spontaneous combustion monitoring and management measures for the existing Moolarben Coal Complex would be reviewed for the Project, and any required updates detailed in a revised or new Air Quality Management Plan (subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project).

The Spontaneous Combustion Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) and Spontaneous Combustion Principal Hazard Management Plan would also continue to be implemented at the Moolarben Coal Complex (incorporating the Project).

1.1.8 Road Transport

The Road Transport Assessment concluded that the existing road network can satisfactorily accommodate the forecast traffic demands of the Moolarben Coal Complex (including the Project) without any specific additional road upgrade requirements (Appendix O of the EIS).

No specific management or mitigation measures are considered to be warranted by the future operations of the Moolarben Coal Complex (including the Project) and other mining operations in the region.

MCO will continue to contribute to road maintenance in accordance with Project Approval (05_0117) and Project Approval (08_0135) which includes making financial contributions to the implementation of the *Ulan Road Strategy*.

1.1.9 Aboriginal Heritage

The mitigation, management and monitoring measures detailed below have been developed in consultation with the RAPs, in consideration of the approved management detailed in the existing Moolarben Coal Complex Heritage Management Plan, cultural and archaeological significance of the Aboriginal heritage sites predicted to be impacted, and the cultural significance of the area.

Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd (Niche) (2024) has developed recommended management measures for each known Aboriginal heritage site of relevance to the Project.

MCO would implement the management and mitigation measures described in **Appendix E of the Amendment Report**, which were described in the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) provided to RAPs for comment and are consistent with the protocols of the existing Moolarben Coal Complex Heritage Management Plan.

Heritage Management Plan

A Heritage Management Plan would be developed for the Project, or the existing Moolarben Coal Complex Heritage Management Plan would be reviewed and, where necessary, updated to incorporate the extent of the Project. The updated or new Heritage Management Plan would also incorporate the Project ACHA recommended mitigation and management measures for the sites identified within the Subject Area, in consultation with the RAPs and Heritage NSW, and any requirements of the Project Development Consent.

Surface Disturbance

For those areas where Aboriginal heritage sites would be subject to direct surface disturbance as a result of the Project, a number of mitigation measures and management strategies have been identified, including (**Appendix E of the Amendment Report**):

- Recording and surface collection (predominately being Artefact Scatters and Isolated Finds).
- ~~Test excavations and salvage (if warranted).~~
- ~~Surface collection, test excavations and salvage (if warranted).~~
- ~~Archaeological excavation of Aboriginal sites that hold research potential.~~
- Artefact analysis incorporating post-salvage analyses for surface collected ~~and excavated~~ sites.

Blast Monitoring

MCO would adjust blast designs such that ground vibration at shelter sites located outside the Project surface disturbance area would not exceed the conservative 250 mm/s vibration damage criterion recommended by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (2018).

Applying the blast vibration threshold for sensitive geological features (i.e. 50 mm/s) would also limit the potential for vibration damage of shelter sites. Site-specific vibration limits above 50 mm/s may be considered for the shelter sites (determined by a suitably qualified expert).

Blast vibration monitoring of the shelter sites would be undertaken to ensure that the relevant blast vibration limits are not exceeded. This would occur on a progressive basis and at least prior to blasting within 230 m of the particular sites.

Potential Burial Site

As requested by RAPs, no further investigation would be undertaken for site S1MC538 (shelter with potential burial). The site is located **within 230 250 m from** the Project surface disturbance footprint and would **not** be subject to **any direct or indirect impacts. potential indirect impacts from blasting (described above).**

Blast vibration monitoring would be undertaken at a location adjacent to the site to ensure blast vibration limits are not exceeded.

General Measures

Where the above specific mitigation and management measures are not applicable, a number of general measures have been formulated in consultation with RAPs to mitigate impacts, including:

- Ongoing consultation with RAPs over the life of the Project, including Aboriginal representation during archaeological fieldwork (i.e. salvage of artefacts prior to disturbance).
- Implementation of the Ground Disturbance Permit process (as per the existing Moolarben Coal Complex Heritage Management Plan) for areas not previously subject to systematic survey.
- In the event that previously unidentified Aboriginal objects and/or sites are discovered at any time during the Project the protocol for the management of previously unrecorded Aboriginal archaeological sites as detailed in Section 5.10 of the Heritage Management Plan would be followed.
- Should skeletal remains be detected during the course of the Project, the protocol for the discovery of human remains as outlined in Section 5.11 of the Heritage Management Plan would be followed.

