

Introduction

This document is provided by Coal Services to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) in support of the Hunter Valley Operations South Extension Project.

Coal Services and its predecessors, the Joint Coal Board and Mines Rescue, have a long history with underground and open cut coal mining and the communities of the Hunter region. While our businesses span the breadth of NSW, in the Hunter Valley region alone we employ close to 105 people to support the health, safety and wellbeing of workers in the local industry.

Like Coal Services, Hunter Valley Operations has a long-standing connection with the region and over the years has demonstrated a high level of commitment to the health, safety, environment and community in which they operate. They are a substantial source of local employment in the Hunter region providing 1,500 jobs locally and 4,450 flow-on jobs; supporting over 700 suppliers ([Hunter Valley Operations Continuation Project](#)).

As such, the Hunter Valley Operations South Extension Project presents an opportunity to support local jobs and local businesses in an important post-COVID economic recovery.

About Coal Services

Coal Services is a Specialised Health and Safety Scheme committed to providing critical services and expertise to the NSW coal mining industry.

Coal Services has statutory functions, as directed by the *Coal Industry Act 2001* (NSW) (the Act). These functions include, but are not limited to, the provision of workers compensation, occupational health and rehabilitation services, the collection of statistics and the provision of mines rescue emergency services and training to the NSW coal industry.

We are a fully-funded, industry-owned organisation; jointly owned by two shareholders – the NSW Minerals Council and the Construction, Mining and Energy Union (MEU).

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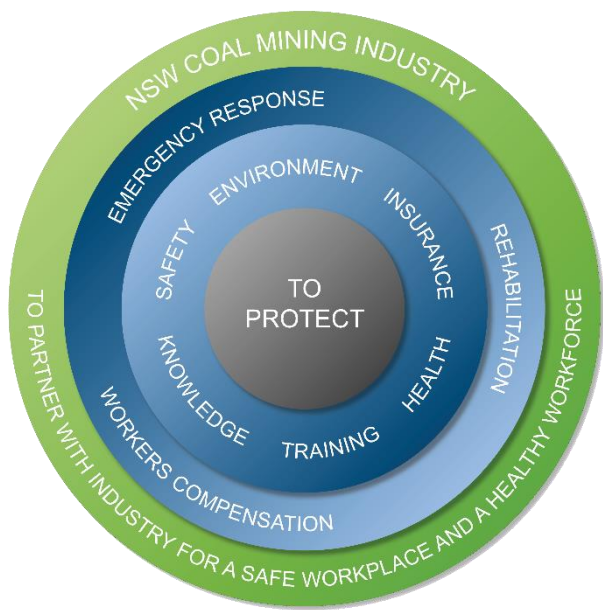
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Our purpose is ‘to protect’

A Collaborative Model



We work with our industry partners to help identify, assess, monitor and control risk to protect the health and safety of those working in the industry. We do this through a combination of protection, detection, enforcement and education. Our collaborative model (below) demonstrates how our preventative and responsive services help to deliver our purpose, to protect.

The model involves all key stakeholders in the industry and is underpinned by strong legislation, regulation and compliance. It has been a key factor in delivering a robust system of worker protection to the NSW coal industry.

Our stakeholders

We partner with, and support, multiple stakeholders across the NSW coal industry. However, our primary focus is to serve two customers – workers and employers.

We believe that workers sit at the heart of our model. For us to achieve our purpose, we must support their health, safety and wellbeing through their working lives and beyond.

Partnering with our employers and other industry stakeholders to mitigate their risks is essential to deliver our responsibilities and to ensure a sustainable, efficient and successful NSW coal industry.

Through our industry relationships we are also intrinsically linked to the wider communities in which we operate.



Statutory requirements

The Act outlines the various statutory obligations that are required to be performed by Coal Services through its various entities: Coal Services (including CS Health and Occupational Hygiene Services), Coal Mines Insurance and Mines Rescue. These obligations include but are not limited to:

- Establishing, administering, or providing workers compensation insurance
- Providing occupational health and rehabilitation services for workers engaged in the coal industry, including providing preventative medical services, monitoring workers' health and investigating related health matters
- Collecting, collating and disseminating accident and other statistics relating to the health and safety of workers engaged in the coal industry
- Monitoring, promoting and specifying adequate training standards relating to health and safety for workers engaged in the coal industry
- The provision of mines rescue emergency services and brigades training to the NSW coal industry.

Statutory Orders

Coal Services' statutory obligations are further defined by the following:

- Order 34: Training and Competence Management Systems
- Order 40: Abatement of Dust on Longwalls
- Order 42: Airborne Dust Monitoring
- Order 43 (previously Order 41): Coal Mine Worker Health Surveillance
 - Including pre-employment and periodic medicals and chest x-rays

Hunter Valley Operations and Coal Services

Hunter Valley Operations supports over 700 suppliers and employs around 2100 people (employees and contractors) across its Hunter coal mining operations.

Most, if not all, Hunter Valley Operations employees and related contractors have contact with Coal Services throughout their mining careers through the execution of our statutory responsibilities or as a preferred supplier of commercial services. For example, pre-employment and periodic health surveillance with CS Health, essential emergency preparedness (brigades) and safety and hazard awareness training with Mines Rescue, and workers compensation insurance and injury management with Coal Mines Insurance, in the unfortunate event that a worker is injured.

A reduction in the Hunter Valley Operations workforce due to the end of mine life would have a detrimental impact on the economy and community of the Hunter, as skilled workers and their families potentially leave the region in search of other employment. This would also directly impact Coal Services own employees and families due to the intrinsic link between the Hunter Valley Operations and Coal Services workforces, causing our own operational sustainability, commercial viability, and social contribution to the region to be impacted by a reduction in service provision.

Conclusion

The Hunter Valley Operations South Extension to 2045 Project presents an opportunity to continue to support local jobs, businesses in an important post-COVID economic recovery now and into the future.

Measures to avoid and minimise impacts on the surrounding local environment and communities have influenced the project. Including, having a strong focus on mining practices that extend the existing mines lifespan, through the use of existing mined areas and continued use of the same mining methods, so as to have minimal change to the scale and intensity of mining in the area. Significantly contributing to the environmental and economic stability of the Hunter for many years to come.

Coal Services supports the project and we welcome further discussion with the IPC as part of this process.



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