Whitehaven

2025

Maules Creek Continuation Project

Environmental Impact Statement

Section 1
Introduction

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1 Introduction

The Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) is located approximately 17 kilometres (km) north-east of Boggabri within the Narrabri Local Government Area (Narrabri LGA), in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW) (Figures 1-1 and 1-2).

The MCCM is operated by Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd (MCC), on behalf of the joint venture between Aston Coal 2 Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited [Whitehaven]) (75 percent [%]), ICRA MC Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Itochu Corporation) (15%) and J-Power Australia Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Electric Power Development Co. Ltd) (10%). MCC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven.

Mining operations at the MCCM are currently approved until 31 December 2034 with a run-of-mine (ROM) coal extraction rate of 13 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa). The MCCM employs a workforce of approximately 865 people (on average).

MCC has identified an opportunity to continue open cut mining operations to the east of the approved MCCM within existing mining tenements for a further 10 years (until 31 December 2044). To improve water management at its sites, Whitehaven has also identified an opportunity to develop a water transfer pipeline to allow water sharing between surrounding operations.

To improve biodiversity values in the region, Whitehaven has also proposed to expand its existing revegetation program through the establishment of Landscape Revegetation Zones in the region around the MCCM. This would establish approximately 2,300 hectares (ha) of native woodland within the vicinity of the MCCM.

The continuation of mining, water transfer pipeline and the Landscape Revegetation Zones comprise the Maules Creek Continuation Project (hereafter referred to as the Project).

This document is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The Project represents an efficient continuation of existing mining operations at the MCCM, within existing mining tenements and utilising established infrastructure.

The Project would continue and expand employment opportunities for the MCCM workforce for an additional 10 years.

1.1 Applicant Details

MCC (ABN 70 140 533 875) is the applicant for the Project. The contact details for MCC are:

Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd
Postal: PO Box 56, Boggabri, NSW 2382
Phone: +61 267 497 800

The MCCM website is:

