



PART 1

Commitments and justification



23 Statement of commitments

The commitments made by CHC to manage potential environmental and social impacts identified in this EA are described below.

23.1 Health, Safety and Environment Policy

The CHC Health, Safety and Environment Policy includes the following general commitments:

- CHC will maintain a safe and healthy workplace for employees, contractors and visitors;
- CHC will undertake operations in an environmentally responsible manner;
- CHC will respect the local environment and community values;
- CHC will maximise value from all resources, including energy, water and land;
- CHC will return the land disturbed by mining and related activities to a self-sustaining valuable state; and
- CHC will work within our community as an economic contributor and community partner.

23.2 Environmental management system

The Project environmental management system (EMS) will include: a construction environmental management plan (CEMP); an operations environmental management plan (OEMP); and contributions to partnerships with physical and social infrastructure providers.

23.2.1 Construction environmental management

The CEMP will detail the site-specific management measures to be implemented during construction, including timeframes and responsibilities. It will describe the management of all potential material construction impacts identified in this EA, being:

- Aboriginal heritage;
- air quality;
- biodiversity;
- groundwater;
- historic heritage;
- noise and vibration;
- surface water (including erosion and sediment control);
- traffic; and
- waste.

Rehabilitation will be undertaken based on the rehabilitation strategy.

The CEMP will be prepared by appropriate specialists in consultation with relevant government agencies. It will be approved by DP&I and be consistent with the conditions of Project approval.

23.2.2 Operations environmental management plan

The OEMP will detail the site-specific management measures to be implemented during operations, including timeframes and responsibilities. The OEMP will contain the following sub-plans:

- Aboriginal heritage;
- air quality;
- biodiversity (including bushfire);
- flood emergency;
- groundwater;
- historic heritage;
- land management;
- landscape;
- lighting;
- noise and vibration;
- rehabilitation (including soil management);
- spontaneous combustion;
- surface water (including erosion and sediment control);
- traffic; and
- waste.

A mine closure plan will be prepared in Year 15.

The OEMP will be prepared by appropriate specialists in consultation with relevant government agencies. It will be approved by DP&I and will be consistent with the conditions of Project approval.

23.3 Commitments summary

Environmental management measures are described in Part C of the EA. A summary of key commitments is provided in Table 23.1.

Table 23.1 Summary of key commitments

Item	Commitment	EA Section
Ongoing		
1	CHC will continue to work closely with local, State and Commonwealth authorities, service providers, community groups and affected landowners so that the Project meets community expectations to the greatest extent practical.	5
Groundwater		
2	If water levels in a private bore potentially impacted by the Project decrease more than 2.5 m (ie more than natural variability), the reason will be investigated. CHC will take corrective action if the decrease is a result of the Project.	7.4 and 7.6
3	Groundwater licences will be bought to match the quantity of water that enters the pits over the life of the mine.	
4	Groundwater will be monitored during and after the life of the mine.	
Surface water		
5	As much water as practical will be recycled on site.	
6	Water will be managed to ensure sufficient is available for operations and that any excess water does not increase flooding or cause material downstream quality impacts.	
7	CHC will enter into an extraction strategy agreement with State Water Corporation to help minimise transmission losses in the Cudgegong River and maximise the use of excess flows in the lower reaches of the river.	8.4 and 8.6
8	Excess water access licence entitlements will be sold back into the market wherever practical.	
9	Surface water will be monitored upstream and downstream of the mine.	
Soils and agriculture		
10	Disturbed areas will be progressively rehabilitated and will include agricultural land to replace impacted areas.	
11	No Rural Land Capability Class I or II land will be disturbed in the PAA.	
12	A net increase of about 300 ha of Class III land will be reinstated within the disturbance footprint following mining.	9.4 and 9.6
13	Disruption to agricultural activities outside the disturbance footprint will be minimised by offering long-term leases to affected farmers.	
14	Rehabilitation will be regularly monitored and adapted as required to meet the final landform and landuse objectives.	
Ecology		
15	Impacts on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity will be avoided or minimised as far as practical.	
16	Native vegetation will be progressively cleared and rehabilitated, with only a proportion removed at any one time.	
17	Progressive rehabilitation will re-establish ecological communities.	
18	A biodiversity offset package will initially maintain and ultimately improve the ecological values of the region through the permanent conservation of lands that have no potential for coal mining.	10.4, 10.6 and 10.7
19	The biodiversity offset package will create or enhance vegetation corridors between remnant vegetation to the north, east and south of the mining area.	
20	Ecological monitoring will allow management to be progressively refined during the life of the Project and beyond.	
Bushfire		
21	Asset protection zones will be provided around all buildings on bushfire-prone land.	11.4
22	CHC will maintain resources (water, equipment and personnel) for bushfire control.	

