

Mt Arthur Coal



Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1-1			
1.1	GENERAL	1-1	3.2.3	Relocation of Explosives Magazines and Facilities	3-3
1.1.1	Existing Operations Overview	1-1	3.2.4	CHPP Control Room and Office Facilities	3-3
1.1.2	Modification Overview	1-1	3.2.5	Mine Infrastructure Area	
1.2	LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK	1-5	3.2.6	Stockpile Expansion	3-7
1.2.1	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979	1-5	3.3	Administration Building	3-7
1.3	CONSULTATION	1-7		WATER SUPPLY AND WATER MANAGEMENT	3-7
1.3.1	State Government Agencies	1-7	3.3.1	Whites Creek Diversion	3-7
1.3.2	Local Government Agencies	1-8	3.4	CHPP REJECTS MANAGEMENT	3-7
1.3.3	Federal Government Agencies	1-8	3.5	PRODUCT COAL RAIL MOVEMENTS	3-7
1.3.4	Infrastructure Owners, Service Providers and Other Resource Companies	1-9	3.6	REHABILITATION	3-7
1.3.5	Public Consultation	1-9	3.7	WORKFORCE	3-7
1.4	PROJECT DESIGN AMENDMENTS IN RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED	1-10	4	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	4-1
1.5	COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND INVOLVEMENT	1-10	4.1	ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT	4-1
1.6	STRUCTURE OF THIS EA	1-15	4.2	CLIMATE	4-1
2	DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING MT ARTHUR COAL MINE	2-1	4.3	LAND RESOURCES	4-4
2.1	MINING	2-1	4.3.1	Existing Environment	4-4
2.2	COAL PREPARATION PLANT AND RAIL LOADING FACILITIES	2-3	4.3.2	Potential Impacts	4-7
2.3	TAILINGS AND COARSE REJECTS MANAGEMENT	2-3	4.3.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-9
2.4	WATER SUPPLY AND WATER MANAGEMENT	2-4	4.4	GROUNDWATER	4-10
2.5	GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE	2-5	4.4.1	Background	4-10
2.6	EDDERTON ROAD REALIGNMENTS	2-5	4.4.2	Potential Impacts	4-12
2.7	PRODUCT COAL TRAIN MOVEMENTS	2-5	4.4.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-14
2.8	WASTE MANAGEMENT	2-5	4.5	SURFACE WATER	4-15
2.9	REHABILITATION	2-5	4.5.1	Existing Environment	4-15
2.10	WORKFORCE	2-5	4.5.2	Potential Impacts	4-17
2.11	ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT	2-6	4.5.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-19
2.12	COMPLAINTS RECORD	2-6	4.6	FLORA AND FAUNA	4-19
2.13	KEY OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE MT ARTHUR COAL MINE	2-9	4.6.1	Existing Environment	4-19
2.14	REHABILITATION	2-9	4.6.2	Potential Impacts	4-29
2.15	WORKFORCE	2-9	4.6.3	Mitigation Measures, Management and Monitoring	4-33
3	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION	3-1	4.6.4	Offsets	4-35
3.1	OPEN CUT MINING OPERATIONS	3-1	4.7	ABORIGINAL AND NON-INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT	4-39
3.1.1	Geology	3-1	4.7.1	Existing Environment	4-41
3.1.2	Mining Method and Schedule	3-1	4.7.2	Potential Impacts	4-46
3.1.3	Overburden Management	3-1	4.7.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-46
3.2	INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES AND MODIFICATIONS	3-3	4.8	AIR QUALITY	4-47
3.2.1	Mt Arthur Rail Loop Duplication – High Capacity Option	3-3	4.8.1	Existing Environment	4-47
3.2.2	Relocation of Load Point for Existing Overland Conveyor to Bayswater Power Station	3-3	4.8.2	Potential Impacts	4-50
			4.8.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-51
			4.9	GREENHOUSE GAS	4-51
			4.9.1	Modified Mt Arthur Coal Mine Greenhouse Gas Emissions	4-51
			4.9.2	Mitigation Measures, Management and Reporting	4-51