https://whitehavencoal.com.au/our-business/our-assets/maules-creek-mine/

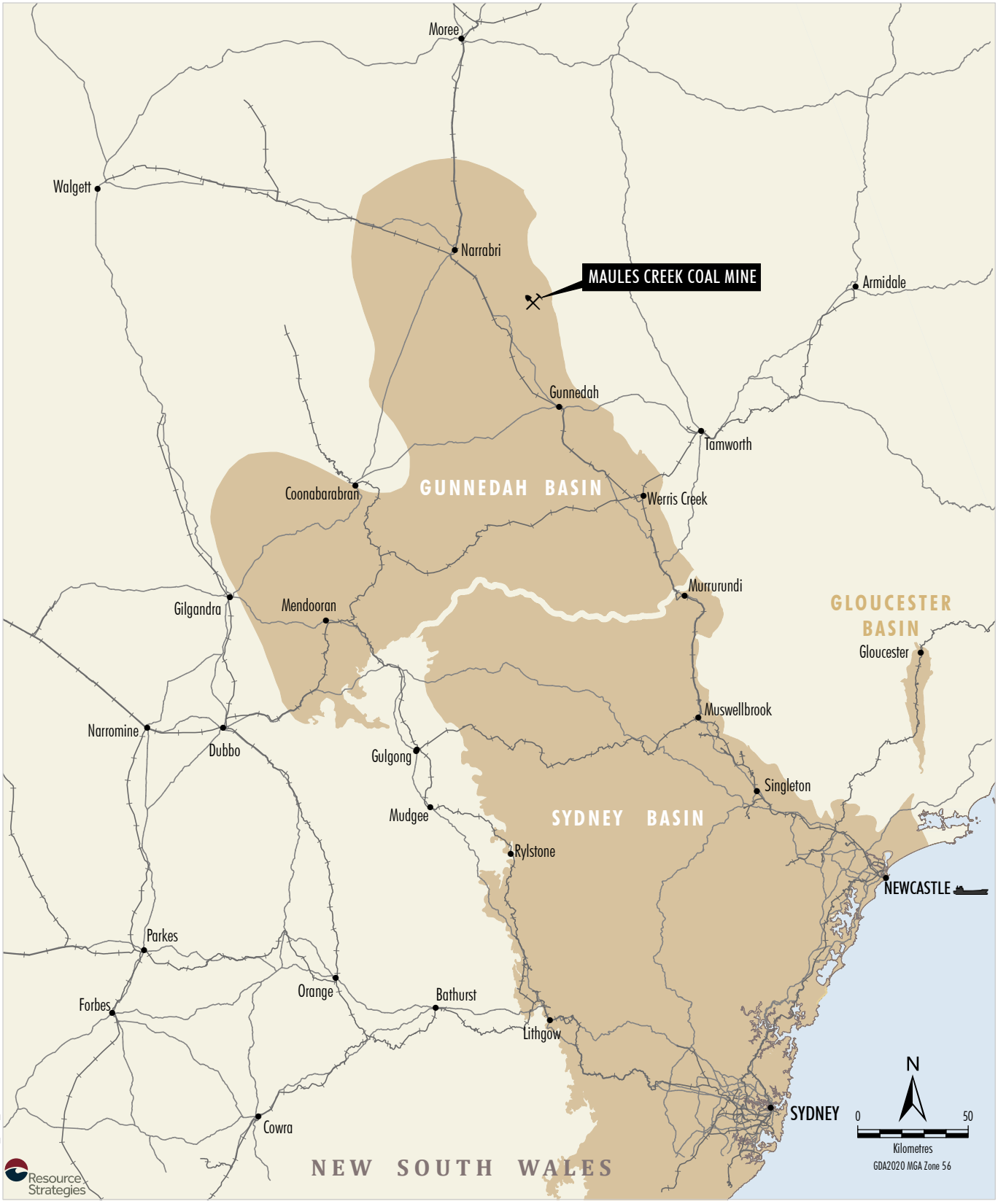
1.2 Project Overview

1.2.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

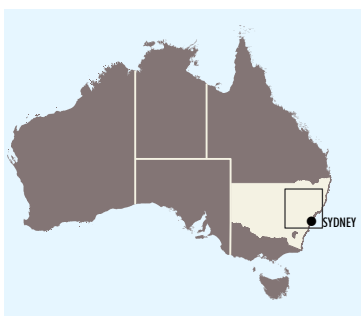
This EIS has been prepared to accompany a Development Application (DA) made for the Project, in accordance with Part 4 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

This EIS considers the potential environmental impacts of the Project in accordance with clauses 190-192 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation) and the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by the then NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE; now referred to as NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure [DPHI]) on 21 November 2023.

The SEARs were issued on 16 October 2023 in accordance with the requirements of section 176 of the EP&A Regulation. Supplementary Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) assessment requirements were issued on 20 March 2025.



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021)



LEGEND
- Highway
- Major Railway
- Mine Site
- Port
- Coal Basin

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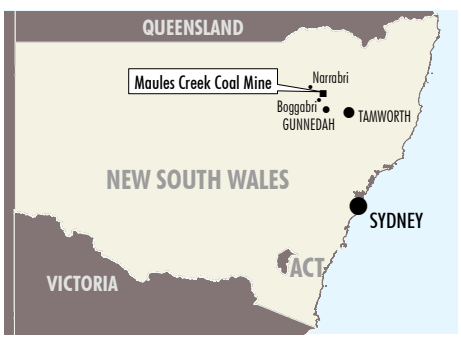
MAULES CREEK CONTINUATION PROJECT

Regional Location

Figure 1-1



LEGEND
- MCCM Mining Tenement Boundary (CL and ML)
- Mine Site
- Local Government Boundary
- State Forest
- State Conservation Area, Aboriginal Area
- Rail Line

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2023); Geoscience Australia (2011)

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MAULES CREEK CONTINUATION PROJECT

Project Location

Figure 1-2

The SEARs and a reconciliation of where the SEARs are addressed in the EIS are provided in Attachment 1.

This EIS has been prepared in accordance with the *State Significant Development Guidelines* (DPHI, 2024a), in particular, the *State Significant Development Guidelines – Preparing an Environmental Impact Statement* (DPE, 2022a).

1.2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Clause 192(1)(b) of the EP&A Regulation requires that an EIS must include a statement of the objectives of the development.

The objectives of the Project can be summarised as follows:

- Maximise the extraction of the coal resource within the existing mining and exploration tenements using efficient mining methods.
- Design a project that produces positive economic outcomes and facilitates continued employment opportunities at the MCCM.
- Provide a source of thermal and coking coals and support global energy transition by powering high-efficiency, low emissions (HELE) power stations.
- Provide a larger benefit (net gain) in biodiversity values, through the establishment of the Landscape Revegetation Zones, than the prescribed mine site rehabilitation and biodiversity offsets[1] alone.
- Facilitate the establishment of a final landform and post-mining land uses that create environmental values consistent with those of the areas surrounding MCCM.
- Facilitate opportunities to reduce external water use from the Namoi River and groundwater bores.

Further details on each of these objectives is provided below.

Maximise Extraction of the Coal Resource

The MCCM is an existing mining operation, comprising an open cut mining area, out-of-pit and in-pit overburden emplacement areas, and other mining-related infrastructure including coal processing and transport facilities.

The general arrangement of the approved MCCM is shown on Figure 1-3.

The proposed open cut pit extension is located within the existing mining tenements and immediately adjacent to the approved MCCM mining area, which is forecast to become operationally constrained around 2028.

The Project would provide the opportunity to maintain continuity of open cut mining and steady production of ROM coal at the MCCM beyond its currently approved mine life.

The Project would improve mining efficiency compared to the approved MCCM as it provides a larger length of available open cut face (i.e. strike length) and increases the operating areas for the mobile fleet. This improvement in mining efficiency would facilitate the proposed 1 Mtpa increase in the maximum ROM coal mining rate.

