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WHC PLN VCM BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN			

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Vickery Coal Mine (VCM) is located in the Gunnedah Coal Basin, approximately 25 kilometres (km) north of Gunnedah in New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1-1). The VCM is operated by Vickery Coal Pty Limited (VCPL) (a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited [WHC]).

Development Consent (SSD-7480) was granted to VCPL on 12 August 2020 by the NSW Independent Planning Commission as a delegate of the NSW Minister for Planning under Section 75J of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act). Development Consent allows for the development of an open cut mine and associated infrastructure with a 25 year mine life, extracting run-of-mine (ROM) coal at up to 10 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) and processing the coal, as well as coal from WHC's Tarrawonga Mine, at an on-site coal handling and processing plant (CHPP) for off-site transport by rail.

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Bushfire Management Plan has been prepared by WHC as per the Bushfire Management Plan requirements of Condition B99, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 (Table 1-1), bushfire related conditions (Table 1-2) and general management plan related conditions (Table 1-3).

Table 1-1 – Specific Bushfire Management Plan Conditions in SSD-7480

VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480) Schedule 2	Relevant Bushfire Management Plan Section
<i>B99. Prior to commencing mining operations under this consent, the Applicant must prepare a Bushfire Management Plan for the development in consultation with RFS. This plan must include a:</i>	This Bushfire Management Plan
<i>(a) contact person and 24 hour contact phone number;</i>	Section 5.2
<i>(b) schedule and description of proposed bushfire mitigation works, including:</i>	Section 4
<i>(i) location of managed and unmanaged vegetation within the site;</i>	Section 4.1.1
<i>(ii) location of water supply; and</i>	Section 4.1.1
<i>(iii) internal access roads;</i>	Section 4.1.1
<i>(c) plan identifying the location and storage of bulk flammable liquids and materials;</i>	Section 5.2
<i>(d) 'hot works' management plan, including:</i>	Section 4.1.3
<i>(i) circumstances when 'hot works' are limited or prohibited; and</i>	Section 4.1.3
<i>(ii) safety measures to be implemented when 'hot works' are being conducted; and</i>	Section 4.1.3
<i>(e) emergency/evacuation plan in accordance with the Development Planning: A Guide to Developing a Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan (RFS, 2014) and Australian Standard AS3745 Planning for Emergencies in Facilities.</i>	Section 5
<i>B100. The Applicant must implement the Bushfire Management Plan in consultation with RFS.</i>	This Bushfire Management Plan


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Table 1-2 – General Bushfire management Conditions in SSD-7480

Condition B98 Schedule 2, VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480)	Relevant Bushfire Management Plan Section
<i>B98. The Applicant must:</i>	Entire Document
(a) <i>Ensure that the development:</i>	
(i) <i>Provides for asset protection in accordance with the relevant requirements in the Planning for Bushfire Protection (RFS) guideline; and</i>	Section 4.1.1
(ii) <i>Ensure that there is suitable equipment to respond to any fires on the site; and</i>	Section 4.1
(b) <i>Assist the RFS and emergency services to the extent practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site.</i>	Section 4.1

This Bushfire Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the standard requirement for management plans listed in Condition E4, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 (see Table 1-2). Table 1-2 presents these requirements and indicates where each is addressed within this Plan.

Table 1-3 – General Management Plan Conditions in SSD-7480

Condition E4 Schedule 2, VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480)	Relevant Bushfire Management Plan Section
<i>E4. Management plans required under this consent must be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, and include where relevant:</i>	This Bushfire Management Plan
(a) <i>summary of relevant background or baseline data;</i>	Section 3
(b) <i>details of:</i>	-
(i) <i>the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions);</i>	Section 2
(ii) <i>any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; and</i>	Section 4
(iii) <i>the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures;</i>	Section 4
(c) <i>any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the document/s listed in condition A2(c);</i>	Section 4
(d) <i>a description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria;</i>	Section 4
(e) <i>a program to monitor and report on the:</i>	-
(i) <i>impacts and environmental performance of the development; and</i>	Section 7
(ii) <i>effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph (d);</i>	Section 4.2
(f) <i>a contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible;</i>	Section 6
(g) <i>a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time;</i>	Section 6
(h) <i>a protocol for managing and reporting any:</i>	-
(i) <i>incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion or performance measure;</i>	Section 8.1
(ii) <i>complaint; or</i>	Section 8.2
(iii) <i>failure to comply with other statutory requirements;</i>	Section 8.3

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Condition E4 Schedule 2, VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480)	Relevant Bushfire Management Plan Section
(i) public sources of information and data to assist stakeholders in understanding environmental impacts of the development; and	Section 7
(j) a protocol for periodic review of the plan.	Section 7

