

APPENDIX H

BUSHFIRE RISK REVIEW

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NORTHERN COAL SERVICES SSD-5145 CES STOCKPILE EXTENSION MODIFICATION BUSHFIRE RISK REVIEW

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Centennial Northern Coal Services Pty Limited (Centennial) operate the Northern Coal Services Project (NCS), located on the western side of Lake Macquarie, approximately 25 kilometres south-west of Newcastle and 140 km north of Sydney (see **Figure 1**). NCS is approved by SSD-5145 granted under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The NCS site includes surface coal handling and processing facilities at the Newstan Colliery surface site and the Cooranbong Entry Site (CES), as well as private haul roads connecting Newstan Colliery, Awaba Colliery, CES and Eraring Power Station. These facilities are integral to the handling, processing and transport of coal from Centennial's Newstan Colliery and Mandalong Mine.

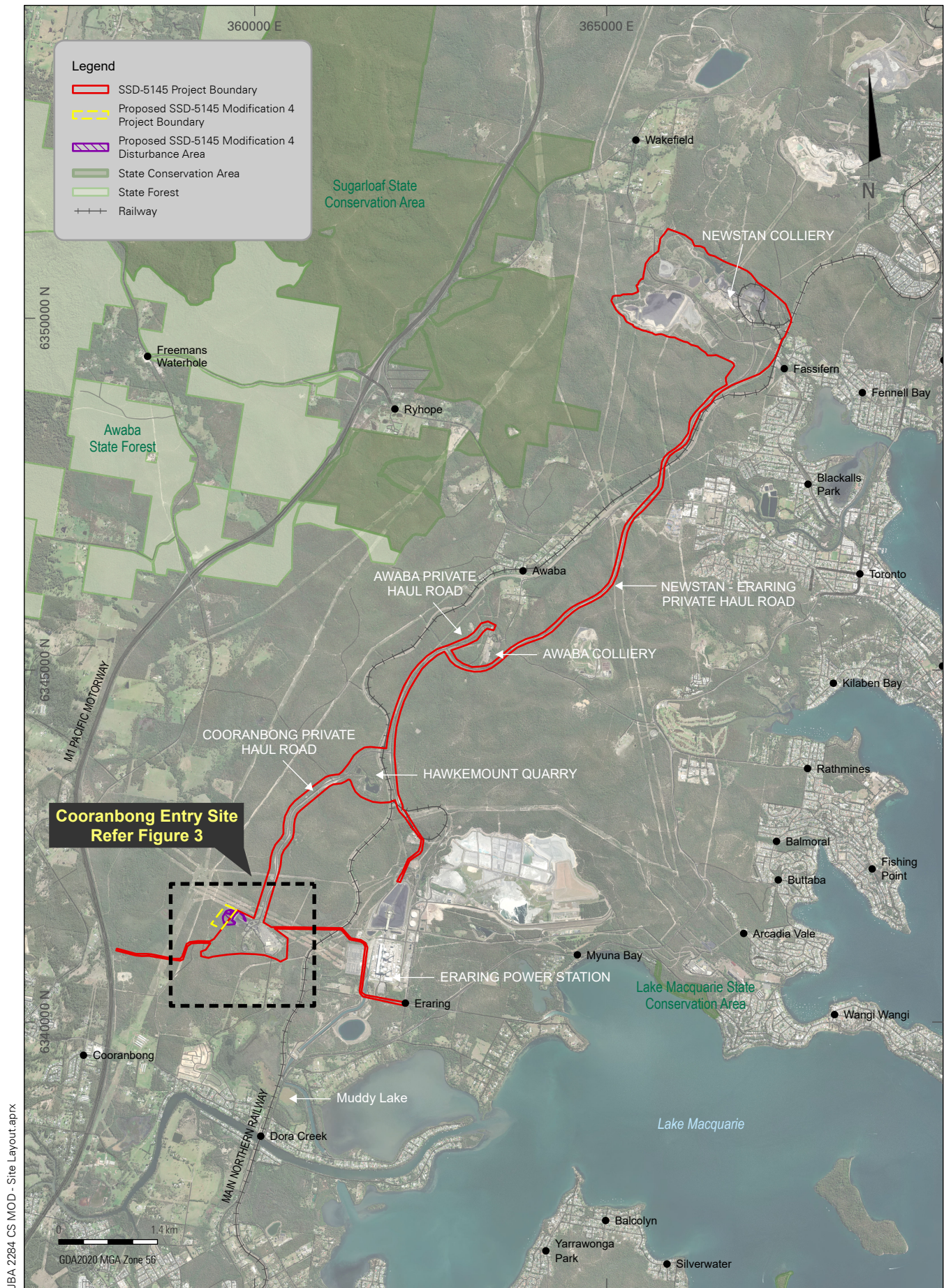
Centennial is seeking a Modification to SSD-5145 for:

- Development of the existing coal stockpile at the CES to increase capacity from 100,000 tonnes to 400,000 tonnes;
- Construction of infrastructure associated with the modified stockpile footprint. This will include access tracks, lighting towers, water sprays, fencing and water management infrastructure; and
- An administrative update to the SSD-5145 Schedule of Land.

The location of the modified stockpile in relation to existing CES facilities is shown on **Figure 2**.

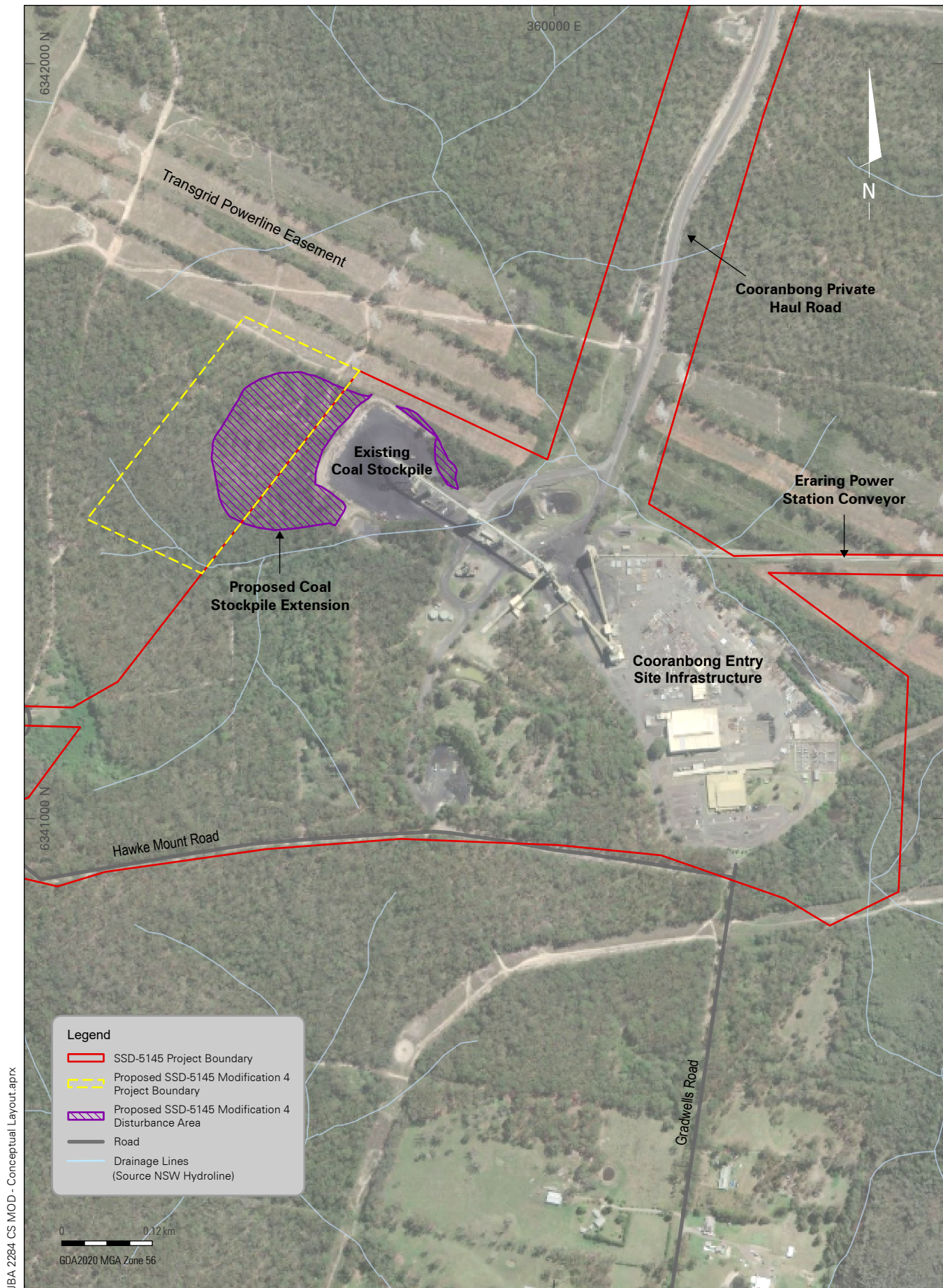
1.2 DOCUMENT PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to review potential bushfire risks associated with the Modification and identify required mitigations. While a Bush Fire Safety Authority is not required for State Significant Development (such as for SSD-5145 held for NCS), the NSW Rural Fire Service (2019) *Planning for Bush Fire Protection guidelines* (BF Guideline) were used as a basis for this review. General requirements (from Appendix 2 of the BF Guideline) are included in **Table 1**, which notes where each has been considered for the Modification.