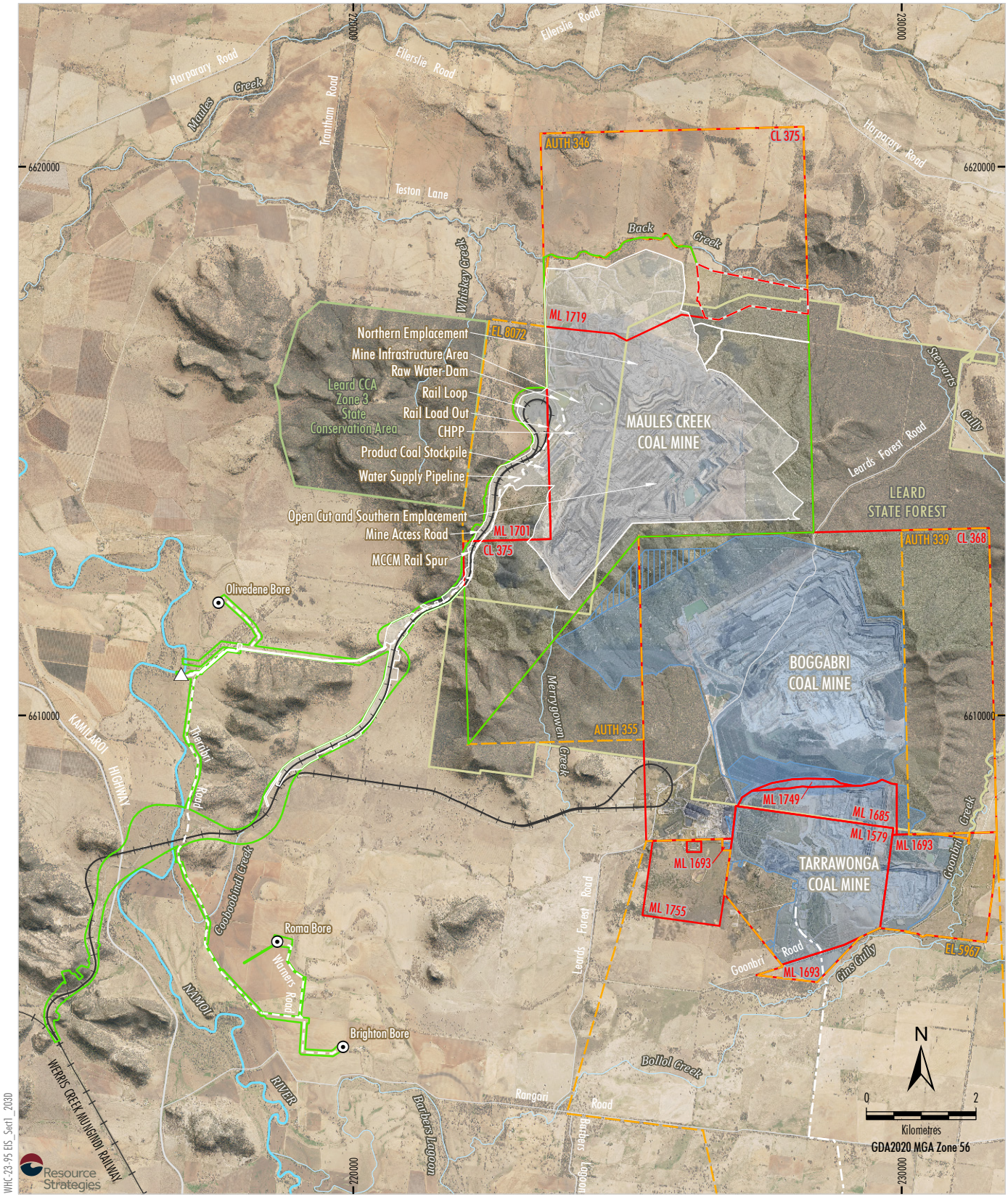
Produce Positive Economic Outcomes

The Project would allow for substantial capital savings associated with the use of existing infrastructure and mobile equipment at the MCCM, and operational cost efficiencies associated with the use of existing MCCM systems and workforce.

The Project would provide for the continued employment of the existing MCCM workforce (approximately 865 people on average) for a further 10 years as well as employment of an additional 75 people on average.

The Project would allow for the continuation of royalties and tax contribution to the State of NSW, as well as ongoing economic contributions to the local community and businesses of North West NSW.

[1] The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024 was passed by NSW Parliament in November 2024 which includes provisions to transition the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme to “net positive biodiversity outcomes”.



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Source: NSW Spatial Services (2024)
Orthophoto Mosaic: Whitehaven (2024-2019)

LEGEND

- Rail Line
- State Conservation Area, Aboriginal Area
- State Forest
- Exploration Licence Boundary (AUTH and EL)
- Mining Tenement Boundary (ML and CL)
- Provisional Mining Lease Application Area
- Other Mining Operation *
- Other Mining Operation - Proposed *
- VCM to TCM Water Transfer Pipeline

Existing/Approved MCCM Development

- Project Boundary (PA 10_0138)
- Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
- MCCM Water Supply Pipeline
- MCCM Groundwater Supply Bore
- MCCM Namoi River Pump Station

** BCM boundary digitised from Figure 1 of the BCM Modification 10 Scoping Letter*

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MAULES CREEK CONTINUATION PROJECT

Existing/Approved Maules Creek Coal Mine – General Arrangement

Figure 1-3

Provide a Source of High-Quality Coal and Support Global Energy Transition

The Project presents an opportunity to continue the extraction of thermal and coking coals to supply existing and new overseas customers to meet their energy and steel production demands while alternative energy sources and steelmaking processes are given further time to become more available internationally.