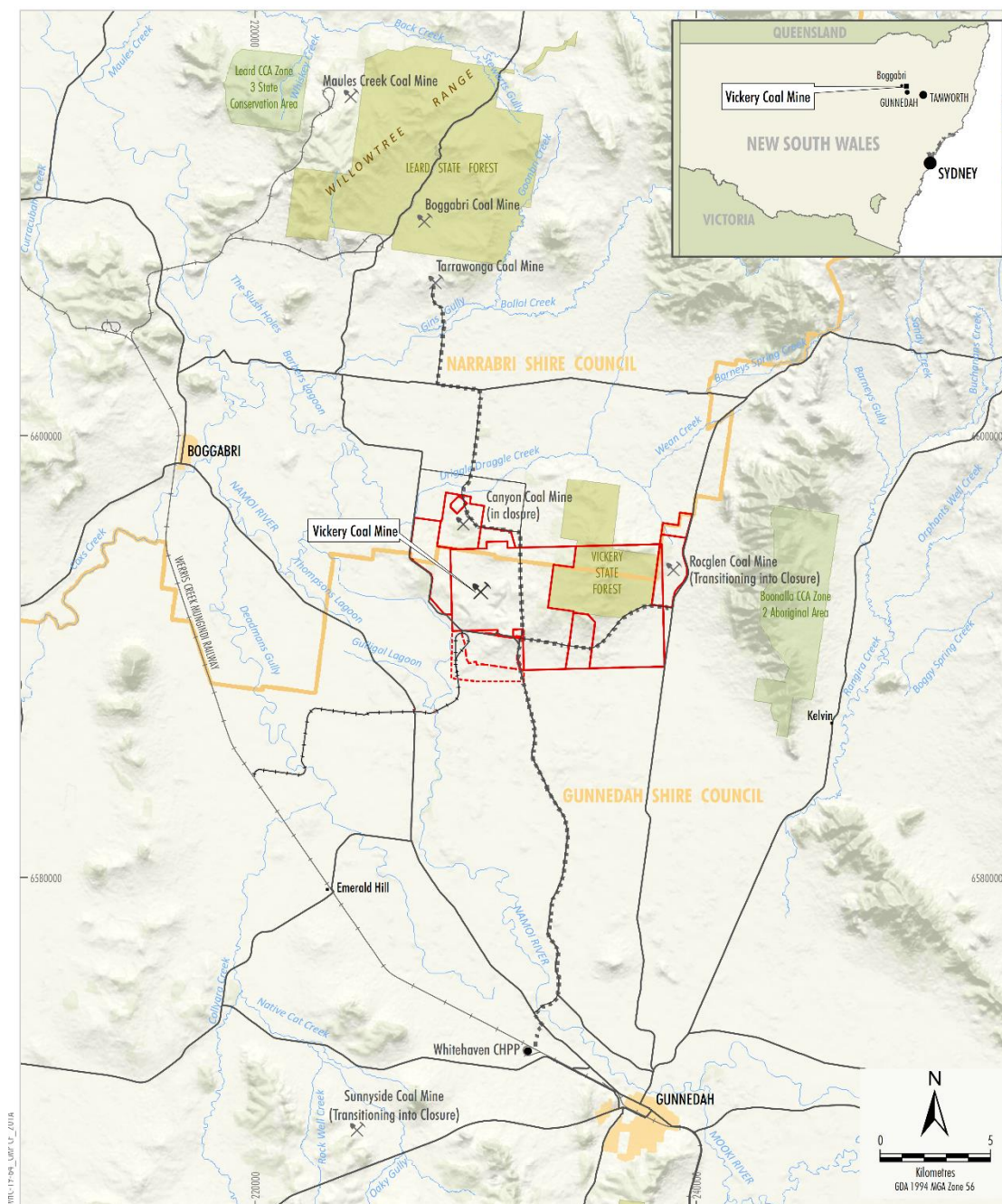
Note: The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.



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- LEGEND**
- Mining Tenement Boundary (ML, CL and AUTH)
 - Exploration Licence Boundary (EL)
 - Mining Lease Application (MLA)
 - Local Government Boundary
 - State Forest
 - State Conservation Area, Aboriginal Area
 - Major Roads
 - Railway
 - Approved Road Transport Route
 - Indicative Project Rail Spur

Source: LPMA - Topographic Base (2010); NSW Department of Industry (2015)

VICKERY COAL MINE
 Project Location

Figure 1-1

Figure 1-1 Regional Location

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On 11 December 2020 the Secretary approved the progressive submission of environmental management plans for the VCM in accordance with Condition A25(a), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480. The scope of this Bushfire MP is specifically related to the VCM construction and initial mining activities.

The construction stage is anticipated to take approximately 30 months based on sequencing of the major construction activities, with the bulk of significant construction earthworks to occur within a 12 - 18 month period, and will include:

- construction of the CHPP;
- construction of the rail spur and loop and train load-out facility;
- construction of the mine industrial area (MIA);
- construction of ROM and product coal stockpile pads;
- initial development of the box cut;
- construction of temporary infrastructure facilities;
- construction of temporary ROM coal stockpiles;
- construction of workshops and offices;
- construction of water supply bores and Namoi River pump station and pipelines;
- construction of dams, sediment dams, up-catchment diversions, channels and other water management infrastructure;
- construction of soil stockpile areas;
- construction of access roads and internal roads;
- closure of a portion of Braymont Road;
- construction of connection to the existing 66 kilovolt powerline and construction of substations and power supply;
- construction of ancillary infrastructure including consumable storage areas, laydown areas, explosives storage facilities;
- ongoing exploration activities; and
- other associated minor infrastructure construction, use of other plant and other activities.

The general arrangement of the VCM is shown on Figures 1-2 and 1-3. The VCM layout at the end of the construction and initial mining stage is shown on Figure 1-4.

Earthworks associated with the development of the above infrastructure would include the excavation of waste rock, gravel and coal material from within the VCM open cut footprint. The earthworks would include the initial development of the box cut, with a small volume of ROM coal extracted for stockpile pad treatment, commissioning activities and transport to the Gunnedah CHPP. Additionally, a small volume of coal from WHC's other mines may be delivered to the VCM for stockpile pad treatment and CHPP commissioning activities.