JBA 2284 CS MOD - Site Layout.aprx

COORANBONG STOCKPILE MODIFICATION



JBA 2284 CS MOD - Conceptual Layout.aprx

COORANBONG STOCKPILE MODIFICATION

Table 1 **BFS Guideline Considerations**

Information	Section
a) a description (including the address) of the property on which the development the subject of the application is proposed to be carried out	Sections 1.1 and 2.1
b) a classification of the vegetation on and surrounding the property (out to a distance of 140 metres from the boundaries of the property) in accordance with the system for classification of vegetation contained in Planning for Bush Fire Protection	Section 2.2
c) an assessment of the slope of the land on and surrounding the property (out to a distance of 100 metres from the boundaries of the property)	Section 2.2
d) identification of any significant environmental features on the property	Sections 2.1 and 2.2
e) the details of any threatened species, population or ecological community identified under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> [now the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act)] that is known to the applicant to exist on the property	Section 2.2
f) the details and location of any Aboriginal object (within the meaning of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>) or Aboriginal place (within the meaning of that Act) that is known to the applicant to be situated on the property	Section 2.2
g) a bush fire assessment for the proposed development (including the methodology used in the assessment) that addresses the following matters: i. the extent to which the development is to provide for setbacks, including Asset Protection Zones (APZ); ii. the siting and adequacy of water supplies for fire fighting; iii. the capacity of public roads in the vicinity to handle increased volumes of traffic in the event of a bush fire emergency; iv. whether or not public roads in the vicinity that link with the fire trail network have two-way access; v. the adequacy of arrangements for access to and egress from the development site for the purposes of an emergency response; vi. the adequacy of bush fire maintenance plans and fire emergency procedures for the development site; vii. the construction standards to be used for building elements in the development;	Section 2.2 Section 2.2 Sections 2.1 and 2.2 N/A; no registered fire trails are present Section 2.3 Sections 2.1 and 2.3 N/A; no new buildings are proposed
viii. the adequacy of sprinkler systems and other fire protection measures to be incorporated into the development;	Sections 2.1 and 2.2
h) an assessment of the extent to which the proposed development conforms with or deviates from the standards, specific objectives, performance criteria and acceptable solutions set out in Chapters 5-8 of PBP;	Sections 2.1 and 2.2
i) identify any fire trails that exist on the property that are on the Register of Certified Fire Trails under RF Act s.62O.	N/A; no registered fire trails are present

Source: Appendix 2 of RFS (2019)

2. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

2.1 APPROVED COORANBONG ENTRY SITE

The layout of existing CES facilities in relation to the Modification is shown on **Figure 2**. CES is accessible via Gradwells Road, Hawke Mount Road or the NCS private haul road and comprises a Coal Handling Plant (CHP) and associated coal handling and storage infrastructure (including coal stockpiles), underground mine entries connecting to Mandalong Mine (drifts and shaft), workshop and administration buildings, car parking and other associated facilities.

CES is located in the floor of a small valley with elevations ranging between 10 and 30 m AHD. It is surrounded to the north, west and south by vegetated ridgelines with elevations up to 50 m AHD.