Provide a Benefit in Biodiversity Values

The Landscape Revegetation Zones proposed as part of the Project would establish approximately 2,300 ha of native woodland within the vicinity of the MCCM. This would strategically connect existing fragmented areas of woodland to restore linkages between remnant woodland and existing conserved areas. This would be in addition to prescribed biodiversity offset/credit requirements.

Key benefits of the Landscape Revegetation Zones are described in Section 2.1.2 of the EIS.

Facilitate a Beneficial Final Landform and Land Use

Geomorphic design principles have been incorporated into recent rehabilitation undertaken at the MCCM.

The conceptual final landform for the Project has been developed using the GeoFluv™ methodology, which uses characteristics of relevant stable natural landforms in the local environment and applies these characteristics to the design of new landforms.

The low walls of the final void would be reshaped to a gradient suitable for creating habitat for fauna known to occur in the area (e.g. establishing groundcover and native vegetation on the low walls).

The Project would result in one final void remaining in the rehabilitated landform, consistent with the approved MCCM. Currently, the approved MCCM final landform includes a final void catchment area of 904 ha. The Project would reduce the catchment area draining to the final void to approximately 440 ha.

Facilitate Opportunities to Reduce External Water Use

The Project proposes a water transfer pipeline to allow water sharing between Whitehaven's MCCM, Tarrawonga Coal Mine (TCM) and Vickery Coal Mine (VCM). This would facilitate opportunities to reduce external water supply requirements from the Namoi River and groundwater bores.

Consistent with the existing water management at the MCCM, water would be collected and reused where possible.

1.2.3 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Project would involve the continuation of the MCCM, including extraction of additional coal within the MCCM mining and exploration tenements, construction and operation of the water transfer pipeline and revegetation of existing cleared land referred to as Landscape Revegetation Zones.

The Project comprises three key components:

- Indicative Project Disturbance Extent – Project Mining Area which includes the open cut extension area, overburden emplacement extension, overburden rehabilitation to be disturbed, go-line, access and infrastructure area (hereafter the Project Mining Area).
- Indicative Project Disturbance Extent – water transfer pipeline (hereafter the water transfer pipeline).
- Indicative Landscape Revegetation Zones.

Compared to the existing approved MCCM, the Project would include the following additional key activities:

- extension of open cut mining operations within Coal Lease (CL) 375, Mining Lease (ML) 1719 and Authorisation (AUTH) 346 to allow mining and processing of additional coal reserves until approximately 31 December 2044;
- extraction of approximately 117 million tonnes (Mt) of ROM coal (in addition to the approved MCCM coal resource of 240 Mt of ROM coal);
- extraction of up to 14 Mtpa of ROM coal (i.e. a 1 Mtpa increase from the currently approved maximum ROM coal mining rate of 13 Mtpa);

- a revegetation program to establish approximately 2,300 ha of native woodland in the vicinity of the MCCM (i.e. in addition to any offset and rehabilitation obligations);
- an increase in the operational workforce to an average of approximately 940 people, with a peak operational workforce of approximately 1,030 people;
- continued operation of the existing Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) and train load-out and rail spur infrastructure, with upgrades as required;
- continued transport of up to 12.4 Mtpa of product coal via rail (i.e. no change to the currently approved maximum product coal transport rate);
- development of an integrated waste rock emplacement landform that incorporates geomorphic design principles;
- construction and use of a remote go-line, access and infrastructure area;
- continued operation and extension of the MCCM water management system;
- upgrades to workshops, electricity distribution and other ancillary infrastructure;
- continued placement of coal rejects within the mined out voids and the out-of-pit overburden emplacement areas;
- construction and operation of a water transfer pipeline between the MCCM water pipeline network and the approved VCM to TCM pipeline;
- ongoing exploration activities; and
- other associated infrastructure, equipment and activities.

A detailed Project Description is provided in Section 3 of this EIS.

The Project design incorporates a number of avoidance and minimisation measures, which are described in Section 2.

The Project was referred to the Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Water (the Commonwealth Minister) in August 2024 (EPBC 2024/09936) (herein referred to as the proposed Action). A delegate of the Commonwealth Minister determined on 28 February 2025 that the proposed Action is a “Controlled Action” and, therefore, the Action also requires approval under the EPBC Act.

The proposed Action is to be assessed pursuant to the Assessment Bilateral Agreement with the NSW Government. Therefore, this EIS provides an assessment of potential impacts on the following controlling provisions considered by the Commonwealth Minister (or delegate) to be relevant to the proposed Action:

- listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A); and
- water resources (section 24D and 24E).

1.2.4 SITE LOCATION

The Project is located in the Narrabri LGA (Figure 1-1). A description of land zoning in the Project DA Area under the *Narrabri Local Environmental Plan 2012* (Narrabri LEP) is provided in Section 4.