1.1.10 Non-Aboriginal Heritage

Three items of local heritage significance (all potential grave sites) were identified within the Project area (Section 6.12 of the EIS).

Niche (2022) has recommended management measures for all three sites of a full excavation/exhumation process of the potential burial sites prior to any surface disturbance works for the Project.

MCO would either obtain relevant excavation permits under section 140 of the *Heritage Act 1977* prior to approval of the Project, or excavation and exhumation works would be undertaken post-approval of the Project in accordance with an approved Heritage Management Plan (either new or existing Heritage Management Plan updated to incorporate the Project), as well as relevant statutory requirements of the *Heritage Act 1977*. Consultation with any living family members prior to excavation and transportation is also required.

Appendix G of the EIS includes further detail of the recommended management measures for the heritage sites in the Project area.

No management or mitigation measures are required for the homestead remains at Site No. 4.

1.1.11 Agricultural and Land Resources

Agricultural Resources

Agricultural land resource management at the Project would include the following key components:

- continuation of rural licence agreements on Moolarben-owned land outside the Project area;
- implementation of weed and pest management as outlined in Attachment 8 of the EIS;
- management of soil resources at the Project site so that they can be used for rehabilitation; and
- inclusion of agricultural lands (i.e. low intensity grazing or dryland cropping) in the Project rehabilitation strategy (Attachment 8 of the EIS).

Soil Resources

Soil resources would be managed in accordance with the recommendations in the Soils and Land Impact Assessment (Appendix A of Appendix L of the EIS) and the measures and protocols described in Attachment 8 of the EIS, including stripping and stockpiling prior to disturbance.

Further details on soil management would be provided in the Rehabilitation Management Plan prepared for the Project.

Land Contamination

General measures to reduce the potential for contamination of land would include the following:

- The transportation, handling and storage of all dangerous goods for the Project would be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017* (or its latest equivalent).
- Dangerous goods required for the Project would be transported in accordance with State legislation.
- On-site consumable storage areas would be designed with appropriate bunding.
- Fuel and explosive storage areas would be regularly inspected and maintained.
- The response to any accidental spills or ground contamination would be assessed on a case-by-case basis and remediated in accordance with a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.
- Emergency response procedures would be enacted as required under a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

The Project Mine Closure Plan would include a Land Contamination Assessment to address potential issues during decommissioning, including decontamination of areas such as those impacted by carbonaceous material (e.g. coal spillage, coal storage), hydrocarbon spillage (e.g. workshops, fuel storage areas) or by sedimentation (e.g. dams which have directly received pit water) (Attachment 8 of the EIS).

1.1.12 Landscape and Visual Character

The mitigation and management measures that would be implemented for the maintenance of visual amenity for the Project are described below.

Progressive Rehabilitation and Revegetation

Waste rock would be progressively emplaced within open cut pits. MCO would also undertake progressive rehabilitation and landform shaping to assist in reducing the contrast between waste rock emplacements and the surrounding environment.

A Rehabilitation Management Plan would be developed for the Project in consideration of outcomes of consultation with relevant government agencies, and in accordance with the rehabilitation and closure standards outlined in the relevant guidelines (Attachment 8 of the EIS).

The Rehabilitation Management Plan would describe how Project rehabilitation would be undertaken, provide detailed rehabilitation performance and completion criteria and address all aspects of rehabilitation including mine closure, final landforms and final land use (Attachment 8 of the EIS).

The Project final landform has been designed to integrate with the adjoining natural landforms where practicable.

Visual Screening

The Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and other ridgelines to the west of the Project act as significant vegetation screening and topographic barriers for any views of the Project. Therefore, establishing additional visual screening is not proposed for the Project.