2.1.1 Bushfire Management and Emergency Response

Centennial have implemented a Bushfire Management Plan for NCS to manage potential risks of fire to life, property and environmental values. This document is consistent with the objectives for mining development on bushfire prone land described in in Section 8 of the BF Guideline and outlines:

- Primary bushfire risks to the site;
- Potential fire ignition sources;
- Bushfire management and mitigation control measures;
- Emergency and incident response measures; and
- Centennial emergency response procedures.

Centennial maintains the following to assist with minimising the risk of bushfire at CES:

- APZ around CES surface facilities;
- Water reticulation, fire hydrants and sprays for the existing stockpile;
- NCS plant and equipment fleet;
- Surface dams to support site operations, which are also able to be used as a water source to respond to bushfire events;
- NCS Bushfire Management Plan, which includes a Bushfire Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) for the situation where a bushfire is on or approaching the operation. The TARP outlines procedures to follow for the notification of emergency services and any potential evacuation of site due to bushfire; and
- Training for site personnel in emergency and incident response procedures.

2.2 THE MODIFICATION

2.2.1 Modification Risk Review

Bushfire Prone Land Mapping

The Modification will require the disturbance of approximately 3 ha of woodland vegetation. Land adjacent to the western and southern boundary of the Modification Disturbance Area is mapped as Category 1 Bushfire Prone Land (see **Figure 3**). Land to the north and east is of lower risk, being occupied by a powerline easement and the existing CES, respectively.

An APZ will be developed around the modified stockpile footprint, as shown on **Figure 4**.

Biodiversity

Land within the Modification Disturbance Boundary consists of undulating wet and dry sclerophyll forest containing a eucalypt dominated canopy with disturbed fringes that include some exotic flora species.

A biodiversity impact assessment completed for the Modification by EcoResolve (2025) found that vegetation in the Modification Disturbance Boundary conforms to Plant Community Type (PCT) 3583 Hunter Coast Lowland Scribbly Gum Forest, which is not a listed under the BC Act. Approximately 3 ha of PCT 3583 is proposed to be cleared for the Modification. BC Act species identified within or having the potential to occur in the Modification Disturbance Boundary included:

- Black-eyed Susan;
- Eastern Coastal Free-tail Bat;
- Glossy Black-Cockatoo;
- Large Bent-winged Bat;
- Little Bentwing-bat;
- Masked Owl;
- Small-flowered Grevillea;
- Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat;
- Squirrel Glider; and
- Swift Parrot.