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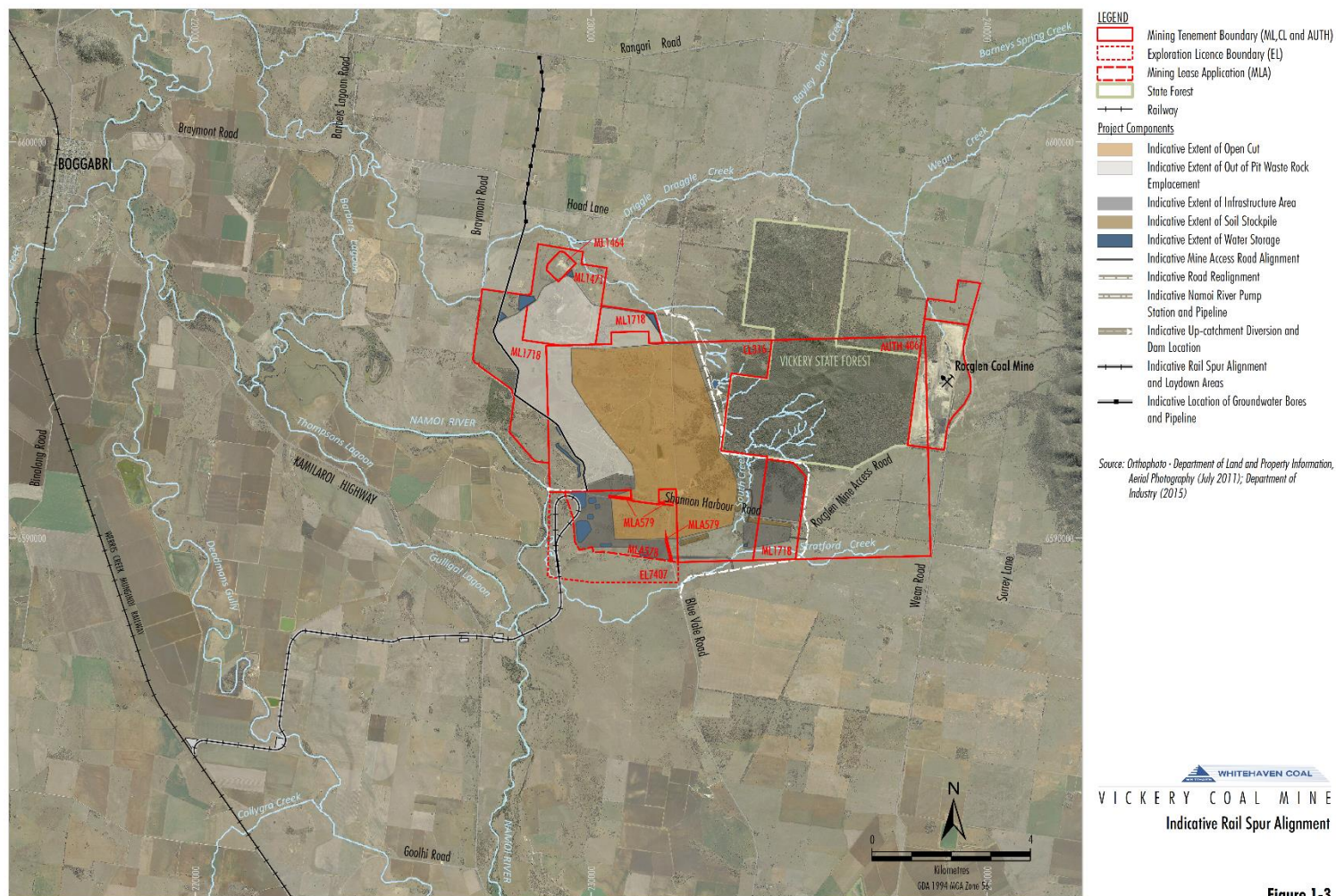


Figure 1-3

Figure 1-3 Indicative Rail Spur Alignment and Groundwater Bore Locations



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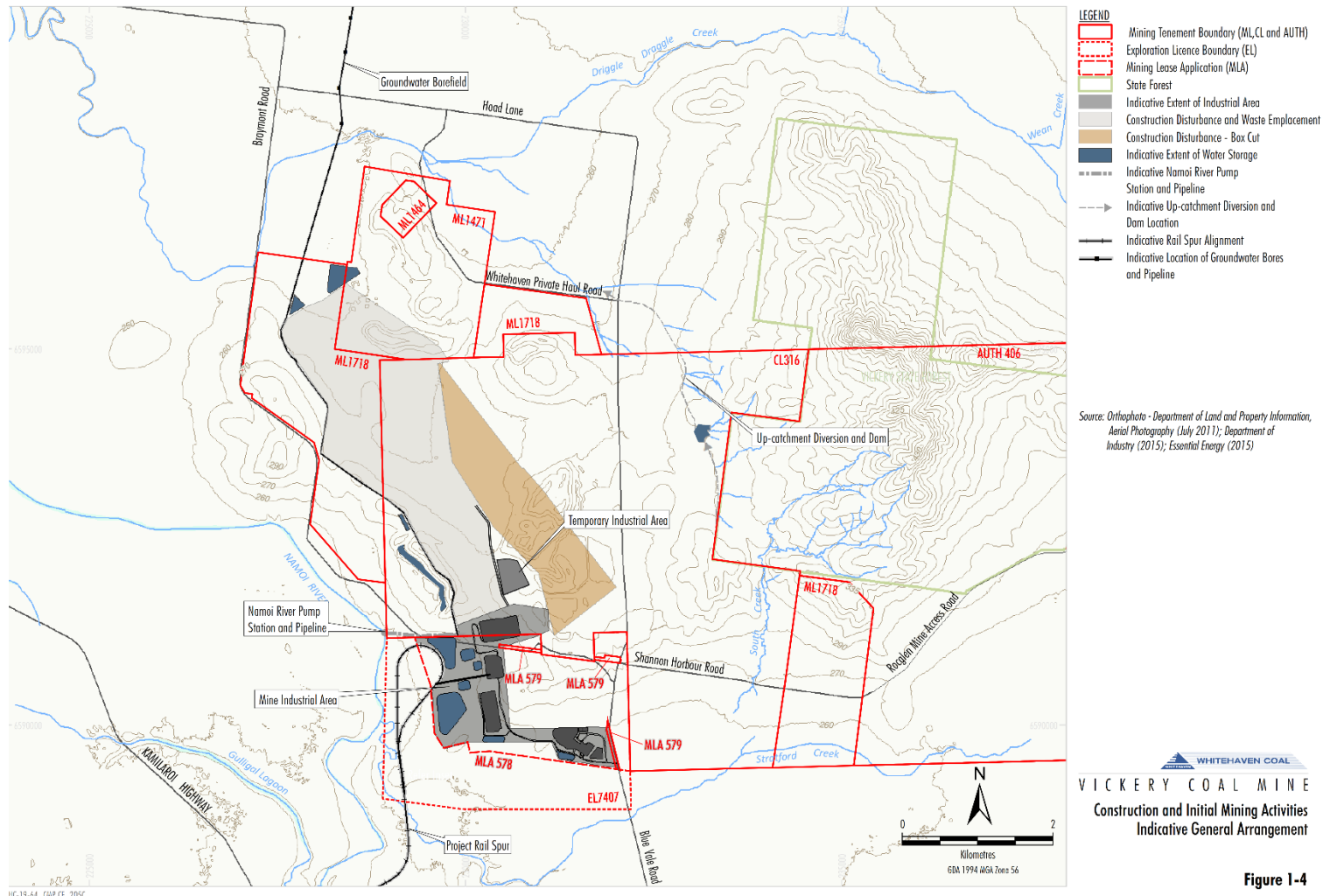