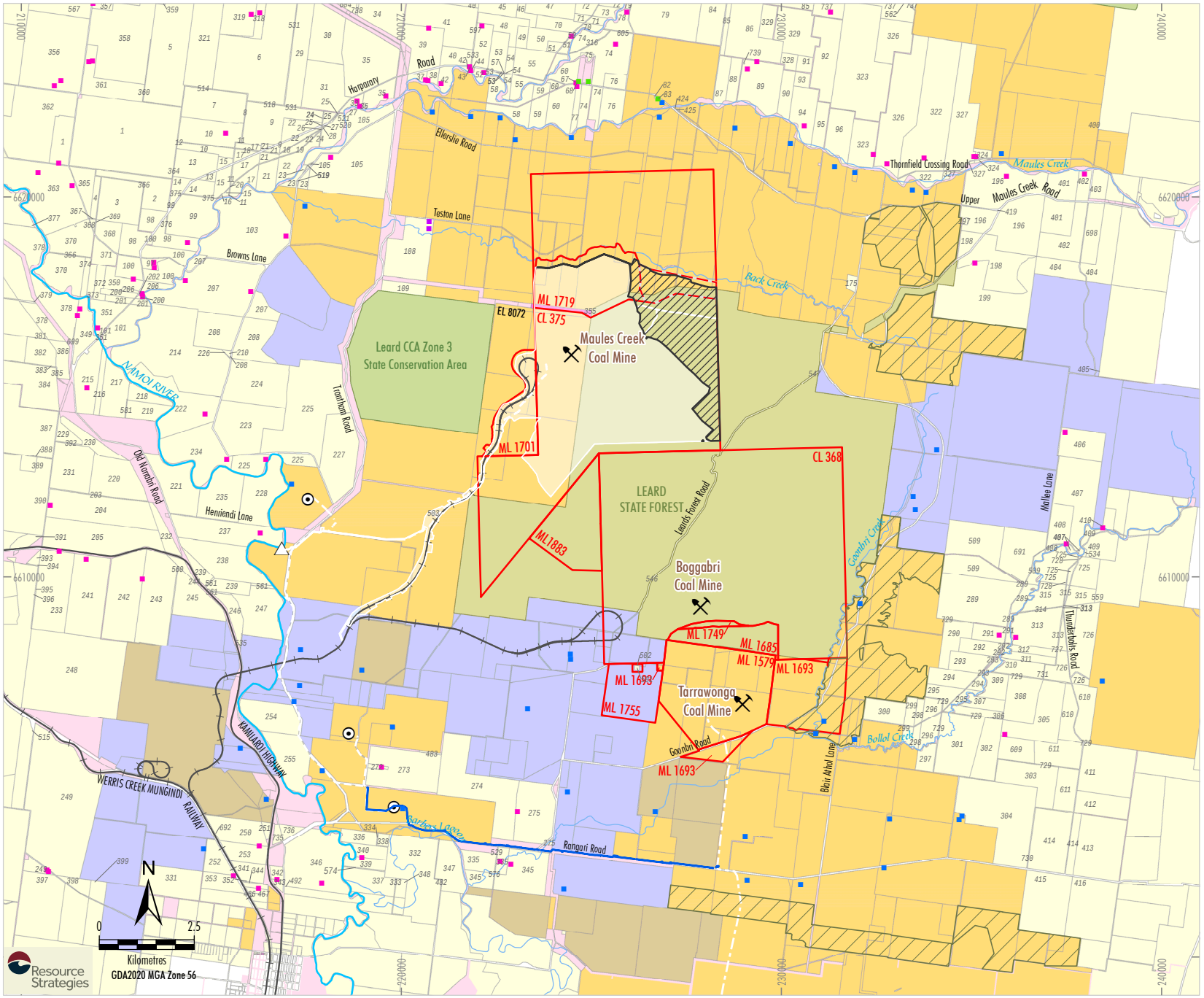
The MCCM is located at Therribri Road, Boggabri NSW 2382.

Relevant land ownership information for land parcels within the immediate vicinity of the Project is provided on Figure 1-4a and 1-4b. The Project DA Area includes those lands listed in the real property description provided in support of the DA (Attachment 2).

1.3 Overview of the Approved Maules Creek Coal Mine

1.3.1 HISTORY OF THE MAULES CREEK COAL MINE

MCC is the operator of the existing approved MCCM on behalf of the joint venture as described in Section 1.1.



LEGEND

- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services Estate
- State Forest
- Crown Land
- Whitehaven
- Whitehaven/Idemitsu
- Idemitsu
- RCLALC
- Relevant Landholder
- Owner not Identified
- Railway
- Mining Tenement Boundary
- Provisional Mining Lease Application Area
- VCM to TCM Water Transfer Pipeline

Existing/Approved MCCM Development

- MCCM Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
- MCCM Namoi River Pump Station
- MCCM Groundwater Supply Bore
- MCCM Water Supply Pipeline

Maules Creek Continuation Project

- Indicative Project Disturbance Extent - Mining Area
- Indicative Project Disturbance Extent - Water Transfer Pipeline
- Indicative Landscape Revegetation Zones #

Dwellings

- Mine Owned
- Privately Owned
- Privately Owned – Mitigation/Acquisition on Request
- Privately Owned – School/Community

 # Landscape Revegetation Zones shown on this figure are approximate extents only.

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2024); NSW Land Registry Services (2023); Whitehaven (2024): Stewart Surveys (2023)

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MAULES CREEK CONTINUATION PROJECT

Land Ownership Overview

Figure 1-4a

REDACTED FOR EXHIBITION VERSION

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MAULES CREEK CONTINUATION PROJECT

Land Ownership List

Figure 1-4b

The Maules Creek Coal Project was approved on 23 October 2012 by the Planning Assessment Commission (as delegate of the then NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure) (Project Approval [PA] 10_0138).