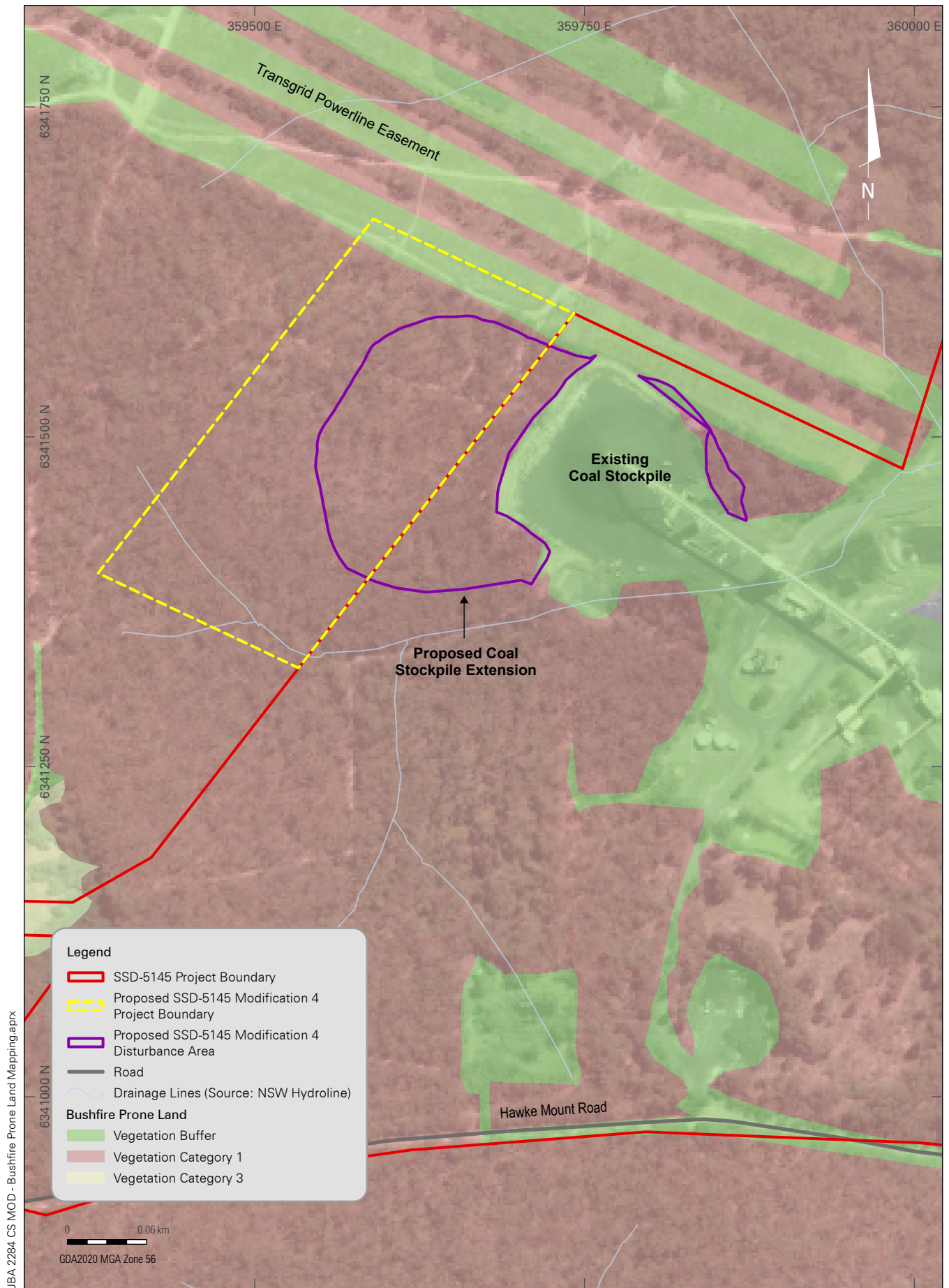
Aboriginal Heritage

Field studies completed to support a heritage assessment for the Modification by OzArk (2024) did not identify Aboriginal heritage items within the Modification Disturbance Boundary. OzArk also concluded that there is a low likelihood that the Modification would adversely impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage objects or sites.