Figure 1-4

Figure 1-4 Construction and initial mining Activities General Arrangement

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1.2 **CONSULTATION**

In accordance with Condition B99, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, this Bushfire Management Plan has been prepared and will be implemented in consultation with the Rural Fire Service (RFS). Comments received during the specific time period have been considered during finalisation of the Bushfire Management Plan.

1.3 **STRUCTURE OF THE BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The remainder of this Bushfire Management Plan is structured as follows:

- Section 2 Outlines the relevant statutory requirements and policies relevant to this Bushfire Management Plan.
- Section 3 Describes the existing environment.
- Section 4 Describes the relevant management control measures applicable to the VCM.
- Section 5 Describes the Emergency/Evacuation Plan.
- Section 6 Describes the contingency plans to manage unpredicted impacts.
- Section 7 Describes the program to review and report on the effectiveness of management measures and improvement of environmental performance.
- Section 8 Describes the procedures for the management and reporting of incidents, complaints and non-compliances with statutory requirements.
- Section 9 Lists the references cited in this Bushfire Management Plan.

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2 RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

WHC's statutory obligations relevant to bushfire management are contained in:

- the conditions of SSD-7480;
- the relevant licences and permits, including conditions attached to mining leases; and
- other relevant legislation.

Obligations relevant to this Bushfire Management Plan are described below.

2.1 DEVELOPMENT CONSENT (SSD-7480)

The conditions of SSD-7480 relevant to the content and structure of this Bushfire Management Plan are described in Tables 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3.

2.2 LICENSES, PERMITS AND LEASES

In addition to SSD-7480, activities associated with the VCM will be undertaken in accordance with the following licences, permits and leases:

- Coal Lease (CL) 316, Exploration Licence EL 7407, Mining Leases (MLs) 1718, 1471 and 1464.
- The VCM Construction Mining Operations Plan.
- Environment Protection Licence (EPL) No. 21283.
- Mining and workplace health and safety related approvals.


2.3 OTHER LEGISLATION

In addition to the statutory obligations described above, the following NSW Acts (and their regulations) may be applicable to the conduct of the VCM:


- EP&A Act;
- *Mining Act, 1992*;
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997* (PoEO Act);
- *Rural Fires Act, 1997*;
- *Work Health and Safety Act, 2011*; and
- *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act, 2013*.

Other guidelines and standards that were considered during the preparation of this Bushfire Management Plan include, but are not limited to:

- *Development Planning: A Guide to Developing a Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan (RFS, 2014)*.

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- *Planning for Bushfire Protection (RFS, 2006) guideline.*
- *Australian Standard AS3745 Planning for Emergencies in Facilities.*

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3 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The Vickery State Forest is located to the east of the VCM and is used for forestry and limited recreational purposes. The VCM is owned by WHC (Figure 3-1). The VCM is located partially on land mapped as Bush Fire Prone by the NSW RFS. The bushfire prone land corresponds with the Vickery State Forest and a small parcel of land to the west of the western emplacement area (Figure 4-1).

The following are recognised as potential causes of bushfires at the site:


- On site storage of hydrocarbons, oils, greases, explosives, chemicals and flammable material;
- On site storage of run-of-mine coal;
- Construction or initial mining activity near diesel or chemical storage;
- Malfunction of on-site power reticulation;
- Lighting strike;
- Fires on plant and equipment as a consequence of maintenance activities;
- Hot works; and
- Regional or localised bushfires originating from outside the Site.

3.1 MINE SITE ASSETS

Assets relating to bushfire management include items valued by the community such as residences, crops, forests, livestock, heritage buildings and places, infrastructure, the environment, commercial and industrial buildings and equipment, which may be at risk from bushfire.