Night-Lighting

Measures to mitigate potential impacts from night-lighting for the Project (including sky glow) could include one or more of the following, where practicable and without compromising operational safety (Appendix N of the EIS):

- All external lighting associated with the Project would comply with AS 4282:1997 – *Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting* (including minimisation of light spill through adequate aiming of lights and use of shielded fittings, where practicable).
- Use of warm white colours, where appropriate.
- Use of asymmetric beams on fixed lighting.
- Night-lighting would be restricted to the minimum required for operations and safety requirements.
- Appropriate positioning and orientation of lights.

These measures consider the lighting principles outlined in the *Dark Sky Planning Guideline* (Department of Planning and Environment [DPE], 2023).

1.1.13 Economic Effects

MCO would develop a Mine Closure Plan for the Project (in consideration of the approved Moolarben Coal Complex) in consultation with the Mid-Western Regional Council, DPE and other relevant stakeholders. The Mine Closure Plan would include consideration of amelioration of potential adverse socio-economic effects due to the reduction in employment at Project closure (Attachment 8 of the EIS).

MCO would continue to provide funding contributions to local community programs and groups via the Community Support Program, as well as to the Mid-Western Regional Council via existing and ongoing contributions under the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Project Approvals, throughout the life of the Moolarben Coal Complex.

1.1.14 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

MCO implements all reasonable and feasible greenhouse gas mitigation and management measures at the Moolarben Coal Complex, which would also be applied to the Project operations.

As diesel fuel consumption represents the majority of estimated Scope 1 emissions, the existing measures are generally focused on minimising greenhouse gas emissions through the efficient use of diesel by:

- optimising mine plans and schedules to minimise haul distances and re-handle;
- maximising equipment utilisation/productivity and mining yields;
- maintaining or improving equipment to maximise fuel efficiency and consideration of fuel efficiency when procuring new or replacement equipment; and
- undertaking monthly monitoring of fuel consumption.

MCO would consider the existing direct (Scope 1) greenhouse gas minimisation measures at the Moolarben Coal Complex for the Project and update where necessary, in particular maximising the fuel efficiency in mobile fleet items to reduce emissions from diesel usage. MCO would investigate the potential to replace standard diesel fuel with biodiesel as B10 or B20, subject to ensuring that engine warranties, efficiencies or maintenance requirements are not compromised.

Measures to minimise fugitive emissions such as pre-drainage have not been pursued given the low gas content of the target seam.

In addition, MCO would investigate whether it is reasonable and feasible to reduce Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions associated with on-site electricity use at the approved Moolarben Coal Complex (e.g. evaluation of sourcing a proportion of site electricity from renewable sources).

Greenhouse gas emissions from the Moolarben Coal Complex would also continue to be monitored, and reported, in accordance with MCO's obligations under the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (NGER Act).

1.1.15 Social and Community Infrastructure

MCO will continue to work with local government and the community to minimise potential social impacts of the Project and maximise potential opportunities.

A number of mitigation and management strategies have been identified and would be implemented by MCO, including the following key strategies (Appendix E of the EIS):

- **Community and Stakeholder Engagement:**
 - Implement strategies to ensure effective engagement is undertaken as part of the Project public exhibition period, and during Project operation.
 - Continue to provide updated information on the MCO website about the Moolarben Coal Complex and using local media.
 - Continue to record and manage interactions with the community, including neighbouring landholders, to facilitate long-term relationships.
 - Implement appropriate, transparent and ongoing engagement with residents of the social locality, particularly nearby residents.
 - Continuation and ongoing review of the Moolarben Coal Community Support Program, to identify opportunities and initiatives to improve community cohesion, resilience and local economic development.
- **Workforce:**
 - Continue implementation of MCO's Training Needs Analysis matrix to provide training and upskill its existing workforce, particularly women and Indigenous staff.

