



## **ATTACHMENT 6**

Relevant Strategic Planning Documents

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## A6 STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENTS

This Attachment provides further discussion on the requirements and application of strategic planning documents relevant to the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project (the Project).

References to Sections 1 to 8 in this Attachment are references to the Sections in the Main Report of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). References to Appendices A to S in this Attachment are references to the Appendices of the EIS. Internal references within this Attachment are prefixed with “A6”.

### A6.1 WATERNSW PRINCIPLES FOR MANAGING MINING AND COAL SEAM GAS IMPACTS IN DECLARED CATCHMENT AREAS

The *WaterNSW Principles for Managing Mining and Coal Seam Gas Impacts in Declared Catchment Areas* (WaterNSW, undated) are described in Section 2.

### A6.2 SPECIAL AREAS STRATEGIC PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2015

The *Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management 2015* (WaterNSW and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH], 2015) was developed to provide the strategic framework for the planning, delivery and reporting of land management activities within the Special Areas to secure high quality water for the storages, maintain ecosystem integrity and manage cultural values.

The *Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management 2015* contains nine key strategic management objectives:

- *Pollutants are controlled so that impacts on water quality and natural and cultural values are minimised.*
- *Surface and groundwater sources and their interactions will be better understood so decisions are made that seek to minimise impacts on Special Areas hydrological integrity.*
- *Pests and weeds are controlled so that impacts on water quality and ecological integrity are minimised.*
- *Measures are in place to minimise the impacts of built assets within the Special Areas on water quality, ecological integrity and cultural values.*

- *Access to the Special Areas is controlled to protect water quality and ecological integrity while providing for appropriate visitor opportunities.*
- *Fire management within Special Areas maximises protection of life and property, and minimises impact on water quality and ecological integrity.*
- *Ecological integrity including threatened plant and animal species, endangered populations, endangered ecological communities, geodiversity and other natural values are maintained.*
- *Cultural heritage values are acknowledged and conserved, and community associations supported.*
- *Management of Special Areas is supported by appropriate policy, planning and evaluation.*

The Project is generally consistent with the principles of the *Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management 2015* as:

- The Project has been developed to consider potential sources of pollution from both surface and underground operations, and would implement appropriate mitigation and control measures to minimise potential risks.
- The Project has been assessed using the best available science, including adopting the advice of the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment (IEPMC) with respect to assessment of potential impacts of mine subsidence on groundwater and surface water resources (Sections 7.5 and 7.6 and Appendices B and C).
- Pest and weed control measures would continue to be implemented for the Project in accordance with current control measures.
- The Project adopts a number of longwall design features incorporated in the Project underground mining layout to reduce potential environmental impacts to the Sydney drinking water catchment.
- The Project would continue to operate in accordance with existing access agreements between Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC) and WaterNSW regarding access to the Metropolitan Special Area.
- The Project would continue to operate in accordance with the existing Bushfire Management Plan, which would be updated as required for the Project (Section 7.22.3).



- The Project includes biodiversity and ecology assessments and a proposal for offsetting unavoidable residual impacts on ecology consistent with *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* requirements and the *Addendum to NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects: Upland swamps impacted by longwall mining subsidence* (OEH, 2016). It is noted that under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, potential ecological impacts from the Project have been assessed in accordance with the *Biodiversity Assessment Method* (NSW Government, 2020) (Sections 7.7 to 7.9) and other compensatory measures (Sections 7 and 8 and Appendices D and E).
- The Project includes Aboriginal and historic heritage assessments, including consideration of cultural values, which identify suitable management and mitigation measures for potential direct and indirect impacts of the Project (Section 7 and Appendices F and G).
- IMC would continue to consult with relevant authorities in regard to the management of Special Areas (Section 6).

#### A6.3 A PLAN FOR GROWING SYDNEY

*A Plan for Growing Sydney* was released by the NSW Government in December 2014 and applies to the Sydney Metropolitan Area, inclusive of 41 local government areas (LGAs). This includes the Wollondilly LGA, which encompasses some surface infrastructure for the Project.

This document aims to provide a framework for growth and managing competing land uses, and outlines four key goals to be achieved (NSW Government, 2014):

- *A competitive economy with world-class services and transport.*
- *A city of housing choice with homes that meet our needs and lifestyles.*
- *A great place to live with communities that are strong, healthy and well connected.*
- *A sustainable and resilient city that protects the natural environment and has a balanced approach to the use of land and resources.*

The Project is generally consistent with the principles of *A Plan for Growing Sydney* as:

- IMC is a local company that has been mining metallurgical coal for steelmaking for over 85 years. The Project is important to the continued financial sustainability of the broader Southern Coalfield economic ecosystem and would benefit the regional economy through creation of employment opportunities and regional expenditure (Section 8.5 and Appendix L).
- The Project has been developed to incorporate comprehensive offset, management and monitoring measures in regard to maintaining the natural environment (Sections 4 and 7).