Construction of the MCCM commenced in December 2013 and the operations phase of the MCCM commenced in June 2014 and coal was first transported from the MCCM via the Maules Creek Rail Spur in December 2014.

Since the commencement of coal mining operations in 2014, mining activities have occurred via open cut mining methods using excavators and haul trucks.

1.3.2 APPROVED MAULES CREEK COAL MINE

The MCCM is an existing mining operation, which operates under PA 10_0138 (as modified). PA 10_0138 was issued under Part 3A of the EP&A Act in 2012 and authorises open cut mining and development and operation of supporting mining related infrastructure.

The general arrangement of the approved MCCM is shown on Figure 1-3.

Existing Mining Operations

Mining operations at the MCCM are approved to be undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Coal Mining and ROM Coal Handling

The MCCM is authorised to extract up to 13 Mtpa of ROM coal and transport up to 12.4 Mtpa of product coal from the site by rail until December 2034.

Product coal generated by MCCM includes thermal coal, semi-soft coking coal and bypass coal (i.e. ROM coal that is crushed and screened, but not washed in the CHPP). After processing, the product coal is placed on the product stockpile and then reclaimed and fed via conveyors to the train loading facility for transportation by train to market. Loaded trains travel via the Maules Creek Rail Spur, the shared rail spur and the Werris Creek to Mungindi Railway Line, which is part of the Hunter Valley Coal Rail network connecting the MCCM to the Port of Newcastle.

Mine Fleet

The MCCM mining fleet includes excavators, haul trucks, graders, dozers, loaders, water carts and other ancillary equipment such as mulchers and rollers (Plate 1-1). The use of mine fleet equipment varies with the progression of the mine. Other equipment that support the MCCM fleet include mobile crushers, diesel powered generators, service trucks and lighting plants.

Plate 1-1 Existing Mining Fleet at the MCCM

Mine Infrastructure

The existing MCCM mining infrastructure area (MIA) includes the CHPP, ROM coal stockpiles, product coal stockpiles (Plate 1-2), train load out infrastructure, workshops and administration building, hardstand and laydown areas, car parking, wash bays and other associated infrastructure (Figure 1-3). The main site access for MCCM is via a dedicated private access road off the Kamilaroi Highway.

Plate 1-2 Mining Infrastructure at the MCCM

1.3.3 WATER MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Supplementary water supply at the MCCM is provided by licensed extraction from the Namoi River and licensed groundwater from the Roma, Brighton and Olivedene groundwater bores. This supplementary water supply is transferred to the MCCM via water supply pipelines and other water management infrastructure.

The MCCM has extensive on-site water management infrastructure in place, including water storage dams (clean water, mine water and sediment laden water), clean water diversion systems, farm dams and several drains and pipelines. The water management infrastructure at the MCCM operate under the MCCM water management system as described in the MCCM Water Management Plan (Whitehaven, 2023a).

1.3.4 WASTE ROCK MANAGEMENT

Mined waste rock includes overburden and interburden generated from open cut operations. Waste rock generated from the open cut is transported to both in-pit and out-of-pit emplacement areas.

Overburden emplacement areas are progressively rehabilitated to minimise the size of disturbance and reduce environmental impacts (i.e. dust and visual amenity).

Overburden is currently placed within the out-of-pit Northern Emplacement and in-pit Southern Emplacement which are currently approved to be constructed to maximum approximate heights of 455 metres Australian Height Datum (m AHD) and 430 m AHD, respectively.

1.3.5 REHABILITATION AND FINAL LANDFORM

The MCCM has performance measures in PA 10_0138 to create a final landform that:

- is safe, stable and non-polluting;
- has a shape that is comparable with naturally occurring landforms in the region; and
- comprises self-sustaining native forest and woodland communities that are suitable for a conservation final land use.

PA 10_0138 includes conditions that require the MCCM to meet objectives related to the final void that would remain in the south-eastern extent of the open cut following the cessation of mining. The size, depth and drainage catchment of the final void is to be minimised as far as is reasonable and feasible.

The approved landform incorporates geomorphic design with macro-and micro-relief (i.e. gently undulating surfaces) to replicate natural drainage systems and improve integration with the surrounding environment.

The overburden emplacement areas are progressively rehabilitated to minimise environmental impacts such as dust generation and visual amenity impacts. An image of progressive rehabilitation undertaken on the Northern Emplacement at the MCCM is provided in Plate 1-3.

Plate 1-3 Progressive Rehabilitation of Overburden Emplacement at the MCCM

1.3.6 MINE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management at the MCCM is undertaken in accordance with the legal and strategic frameworks for waste management in NSW.