- Continue to work with Local Government Area (LGA) employment agencies to forward plan upcoming recruitment activities and seek opportunities to employ local workers, particularly Indigenous, female, and young adult workers.
 - Advertise jobs locally, such as in the Mudgee Guardian.
 - Encourage contractors to hire from within the LGA, such as through a buy local procurement policy.
 - Continue culturally appropriate HR practices to encourage and support the increased employment of Indigenous, women and young adult workers.
 - Advocate for a working group across the Ulan Mine Complex and Wilpinjong Coal Mine to increase Indigenous and women's participation in the local mining industry.
 - Promote positions available to women.
 - Continue to offer traineeships that will support young adults to gain employment.
 - Maintain and improve existing relationships with employment agencies, training providers, High Schools, and TAFE in Mid-Western Regional LGA.
 - Encourage training providers to develop culturally appropriate training packages for Indigenous students.
 - Continue to promote the Mid-Western Regional LGA as a desirable residential location to existing or necessary non-local workers.
- **Local Economy:**
 - Continue to undertake ongoing engagement with key business associations, including chambers of commerce, industry associations and industry networks to identify opportunities to strengthen local business participation in the Project supply chain.
 - Continue to identify local suppliers for procurement opportunities and invite them to participate in tender processes.
 - Continue to use local businesses in procurement, as far as practically possible.
- **Community Health and Wellbeing:**
 - Continue to implement MCO's community engagement program, including various methods of information sharing and communication (e.g. via the MCO website).
 - Implement mitigation measures identified for amenity impacts.
 - Continue to implement the Moolarben Coal Community Support Program, supporting connection initiatives such as events and community group activities in the LGA and Voluntary Planning Agreement.
 - Continue the support provided by MCO in the localities immediately surrounding the Project, including Cooyal and Cooks Gap.
- 1.1.16 Hazard and Risk**
- MCO implements a safety management system for the Project to manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022*. MCO would continue to meet these obligations for the Project.
- A number of hazard controls, including mitigation and management measures, would be described in management plans or internal control strategy documents for the Project. Management plans would include, but not be limited to, the following:
- Environmental Management Strategy;
 - Noise Management Plan;
 - Blast Management Plan;
 - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan;
 - Water Management Plan, incorporating:
 - Site Water Balance;
 - Surface Water Management Plan; and
 - Groundwater Management Plan.
 - Biodiversity Management Plan;
 - Heritage Management Plan;
 - Rehabilitation Management Plan; and
 - Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

In addition, the following key hazard controls and mitigation measures would be adopted by MCO to reduce the likelihood and/or consequences of potentially hazardous incidents associated with the Project:

- **Maintenance** – Ongoing and timely maintenance of all mobile and fixed plant equipment in accordance with the recommended maintenance schedule of the original equipment manufacturer, and consistent with maintenance schemes required by relevant legislation.
- **Staff Training** – Equipment operators and drivers would be trained and (where appropriate) licensed for their positions. Only personnel who are appropriately licensed to undertake skilled and potentially hazardous work would be permitted to do so.
- **Engineering Structures** – Mining and civil engineering structures would be constructed in accordance with the applicable Australian Standards, codes and guidelines. Where applicable, MCO would obtain the necessary licences and permits for the construction of engineering structures.
- **Contractor Management** – All contractors employed by MCO would be required to operate in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards, NSW legislation and any applicable site induction and contractor management requirements and procedures.
- **Water Management** – As reported in Appendix B, water management structures would be constructed to generally separate runoff from disturbed areas and undisturbed areas.
- **Coal Stockpile Management** – Coal stockpiles would be monitored and managed to reduce the potential for spontaneous combustion.
- **Storage Facilities** – Storage and usage procedures for potentially hazardous materials (e.g. hydrocarbons, chemicals and explosives) would be developed consistent with Australian Standards and relevant legislation. A register would be kept up-to-date with the chemicals and dangerous goods stored on-site.
- **Emergency Response** – Fire fighting and spill management equipment would be kept on-site in appropriate locations. Emergency response procedures systems and manuals would continue to be implemented.
- **Waste Management System** – Waste would be managed in consideration of general waste management principles (reduce, re-use, recycle). Waste disposal measures and a waste monitoring program are described in the Waste Management Plan.

Bushfire Hazards

Mitigation and management measures to reduce bushfire risk could include fire awareness and fire safety training included in the induction of appropriate MCO staff and contractors. Mitigation measures that would be implemented by MCO to reduce bushfire risk would focus on education and training, reducing bushfire hazard (principally fuel levels), minimising and controlling ignition sources (e.g. by appropriate engineering design, where relevant) and developing appropriate responses and evacuation strategies.