Table 3-1 – VCM Asset List

Asset list		
Mobile plant and equipment	Vickery State Forest	Local Biodiversity Enhancement Measures Area and proposed offset areas
Mine industrial area (Infrastructure, coal stockpiles, rail infrastructure, offices, workshop buildings, equipment laydown areas, pipelines, water and rail infrastructure).	Surrounding cropping/grazing land and associated buildings and residences	Heritage sites such as Kurrumbede Complex, Broadwater Grinding Grooves and other artefacts and scatter site

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4 BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL MEASURES


WHC will implement best practice management including all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the VCM's bushfire risk in accordance with Condition B98, B99 and B100, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480. VCM is responsible to assist RFS, as required to control bushfires in the local area. VCM will endeavour to prevent a bushfire from entering neighbouring properties.

4.1 GENERAL BUSHFIRE PROTECTION MEASURES

General bushfire protection and mitigation measures that may be implemented to manage risk include:

- All personnel conducting works on site complete the appropriate generic and site-specific inductions which provide a level of fire awareness;
- Emergency response training, procedures, manuals and systems;
- Equipment and plant introduction to site process includes requirements for fire suppression equipment and regular inspection requirements;
- Regular scheduled plant maintenance to identify and repair faults;
- Regular inspection schedule for firefighting resources on the site;
- Firefighting equipment located in appropriate locations;
- The storage of flammable materials is in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards AS1940 (and where relevant, National Code of Practice for the Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC:2017(2001)]);
- Clearing restrictions;
- Controlled grazing where practicable;
- Restricted vehicle movements;
- Implementation and management of fire breaks and management of fuel loads during suitable seasonal conditions prior to summer;
- The use of diesel vehicles;
- Prohibition of smoking on Site;
- Rapid response to any outbreak of fire;
- Assistance with control of offsite bushfires, as directed by RFS;
- Coal stockpile management; and
- Maintenance of entrance, internal roads and tracks (including to water sources) for emergency response purposes,

In the event of a bushfire, the site emergency response procedure will be activated (Section 5.2). Suitable equipment will be available on the site to respond to fires.

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4.1.1 Asset Protection

Assets will be protected from the effects of bushfire by the establishment of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) around assets at risk and by the establishment of appropriate firebreaks, fuel load reduction and vegetation maintenance. This can be done through mowing and slashing, as well as other methods deemed acceptable. APZs provide buffer zones between a bushfire hazard and an asset. The firebreak plan for the site is in Figure 4-1. The firebreak plan identifies the fire breaks, water storages and site access gates.

Where possible Asset Protection Zones (APZ) are established and maintained around key infrastructure on site. This includes administration buildings, MIA, rail loop infrastructure, overhead power lines, open cut and the coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP). Assets will be protected in accordance with the relevant requirements in the Planning for Bushfire Protection (RFS) guideline where possible. Asset protection zones are buffer zones of minimised fuel loads between a bush fire hazard (i.e. bushland) and infrastructure.

4.1.2 Site based water storages

There are multiple water storages available on site for the management of bushfire. Sediment basins, clean water dams and voids on site can be safely accessed by water carts. There are a range of access tracks around the site, as well as multiple access points. Vegetation on the site is managed, with unmanaged vegetation off-site (Figure 4-1).

4.1.3 Hot Work Management

Hot work includes, but is not limited to:

- Cutting
- Welding
- Heating
- Grinding
- Gouging
- Lancing
- Gas fuel operations

Hot works are permitted on the site following the completion of a hot work permit which is guided by the Whitehaven Hot Work Standard (WHC-STD-OC-Hot Work). The hot work standard identifies circumstances where hot works are/are not permitted along with what safety measures are to be implemented. As per the NSW Resources Regulator Technical Guidance Note – Hot Work at Mines and Petroleum Sites, a standard exemption to a total fire ban will not apply unless specifically referred to in the total fire ban order as made by the Minister or the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

4.2 MONITORING

Regular inspections are to be conducted and recorded as per the protection measures in Section 4.1. Performance of bushfire management is reported in the Annual Review (Section 7.1). The development of checklists will be dated to record when the inspection was completed.



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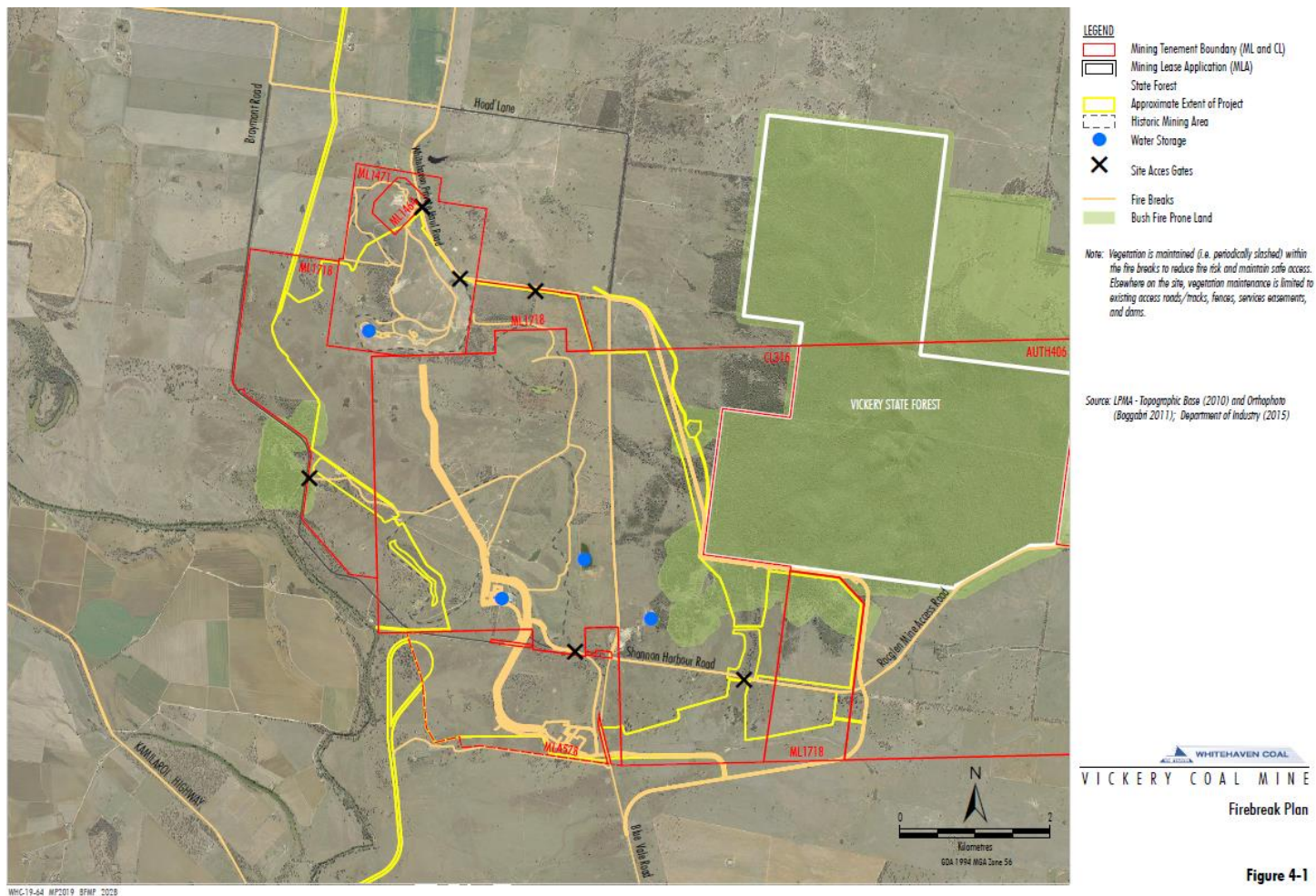



Figure 4-1 Firebreak Plan

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5 EMERGENCY/EVACUATION PLAN

5.1 SITE ACCESS

Public roads surrounding VCM include Braymont Road, Hoad Lane and Blue Vale Road. There are a number of internal roads that provide wide access for fire fighting vehicles. In the event of a bushfire emergency, the Site Supervisor will liaise with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) to determine the most suitable access point. The access roads and tracks also provide appropriate access to the site water sources. Site access roads and tracks, gates and entry points are identified in Figure 4-1. An A3 plan, or electronic file, will be provided to the RFS with detailed contact information, specific infrastructure and APZ's, and relevant road ways and coordinates.

5.2 BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURE


In the event that a Bushfire is identified in the vicinity of, or encroaching on VCM, the following procedure is to be observed:

- Ensure personal safety and the safety of any other people in the area.
- Where a person assesses that the fire is capable of being extinguished by their own action and with the equipment available within the immediate vicinity, they should attempt to extinguish the fire from the upwind side.
- In the event where initial assessment indicates the fire can't be extinguished alone, the person will immediately retreat and declare an emergency over the site radio:
 - Emergency! Emergency! Emergency!
 - Your name
 - Your location
 - Nature of emergency
 - Type of assistance required
 - Any potential hazards that exist.

In the event of a bushfire emergency at VCM the RFS will be engaged by the Site Supervisor (or delegate) calling 000. If the worker declaring the emergency is unable to contact the Site Supervisor, they are required to call 000 themselves. They will also notify other workers in the area of the emergency.

Once engaged, the RFS have the lead role in emergency response for the VCM.

The Site Emergency Management Plan will include details in relation to location of bulk flammable liquids and materials.

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In case of bushfire, the relevant 24 hour contact persons and details is shown in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 – Emergency Bushfire Contacts

Contact - Role	Contact details
Site Supervisor - Vickery	1800 942 836
Emergency	000

5.3 **EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

In the event that there is a need to evacuate the Site as a result of a Bushfire emergency, the emergency evacuation plan must be followed. The emergency evacuation plan has been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Emergency/Evacuation Plans (RFS) and Australian Standard AS 3745 Planning for Emergencies in Facilities (Figure 5-1). Exclusion zones are created around buildings through the use of slashing and other means as per Section 4.1.1

All personnel (including contractors and visitors) not required as part of the emergency response activities must assemble at the designated Exclusion Zone Assembly Area. Relevant Site Supervisors are to take responsibility (as far as possible without endangering themselves or others) of contractors and visitors.