Table 23.1 **Summary of key commitments (Cont'd)**

Item	Commitment	EA Section
Road transport		
23	Road capacity improvements, traffic management controls and road safety measures will minimise impacts to the road network and ensure that road and intersection services are maintained.	
24	Roads that need to be closed will be replaced with new roads that will accommodate the predicted vehicle sizes and traffic frequencies.	12.4 and 12.6
25	The Spring Ridge Road realignment will carry all of the heavy vehicle traffic and most of the light vehicle traffic to and from the mine via the Golden Highway.	
Rail transport		
26	CHC will work with ARTC, RailCorp and affected residents to mitigate any significant impacts along relevant sections of the rail system.	13.5 and 13.7
27	The rail spur will have no public level crossings.	
Air quality		
28	CHC will offer to purchase privately owned residences where air quality criteria are predicted to be exceeded.	
29	CHC-owned houses will not be leased if health-based criteria are likely to be exceeded.	14.4 and 14.6
30	A predictive air quality management system using real-time continuous air quality monitoring and meteorological forecasts will be used to proactively manage short-term particulates emissions from the Project.	
Greenhouse gases		
31	Most mining equipment will be new and designed to meet the latest emission standards.	
32	Buildings will be designed to achieve high energy efficiencies.	15.4 and 45.6
33	Greenhouse gas emissions will be monitored to ensure that emissions per tonne of product coal are minimised.	
Noise and vibration		
34	Equipment will be fitted with contemporary noise suppression measures.	
35	CHC will offer to purchase privately owned residences in the PAA where noise criteria are predicted to be exceeded.	16.4 and 16.6
36	Where EPA noise criteria are predicted to be exceeded and owners do not want to sell or enter into amenity agreements, noise levels will be mitigated with acoustic barriers (eg along the rail spur) or acoustic treatments at the residence.	
37	Regular attended and unattended noise monitoring, including permanent real-time noise monitoring, will be undertaken.	
Visual		
38	CHC will reach amenity agreements with private landholders and will use targeted planting or bunds to screen views of mine operations and train movements.	
39	Views of the mine from public roads will be screened, generally by planted vegetation.	17.4 and 17.6
40	Lighting will be installed mine that minimises spillage.	
41	Lighting will be designed in accordance with Australian Standards and Warrumbungle Development Control Plan No. 1 – Shire Lighting Control to Protect Siding Spring Observatory.	
42	Bunding will be used to minimise light spillage from mobile plant operating on emplacement areas.	
Aboriginal heritage		
43	All known Aboriginal objects in the disturbance area will be managed in accordance with the Aboriginal heritage management plan to be developed in consultation with the RAPs and OEH.	18.4 and 18.6
Historic heritage		
44	Potentially impacted historic items will be conserved and/or managed appropriately so that their contribution to the historical record is preserved.	19.4 and 19.6

Table 23.1 **Summary of key commitments (Cont'd)**

Item	Commitment	EA Section
Social		
45	Local industries and suppliers will be used where cost-effective.	
46	Recruitment strategies will foster a local labour force.	
47	CHC will work closely with the Aboriginal community to promote ongoing employment.	
48	A temporary construction accommodation village will be built to minimise impacts to the local housing market.	
49	CHC will continue to work with agencies, councils, education providers and businesses to provide training and education places to create self-sustainable employment without compromising the labour pool available to existing local businesses.	21.4 and 21.6
50	CHC will negotiate Voluntary Planning Agreements with the four councils (Warrumbungle, Mid-Western Regional, Wellington and Dubbo) to provide in kind and monetary contributions to mitigate potential social effects of the Project.	
51	CHC will be accountable for implementing these commitments and will regularly report its performance against them.	