Dangerous Goods

On-site petrol usage would continue to be minor and petrol-powered vehicles would continue to be fuelled off-site. Control and mitigation measures for the handling and storage of hazardous materials for the Project are described above and would be documented in the above-described management plans.

1.1.17 Rehabilitation and Mine Closure

Final Landform

The Project final landform design principles are generally consistent with the approved OC3 mining area due to similar pre-mining landforms.

The conceptual final landform has been developed using geomorphic design principles to address the key design principles described in **Section 3.11 and Attachment 8** of the EIS.

The Project open cut voids would be progressively backfilled as mining progresses to reinstate the landform to approximate the gently undulating pre-mining topography.

Management of Waste Rock Material

The Geochemistry Assessment (Appendix P) concluded the waste rock materials generated from the Project have a very low sulfur content and would be classified as non-acid forming, with a negligible risk of acid mine drainage (AMD) and excess Acid Neutralising Capacity.

Landform design and surface water management are designed to minimise the potential for reconstructed landforms to generate AMD. Management measures adopted by MCO to minimise the potential generation of AMD include:

- blending overburden to avoid emplacement of low potentially acid forming (PAF) capacity material in concentrated areas;
- if required, treatment of dispersive materials (e.g. with lime) if exposed on dump surfaces or used in engineered structures to minimise the potential to expose acid generating substrate; and
- treatment and isolation of PAF coal rejects to minimise infiltration and subsequent leachate.

Decommissioning of Infrastructure

MCO would decommission and remove all Project infrastructure unless a suitable post-mining use is identified for the infrastructure in consultation with the NSW Resources Regulator, Mid-Western Regional Council and any other relevant stakeholders.

Conceptual Post-mining Land Use

MCO has undertaken a preliminary assessment of potential post-mining land uses (e.g. nature conservation, agriculture) taking into account relevant strategic land use objectives of the area in the vicinity of the Project, current land use within and adjacent to the Project area and the potential benefits of the post-mining land use to the environment, future landholders and the community.

Proposed post-mining land uses for the Project area include agricultural land, permanent water infrastructure and native and open woodland areas.

Post-mining land uses for the Project would continue to be developed and refined in consultation with the relevant stakeholders over the course of the Project life.

Rehabilitation Trials and Studies

Rehabilitation trials and studies would continue to be undertaken at the Moolarben Coal Complex, for the Project, to refine rehabilitation methodologies and validate rehabilitation performance indicators and completion criteria.

Learnings from rehabilitation works undertaken at the Moolarben Coal Complex would guide rehabilitation for the Project within new rehabilitation areas.

Future trials at the Project would consist of a ***Pomaderris cotoneaster trial site and*** surface rock trial site for targeted rehabilitation of threatened flora and fauna species identified in the Project area and surrounds.

Mine Closure Plan

A Mine Closure Plan would be developed for the Project in consultation with relevant regulatory authorities and community stakeholders. The Mine Closure Plan may be combined with the remainder of the Moolarben Coal Complex.

It is anticipated that the Mine Closure Plan would be integrated with mine closure measures for the existing Moolarben Coal Complex.

MCO would decommission and remove all Project infrastructure unless a suitable post-mining use is identified for the infrastructure in consultation with the NSW Resources Regulator, Mid-Western Regional Council and any other relevant stakeholders.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

A summary of the existing monitoring regime at the Moolarben Coal Complex is provided in Section 6 of the EIS, including figures showing the locations of relevant environmental monitoring sites.

The existing monitoring regime would generally continue for the Project. Monitoring results, as well as monitoring site locations, parameters and frequencies would continue to be reviewed annually through the Annual Review process, in consultation with relevant authorities. If changes are proposed, they would be incorporated into the relevant Project management plan.

Specific changes to the existing environmental monitoring regime for groundwater, surface water, noise, blasting and air quality for the Project are described below. Section 1.2.4 provides rehabilitation and mine landform related monitoring.

1.2.1 Groundwater

The existing groundwater monitoring network, as described in the Groundwater Management Plan, is considered adequate for providing information on the dynamics of the groundwater hydraulics and offers an adequate basis for groundwater model calibration and verification (Appendix A of the EIS).

MCO would add the monitoring bores recommended by Australasian Groundwater and Environment Consultants Pty Ltd (AGE) (2022) to the groundwater monitoring network for the Project.

These additional monitoring bores would complement the existing monitoring program and be used to monitor for potential impacts to key water features, including Moolarben Creek and potential groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs). Monitoring bores established in the backfilled waste rock would monitor groundwater recovery and associated flow directions and gradients.

1.2.2 Surface Water

The existing surface water monitoring program, which is included in the Moolarben Coal Complex Surface Water Management Plan, would be retained for the Project and revised if required (i.e. with respect to monitoring parameters, frequency **and/or TARPs**) subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project.

Water quality monitoring would continue to be undertaken in accordance with the **Australia and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council & Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand** (2000) guidelines and the *Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in New South Wales* (EPA, 2022)).

As part of the Project, WRM Water and Environment Pty Ltd (2022) has recommended additional surface water monitoring sites be included in the surface water monitoring program, described in Appendix B of the EIS. **MCO would also establish additional monitoring locations and implement other management measures as recommended by the IESC in its advice statement on the EIS.**

The location of additional surface water monitoring sites would be finalised during detailed design and subject to access requirements and hydraulic suitability.

1.2.3 Noise, Blasting and Air Quality

MCO would undertake additional noise, blasting and air quality monitoring in Cooyal for the Project. The specific locations and number of the additional monitoring sites would be determined during detailed design and subject to access requirements.

MCO would also implement additional vibration monitoring at representative sites of Mapped Rocky Habitat adjacent to the Project.

1.2.4 Rehabilitation

Annual rehabilitation monitoring would be undertaken for the Project to:

- measure the progress and success of the rehabilitation program against performance indicators and completion criteria;
- inform the continuous improvement process and refine rehabilitation methodologies and completion criteria; and
- identify when rehabilitation is not trending toward completion criteria in an appropriate timeframe, triggering adaptive management.

The results of monitoring campaigns at the Moolarben Coal Complex, including the Project, would continue to be submitted as part of annual rehabilitation reporting requirements.

Rehabilitation monitoring sites would be established progressively as mining areas are rehabilitated. Monitoring sites would be documented progressively in the Annual Rehabilitation Report and assessed against the developed rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria for the Project. Where site investigations have indicated rehabilitation is not meeting the completion criteria established, the TARP would be implemented and methodologies reviewed if required.

1.3 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

1.3.1 Groundwater

Contingency Measures

Consistent with the requirements of the AIP, MCO would continue to implement appropriate contingency measures for Project related drawdown greater than 2 m at any relevant private or public groundwater bores (although this is not predicted to occur).

The contingency measures developed for the approved Moolarben Coal Complex would also be implemented for the Project.

Trigger Action Response Plans

The AIP requires development of remedial actions for impacts greater than those that were predicted as part of the relevant approval.

Water level and water quality triggers have been developed as part of the Water Management Plan for the approved Moolarben Coal Complex. The Water Management Plan, including the Groundwater Management Plan, would be revised to reflect the Project, or a new Water Management Plan would be prepared for the Project (subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project).

In the event groundwater monitoring identifies an exceedance of an established trigger, MCO would implement a response plan in accordance with the Water Management Plan.

Groundwater Monitoring and Review

The observed groundwater levels would be reviewed against the model predictions on an annual basis. A suitably qualified and/or experienced person would determine when water levels deviate significantly from that predicted by the groundwater model and determine the reason for this deviation.

The review would consider the impact of mining, and other factors that could result in varying water levels including climatic conditions, rainfall recharge and pumping from privately-owned bores and/or other mining operations.

Geological information gained as the mine progresses would be used to inform future updates to the groundwater model.

1.3.2 Surface Water

Trigger Action Response Plans

The existing TARP, which is included in the approved Water Management Plan for the Moolarben Coal Complex, would be reviewed and revised for the Project subject to the conditions of any Development Consent for the Project.

The TARPs would describe any additional measures and procedures that would be implemented over the life of the Project to respond to any potential exceedances of surface water related criteria and contingent mitigation, compensation, and/or offset options if downstream surface water users are adversely affected by the Project.

Water Balance

The water consumption requirements and water balance of the system would fluctuate based on varying climatic conditions and as the extent of the mining operation changes over time.