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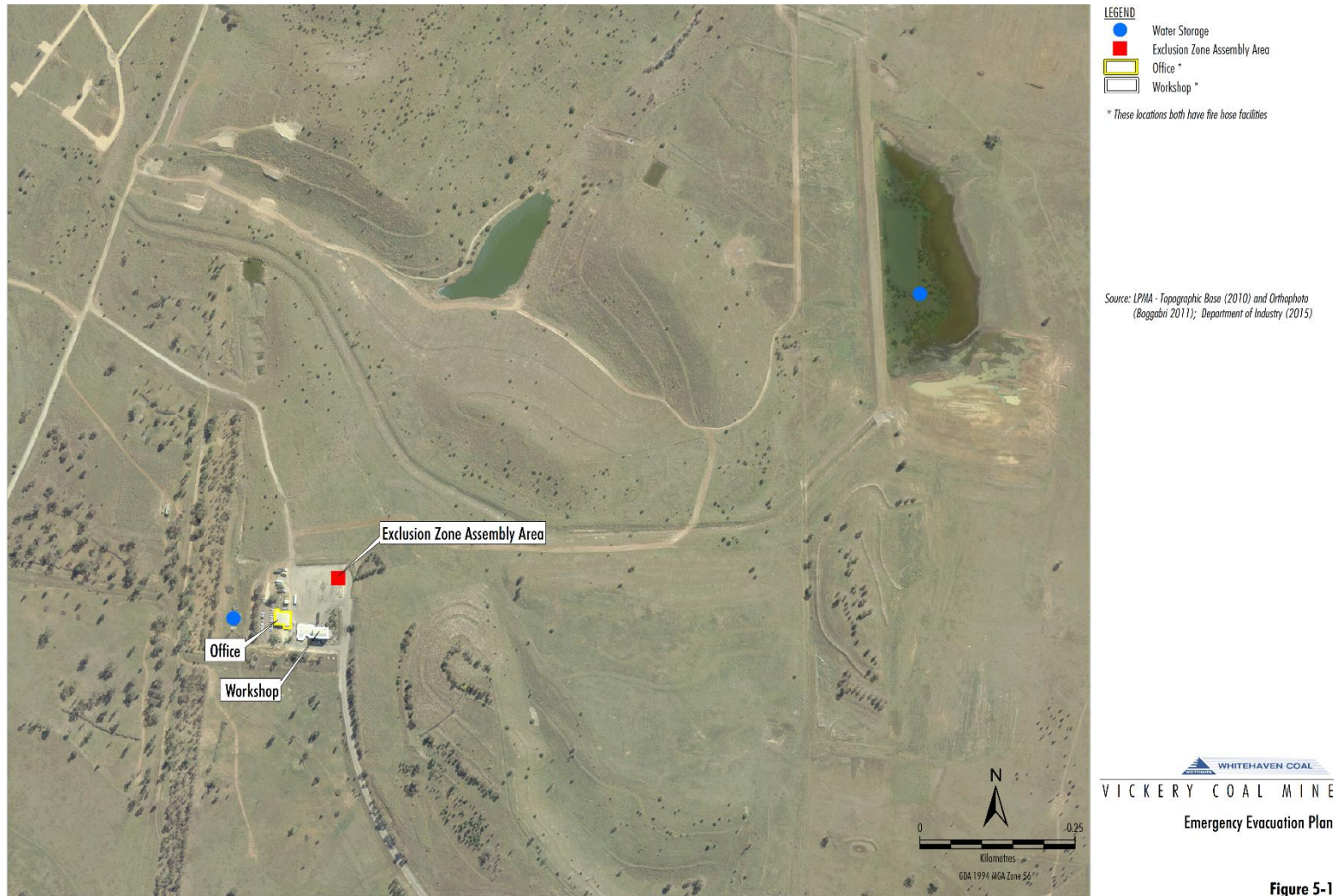



Figure 5-1 Emergency Evacuation Plan

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6 CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the event that a bushfire event occurs at the VCM, WHC will implement the following Contingency Plan:


- The Environmental Superintendent or authorised delegate will report the event as an incident if the fire originates from the site, in accordance with Section 7.1.
- WHC will apply adaptive management (Section 6.1).
- WHC will identify the appropriate course of action with respect to the identified impact(s), in consultation with technical specialists, Secretary and any other relevant agencies, as necessary. For example, contingency measures, such as, but not limited to, those described in Section 6.2.
- WHC will, in the event there is a dispute over the proposed remedial course of action or if the actions conflict with current approvals, submit the appropriate course of action to the Secretary for approval.
- WHC will implement the appropriate course of action to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

6.1 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

In accordance with Condition E3, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC will assess and manage risks to comply with the criteria and/or performance measures outlined in Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.

Where any bushfire event occurs on site, at the earliest opportunity WHC will:


- take all reasonable and feasible steps to ensure that the fire ceases and does not reoccur;
- consider all reasonable and feasible options for preventing a further event (where relevant) and submit a report to the Secretary describing those options and any preferred remediation measures or other courses of action; and
- implement remediation measures as directed by the Secretary, to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

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6.2 **POTENTIAL CONTINGENCY MEASURES**

Potential contingency measures will be reviewed during revisions of this Bushfire Management Plan. Key potential contingency measures to be implemented may include the following:

- WHC will consult with the RFS to review site controls,,
- WHC will investigate further bushfire controls, if bushfire occurs on the site, and
- WHC will also implement any reasonable and feasible contingency measures identified to address an incident.

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7 REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

7.1 ANNUAL REVIEW

In accordance with Condition E9, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC will review the environmental performance of the VCM for the previous calendar year and report results within the Annual Review to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

In relation to biodiversity, the Annual Review will (where relevant):

- describe the development that was carried out in the relevant calendar year, and the development that is proposed to be carried out during the following calendar year;
- include a comprehensive review of the monitoring results and complaints records of the development over the past year, which includes a comparison of these results against the:
 - relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures/criteria;
 - monitoring results of previous years; and
 - relevant predictions in the Environmental Impact Statement;
- identify any non-compliance over the last year, and describe what actions were (or are being) taken to ensure compliance;
- identify any trends in the monitoring data over the life of the development;
- identify any discrepancies between the predicted and actual impacts of the development, and analyse the potential cause of any significant discrepancies; and
- describe what measures will be implemented over the next reporting year to improve the environmental performance of the development.


The Annual Review will be made publicly available on the WHC website in accordance with Condition E14(a), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.

7.2 BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

In accordance with Condition E5, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, this Bushfire Management Plan will be reviewed, and if necessary revised (to the satisfaction of the Secretary), within three months of the submission of:

- an Annual Review (Condition E9, Schedule 2);
- an Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) (Condition E10, Schedule 2);
- an incident report (Condition E7, Schedule 2); or
- any modification to the conditions of SSD-7480 (unless the conditions require otherwise).

The reviews would be undertaken to ensure the Bushfire Management Plan is updated on a regular basis and to incorporate potential measures to improve the environmental performance

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of the VCM. Where revisions are required, the revised document will be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval within six weeks of the review.