4.10	NOISE AND BLASTING	4-53	6	PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND MODIFICATION JUSTIFICATION	6-1
4.10.1	Existing Environment	4-53		6.1 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK	6-1
4.10.2	Potential Impacts	4-54		6.1.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979	6-1
4.10.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-57		6.1.2 Environmental Planning Instruments	6-1
4.11	VISUAL	4-58		6.1.3 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, 1999	6-5
4.11.1	Existing Environment	4-58		6.1.4 Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997	6-5
4.11.2	Potential Impacts	4-59		6.1.5 Other Approvals	6-6
4.11.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-63	6.2	MODIFICATION JUSTIFICATION	6-6
4.12	GEOCHEMISTRY	4-64		6.2.1 Need for and Objectives of the Modification	6-6
4.12.1	Existing Environment	4-64		6.2.2 Consideration of Alternatives to the Modification	6-6
4.12.2	Potential Impacts	4-64		6.2.3 Consideration of Climate Change Projections for Australia and NSW	6-8
4.12.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-65		6.2.4 Ecologically Sustainable Development Considerations	6-9
4.13	ROAD TRANSPORT ASSESSMENT	4-65		6.2.5 Consideration of the Modification against the Objects of the EP&A Act	6-14
4.13.1	Existing Environment	4-65		6.2.6 Consideration of the Consequences of not Carrying out the Modification	6-15
4.13.2	Potential Impacts	4-66			
4.13.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-66			
4.14	RAIL TRANSPORT	4-66			
4.14.1	Existing Environment:	4-66			
4.14.2	Potential Impacts	4-67			
4.14.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-67			
4.15	HAZARD AND RISK	4-68			
4.15.1	Existing Environment	4-68			
4.15.2	Potential Impacts	4-68			
4.15.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-69			
4.16	EMPLOYMENT, POPULATION AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE	4-69	7	REFERENCES	7-1
4.16.1	Existing Environment	4-69			
4.16.2	Potential Impacts	4-72			
4.16.3	Mitigation Measures and Management	4-72			
4.17	REGIONAL ECONOMY	4-73			
4.17.1	Existing Environment	4-73			
4.17.2	Potential Impacts	4-73			
5	REHABILITATION STRATEGY	5-1			
5.1	EXISTING MT ARTHUR COAL MINE REHABILITATION INITIATIVES	5-1			
5.1.1	Rehabilitation Objectives	5-1			
5.1.2	Rehabilitation Strategy	5-1			
5.1.3	Biodiversity and Rehabilitation Management Plan	5-3			
5.1.4	Relevant Planning Instruments	5-4			
5.1.5	Final Landform	5-4			
5.1.6	Decommissioning Activities	5-7			
5.1.7	Final Land Use	5-7			
5.1.8	General Rehabilitation Procedures	5-7			
5.1.9	Rehabilitation Monitoring	5-7			
5.2	REHABILITATION CHANGES RELEVANT TO THE MODIFICATION	5-8			
5.3	FUTURE LANDSCAPES DESIGN PROJECT	5-8			

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1	Summary Comparison of Approved and Modified Mt Arthur Coal Mine
Table 2-1	Indicative Mt Arthur Open Cut Mine Mobile Fleet
Table 3-1	Indicative Coal Processing and Coal Production Schedule
Table 3-2	Modification Indicative Mt Arthur Open Cut Mine Mobile Fleet
Table 4-1	Key Potential Environmental Issues Identified in the ERA to be Further Assessed in this EA
Table 4-2	Meteorological Stations
Table 4-3	Meteorological Data Summary
Table 4-4	Summary Description of Land Capability Classes within the Modification Area
Table 4-5	Predicted Maximum Changes to Contributing Catchments of Local Creeks
Table 4-6	Vegetation Communities within the Modification Area
Table 4-7	TECs within the Modification Area
Table 4-8	Threatened Fauna Species that could Potentially be Impacted by the Modification

LIST OF TABLES (Continued)