Review and progressive refinement of the site water balance (for the Moolarben Coal Complex incorporating the Project) would continue to be undertaken periodically over the life of the Project to assist with the management and consumption (e.g. CHPP usage, dust suppression and discharges) of water across the Moolarben Coal Complex and to optimise water management performance.

MCO would adaptively apply supplementary water management measures during low rainfall periods to maintain water supply (e.g. via the approved water supply arrangement from the Ulan Mine Complex).

1.3.3 Terrestrial Ecology

A Rehabilitation Management Plan would be developed for the Project (including the vegetation clearance protocol and rehabilitation measures) in consultation with the relevant government agencies, and in accordance with the relevant rehabilitation and mine closure guidelines.

The Rehabilitation Management Plan would also detail rehabilitation methods and requirements, including target communities that would be established during rehabilitation (Attachment 8 of the EIS).

The Biodiversity Management Plan for the Moolarben Coal Complex would be reviewed with respect to the Project and, where necessary, either updated to incorporate the Project or a new Biodiversity Management Plan may be developed.

1.3.4 Operational and Construction Noise

MCO would continue to conduct operational noise monitoring in accordance with the Moolarben Coal Complex Noise Management Plan.

Consistent with existing mitigation measures, Project noise adaptive management measures would include:

- response to community issues or complaints including discussions with relevant landowners, as required;
- refinement of on-site noise mitigation measures and mine operating procedures, where practicable; and
- use of real-time noise monitoring as a management tool.

1.3.5 Blasting

Management of blast design and execution would be implemented for blasts nearest to Mapped Rocky Habitat and other sensitive geological features to achieve the recommended vibration limit. Additional adaptive management measures for blasting specific to the amended Project include:

- **pre-blast desktop assessment to identify the proximity of Mapped Rocky Habitat to planned blasts, in order to inform vibration modelling and therefore blast design;**
- **site-specific vibration modelling per blast to calculate maximum instantaneous charge (MIC) required to meet the recommended vibration limit for nearest Mapped Rocky Habitat;**
- **implementation of additional vibration monitoring at representative sites of Mapped Rocky Habitat adjacent to the Project; and**
- **visual inspections of key representative Mapped Rocky Habitat on a 6-monthly basis to confirm that the target outcome continues to be achieved, i.e. no physical impact to Mapped Rocky Habitat (and therefore no physical impact to the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve) distinguishable from natural processes as a result of blast vibrations.**

1.3.6 Air Quality

When the real-time air quality monitoring system indicates specified real-time trigger levels are reached or exceeded, a message would be delivered to the appropriate MCO representatives, alerting them to the elevated short-term dust levels.

Meteorological monitoring stations would report wind conditions at the time, allowing personnel to evaluate the likely origin of the elevated dust levels (i.e. on-site or off-site sources) enabling appropriate mitigation and response measures to be implemented in accordance with the response protocol detailed in the Air Quality Management Plan.

Personnel would also undertake visual monitoring of stockpiles and exposed areas. In the event that any substantial dust plumes are observed, additional dust management measures would be implemented.

1.3.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

MCO would implement an adaptive management approach to climate change impacts throughout the life of the Project, consistent with Yancoal's broader Environmental, Social and Governance Strategy (Yancoal, 2022).

1.3.8 Rehabilitation and Landform Design

Mine planning and sequencing would continue to be developed and refined throughout the life of the Project and would consider outcomes of consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Detailed adaptive management strategies, including TARPs, to address outcomes of the proposed rehabilitation monitoring would be developed and described in a Rehabilitation Management Plan for the Project.

MCO would continue to adopt a continuous improvement feedback process to ensure that industry best practice rehabilitation and land management practices are maintained to achieve the post-mining land use objectives at the Moolarben Coal Complex, including the Project.

Where site investigations (or the periodic review protocol) conclude that current rehabilitation methodologies are contributing to unsatisfactory rehabilitation results, MCO would revise methodologies appropriately. Periodically, MCO may engage suitably qualified professionals to review rehabilitation and land management practices to recommend opportunities to modify methodologies.

Where rehabilitation failure is the result of unpredictable or isolated events (e.g. pest attacks or extended droughts), MCO may review risks to rehabilitation and rehabilitation planning to determine if risks to rehabilitation are adequately considered.

1.4 REPORTING

The following subsections describe the expected reporting requirements for the Project (based on requirements at the time of preparation of this EIS). MCO would adjust its reporting should requirements change in the future.

1.4.1 Incident Reporting

Consistent with the reporting requirements of the *Standard Conditions for State Significant Development Mining Projects August 2018* (DPE, 2018), MCO would notify DPE immediately after becoming aware of an incident.

MCO would also notify the EPA and any other relevant government agencies of incidents causing or threatening material harm to the environment immediately after becoming aware of the incident, in accordance with Part 5.7 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, consistent with any requirements of an EPL for the Project and in accordance with the existing Pollution Incident Response Management Plan for the Moolarben Coal Complex.

1.4.2 Annual Review

In accordance with the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Project Approvals (05_0117 and 08_0135), MCO produces Annual Reviews to report on environmental performances, regulatory compliance and community engagement activities.

In accordance with the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Project Approvals, MCO would continue to prepare Annual Reviews and monitoring results for the Moolarben Coal Complex (including the Project) which would be available on MCO's website.

1.4.3 Development Consent Requirements

MCO would provide regular reporting of the environmental performance of the Project on its website, in accordance with the reporting arrangements in any plans or programs approved under the conditions of the Project Development Consent and associated licences and approvals.

1.4.4 Community Consultative Committee

A Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established in 2008 for the Moolarben Coal Complex in accordance with both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Project Approvals (05_0117 and 08_0135).

The CCC provides a mechanism for ongoing communication between MCO and representatives of the local community, including an independent chairperson, councillors from the Mid-Western Regional Council, business Mudgee, local residents and community members.

MCO conducts regular quarterly meetings with the CCC and the meeting minutes are publicly available on the MCO website.

MCO would continue to conduct regular quarterly meetings with the CCC in accordance with the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Project Approvals (05_0117 and 08_0135) and provide further updates during the assessment and operation of the Project.

1.4.5 Independent Environmental Auditing

MCO would commission an independent environmental audit of the Project every three years or at an alternative interval as required by any Development Consent for the Project. Upon completion of the independent environmental audit, MCO would submit a copy of the audit and its responses to the DPE.

1.4.6 Other Reporting

Annual Return

A summary of monitoring required by an EPL for the Project (including the recording of complaints) and a Statement of Compliance would be reported in Annual Returns and submitted to the EPA.

EPBC Act Approval – Annual Reporting

MCO would prepare annual reports assessing compliance with relevant conditions of an EPBC Act approval for the Project.

Greenhouse Gas Reporting

MCO would continue the ongoing management of its contribution to Australian greenhouse gas emissions inventories through participation in the scheme under the NGER Act. Greenhouse gas and energy data would continue to be accounted for and reported in compliance with legislative and other requirements.

Community Complaints Register

A community complaints register would continue to be maintained for the Moolarben Coal Complex (including the Project). Complaints and subsequent actions undertaken would be reported in the Annual Review and on the MCO website.

New South Wales Government (2012). *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy*.

Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd (2023). *Moolarben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report*.

Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd (2022). *Moolarben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project Statement of Heritage Impact and Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*.

SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (2018). *Moolarben Coal Complex Rock Shelter Blast Assessment*.

WRM Water & Environment Pty Ltd (2022). *Moolarben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project Surface Water Assessment*.

Yancoal Australia Limited (2022). *ESG Report 2021*.

1.5 REFERENCES

- Australia and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council & Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (2000). *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality*.
- Australian Explosives Industry and Safety Group Inc. (2011). *Code of Practice: Prevention and Management of Blast Generated NOx Gases in Surface Blasting*.
- Australasian Groundwater and Environment Consultants Pty Ltd (2022). *Moolarben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project Groundwater Assessment*.
- Department of Planning and Environment (2023). *Dark Sky Planning Guideline*.
- Department of Planning and Environment (2018). *Standard Conditions for State Significant Development Mining Projects August 2018*.
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (2020). *NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method*. NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Sydney, NSW.
- Environment Protection Authority (2022). *Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in New South Wales*.