The revision status of this BMP is indicated on the final page of each copy. The approved Bushfire Management Plan will be made publicly available on the WHC website, in accordance with Condition E14(a), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.


7.3 INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

In accordance with Condition E10, Schedule 2 of the SSD-7480, an IEA of the VCM will be lead and conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent team of experts whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary. The auditor will carry out the audit in consultation with the relevant agencies and the CCC.

The IEA will assess the environmental performance of the VCM and review the adequacy of this Bushfire Management Plan. If necessary, appropriate measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of the VCM will be recommended.

Within 1 year from the commencement of construction and every 3 years thereafter, WHC shall commission an IEA of the VCM. The IEA and WHC's response to recommendations in the Audit, will be made publicly available on WHC's website as per Condition E14(a), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 and be conducted to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.

A copy of the audit report will be submitted to the Planning Secretary, and any other NSW agency that requests it, together with the response to any recommendations contained in the audit report, and a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations as per Condition E11.

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8 REPORTING PROCEDURES

In accordance with Condition E4(j), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC has developed a protocol for managing and reporting the following:

- incidents;
- complaints;
- non-compliances with statutory requirements; and
- exceedances of the impact assessment criteria and/or performance criteria.

These protocols are described in the VCM's Environmental Management Strategy (EMS).

In accordance with Condition E14(a), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC will provide regular reporting on the environmental performance of the VCM on the WHC website.

8.1 INCIDENT AND NON-COMPLIANCE REPORTING


An incident is defined as an occurrence or set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm and which may or may not be or cause a non-compliance. A non-compliance is define as an occurrence, set of circumstances or development that is a breach of a condition of SSD-7480.

In the event that a bushfire event on site has occurred, the incident will be reported in accordance with Condition E7, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 and relevant conditions of EPL 21283 and appropriate mining leases. WHC will immediately notify the Department and any other relevant agencies. In accordance with Condition E8, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, within seven days of becoming aware of a non-compliance, notification is required to the Department of the non-compliance. The notification will be in writing to compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au and identify the relevant details in Condition E8. A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance as per the consent.

The notification will be provided the Secretary in writing via compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au and will identify the VCM (including the development application number and name) and set out the location and nature of the incident.

Within seven days of the date of the incident, WHC will provide the Secretary and any other relevant agencies with a report on the incident. The report will include details required within the approval, including:

- describe the date, time and nature of the exceedance/incident;
- identify the cause (or likely cause) of the exceedance/incident;
- describe what action has been taken to date; and
- describe reasonable and feasible options to address the incident and identify the preferred option to address the incident (Section 6.1).

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8.2 **COMPLAINTS**

WHC will maintain a Community Complaints Line and online contact via the WHC Website (www.whitehavencoal.com.au) for the sole purpose of receiving community complaints, or enquiries. The Community Complaints Line number will be available on the website. The Community Complaints Line will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week during construction and operations. WHC will respond to callers on the next business day.

Detailed records of each complaint are kept in WHC's record management systems.

In accordance with Condition E14(a)(ix), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, a complaints register will be made available on the WHC website during the construction and operational stages of the VCM. The complaints register will include:

- the date and time of the complaint;
- the method by which engagement was made;
- any personal details provided or, if no such details were provided, a note to that effect;
- the nature of the complaint; and
- any actions (if any required) taken by WHC in relation to the complaint.

Investigations into complaints will generally commence within 24 hours of receipt, or as soon as practical. The cause of the complaint will be analysed and actions to attempt to address the complaint taken as soon as reasonably possible. In complex cases where resolution will take more than 48 hours, WHC will commit to updating the community member.

8.3 **NON-COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**


A protocol for managing and reporting non-compliances with statutory requirements has been developed as a component of the VCM's EMS and is described below.

Compliance with all approvals, plans and procedures is the responsibility of all personnel (staff and contractors) employed on or in association with WHC and the VCM.

A VCM representative will undertake required inspections during the construction and initial mining phase and initiate directions to address any actions identified, if required, and areas of actual or potential non-compliance.


As described in Section 7.1, WHC will report incidents in accordance with Condition E7, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 and dependent on the incident and potential environmental harm, in accordance with the protocol for industry notification of pollution incidents under Part 5.7 of the *NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997*.

WHC will notify the Secretary and any other relevant agencies immediately after the authorised person becomes aware of the incident which causes or threatens to cause material harm to the environment. Within seven days (or other specified or approved time period) of the date of confirmation of the incident, WHC will provide the Secretary and any other relevant agencies with a report on the incident and subsequent information that may be requested.

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A review of compliance with all conditions in SSD-7480 and all other applicable approvals and licences will be included within each Annual Review (Section 7.1).

Additionally, in accordance with Condition E10, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, an IEA (Section 7.3) would be conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent auditor whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary to assess whether WHC is complying with the requirements SSD-7480, and any other relevant approval and tenement conditions.

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9 REFERENCES

Australian Standard AS3745 Planning for Emergencies in Facilities.


Development Planning: A Guide to Developing a Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan (RFS, 2014).

National Code of Practice for the Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC:2017(2001)].

Planning for Bushfire Protection (RFS, 2006) guideline.


WHC-STD-OC-Hot Work.

Whitehaven Coal Limited (2018) *Vickery Extension Project Environmental Impact Statement*.

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Appendix A Consultation Log

Date	Consultee	Comment
28/10/20	RFS	No comment.
May 2021	RFS	Comment received May 2021 listing recommendations.
August 2021	DPIE	DPIE feedback received on draft document

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Edition	Rev.	Comments	Date
1	0	Initial draft following consultation as first submitted	January 2021
1	1	Feedback incorporated from RFS and DPIE	May & August 2021