Domestic waste from the MCCM, including plant maintenance (e.g. sump oil, bitumen, etc.), is collected and disposed of at the nearest authorised waste disposal site or at an alternative site agreed with the Narrabri Shire Council (NSC).

1.3.7 EXISTING BIODIVERSITY OFFSET STRATEGY

Biodiversity offset areas have been established for the MCCM and is summarised below:

- the existing biodiversity offset areas for the MCCM cover a total area of approximately 14,881 ha (excluding mine rehabilitation);

- the existing biodiversity offset areas are just less than nine times the size of the native vegetation clearance area for the MCCM (approximately 1,660 ha);
- all of the existing biodiversity offset areas have been secured under conservation agreements with the NSW Government;
- since 2016, approximately 3,126 ha of tree plantings were completed by MCC in the existing biodiversity offset areas (Plate 1-4); and
- a conservation bond is held by the NSW Government to ensure that the existing MCCM biodiversity offset strategy is implemented.

Plate 1-4 Example of Plantings at an MCCM Biodiversity Offset Area

1.3.8 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

Environmental monitoring and management procedures at the MCCM have been undertaken since operations commenced in 2014 (Plate 1-5).

Plate 1-5 Environmental Monitoring for the MCCM

The strategies, plans and programmes prepared and implemented at the MCCM, in accordance with the PA 10_0138 and EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, include:

- Environmental Management Strategy;
- Historic Heritage Management Plan (HHMP);
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan;
- Blast Management Plan;
- Bushfire Management Plan;
- Noise Management Plan (NMP);
- Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP);
- Water Management Plan;
- Biodiversity Offset Strategy;
- Biodiversity Management Plan;
- White-Box Yellow-Box Blakely's Red-Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community Implementation Plan;
- Construction Workforce Accommodation Management Plan;
- Pollution Incident Response Management Plan;
- Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP);
- Threatened Fauna Implementation Plan; and
- Traffic Management Plan (TMP).

In accordance with PA 10_0138, the MCCM also implements strategies, plans and programmes prepared for the Boggabri, Tarrawonga and Maules Creek coal mines (BTM Complex), including:

- BTM Complex Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Strategy;
- BTM Complex Blast Strategy;
- BTM Complex Air Quality Management Strategy;
- BTM Complex Water Management Strategy;
- BTM Complex Noise Management Strategy;
- BTM Complex Groundwater Modelling Report; and
- BTM Complex Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

The above-listed environmental management plans, strategies and programs are available on the MCCM website (Section 1.1).

Further discussion on existing environmental management relevant to the Project and potential revisions is detailed in Section 6.

1.4 Project Interaction with the Approved MCCM

The Project would involve the continued use of existing and approved surface infrastructure at the MCCM for the life of the Project. The continued use of existing and approved infrastructure is further described in Section 3.

The Project would allow for the continued operation of the MCCM for an additional 10 years.

Development Consent for the Project is being sought for the MCCM and the Project under the State Significant provisions (i.e. Division 4.7) under Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

Should Development Consent be granted for the Project (which incorporates and optimises the MCCM), subject to the MCC being satisfied with the consent conditions, it is currently proposed by MCC that PA 10_0138 would, at an appropriate time after the Development Consent is granted for the Project, be surrendered so that the Project would operate under the new consent only.

1.4.1 OTHER NEARBY PROJECTS

The Boggabri Coal Mine (BCM) and TCM are the closest mining operations within the immediate vicinity of the MCCM. The location of these operations is shown on Figure 1-2.

A summary of the BCM and TCM is provided below.

Further description of the BCM and TCM, as well as a description of potential cumulative interactions with the Project, is provided in Section 2.8.

1.4.2 BOGGABRI COAL MINE

BCM is located south of the approved MCCM, approximately 15 km north-east of the township of Boggabri. BCM has operated since 2006 and is currently approved for the extraction of up to 8.6 Mtpa of ROM coal until the end of 2036 under State Significant Development Approval (SSD) 09_0182.

Boggabri Coal Operations Pty Limited (BCOPL) operates the BCM. BCOPL is owned by a joint venture between Idemitsu Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Idemitsu) via its subsidiary company, Boggabri Coal Pty Ltd (80%); Chugoku Electric Power Australia Resources Pty Ltd (10%); and NS Boggabri Pty Limited (10%).

BCOPL submitted Modification (MOD) 8 in 2021 to increase the maximum depth of mining to recover additional coal, extension of the mine life by six years (to 2036), and to establish a fauna movement crossing through the Southern Rehabilitation Area (BCOPL, 2021).

In addition, BCOPL is currently preparing a modification (MOD10) to increase the mine footprint and mine life to the end of 2040. BCOPL proposes to facilitate the progression of mining towards the north-west beyond the currently approved disturbance area, and towards the south of the MCCM (BCOPL, 2024).

1.4.3 TARRAWONGA COAL MINE

TCM is located directly south of BCM, approximately 13 km north-east of the town of Boggabri. The TCM has operated since 2006 and is approved to extract up to 3.5 Mtpa of ROM coal by open cut methods until December 2030 (PA 11_0047).

TCM is owned and operated by Tarrawonga Coal Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven.

1.5 Project Restrictions

The strategic context for the Project, including State Government strategic planning documents, is described in Section 2. Additionally, the statutory context for the Project, including legislated approval requirements, is described in Section 4. There are no restrictions or covenants applicable to Project development or operations.