#### A6.4 SOUTH EAST AND TABLELANDS REGIONAL PLAN 2036

The *South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036* (South East and Tablelands Plan) was released by the NSW Government in 2017, and covers a wide region, including Canberra, Bega and Bateman's Bay. This includes the Wingecarribee LGA, which encompasses proposed underground mining Area 5 and associated infrastructure.

The South East and Tablelands Plan has four main regional goals (NSW Government, 2017):

- *A connected and prosperous economy.*
- *A diverse environment interconnected by biodiversity corridors.*
- *Healthy and connected communities.*
- *Environmentally sustainable housing choices.*

The Project is generally consistent with the principles of the South East and Tablelands Plan as:

- The Project is important to the continued financial sustainability of the broader Southern Coalfield economic ecosystem and would benefit the economy through the creation of employment opportunities and regional expenditure (Section 8.5 and Appendix L).
- The Project incorporates a range of strategies to manage, minimise and/or offset potential impacts on the surrounding environment (Section 4 and Section 7).

- The Project would continue to coexist with the community and has been developed in a manner that has both considered the potential economic and social impacts to the region and would promote community growth and development (Appendix K).

#### A6.5 OUR GREATER SYDNEY 2056 WESTERN CITY DISTRICT PLAN – CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

The *Our Greater Sydney 2056 Western City District Plan – Connecting Communities* (Western City Plan) was released in 2018 and applies to the Western City District, inclusive of eight LGAs. This includes the Wollondilly LGA, which encompasses some surface infrastructure for the Project.

The Western City Plan has five main strategic themes for the region, namely infrastructure and collaboration, liveability, productivity, sustainability and implementation (NSW Government, 2018). Each of these strategic themes is underpinned by numerous planning strategies.

The Project is generally consistent with the Western City Plan as:

- The Project has been developed in a manner that considers coexistence with the community and associated infrastructure, including with users of the road transport network (Section 7).
- The Project would facilitate local and regional employment, and economic development opportunities (Appendices K and L).
- The Project incorporates relevant ecologically sustainable development (ESD) considerations (Section 8.6).

#### A6.6 ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN REGIONAL PLAN 2041

The *Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041* (NSW Government, 2021) (Illawarra Regional Plan) applies to the Wollongong, Kiama, Shellharbour and Shoalhaven LGAs. The Illawarra Regional Plan sets the strategic framework for the region, aiming to protect and enhance the region's assets and plan for a sustainable future until 2041. The Project is partially located within the area covered by the Illawarra Regional Plan (NSW Government, 2021).

The Illawarra Regional Plan has four main strategic themes for the region (NSW Government, 2021):

- A productive and innovative region.
- A sustainable and resilient region.
- A region that values its people and places.
- A smart and connected region.

The Project is generally consistent with the Illawarra Regional Plan as:

- The Project is important to the continued financial sustainability of the broader Southern Coalfield economic ecosystem and would facilitate local and regional employment and facilitate economic development opportunities (Appendices K and L).
- The Project has been developed in a manner that considers coexistence with the community and associated infrastructure (Section 7).
- The Project incorporates relevant ESD considerations (Section 8.6).

In addition, the Illawarra Regional Plan recognises steelmaking and manufacturing as critical industry sectors within the region (NSW Government, 2021):

*The region lies partly within the Southern Coalfield that provides the only hard coking coal in NSW and is in high demand for steel production around the world. As the region grows, the continued extraction of resource lands should remain a priority.*

The Project would provide for continued supply of metallurgical coal for the Australian steel industry and for export through the Port Kembla Coal Terminal.

The Illawarra Regional Plan acknowledges that metallurgical coal mining within the Metropolitan Special Area has the potential to affect water supply, security and infrastructure, and ecological integrity (NSW Government, 2021). In this regard, the Illawarra Regional Plan (NSW Government, 2021) concludes:

*These risks must be carefully managed through assessment, management and regulation that is informed by best available science.*

IMC has designed the Project to reduce the potential impacts on water resources (as well as biodiversity values and other environmental values of the Metropolitan Special Area) as far as is practicable, in addition to provision of targeted offsets (Section 7). In addition, the Project has been assessed using the best available science, including adopting the advice of the IEPMC with respect to assessment of potential impacts of mine subsidence on groundwater and surface water resources.

#### **A6.7 OUR WOLLONGONG 2028 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

The *Our Wollongong 2028 Community Strategic Plan* (Wollongong Strategic Plan) was released in 2018 and provides a future direction for the community within the Wollongong LGA.

The majority of the Project is located within the area covered by the Wollongong Strategic Plan, which has six goals for the region (Wollongong City Council, 2012):

- *We value and protect our environment.*
- *We have an innovative and sustainable economy.*
- *We have a creative, vibrant city.*
- *We are a connected and engaged community.*
- *We are a healthy community in a liveable city.*
- *We have affordable and accessible transport.*

The Project is generally consistent with the Wollongong Strategic Plan as:

- The Project incorporates a range of strategies to manage, minimise and/or offset potential impacts on the surrounding environment (Section 7).
- IMC is a local company that has been operating in the region for over 85 years. The Project would continue to benefit the economy through the development of employment opportunities and regional expenditure (Section 8.5 and Appendix L).
- The Project would be developed in a manner that incorporates community engagement through the Project EIS stakeholder engagement program (Section 6), as well as the public exhibition of the EIS document.