Table 4-9	Vegetation Clearance of TECs within the Modification Area
Table 4-10	Loss of Each Habitat Type within the Modification Area
Table 4-11	Existing Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Measures at the Mt Arthur Coal Mine
Table 4-12	Proposed Additional Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Measures for the Modification
Table 4-13	Revised Biodiversity Offset Strategy
Table 4-14	Summary of Modification Aboriginal Heritage Consultation/Survey Program
Table 4-15	Local Archaeological Significance of Aboriginal Heritage Sites
Table 4-16	Criteria/Standards/Goals for Particulate Matter Concentrations
Table 4-17	Annual Average PM ₁₀ Concentrations ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
Table 4-18	Annual Average Dust Deposition Data (Insoluble Solids) – 2003 to 2011 (g/m ² /month)
Table 4-19	Background and Intrusive Noise Criteria
Table 4-20	Summary of Predicted Exceedances under Night-time Inversion Conditions
Table 4-21	Visual Impact Matrix
Table 4-22	Summary of Modification Visual Assessment
Table 4-23	Muswellbrook to Hexham Rail Upgrades
Table 4-24	Snapshot of Community Perceptions from Sustainable Communities Project
Table 5-1	Goals, Objectives and Completion Criteria of the Mt Arthur Coal Rehabilitation Program – Rehabilitation Focus
Table 5-2	Goals, Objectives and Completion Criteria of the Mt Arthur Coal Rehabilitation Program – Land Use Focus

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure 2-3	Mt Arthur Coal Mine Complaints Record January 2002–December 2011
Figure 3-1	Aerial Photograph of Mt Arthur Coal Mine Open Cut Modification
Figure 3-2	Proposed Rail Loop Duplication
Figure 3-3	Mt Arthur Coal Mine Proposed Minor Infrastructure Modification
Figure 3-4	Provisional Modification Development Schedule
Figure 4-1	Strategic Agricultural Land in the Vicinity of Mt Arthur Coal Mine
Figure 4-2	Predicted Extent of Additional Watertable Drawdown Attributable to the Modification
Figure 4-3	Vegetation Communities
Figure 4-4	Threatened Flora and Ecological Communities
Figure 4-5	Threatened Birds
Figure 4-6	Threatened Mammals
Figure 4-7	Threatened Bats
Figure 4-8	Proposed Rehabilitation Plan and Offset Strategy
Figure 4-9	Proposed Saddlers Creek Offset Areas
Figure 4-10	Proposed Middle Deep Creek Offset Area
Figure 4-11	Aboriginal Heritage Sites
Figure 4-12	Aboriginal Heritage Sites Inset A
Figure 4-13	Predicted Modification 24 hour PM ₁₀ Air Quality Contours ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) (2016)
Figure 4-14	Predicted Noise Contours L _{Aeq(15 minute)} (dBA)
Figure 4-15	Viewpoint Locations
Figure 5-1	Approved Rehabilitation Plan and Offset Strategy
Figure 5-2	Proposed Rehabilitation Plan and Offset Strategy

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1	Regional Location
Figure 1-2	Mt Arthur Coal Mine Location
Figure 1-3	Mt Arthur Coal Open Cut Modification General Arrangement
Figure 1-4a	Land Ownership
Figure 1-4b	Land Ownership – Inset A
Figure 1-4c	Landholder List
Figure 2-1	Aerial Photograph of Existing Mt Arthur Coal Mine (2012)
Figure 2-2	Mt Arthur Coal Mine Existing Monitoring Sites

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Mt Arthur Consolidation Project Approval (09_0062)
Attachment 2	Modification Director-General's Requirements
Attachment 3	Aquifer Interference Policy Considerations

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A Agricultural Impact Statement
- Appendix B Groundwater Impact Assessment
- Appendix C Surface Water Assessment
- Appendix D Ecological Assessment
- Appendix E Aboriginal and Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Appendix F Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment
- Appendix G Noise and Blasting Assessment
- Appendix H Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Appendix I Geochemistry Assessment of Overburden and Interburden
- Appendix J Socio-Economic Assessment
- Appendix K Road Transport Assessment
- Appendix L Environmental Risk Assessment