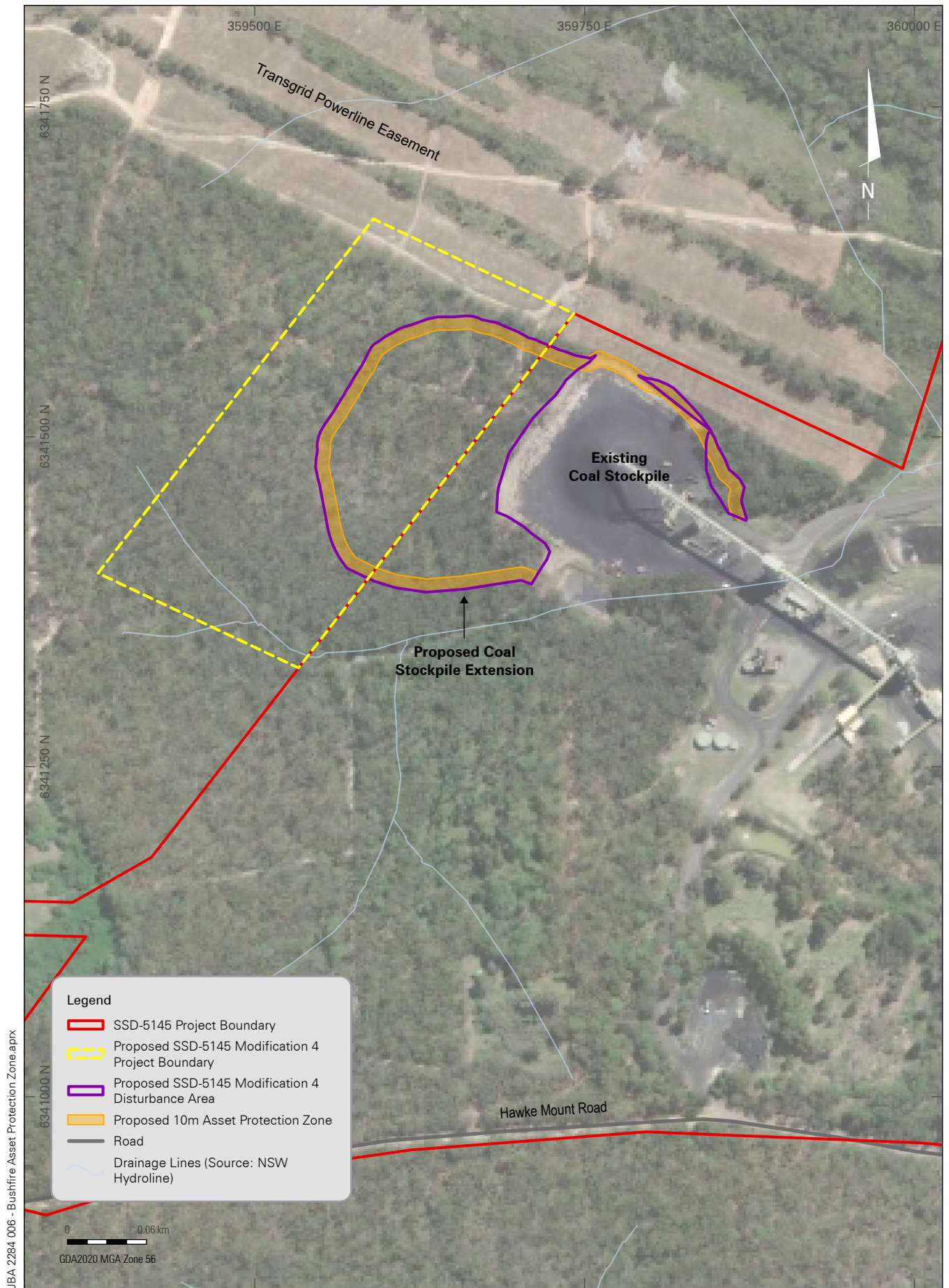
Site Access

Road access to CES for the Modification will remain unchanged. NCS personnel and contractors will continue to enter site via Gradwells Road. Coal transport from CES will continue to occur via the existing NCS private haul road or the Eraring Power Station conveyor.

Public access to the modified stockpile will be restricted (as is currently the case for the existing CES).



COORANBONG STOCKPILE MODIFICATION



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2.3 BUSHFIRE MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT

Mitigation and management measures that will be implemented to minimise bushfire risk during the development and operation of the Modification include:

- Establishment and maintenance of a 10 metre APZ around the modified stockpile (see **Figure 4**), consistent with Section 8.3.6 of the BF Guideline. This will be an extension of the existing CES APZ;
- Maintenance of light vehicle access surrounding the modified stockpile;
- Installing water sprays surrounding the modified stockpile footprint;
- Maintaining CES plant and equipment to assist with initial bushfire response;
- Communication of site bushfire response and incident management procedures to the CES workforce; and
- Ongoing consultation with the RFS.

The measures above are generally consistent with existing controls in place for CES. If the Modification is approved, the existing NCS Bushfire Management Plan will be reviewed to reflect the Modification changes.

2.4 REFERENCES

- Centennial (2016), *Environmental Management Strategy, Northern Coal Services*
- Centennial (2019), *Northern Coal Services Water Management Plan*
- Centennial (2019), *Northern Region Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan*
- Centennial (2020), *Newstan Colliery and Northern Coal Services Bushfire Management Plan*
- Centennial (2022), *Northern Region Biodiversity Management Plan*
- EcoResolve (2024), *Streamlined Biodiversity Development Assessment Report, Cooranbong Stockpile Extension Project (SSD-5145 Modification 4)*
- NSW Rural Fire Service (2019), *Planning for Bushfire Protection; A guide for councils, planners, fire authorities and developers*
- NSW Seed Mapping (2024), *NSW Bushfire Prone Land Mapping*. Accessed from: <https://www.seed.nsw.gov.au/>
- OzArk Environment & Heritage (2024), *Northern Coal Services Project Modification 4, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage & Historic Heritage Assessment Report*.