#### **A6.8 WINGECARRIBEE LOCAL PLANNING STRATEGY 2015-2031**

The *Wingecarribee Local Planning Strategy 2015-2031* (Wingecarribee Planning Strategy) has five main strategic themes for the region, namely leadership, people, places, environment and the economy (Wingecarribee Shire Council, 2016). Each of these strategic themes is underpinned by numerous goals and planning strategies.

The Project is generally consistent with the Wingecarribee Planning Strategy as:

- IMC has been a leader in the metallurgical coal industry within the region for over 85 years, and would continue to do so in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Wingecarribee LEP and Wingecarribee Planning Strategy.
- The Project would benefit the economy through the creation of employment opportunities and regional expenditure (Section 8.5 and Appendix L).
- The Project has been developed in a manner that considers the potential impacts on the surrounding environment and heritage items, and mitigation measures and management measures are proposed, where applicable (Section 7).

#### **A6.9 CREATE WOLLONDILLY – COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2033**

The *Create Wollondilly – Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033* (Wollondilly Strategic Plan) focuses on five main strategic themes, namely sustainable and balanced growth, management and provision of infrastructure, caring for the environment, looking after the community and efficient and effective council (Wollondilly Shire Council, 2017). Each of these strategic themes is underpinned by numerous outcomes and strategies.

The Project is generally consistent with the Wollondilly Strategic Plan as:

- The Project would continue to benefit the economy through the creation of employment opportunities and the generation of direct and indirect revenue in the region (Section 8.5 and Appendix L).

- The Project has been developed in a manner that considers the potential impacts on the surrounding environment, and mitigation measures and management measures are proposed, where applicable (Section 7).

#### **A6.10 DEVELOPMENTS ADJACENT TO NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICES LANDS**

The *Development Adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Services Lands* (DPIE, 2020) lists the following matters to be considered with respect to proposals adjoining National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) land:

- erosion and sediment control;
- stormwater runoff;
- wastewater;
- management implications relating to pests, weeds and edge effects;
- fire and the location of asset protection zones;
- boundary encroachments and access through NPWS lands;
- visual, odour, noise, vibration, air quality and amenity impacts;
- threats to ecological connectivity and groundwater dependent ecosystems;
- cultural heritage; and
- road network design and its implications for continued access to the park.

The Project is generally consistent with the aims of the *Development Adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Services Lands* as:

- The Project incorporates erosion and sediment control measures (for stormwater runoff) designed in consideration of *Managing Urban Stormwater Soils and Construction – Volume 2E – Mines and Quarries* (Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2008).
- There would be no release of wastewater into catchments reporting to the Upper Nepean or Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Areas.
- Weed and pest management measures would be implemented for the Project to avoid/minimise potential edge effects.

- The Project would continue to operate in accordance with the existing Bushfire Management Plan, which would be updated as required for the Project (Section 7.22.3).
- Access to the Project through the Upper Nepean or Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Areas would generally not be required, and would be limited as far as is practicable.
- Potential impacts to amenity (including visual, noise and air quality), ecology and groundwater dependent ecosystems are described in Section 7, along with measures to avoid, minimise and offset potential impacts.
- Potential impacts to cultural heritage are described in Appendices F and G, along with management measures.
- Potential impacts to the road network are described in Section 7, along with measures to minimise and/or mitigate potential impacts.

#### **A6.11 OTHER RELEVANT NSW ASSESSMENT POLICIES**

Section 2 of the main text of the EIS and this Attachment are intended to provide a description of potentially relevant Strategic Planning Statements and Policies.

Environmental assessment policies and guidelines that typically provide guidance on a specific subject (e.g. noise from industry) are described where relevant in the specialist appendices or in Section 7 of the EIS main text.

## A6.12 REFERENCES

- Department of Environment and Climate Change (2008). *Managing Urban Stormwater Soils and Construction – Volume 2E – Mines and Quarries*.
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (2020). *Development Adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Services Lands*.
- NSW Government (2014). *A Plan for Growing Sydney*.
- NSW Government (2017). *South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036*.
- NSW Government (2018). *Our Greater Sydney 2056 Western City District Plan – Connecting Communities*.
- NSW Government (2020). *Biodiversity Assessment Method*.
- NSW Government (2021). *Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041*.
- Office of Environment and Heritage (2016). *Addendum to NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects: Upland swamps impacted by longwall mining subsidence*.
- WaterNSW (n.d). *WaterNSW Principles for Managing Mining and Coal Seam Gas Impacts in Declared Catchment Areas*.
- WaterNSW and Office of Environment and Heritage (2015). *Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management 2015*.
- Wingecarribee Shire Council (2016). *Wingecarribee Local Planning Strategy 2015-2031*.
- Wollondilly Shire Council (2017). *Create Wollondilly – Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033*.
- Wollongong City Council (2012). *Our Wollongong 2028 Community Strategic Plan*.