1.6 Project Consultants

This EIS was prepared by Whitehaven and Resource Strategies Pty Ltd (Resource Strategies) with specialist input provided by the following organisations:

- MCC (project design, alternatives and justification, baseline data, land tenure, resource economics, consultation, preliminary hazard analysis, landscape and visual impact assessment, rehabilitation and environmental management and monitoring);
- Australasian Groundwater and Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (AGE) (Groundwater Impact Assessment);
- WRM Water and Environment Pty Ltd (WRM) (Surface Water Assessment);
- Premise Pty Ltd (Premise) (Biodiversity Development Assessment Report and Baseline Flora Survey Report);
- AusEcology Pty Ltd (AusEcology) (Baseline Fauna Survey Report);
- Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (Eco Logical Australia) (Aquatic Ecology Assessment);
- 2rog Consulting Pty Ltd (2rog) (Agricultural Impact Assessment);
- Square Peg Social Performance Pty Ltd (Square Peg) (Social Impact Assessment);
- Whincop-Archaeology Pty Ltd (Whincop Archaeology) (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment);
- Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment);
- RWDI Pty Ltd (RWDI) (Noise and Blasting Impact Assessment);
- Todoroski Air Sciences Pty Ltd (TAS) (Air Quality Impact Assessment and Greenhouse Gas Calculation Report);
- AnalytEcon Pty Ltd (AnalytEcon) (Economic Assessment);
- Ground Doctor Pty Ltd (Ground Doctor) (Land Contamination Assessment);
- Truescape Pty Ltd (Truescape) (Visual simulations for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment);
- The Transport Planning Partnership Pty Ltd (TTPP) (Road Transport Assessment);
- Minesoils Pty Ltd (Minesoils) (Soils and Land Capability Assessment);
- Geo-Environmental Management Pty Ltd (G.E.M) (Geochemistry Assessment);
- Risk Mentor Digital Engines Australia Pty Ltd (Risk Mentor) (Environmental Risk Assessment); and
- Ashurst (legal input).

In addition to the above, peer reviews were undertaken by the following specialists (Attachment 4):

- AMBS Ecology & Heritage Pty Ltd (biodiversity development assessment report).
- Steph Byrom (Loop Decarbonisation Solutions) (decarbonisation and evaluation report).
- Dr Noel Merrick (HydroAlgorithmics Pty Ltd) (groundwater assessment).
- SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (noise and blasting assessment).
- Katestone Environmental Pty Ltd (air quality impact assessment).

1.7 STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This EIS comprises a main text component and supporting studies, which include Appendices A through to R. An overview of the main text is presented below:

Section 1	Provides an introduction to the Project and this EIS.
Section 2	Outlines the strategic planning context for the Project.
Section 3	Describes the various components and stages of the Project.
Section 4	Outlines the statutory provisions relevant to the Project.
Section 5	Describes the consultation and engagement undertaken in relation to this EIS and ongoing community involvement.
Section 6	Details the environmental assessment of the Project, including a description of the existing environment, an assessment of potential impacts and a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset, manage and/or monitor the potential impacts of the Project.
Section 7	Describes how the Project (when compared to other alternatives) is in the public interest and balances impacts, strategic needs, and benefits.
Section 8	Lists the documents referenced in Sections 1 to 7 of this EIS.
Section 9	Defines abbreviations and acronyms used in Sections 1 to 7 of the EIS.

Attachments to the main text are also provided as follows:

Attachment 1	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements and Commonwealth Assessment Requirements.
Attachment 2	Development Application Area and Real Property Descriptions.
Attachment 3	Land Ownership and Landholder Key.
Attachment 4	Peer Review Letters.
Attachment 5	Other Strategic Planning Statements, Plans and Policies.
Attachment 6	Relevant Environmental Planning Instruments and Legislation.
Attachment 7	Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Addendum.
Attachment 8	Summary of Mitigation Measures.
Attachment 9	Estimated Development Cost Report.
Attachment 10	Community Information.
Attachment 11	JORC Summary.
Attachment 12	Geotechnical Considerations.
Attachment 13	Copy of Public Notice.
Attachment 14	Consent Under Section 380AA of the Mining Act.
Attachment 15	SAII Reports.

Appendices A to R contain supporting information, including a number of specialist reports:

Appendix A	Groundwater Impact Assessment (Groundwater Assessment).
Appendix B	Surface Water Assessment.
Appendix C	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR).
Appendix D	Aquatic Ecology Assessment.
Appendix E	Social Impact Assessment (SIA).
Appendix F	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).
Appendix G	Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment (NICHA).
Appendix H	Noise and Blasting Assessment.
Appendix I	Air Quality Impact Assessment.
Appendix J	Greenhouse Gas Assessment.
Appendix K	Economic Assessment.
Appendix L	Land Contamination Assessment.
Appendix M	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).
Appendix N	Road Transport Assessment.
Appendix O	Agricultural Impact Assessment.
Appendix P	Geochemistry Assessment.
Appendix Q	Environmental Risk Assessment Report (ERA).
Appendix R	Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA).