

APPENDIX S

Social assessment





Social assessment

Cobbora Coal Project

Prepared for Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited | 14 September 2012

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Social assessment

Final

Report J11030RP9 | Prepared for Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited | 14 September 2012

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Date 14 September 2012

Date 14 September 2012

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Executive Summary

ES1 Introduction

EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Limited (EMM) has been commissioned by Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited (CHC) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cobbora Coal Project (the Project). This social impact assessment report forms part of that EA.

The Project is an open cut coal mine that will supply thermal coal, primarily to power stations in NSW. Some coal from the Project may also be exported. The Project is located approximately 5 km south of Cobbora, 22 km south-west of Dunedoo, 64 km north-west of Mudgee and 60 km east of Dubbo in the central west of NSW. Construction is planned to commence in mid-2013. Mine operations will start in the first half of 2015. A mine life of 21 years is proposed.

The purpose of this social impact assessment report is to understand the social changes that will occur as a result of the Project, estimate the type and magnitude of the associated impacts and provide recommendations to minimise impacts. Economic impacts have been addressed in a separate economic assessment report.

ES2 Social aspects of the Project

ES2.1 Construction workforce and accommodation

The mine construction workforce will begin with 110 workers in late 2013 and then build up to a peak of approximately 550 workers during mid to late 2014. The main skills required will be labourers and tradespersons, plus management and administration.

Based on the skills of local workers from census information and travelling distances in the *Cobbora Coal Project Workforce Accommodation Study* (EMM 2012), it is considered that approximately 40% (206 workers) will be recruited locally. They are likely to be sourced as follows:

- 61 workers from Dubbo LGA;
- 22 workers from Warrumbungle LGA;
- 65 workers from Wellington LGA; and
- 58 workers from Mid-Western LGA.

The balance of construction workers, 60% (344 workers) will temporarily relocate to the area. Relocated workers involved in construction are generally temporary residents mostly unaccompanied by families, meaning the population will primarily be those directly employed by the Project.

The Project includes an on-site construction workforce accommodation village for up to 400 workers. This facility will ensure the Project causes no discernable pressure on local short-stay accommodation markets. It will also enable skilled workers to be recruited for the Project thus minimising the risks of construction delays.

ES2.2 Operations workforce and residential distribution

Mine operations will commence during 2015. The initial workforce will be approximately 170 workers, increasing to 470 workers by 2020, and reaching a peak of approximately 590 workers in 2027 to 2030.

The *Workforce Accommodation Study* concluded that with effective training programs, approximately 65% of the total operations workforce could be sourced locally by 2020, increasing towards 70% by 2027 (EMM 2012). However, a conservatively low assumption of 50% from 2020 onwards has been used for this social assessment.

The in-migrant workforce during Project operations will show a preference towards larger centres with a good range of retail and community facilities, and a ready supply of cost competitive housing. Therefore, the likely residential distribution will be:

- Dubbo LGA – 60%;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 15%;
- Wellington LGA – 15%; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 10%.

However, as part of a sensitivity analysis, a second scenario assumes a higher percentage of in-migrant workers residing in the Mid-Western Regional LGA (from 10% to 30%).

For Scenario 1, this equates to an in-migrant residential distribution for the following periods:

- Start of operations (2015) for 46 operations workforce:
 - Dubbo LGA – 28 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 7 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 7 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 4 workers.
- By 2020 for 235 operations workforce:
 - Dubbo LGA – 141 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 35 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 35 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 24 workers.
- Peak operations workforce (2027-2030) for 295 operations workforce:
 - Dubbo LGA – 177 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 44 workers;

- Wellington LGA – 44 workers; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 30 workers.

For Scenario 2, this translates to the following residential distribution for different stages of the Project:

- Start of operations (2015) for 46 workers:
 - Dubbo LGA – 18 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 7 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 7 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 14 workers.
- By 2020 for 235 workers:
 - Dubbo LGA – 94 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 35 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 35 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 71 workers.
- Peak operations workforce (2027-2030) for 295 workers:
 - Dubbo LGA – 118 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 44 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 44 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 89 workers.

It is likely that the in-migrant operational workers will be accompanied by their families. This assessment was based on the average household size of the existing workforce at the Ulan Mine of 3.05 people, compared to the current average household size of 2.42 people across the four LGAs. Based on the above periods, the Project is likely to result in a potential population increase in 2015 of 140 people, distributed as follows:

- Dubbo LGA – 84 people;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 21 people;
- Wellington LGA – 21 people; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 14 people.

In 2020, potential population is likely to be 717 people, distributed as follows:

- Dubbo LGA – 430 people;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 108 people;
- Wellington LGA – 108 people; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 71 people.

At its peak, in 2027, the population is likely to be 900 people, distributed as follows:

- Dubbo LGA – 540 people;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 135 people;
- Wellington LGA – 135 people; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 90 people.

Under Scenario 2, the Project may result in the following potential population increase for Mid-Western Regional LGA:

- 2015 – 42 people;
- 2020 – 215 people; and
- 2027 – 272 people.

Under Scenario 2, it is assumed that 50% of population will reside at Gulgong (due to closer proximity to the Project) and the other 50% will reside in Mudgee (due to larger range of higher order facilities).

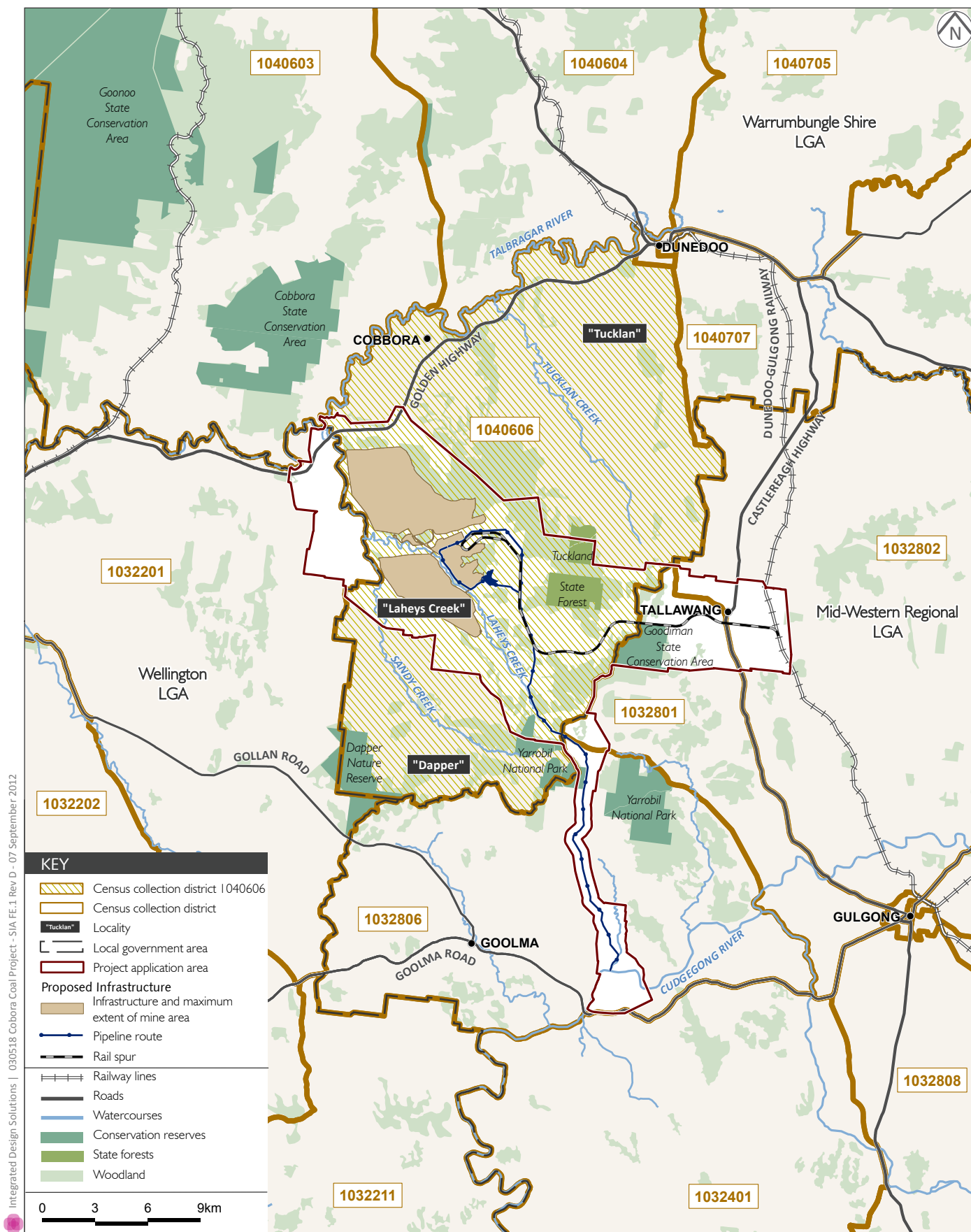
A large number of factors will influence both the proportion of in-migrant workers and their residential distribution. CHC recognises that accurate information about population growth is essential for effective planning of housing and infrastructure provision. For this reason CHC will monitor its workforce recruitments and report regularly to affected councils and other public agencies on the associated population changes.

ES3 Study area

Two geographical scales have been used for the social impact assessment based on the proximity to the Project:

- primary assessment area – Laheys Creek locality and surrounds (Figure E.1); and
- secondary assessment area – Dubbo, Warrumbungle, Wellington and Mid-Western Regional LGAs (Figure E.2). The Project lies mostly within Warrumbungle LGA.

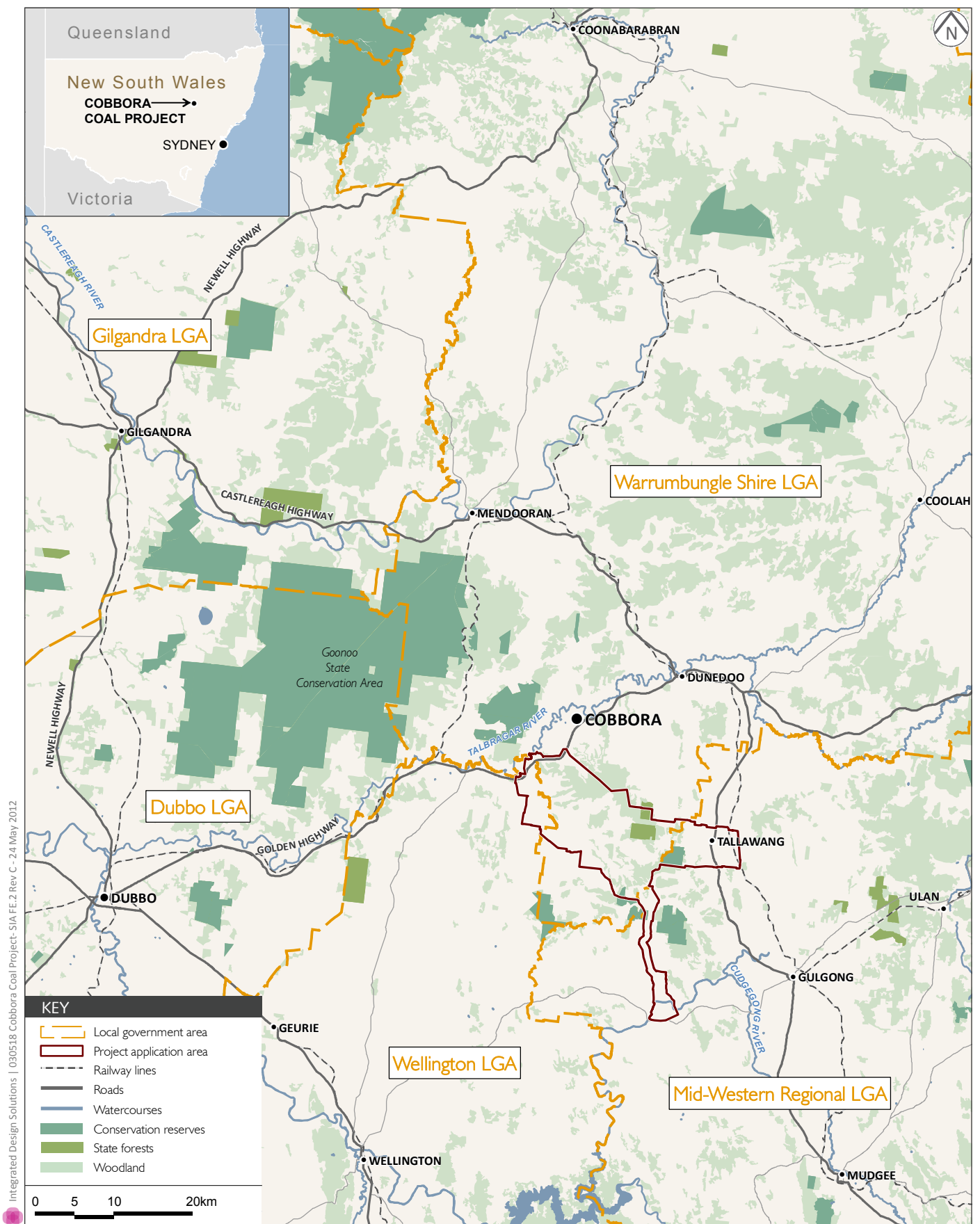
It should be noted that Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has removed CCDs as a unit of measurement in the 2011 census which have been replaced by statistical local areas (SLAs). This has made comparisons between 2006 and 2011 data sets extremely difficult. Therefore, 2006 census data has continued to be used in this analysis.



Primary Assessment Area - Laheys Creek Locality and Surrounds

Cobbora Coal Project - Social Impact Assessment

Figure E.1



Secondary Assessment Area - Local Government Areas

Cobbora Coal Project - Social Impact Assessment

Figure E.2

ES3.1 Primary assessment area

The primary assessment area has a population of 250 people (ABS 2006). It is characterised by agricultural industries, rural lifestyles but with an ageing workforce. Local residents stated that there is a strong sense of community, especially with the older, retiring farmers who have lived in the area for generations.

The primary area contains a small number of community facilities: the Rural Fire Service (RFS) block at Laheys Creek, the Union Church at Dapper and a small community hall at Cobbora. There are no shops, schools, community facilities or sporting fields serving the primary area. Residents travel to Dunedoo or Gulgong to access basic goods and services.

ES3.2 Secondary assessment area

The secondary assessment area covers Dubbo, Warrumbungle, Wellington and Mid-Western Regional LGAs. Dubbo is the centre of an established agricultural area, but the town itself has a lower reliance on agriculture than the wider region. Dubbo is the largest town in the region and has the broadest range and majority of higher order facilities. These features will make it an attractive location for the Project's workforce.

The average age of the population in Dubbo is younger when compared to the other three LGAs and is likely to continue to grow in population through to 2036 according to Department of Planning's Population forecast modelling (DoP 2010). Recently, there has been minimal population growth in Wellington and Warrumbungle and these LGAs are likely to experience declining populations to 2036. Mid-Western Regional LGA is likely to remain stable initially, before experiencing a decline in population after 2021.

ES4 Impact assessment

ES4.1 Primary assessment area

A key sentiment expressed during community consultation was the broad support for the Project as a sound employment provider for the younger generation who have (or plan to move out), potentially halting the decline of young people in the area. Landowners commented on the stress caused by uncertainty surrounding the Project.

Since 2009, CHC has implemented the following measures to assist directly affected landowners and increase certainty:

- purchased or other compensation for owners of all land directly affected by the mine infrastructure;
- purchased or other compensation for owners of land where modelling has predicted that impacts will exceed thresholds for noise and dust; and
- where properties have been purchased, formal agreements have been made with landholders for them to remain and continue farming operations until an agreed date.

These measures have assisted in providing certainty for many landowners wishing to retire and relocate. CHC has maintained a commitment to assist landowners with any Project-related concerns during the EA process and for the life of the mine.

ES4.2 Secondary assessment area

i Construction phase

The workforce during the construction phase will reach a peak of approximately 550 people during 2014. Up to 40% of workers will be recruited locally and 60% will be relocated workers. A construction accommodation village will be built on site to accommodate the relocated construction workers. Therefore, there will be minimal impacts to the short term local housing market during construction and limited use of local community facilities is expected from the construction workforce. However, the construction workforce would provide some stimulus to local businesses through increased spending.

ii Operations phase

a. Population

The estimated additional relocated workforce population from the Project will be only a small proportion of the total population in the secondary assessment area. Based on the population forecast across the region, the principal effect of the Project will be to arrest the rate of population decline or contribute to a small increase.

b. Community infrastructure and services

Overall, the Project alone is likely to have only minor demands on housing and community facilities. This is mainly because most operations phase workers and their families will reside in Dubbo which is a regional centre with the capacity to cope with anticipated demands for housing and social services. These needs will also be met by regional towns, particularly Wellington. Most of the balance of the operations workforce will reside in Wellington and Warrumbungle LGAs, and the principal effect will be to help arrest forecast population declines. Facilities and services in these two LGAs are unlikely to experience capacity pressures from the Project. Mid-Western LGA will experience growth pressures from other development projects but only a small proportion of Cobbora's workforce is likely to reside there and so its contribution to increased demands will be very minor.

A review of existing community infrastructure and services and discussions with relevant stakeholders indicated that there will be:

- sufficient capacity within the housing, health and educational systems to accommodate the forecast increases; and
- initial strains on childcare, young children and young adult facilities and services, predominantly in Dubbo, before easing by 2020.

Under Scenario 2, the incoming population of 270 people represents a marginal increase in population and will cause a proportionally small increase in demand for community facilities. In most cases, this will cause no noticeable decline in service levels.

CHC will monitor workforce recruitment and associated population changes in each LGA, and provide regular updates to councils and service providers about timing of the Project and planned workforce intakes to enable them to respond to any increased in demand for community facilities and services.

CHC is consulting extensively with the four councils to work towards forming VPAs under Section 93F of the EP&A Act to provide in kind and monetary contributions to ensure the potential social effects of the Project are mitigated. These discussions are ongoing, with the VPAs envisaged to be finalised by later 2012.

CHC will continue to actively support community needs and challenges by providing sponsorship support for community-based services in the region and local community and cultural events.

CHC will ensure affected landowners and the local community are kept informed of the Project by:

- maintaining open and constructive communication with affected individuals and groups;
- providing information in a timely manner; and
- producing and distributing a Project newsletter outlining the opportunities for community members to review the Project's EA document, once it is lodged. Additionally, on-the-ground briefings and meetings will be conducted with stakeholders in relation to the EA document.

c. Cumulative impacts

The Project's in-migrant workforce under Scenario 2 represents only 1.5% of the cumulative in-migrant workforce. Nevertheless, CHC will focus housing development strategies for relocated workers and their families on the Dubbo, Wellington and Warrumbungle LGAs. This will reduce potential cumulative impacts in the Mid-Western Regional LGA from other existing mines in the LGA. However, based on the review of existing community infrastructure, generally, the principal effect of the cumulative projects will be to arrest the rate of population decline and to provide well-paid employment.

CHC is committed to working closely with local councils, relevant agencies and local communities so that the benefits of the Project in the region are maximised and the impacts minimised. Long-term public benefits will accrue as a result of the Project through improvement of infrastructure such as local roads, telecommunications coverage and the rail network.

d. Economic development

Unemployment is generally above the NSW average with the exception of Dubbo. Based on economic modelling done for the Project, one job created by the Project will result in the creation of approximately 6.5 indirect jobs in the regional economy (Gillespie 2012).

CHC is participating in a range of initiatives, strategies and programs with agencies, councils, education providers and businesses to re-skill and train the local workforce to be 'mine-ready' without compromising the labour pool available to businesses. These include:

- working with TAFE NSW Western Institute to create a new education module dedicated to training individuals for a mining industry career. The course will give students entry level employment qualifications for surface extraction mining;
- playing a central role in both the Central West and Orana regions' Education Skills and Industry forums recently facilitated by Regional Development Australia in Orange and Dubbo. The focus in these forums will be on developing better pathways to employment for people within both regions;

- developing a pilot training program with local councils and industry groups to ensure a strong pipeline of apprentices in the region. The program aims to alleviate potential shortages in the future availability of suitably trained apprentices;
- developing a Scholarship and Graduate Training Program that will support local students in mine-relevant tertiary education, that will lead to employment upon completion; and
- partnering with Aboriginal Affairs NSW to drive the development of the Central West Aboriginal Mining Steering Committee. In partnership with TAFE NSW Western Institute, the Committee aims to develop strategies to assist Aboriginal participants complete the newly created mining module.

The Project will stimulate local communities by:

- generating employment in the local and regional economies;
- providing jobs for young people and incentives (ie improved infrastructure and services) for them to remain in the region;
- employing local people and supporting them with appropriate training, while protecting the labour pool available to existing local businesses;
- working closely with the Aboriginal community to create employment initiatives that generate meaningful employment;
- supporting local businesses and the employment they provide by engaging their services or purchasing their goods;
- strengthening and diversify the region's overall depth of labour skills through the relocation of skilled workers and the training of local recruits. This stronger workforce will give the region greater potential to attract industry and foster economic growth; and
- preserving the rate base of local councils by arresting population decline and maintaining land values.

ES5 Conclusion

There was broad support for the Project in the primary assessment area as the Project will provide meaningful employment for the younger generation and stimulate economic growth in local communities. Since 2009, CHC has implemented a range of measures to assist directly affected landowners and provide certainty for those wishing to retire and relocate. CHC will address any Project-related concerns of landowners during the EA process and throughout the life of the mine.

A construction accommodation village will be built on site to accommodate the relocated construction workers. Therefore, there will be minimal impacts to the short term local housing market during construction and limited use of local community facilities by the construction workforce.

Based on the population forecast across the region, the principal effect of the Project will be to arrest the rate of population decline or contribute to a small increase. Overall, the Project alone is likely to place low demand on housing and community facilities. Dubbo is the largest town in the region which has the capacity to cater for the Project's housing and social service needs. These needs will also be met by regional towns, particularly Wellington.

CHC is committed to supporting the community as a local employer, economic contributor and community partner.

CHC is already working proactively with service providers in the region to develop training and other education programs for local people, including specific apprentice and Aboriginal employment initiatives.

CHC will continue to work closely with councils, relevant agencies and local communities so that the opportunities and benefits that the Project will present for the region are maximised.

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
ARTC	Australian Rail Track Corporation
BOCSAR	NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
CSU	Charles Sturt University
CCD	Census Collection District
CHC	Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited
CHPP	coal handling and preparation plant
CYMS	Catholic Young Men's Society
DEC	Department of Education and Communities
DEEWR	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
DGRs	Director General's environmental assessment requirements
DoP	Department of Planning (now known as Department of Planning and Infrastructure NSW)
DP&I	Department of Planning and Infrastructure NSW
EA	environmental assessment
EMM	EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Limited
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)</i>
GP	general practitioner
GWAHS	Greater Western Area Health Service
HACC	Home and Community Care
IDSN	International Dalit Solidarity Network
LAC	Local Area Command
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	local government area
LHD	Local Health District

NBN Co	National Broadband Network Company
PCYC	Police and Community Youth Club
RFDS	Royal Flying Doctor Service
RFS	Rural Fire Service
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services NSW
RTA	Roads and Traffic Authority NSW
SAY	Safe Aboriginal Youth
SES	State Emergency Service
SIA	social impact assessment
SLA	Statistical Local Areas
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
The Project	Cobbora Coal Project
VRA	Volunteer Rescue Association
WACHS	Wellington Aboriginal Community Health Services

1 Introduction

1.1 Project description

EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Limited (EMM) has been commissioned by Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited (CHC) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cobbora Coal Project (the Project). This social impact assessment report forms part of that EA.

The Project is an open cut coal mine that will supply thermal coal, primarily to power stations in NSW. Some coal from the Project may also be exported. The Project is located approximately 5 km south of Cobbora, 22 km south-west of Dunedoo, 64 km north-west of Mudgee and 60 km east of Dubbo in the central west of NSW.

The Project will include an open cut coal mine, a coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP), mine infrastructure area, coal stockpiling and train loading facility. Associated infrastructure will include a rail spur line, water supply pipeline, pumping station, access roads, power lines and an electricity substation. Construction is planned to commence in mid-2013. Mine operations will start in the first half of 2015. A mine life of 21 years is proposed.

A Major Project application under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)* (EP&A Act) was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning on 5 January 2010 (application number MP 10_0001). The Director General's environmental assessment requirements (DGRs) for the Project were issued on 4 March 2010. Revised DGRs were issued on 23 December 2011 in response to changes in the proposed Project and government assessment requirements.

1.2 Objectives

The purpose of this report is to understand the social changes that will occur as a result of the Project. The Project will create new employment opportunities. Some jobs will be filled by existing residents. Others will be filled by people moving to the area during either the construction or operational phases of the new mine. This will increase and possibly change the character of the local population. It will also create demands for new facilities and services including housing and education. This assessment documents these changes, estimates the type and magnitude of the associated impacts and provides recommendations to minimise impacts.

The assessment addresses the following DGRs:

- “assessment of potential impacts on local and regional communities, including:
 - increased demand for local and regional infrastructure and services (such as housing, childcare, health, education and emergency services); and
 - impacts on social amenity.
- detailed description of measures to be implemented to minimise the adverse social (and economic) impacts of the project, including any infrastructure improvements or contributions and/or voluntary planning agreement or similar mechanism.”

The assessment had regard for the guidance document, specified in the DGRs *Techniques for Effective Social Impact Assessment: A Practical Guide* (NSW Office of Social Policy 1995). In relation to the second DGR item above, it is relevant to note that a separate economic assessment has been prepared. Economic impacts are addressed in that report.

2 Framework and method for social impact assessment

2.1 Assessment of impacts

Two geographical scales have been used for the assessment to reflect the need to account for different social conditions at local and regional levels:

- primary assessment area – Laheys Creek locality and surrounds (Figure 2.1); and
- secondary assessment area – Dubbo, Warrumbungle, Wellington and Mid-Western Regional LGAs (Figure 2.2). The Project lies mostly within Warrumbungle LGA.

2.1.1 Primary assessment area

The primary assessment area is the immediate surrounds of the Project around Laheys Creek. Laheys Creek is not classified as a 'state suburb' by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) due to its small population. Therefore, for the purposes of this study, it has been combined with the nearby localities of Tucklan, Cobbora and Dapper which forms Census Collection District (CCD) 1040606 as shown in Figure 2.1.

It should be noted that ABS has removed CCDs as a unit of measurement in the 2011 census which have been replaced by statistical local areas (SLAs). ABS viewed that CCDs were not the most efficient method to capture the changing demographics of the Australia. Unfortunately, this has made comparisons between 2006 and 2011 data sets extremely difficult. Therefore, 2006 census data has continued to be used in this analysis.

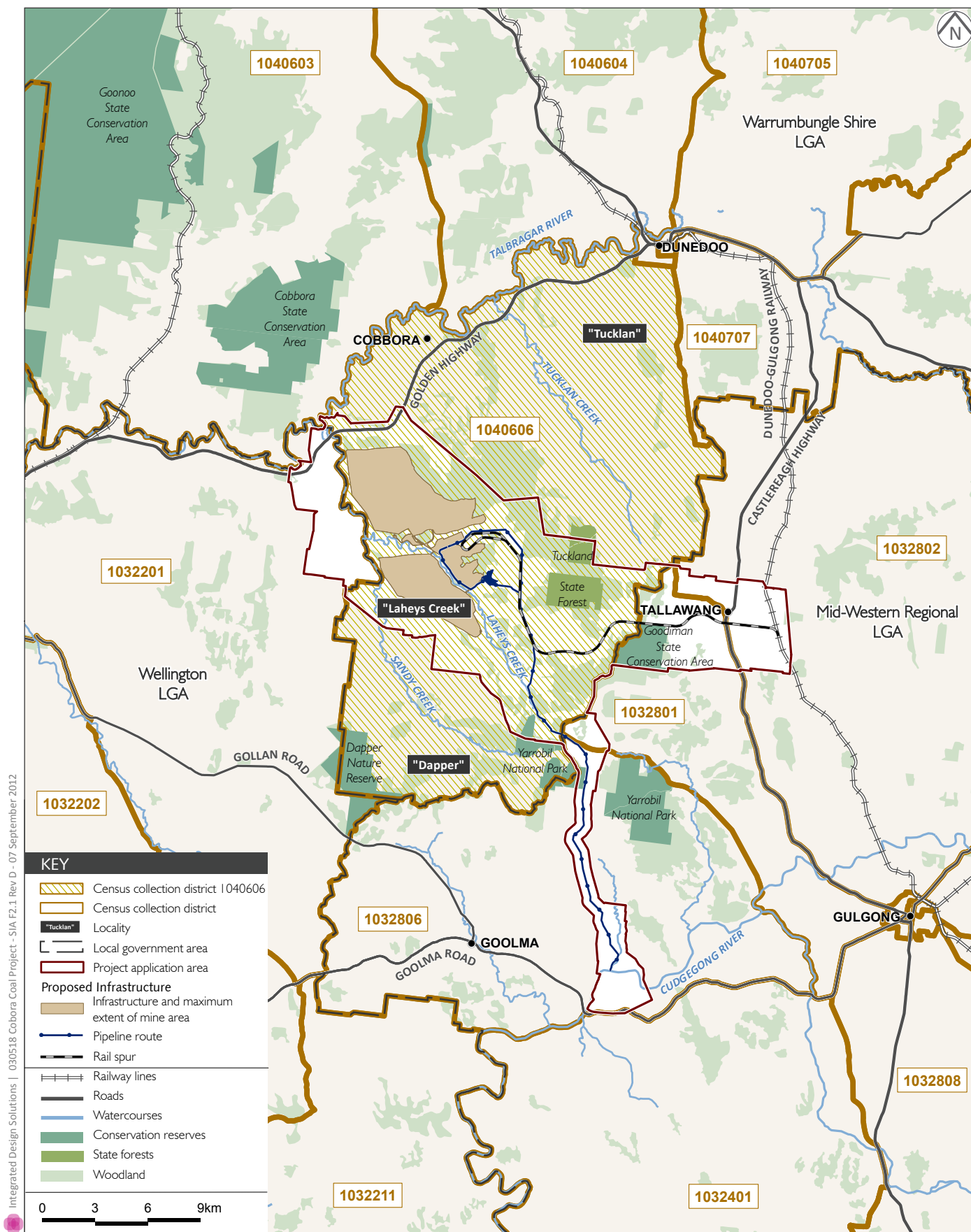
The social assessment focuses on Laheys Creek for the purposes of community profiling. References to Cobbora, Tucklan and Dapper localities have been added for statistical and demographic purposes.

2.1.2 Secondary assessment area

The secondary assessment area is defined as the Dubbo, Warrumbungle, Wellington and Mid-Western Regional LGAs. These LGAs contain larger service centres of Dubbo, Mudgee, Wellington and Coonabarabran as shown in Figure 2.2.

Broader social and economic impacts will occur in this area and the following specific factors have been considered:

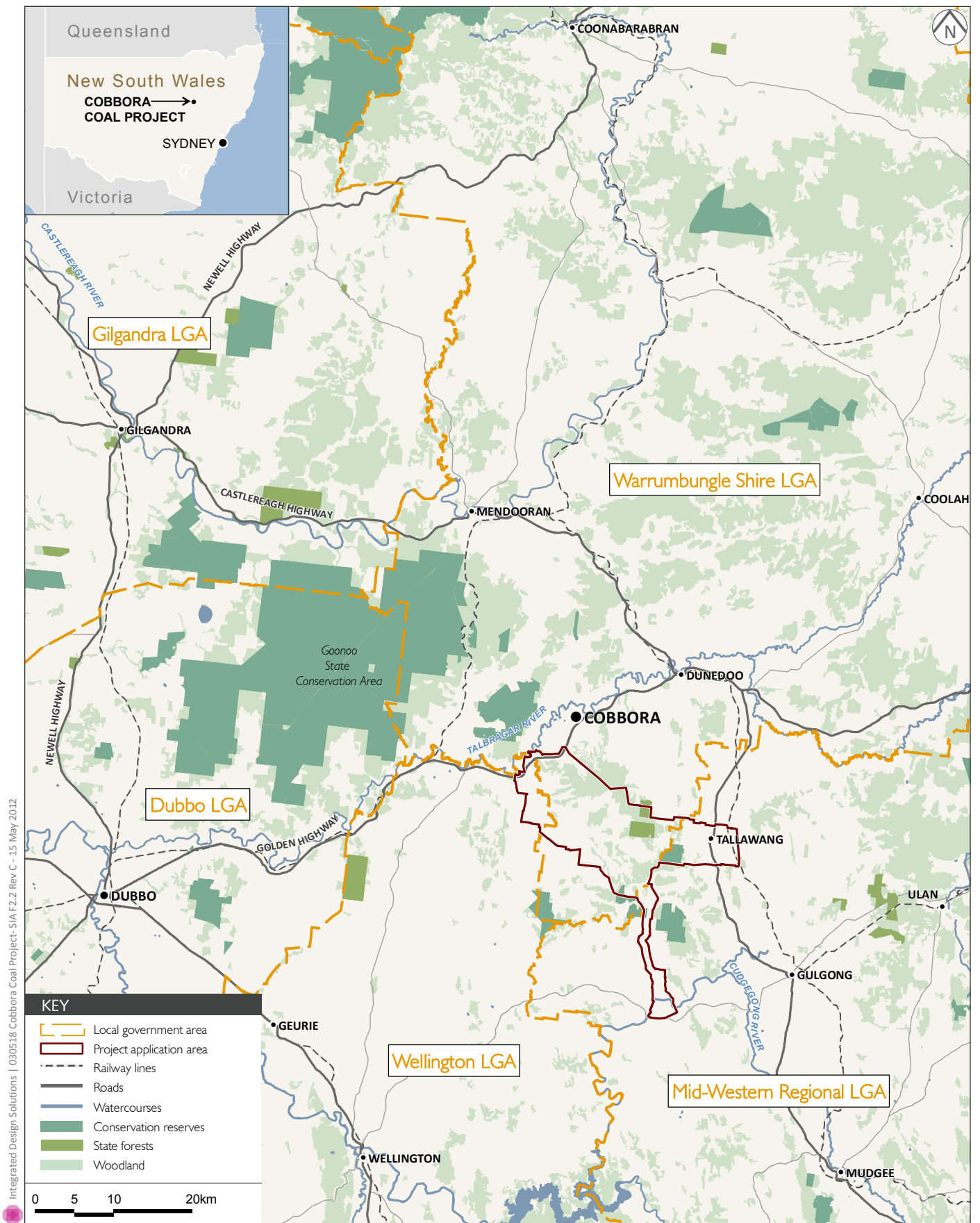
- employment;
- regional economy;
- social infrastructure (eg housing, education and childcare services); and
- health infrastructure (eg primary health and emergency services).



Primary Assessment Area - Laheys Creek Locality and Surrounds

Cobbora Coal Project - Social Impact Assessment

Figure 2.1



Secondary Assessment Area - Local Government Areas

Cobbora Coal Project - Social Impact Assessment

Figure 2.2

2.2 Social assessment method

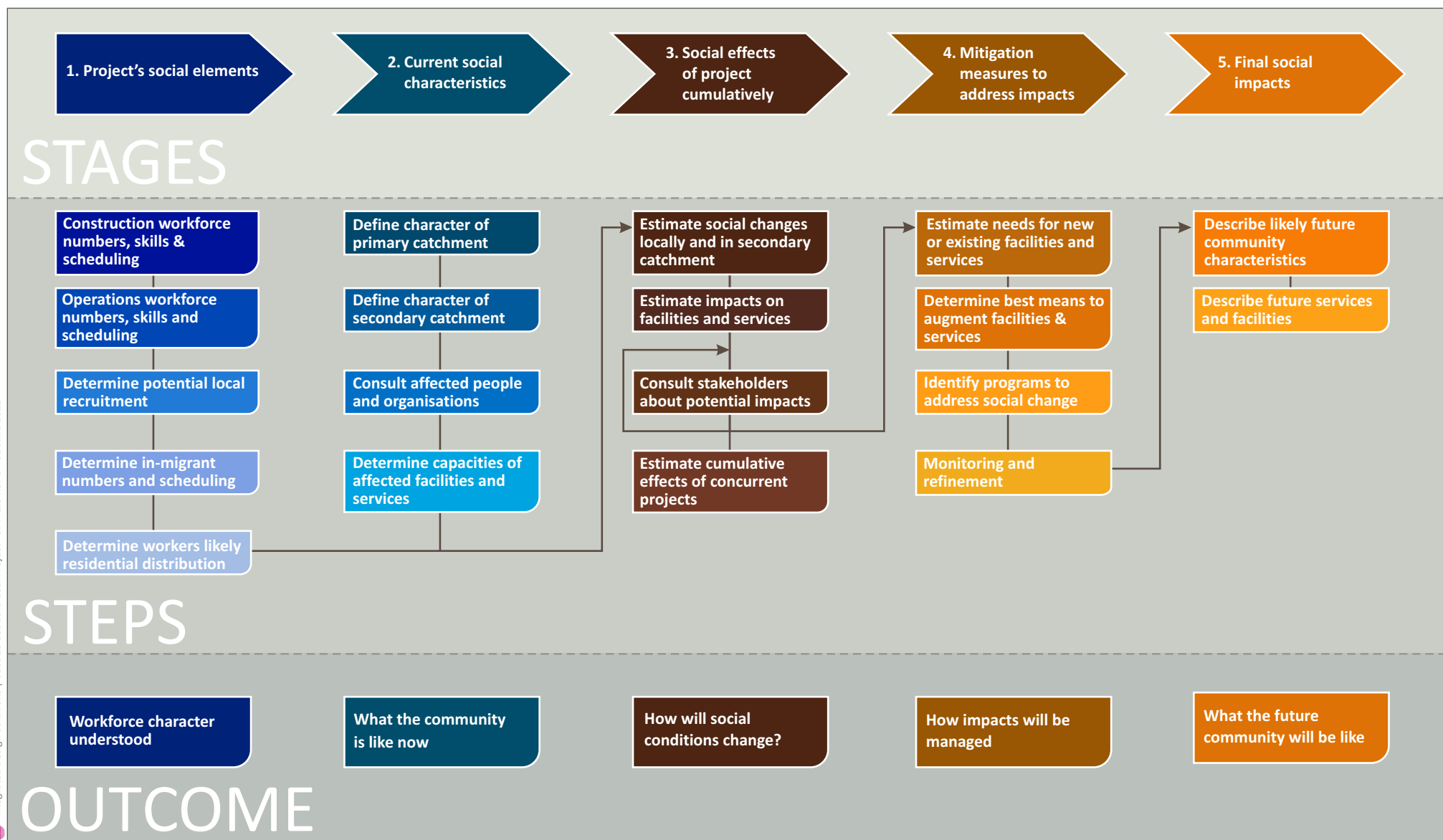
The social impact assessment method involved the following steps:

- documenting social aspects of the Project, particularly workforce characteristics and its probable residential distribution;
- documenting the relevant local and regional policy context;
- developing community profiles for the primary and secondary assessment areas:

For the secondary assessment area, both census and information from targeted stakeholder consultation were used.

- consulting with key stakeholders, including landowners, community groups, councils and service providers;
- assessing potential impacts of the Project on the primary and secondary assessment areas, including a sensitivity analysis, specifically for Mid-Western Regional LGA that proposes two scenarios;
- analysing potential cumulative impacts of the Project and others that will occur concurrently;
- developing appropriate mitigation and management measures for any adverse social impacts and enhance positive impacts; and
- identifying ongoing monitoring processes to ensure social impacts are responsively managed and reviewed over time.

The method used to carry out this social impact assessment is shown in Figure 2.3.



SIA Methods Flow Chart

3 Social aspects of the Project

3.1 Overview

It is envisaged that construction activities will commence from late-2013 with coal supplied to customers from the second half of 2015. The mine life will be 21 years. The Project's timeframes associated with construction and operations are shown in Tables 3.1 and 3.2.

3.2 Construction workforce

3.2.1 Workforce size and source

The mine construction workforce will begin with 110 workers in late 2013 and then build up to a peak of approximately 550 workers during mid to late 2014 (Table 3.1). This workforce will be employed at a number of construction sites, generally as follows:

- 370 people working in the mine and infrastructure area;
- 100 people working on the rail spur line construction, east of the main mine area;
- 60 people working on the construction of road relocations, south-west of the main mine area; and
- 20 people working on the water pipeline and pumping station, south of the main mine area.

The main skills required will be labourers and tradespersons, plus management and administration. Based on the analysis of the skills of local workers and their travelling distances to the Project site, it is considered that approximately 40% (206 workers) will be recruited locally (EMM 2012). They are likely to be sourced as follows:

- 61 workers from Dubbo LGA;
- 22 workers from Warrumbungle LGA;
- 65 workers from Wellington LGA; and
- 58 workers from Mid-Western LGA.

The balance of construction workers, 60% (344 workers) will temporary relocate to the area. It is considered that there are no practical means of increasing local recruitment levels during construction. This is because construction skills are in high demand and the ramp-up period is too short to conduct effective training. Relocated construction workers are generally temporary residents, working longer hours. They will nearly always be unaccompanied, meaning the population will primarily be those directly employed by the Project.

3.2.2 Accommodation of construction workforce

The Project includes an on-site construction workforce accommodation village for up to 400 workers. The facility will ensure the Project does not place additional pressure on the local housing and temporary accommodation markets. This facility will also help to attract skilled construction workers to the Project and minimise any potential risk to the Project's development schedule from a shortage of necessary skilled workers.

Table 3.1 **Estimated construction workforce schedule**

	2013	2014				2015				2016	
	4 th quarter	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter
Peak numbers	110	340	490	550	550	540	430	260	230	250	240

Table 3.2 **Estimated operations workforce schedule**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Peak numbers	171	293	314	437	469	469	500	505	547	547	568	579	590	590	590	590	575	575	546	546	546

It is proposed shuttle buses will be provided to transport workers from the accommodation village to all construction worksites. Shuttle bus/coach transport will be provided to transport workers to the regional airport (Dubbo) at the commencement and cessation of weekly shifts.

3.3 Operations workforce

3.3.1 Workforce size

Mine operations will commence during 2015. The initial workforce will be approximately 170 workers, increasing to 470 workers by 2020, and reaching a peak of approximately 590 workers in 2027 to 2030 (Table 3.2).

The operations workforce will consist of both semi-skilled and skilled mine operators and maintenance staff. It is envisaged that employees sourced locally are likely to include mine operators, maintenance workers, local ancillary staff, apprentices and graduates. Employees sourced from outside the area will predominantly consist of experienced maintenance workers, mine operators and professional staff.

Without training, it is probable that only 20% of the operations workforce could be recruited from the local labour pool. However, as the operations period will extend two decades this period would be sufficient to introduce effective training programs and draw on the larger available labour pools in Dubbo and Wellington LGAs. The *Cobbora Coal Project Workforce Accommodation Study* (EMM 2012) concluded that with effective training programs, it is estimated that 65% of the total operations workforce could be sourced locally by 2020, increasing towards approximately 70% by 2027. However, for this social assessment, a conservatively low assumption of 50% total operations workforce to be sourced locally (from 2020 onwards) will be used. Based on this assumption, training output will increase progressively with the following targets:

- 125 trained people by 2015 will mean a workforce shortfall to be met by relocated workforce of 46 people;
- 235 trained people by 2020 will mean a workforce shortfall to be met by relocated workforce of 235 people; and
- 295 trained people by 2027 will mean a workforce shortfall to be met by relocated workforce of 295 people.

Also, CHC will work closely with the Aboriginal community to promote ongoing meaningful employment.

3.3.2 Residential location of operations workforce

In-migrant operations workers, being potential long term residents, will show a preference towards larger centres (EMM 2012). The likely residential distribution is shown in Table 3.3 for two scenarios. Scenario 1 is more likely as Mid-Western Regional LGA's existing workforce is already substantially committed to existing mining projects in the region. Nevertheless, CHC is committed to working with all councils to maximise local recruitment. Given the range of possible outcomes a sensitivity analysis, Scenario 2, assumes a higher percentage of in-migrant workers residing in the Mid-Western Regional LGA (from 10% to 30%).

Table 3.3 Residential distribution of relocated workforce for operations

LGA	Percentage of operations workforce – Scenario 1	Percentage of operations workforce – Scenario 2
Dubbo	60.0%	40.0%
Warrumbungle	15.0%	15.0%
Wellington	15.0%	15.0%
Mid-Western Regional	10.0%	30.0%

Source: Cobbora Coal Project Workforce Accommodation Study (EMM 2012)

For Scenario 1, this translates to the following residential distribution for different stages of the Project:

- Start of operations (2015) for 46 workers:
 - Dubbo LGA – 28 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 7 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 7 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 4 workers.
- By 2020 for 235 workers:
 - Dubbo LGA – 141 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 35 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 35 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 24 workers.
- Peak operations workforce (2027-2030) for 295 workers:
 - Dubbo LGA – 177 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 44 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 44 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 30 workers.

For Scenario 2, this translates to the following residential distribution for different stages of the Project:

- Start of operations (2015) for 46 workers:
 - Dubbo LGA – 18 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 7 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 7 workers; and

- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 14 workers.
- By 2020 for 235 workers:
 - Dubbo LGA – 94 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 35 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 35 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 71 workers.
- Peak operations workforce (2027-2030) for 295 workers:
 - Dubbo LGA – 118 workers;
 - Warrumbungle LGA – 44 workers;
 - Wellington LGA – 44 workers; and
 - Mid-Western Regional LGA – 89 workers.

It is assumed that the relocated workforce will be accompanied by their families. The average household size of the existing workforce at the Ulan Mine was 3.05 people (Coates 2009) as compared to the current average household size of 2.42 people across the four LGAs (ABS 2012). This is considered a reliable indicator as it represents a typical household size for a mine close to the Project which tends to be larger than typical family households.

Based on the above periods, the Project under Scenario 1, is likely to result in a potential population increase in 2015 of 140 people, distributed as follows (note, totals may have slight discrepancies due to rounding):

- Dubbo LGA – 84 people;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 21 people;
- Wellington LGA – 21 people; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 14 people.

In 2020, potential population is likely to be 717 people, distributed as follows:

- Dubbo LGA – 430 people;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 108 people;
- Wellington LGA – 108 people; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 71 people.

At its peak, in 2027, the population is likely to be 900 people, distributed as follows:

- Dubbo LGA – 540 people;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 135 people;
- Wellington LGA – 135 people; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 90 people.

Under Scenario 2, the Project may result in the following potential population increase for Mid-Western Regional LGA:

- 2015 – 42 people;
- 2020 – 215 people; and
- 2027 – 272 people.

Under Scenario 2, it is assumed that 50% of population will reside at Gulgong (due to closer proximity to the Project) and the other 50% will reside in Mudgee (due to the larger range of higher order facilities).

4 Policy context

Relevant strategic policies and plans have been examined as part of this assessment. This section describes the Project's social policy context.

4.1 State context

a. NSW State Plan

The *NSW 2021: A Plan to Make NSW Number One* aims to guide policy and budget decisions over the period to 2021. The plan is based around the following strategies:

1. rebuild the economy;
2. return quality services;
3. renovate infrastructure; and
4. strengthen the local environment and communities.

b. State Environment Planning Policy: Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries

The *State Environment Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007* recognises that mining, petroleum production and extractive industries are important for NSW. It aims to provide for the proper management and development of mineral, petroleum and extractive material resources for the purpose of promoting the social and economic welfare of NSW.

4.2 Regional context

a. Western NSW Regional Strategy

A *Western NSW Regional Strategy Overview 2011* aims to provide planning direction to guide local initiatives for the western region by:

- creating investor confidence and promoting economic development in the right locations;
- protecting valuable natural and built resources; and
- helping to build stronger rural and regional communities.

b. State Plan: Regional Business Growth Plan – Orana Region

As part of the NSW State Plan, the *Supporting Business and Jobs – Orana Region – Regional Business Growth Plan: 2010* has strategies and initiatives of relevance to the Project. These include:

- Water security:
 - improving efficiency of water supply;
 - addressing uncertainty over water resources to support growth in water-dependant industries such as intensive livestock and tourism; and

- assisting industry to improve water use efficiency.
- Transport and telecommunication infrastructure:
 - supporting improvements to rail operations in Dubbo to address city amenity and increase rail freight activity; and
 - expanding facilities, business streams and inter and intra regional air services operating out of Dubbo airport.
- Innovation initiatives:
 - supporting new export development.
- Enterprise and workforce development:
 - supporting major new value-adding investment projects as they arise, including manufacturing, agribusiness and mining related projects;
 - working with local governments to increase the level of service and business support to small and medium enterprises to encourage business improvement and new markets;
 - supporting targeted marketing that aims to attract skilled labour;
 - maximising Aboriginal participation in new employment such as mining; and
 - continuing development of coal mining projects in the mid-western area.
- Skills and employment:
 - changing demographics, particularly in some outlying centres, present opportunities for Aboriginal people to expand representation in mainstream industry sectors.

c. [Regional Plan Orana NSW \(2010-2020\)](#)

The *Regional Plan Orana NSW 2010-2020* sets out an economic, environmental and social vision for the region to 2020. The plan identifies both opportunities and challenges in the Orana region as summarised below:

- Opportunities:
 - new mining developments;
 - developing new or expanded tertiary facilities; and
 - strengthening regional approach to health services.
- Challenges:
 - skill shortages;
 - poor transport infrastructure and services;

- limited health services and infrastructure;
- limited youth services and support; and
- the need to secure reliable water supplies.

This plan states that sustainable economic development is a priority. To achieve this, the plan mentions that new resource developments, including the Cobbora Coal Project, must be sustainable and supported by other businesses and tertiary training facilities in the region.

4.3 Local context

To understand baseline or pre-development conditions in the locality, a review of council Community Strategic Plans and Resourcing Strategies was carried out. Extensive community consultation has been carried out by the four councils in the development of their strategic plans and thus, they reflect local community aspirations and values.

4.3.1 Dubbo City Council

a. Draft Community Strategic Plan

The *Draft Dubbo Community Strategic Plan 2011-2036* aims to:

- enhance community wellbeing and quality of life through the empowerment of all people and the provision of safe neighbourhoods;
- maintain and improve infrastructure and services in Dubbo to ensure it continues to be a place where people want to live, work and visit; and
- achieve long term economic security and prosperity through the creation of long term employment options and a diverse population base.

Ten main ideas emerged from council's community consultation and these have been used to guide the strategic outcomes contained in the plan. Key ideas include:

- redeveloping the Dubbo hospital and listing Dubbo as a regional centre of excellence for health;
- ensuring the best use of existing resources and facilities now and in the future;
- growing Dubbo's university offerings to attract and retain young people; and
- improving roads and public transport to support community mobility and future growth.

b. Strategic Plan

The *Dubbo Strategic Plan 2011-2031* identified strategies in the following areas:

- Infrastructure – have a high standard of living through the provision of superior water supply, sewerage, drainage and waste management facilities;
- Economic development – encourage business investment to create a strong economic base in Dubbo and realise opportunities that will promote Dubbo as the leading regional centre in Australia;
- Built and natural environment – manage land use and ensure it effectively contributes economically; and
- Community, cultural and recreational – health, welfare, education and social needs to be met through the provision of a range of services and ensure the community's lifestyle needs are well catered for.

c. Social Plan

The *Dubbo Social Plan 2011-2012* outlines the following aims and objectives:

- identify the socio demographic characteristics of the Dubbo population;
- identify the existing social services and community facilities within Dubbo;
- identify the social needs of the population;
- assess the adequacy of existing social services and community facilities in satisfying the needs of the present and future population;
- identify any potential or emerging problems with social services and identify solutions to prevent or rectify these problems; and
- recommend strategies for the provision by the appropriate body of new or improved social services and community facilities.

The plan states that Dubbo is facing challenges with particular sections of the community, that is, young people, aged services and facilities, health care and people with a disability.

d. Economic Development Strategy

The *Dubbo Economic Development Strategy: Ten steps to Dubbo's Economic Success 2011* outlines 10 steps to Dubbo's economic success over the next five years. Relevantly, 'mining and mining services' is listed as one of these strategies. Other strategies include:

- infrastructure development;
- transport and distribution;
- agricultural sustainability and diversification;
- workforce and skills development;

- marketing and investment attraction; and
- business and industry expansion.

4.3.2 Warrumbungle LGA

a. Draft Community Strategic Plan

The *Draft Warrumbungle Shire 'Plan to Be There': Community Strategic Plan 2012-2032* is based around seven focus areas, each with its own priorities. Priorities include:

- Natural environment:
 - ensure that the negative environmental impacts of local mining and extractive activities are minimised;
 - activities involving the extraction of natural resources from the LGA should have minimal negative impacts on the natural environment; and
 - local natural water sources including rivers, aquifers and wetlands, need to remain clean and healthy.
- Local economy:
 - encourage and support local business and industry in creating local employment and training opportunities; and
 - work with public and private sector agencies to ensure that mining, extractive industries and renewable energy production results in economic returns for the LGA.
- Community and culture:
 - opportunities and support mechanisms should be developed to ensure that communities across the LGA attract and retain young people and families; and
 - appropriate support needs to be provided to smaller communities across the LGA to ensure they remain sustainable.
- Rural and urban development:
 - land use planning across the LGA needs to ensure the retention of the rural character of the area whilst encouraging ecologically sustainable development; and
 - availability of a range of housing options across the LGA, including aged and affordable housing.
- Recreation and open space:
 - planning and provision of local sports and recreation facilities and parklands should reflect community needs and future demographic changes.

- Public infrastructure and services:
 - road networks throughout the LGA need to be safe, well maintained and adequately funded; and
 - provision of public services, facilities and infrastructure needs to be planned, maintained and improved to reflect the needs of the community and to ensure the sustainability of local economy.

b. Community Social/Cultural Plan

The *Warrumbungle Community Social/Cultural Plan 2008* includes the following recommendations:

- Service provision – Council to continue to seek and improve partnerships with government agencies, business, service providers in order to improve the choice, services, facilities and quality of life for all identified target groups and service providers;
- Natural and built environment, safety, law and order and access – Council to ensure that all identified target groups can move about safely and have equitable access to services and facilities in their community;
- Recreation, open space, sport and leisure – Council to enhance opportunities for all identified target groups to participate in leisure, recreational and educational activities;
- Health and special needs – Council to advocate on behalf of residents of Warrumbungle LGA to increase and improve access to services for all identified target groups with special needs; and
- Economic development – Council to involve young people in the economic development of the LGA and consider taking a proactive role in encouraging inclusion of people with a disability into mainstream services.

4.3.3 Wellington LGA

a. Draft Community Strategic Plan

The *Draft Wellington Community Strategic Plan 2025* identifies five themes under its vision statement. These are:

- people love living in Wellington’s towns, villages and rural areas;
- Wellington’s natural beauty and history is appreciated by all who live and visit here;
- Wellington is the cultural centre of Wiradjuri Country;
- the hub to a prosperous, innovative, agricultural region of Central West NSW;
- Wellington’s heritage and future are tied to the land:

- To achieve these themes, five directions have been identified: grow agriculture, energy and the environment;
- show leadership in governance and community engagement;
- build and improve community infrastructure;
- grow prosperity and employment; and
- promote community participation in the arts and culture.

b. Strategic/Management Plan

The *Wellington Strategic/Management Plan 2010-2015* includes the following strategic goals which it intends to achieve in the long term:

- Economic development – business in Wellington will be thriving due to Council’s efforts to encourage, promote and support all business to sustain and improve the economic and population base of the LGA;
- Financial sustainability – ensure the short, medium and long term financial viability of Council’s core business operations by providing strategic direction in maintaining Council’s assets and by providing a community framework for promoting economic development of the LGA;
- Community wellbeing – long term social and cultural health of the community will flourish from Council’s efforts in providing and facilitating improved access to sporting, recreational, arts and youth services;
- Safety – Wellington will be a safe place to live, work and relax for its residents in private and in public; and
- Education – there will be a high proportion of residents reaching their educational potential.

4.3.4 Mid-Western Regional LGA

a. Draft Community Strategic Plan

The *draft Community Strategic Plan Mid-Western Regional: Towards 2030* includes the following themes that group the major challenges and issues facing the LGA:

- Look after our community:
 - a safe and healthy community;
 - vibrant towns and villages;
 - effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure; and
 - meet the diverse needs of the community and create a sense of belonging.

- Protect our natural environment:
 - protect and enhance our natural environment; and
 - provide total water cycle management.
- Build a strong local economy:
 - a prosperous and diversified economy;
 - an attractive business and economic environment; and
 - a range of rewarding and fulfilling career opportunities to attract and retain residents.
- Connect our region:
 - high quality road network that is safe and efficient; and
 - efficient connection of the region to major towns and cities.

The plan further outlines a number of strategies and actions under each of the themes' goals. A timeframe of four years has been outlined to deliver the actions.

b. Economic Development Strategy

The *Mid-Western Regional Economic Development Strategy: A 10 year Plan* provides a framework that guides policy and strategy evaluation in the LGA over the next 10 years. Council's priority areas are: providing infrastructure, promoting the region, attracting investment and fostering strategic alliances, with the central focus on the creation of jobs. Council has identified eight principles that will influence economic development in the region:

1. Employment – the number of jobs and the level of participation in employment;
2. Education – the quality and availability of education and supporting infrastructure and services;
3. Workforce skills – access to a skilled and flexible workforce with the competencies and capabilities to satisfy industry and business needs;
4. Business development – the attraction and retention of a diverse range of businesses who actively participate in business development initiatives and embrace creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship;
5. Investment – a business and economic environment which attracts investment and targets new investment opportunities;
6. Infrastructure – infrastructure that accommodates economic growth and meets the commercial, industrial and retail needs of the region;
7. Tourism – diverse tourism offerings to attract visitors; and
8. Marketing – promoting the region as a great place to live, work and conduct business.

c. Comprehensive Land Use Strategy

- The *Mid-Western Regional Comprehensive Land Use Strategy 2031: Part C – Draft Strategy* provides direction for urban and rural land use over the next 25 years. The principal approaches to achieving the strategy are: maintaining an integrated community and avoiding the creation of isolated settlements;
- creating opportunities for clustered large lot residential lifestyles near existing towns and villages where existing road access and services are available;
- minimising fragmentation and land use conflicts in the rural areas;
- directing settlement and development intensification away from areas identified as environmentally sensitive; and
- protecting agricultural land.

4.3.5 Summary

Strategic state, regional and local plans have been examined as part of this assessment. The mining industry is recognised as an important contributor to promoting the social and economic welfare of NSW. The Orana region considers the Project as an opportunity that can bring a lasting legacy to the region. This will be achieved by maximising the roles that business and tertiary training facilities can play to support the Project. The extensive community consultation that underpin councils' community strategic plans, view new resource developments as a necessity to achieve long term economic security and diversify the local areas' overall depth of labour skills while ensuring negative environmental impacts associated with mining are minimised.

5 Community profile

5.1 Introduction

This section summarises the existing socio-economic characteristics of people residing in the primary and secondary impact areas, which when considered together is termed the region. Details are given in Appendices A and B.

5.2 Primary assessment area – Laheys Creek locality

For the primary assessment area, the approach used was the Social Universe Model (Taylor, Bryan and Goodrich 2004). This provides richer information than a standard census profile and describes:

- how people are dispersed within, and use, the landscape (population and land use);
- how people organise to meet their needs (social organisation, social capital, community coherence/fragmentation);
- how people think (attitudes, beliefs and values);
- peoples' customary modes of behaviour (lifestyle); and
- how people respond to change (community capacity and community resilience).

Information came from in-depth telephone or face-to-face interviews with a total of six community members, including; community elders, business people, farmers and members of environmental groups. Interviews lasted approximately 60 minutes and were conducted during December 2011 and January 2012.

Appendix A lists the stakeholders interviews carried out as part of this social assessment.

5.2.1 History, geography and settlement pattern

The Laheys Creek area was originally inhabited by the cultural and linguistic group known as Wiradjuri peoples, the largest Aboriginal language group in NSW (Tindale 1974). European settlement began with a series of pastoral selections in the late nineteenth century (Cameron and Job 1993:329) and although Laheys Creek was named after a former convict Michael Lahey, it was often called Falconer, after the family who held most of the land. Its location took advantage of the original Guntawang to Mendooran Road which was an important coach, wagon and bullock route for the Cobb and Co.

The region has been dominated by the pastoral and agricultural industries although there was some gold mining. Cattle and merino sheep were the main herds reared for commercial use, though it is likely dairy cows were kept for domestic purposes. In 1846, the population of the region was 572 people, 22,080 cattle and 130,502 sheep (Cameron and Job 1993:109).

The first and closest primary schools were located at Dapper and Medway. These were the focal points of the community. Harvesting, shows and church attendance at the nearby Dapper Union Church were the main social events in the area during the mid 19th century.

In 1881, a Post Office was established at Laheys Creek and it was hoped that this would be the beginning of new development occurring in the area. The locality boasted a hotel, shop and a number of grand residences. However, as the route of the railway ended up going through Gulgong, Laheys Creek opportunity for development quickly evaporated. The Post Office closed in 1890, when it was transferred further south to Spring Creek. The depression of the 1890s led to many families leaving the area. This trend continued into the 1900s.

In the early 1970s, the subdivision of land, east of Laheys Creek at Tallawang, brought changes to the area. The arrival of these new residents (known as 'Blockies' to local residents due to the small size of their blocks) partially changed the make-up of the population in the wider area. Many people moved to own hobby farms or to begin a new life. These changes brought a large increase in local population and some tension as noted by the members of the community. The subdivision of rural land in the area was subsequently discontinued by the local council.

The local economy has remained largely stable over the last 150 years with sheep (for wool and meat), beef and crops (mainly grains) defining the farming community.

5.2.2 Socio-economic characteristics

i Population size and structure

It should be noted that ABS has removed CCDs as a unit of measurement in the 2011 census which have been replaced by statistical local areas (SLAs). ABS viewed that CCDs were not the most efficient method to capture the changing demographics of the Australia. Unfortunately, this has made comparisons between 2006 and 2011 data sets extremely difficult. Therefore, 2006 census data has continued to be used in this analysis.

Based on the latest statistical data, the area (Laheys Creek, Cobbora, Tucklan and Dapper localities) is characterised by a stable but ageing, rural population.

The primary area has a population of 250 people at the 2006 census. This remained unchanged from the 2001 census. The population distribution between males and females in 2006 is 50.6% and 49.4% respectively. At 2001, there were a higher proportion of males at 52.8% as compared to 47.2% females.

The largest age cohort is people aged 65 years and over (18.1%), followed by 35 to 44 year olds (17.7%) and older children (5 to 11 year olds) at 13.7% which is typical of a 'middle-aged' family structure. The smallest cohorts are younger and later working age cohorts: 12 to 17 year olds (4.8%), 18 to 24 year olds (6.4%), 0 to 4 year olds (6.8%) and 45 to 54 year olds (9.6%).

The main change in age structure since the previous census in 2001 is an increase in the number of people aged 65 years and over (from 9.9% to 18.1%) and a reduction of young children aged 0 to 4 year olds (from 11.3% to 6.8%).

The median age of the locality is 39 years in 2006 as compared to 35 years in 2001.

As with many rural areas across Australia, there are very low levels of people born overseas. Australian born residents made up 97.0% of the population in the primary area as compared to the NSW average (74.4%). Of the six people who are born overseas in the primary area, the United States of America and Greece registered three people each.

A total of 3.2% of the population identify themselves as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander compared with 2.2% of the population of NSW.

ii Household and housing

There is a higher proportion of families with children (66.0%), followed by families without children (19.5%) and lone person households (6.8%).

The average household size in the primary area is 2.9 as compared to 2.6 for NSW.

In 2006, there were 76 dwellings in the primary area. A high level of home ownership, which includes property being purchased, was evident at 88.7%, as compared to the NSW average (66.7%). Conversely, the level of renting in the primary area is considerably lower at 11.2% compared to NSW (29.5%).

iii Migration

Although it was noted that the population remained stable between 2001 and 2006, 12.2% of residents have moved during the previous 12 months and 24.3% of residents have moved during the previous five years. NSW average mobility is marginally higher at 14.3% and 37.9% respectively.

Of those who have moved within the previous 12 months, nearly two-thirds have moved from within the same Statistical Local Area and the remainder from elsewhere in NSW.

iv Household income

There are fewer low income earners (11.8% below \$349 per week) in the primary area than the figure for NSW (14.9%) as shown in Table 5.1. The median household income in the primary area is \$774 per week as compared to \$1,036 per week in NSW.

Table 5.1 Gross household income (weekly): primary area compared with NSW

Income bands	Primary area (%)	NSW (%)
\$0-349	11.8	14.9
\$350-999	32.9	27.7
\$1,000-1,999	25.0	28.1
\$2,000-3,000+	17.1	18.1
Partial income stated	6.6	8.3
All incomes not stated	6.6	2.9

Source: ABS (2006)

v Workforce and occupation

'Managers' are the predominant occupation in the primary area at 48.6% which reflects the high number of farmers in the area (Table 5.2). This is followed by 'professionals' (13.7%) and 'clerical and administrative workers' (11.7%). As there is a lack of employment diversity in the locality, it is assumed that many of these workers would need to travel to nearby towns.

Table 5.2 **Occupation type: primary area**

Occupation type	Primary area (%)	NSW (%)
Managers	48.6	13.6
Professionals	13.7	21.2
Technicians and trade workers	7.8	13.6
Community and personal services workers	0.0	8.6
Clerical and administrative workers	11.7	15.4
Sales workers	3.8	9.7
Machinery operators and drivers	4.8	6.4
Labourers	9.6	9.5
Inadequately described / not stated	0.0	2.0

Source: ABS (2006)

Reflecting the rural character of the primary area, Table 5.3 shows that ‘agriculture, forestry and fishing’ are the largest employing industries with over half of the working population (54.8%) employed in these sectors. ‘Health care and social assistance’ and ‘professionals and technical services’ are equally the next largest employing sectors at 6.7%.

Table 5.3 **Industry of employment: primary area**

Industry of employment	Primary area (%)	NSW (%)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	54.8	2.7
Mining	2.9	0.7
Manufacturing	0.0	9.6
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	0.0	1.0
Construction	2.9	7.3
Wholesale trade	0.0	4.7
Retail trade	3.8	11.1
Accommodation and food services	0.0	6.6
Transport, postal and warehousing	4.8	5.0
Information media and telecommunications	0.0	2.4
Financial and insurance services	0.0	5.0
Rental, hiring and real estate services	0.0	1.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	6.7	7.3
Administrative and support services	0.0	3.1
Public administration and safety	2.9	6.0
Education and training	5.8	7.6
Health care and social assistance	6.7	10.5
Arts and recreation services	0.0	1.4
Other services	5.8	3.8
Inadequately described / not stated	2.9	2.5

Source: ABS (2006)

5.2.3 Current community capacity

Information in this section is drawn from the six in-depth interviews with community members who have been residents in the locality from three to 40 years during December 2011 and January 2012.

i Addressing past challenges

How a community deals with past challenges indicates its strength and access to resources to mobilise and deal constructively with the issue.

The community has had to deal with a range of challenges like droughts and floods, and the closure of the nearby Gulgong hospital, which occurred in 2011, and has responded strongly. An example is the Laheys Creek Progress Association which was formed in 1995 (and soon disbanded) to advocate for road improvements.

All the interviewees indicated that the announcement of the Project in 2006 did not generate a strong and united adverse response. There was no re-formation of the progress association or mobilisation of people or resources. Some interviewees believed that due to the ageing workforce (people planning for retirement), difficult drought conditions and poor soil quality, the Project presented opportunities for many residents in terms of financial compensation and securing their retirement.

ii Community coherence and resilience

The density of acquaintanceships and family networks is very high, and residents perceive the local community as supportive. There is no indication of a pro versus and anti-mining split in the immediate locality.

Before the announcement of the Project, interviewees stated that social change would affect the future of the area in the following ways:

- ageing population with young adults migrating to towns; and
- there are few employment opportunities outside of farming.

Since the announcement of the Project, the key social change factors were perceived as being:

a. Benefits

- CHC has helped some owners by purchasing poor quality land which otherwise would have been difficult to sell and this has assisted farmers who are planning for retirement;
- likely that people who move from the locality will still remain in the region; and
- provision of employment for younger people who have moved or are planning to move out.

b. Other comments

- bringing forward retirement plans earlier than they would have liked; and
- adjoining landowners who remain will lose friends and neighbours.

iii Community infrastructure

The primary area contains a small number of community facilities: the Rural Fire Service (RFS) block at Laheys Creek and the Union Church at Dapper. There is a community hall at Cobbora which required re-wiring and power connection measures to comply with Warrumbungle Shire Council requirements to hold community events. This work is now complete with the granting of funding provided through CHC's Community Support Program.

There are no shops, schools, community facilities or sporting fields serving the primary area. Most residents travel to Dunedoo or Gulgong to access basic goods and services. Interviewees indicated that the lack of community facilities was not considered to be a problem.

The only local group that meets regularly is the RFS. Residents are unsure whether this is due to the lack of community space in the area or residents' lack of time. Many spoke of the friendliness of neighbours who help out if they experienced a problem though rarely did they actually contact their neighbour for help.

iv Community fragmentation

There are no clear indications of social fragmentation, despite the arrival of the 'Blockies' at Tallawang (in the early 1970s) and recent land purchases by CHC. Perceived levels of crime in the area are very low, although some interviewees noted that the presence of more vehicles associated with the Project has led to them securing their premises.

The ageing of the agricultural workforce is consistent throughout the area and there is a sense that the current generation of farmers is reaching the end of their productive working life.

5.2.4 Community perspectives on impacts

i Landowners

Consultation with affected and potentially affected landowners has been underway since 2006 and continues to occur on a regular basis. However, a new round of consultation commenced after the formation of CHC and modifications to the Project were presented in the *Cobbora Coal Project Update Report* (EMM 2011a) in August 2011.

Consultation activities involving landowners pertaining to the social impact assessment were carried out by EMM between November 2011 and January 2012. These included face-to-face and telephone interviews. During the same time, a full time consultation specialist was recruited and based in the local area to conduct briefings with stakeholders and respond to requests for meetings with groups and landowners. The consultation specialist role is still on-going as part of the wider Project.

Table 5.4 provides a summary of landowners' perceived impacts and issues identified from both the EMM and consultation specialist's activities during the preparation of this social assessment from September 2011 to March 2012. Additional community consultations were undertaken during the finalisation of this social assessment. These included four evening community information sessions. Two of these sessions were conducted locally – Gulgong 14 May and Dunedoo 16 May 2012. The remaining two were conducted in Wellington 15 May and Dubbo 17 May 2012. See Section 6.2.4 for a summary of the outcomes from these community information sessions. A more detailed summary can be found in the EA main report's stakeholder consultation chapter.

Table 5.4 Landowners – matters raised

Theme	Issues and opportunities raised	No. of times raised during consultations
Property values and compensation		
	Decreasing property values on land within and adjoining the Project area	3
	Lack of certainty on issues that will affect land value	1
	Preference for having property bought out with option for long term lease back	1
Noise and blasting		
	General noise impacts from the mine construction and operations	3
	Effects from ‘infrasound’ (ie frequency below audible human range)	1
	Potential damage to structures	1
Traffic and transport		
	Increased local traffic from contractors and workers	2
	Contractors not sharing the road due to narrow road	1
Air quality		
	Dust coming from site and machinery (ie type, quantity and expected travelling distance)	3
Project		
	Lack of project information and not regularly updated on progress of the Project	5
	Sceptical about the ability of CHC to deliver the Project	2
	Lack of obvious environmental monitoring	2
	Likely hours of operation	1
	Unsuitability of the website medium for communication	1
Visual and lighting		
	Light pollution from the Project	1
Values		
	Community opposition to the mine	2
	Change in environment and lifestyle of the area	1
	Reduction in social cohesion	1
	Confidentiality agreements with landowners have fractured the community	1
Groundwater		
	Loss of pressure and lack of access to existing bores	1
	Loss of aquifers	1
Environment		
	Ongoing weed and pest management across the whole site from now on	4
Business and employment		
	Provide local employment for young people	3
	Loss of trade workers to the mine	1

ii Community groups

Table 5.5 provides a summary of the perceived impacts and issues identified during consultation with community groups.

Table 5.5 Community groups – matters raised

Theme	Issues and opportunities raised	No. of times raised
Property values and compensation		
	Project expansion will lead to property being acquired and this will affect land value	1
	Preference for having property bought out or on long term leases	1
	Appropriate levels of compensation	1
Housing		
	Potential shortage in supply of homes	1
	Increase in housing prices	1
	Not in favour of worker accommodation outside the Project	1
Noise		
	Effects from 'infrasound' (ie frequency below audible human range)	2
	General noise impacts from the mine construction and operations	1
Traffic and transport		
	Increased traffic in the area	3
	Number of train movements	2
	Road closures especially when going to Dubbo	1
	Vehicle movements	1
Air quality		
	Dust coming from site and machinery	2
	Burning of poor quality coal	1
Project		
	Probability for project expansion or increase in coal production	2
	Lack of project information and not regularly updated on progress of the Project	2
	Limited public communication with CHC	1
	Extension of construction and mining time period	1
	Guaranteeing local supply to electricity generators	1
Visual and lighting		
	Proximity of mine site for 20 years	1
Values		
	Change in environment and lifestyle of the area	3
	Reduction in social cohesion	1
	Social impacts of towns/landowners being bought out	1
Surface water		
	Movement and allocation of water	2
	Volume of water to be transferred	1
Business and employment		

Table 5.5 Community groups – matters raised

Theme	Issues and opportunities raised	No. of times raised
	Expansion of job opportunities	2
	Potential to grow services and local industry	1
	Employment of Indigenous people	1
	Downturn in business for wineries and restaurants due to less tourists	1
	Types of businesses to be generated	1
	Impacts on Mudgee and Gulgong from changes in business	1
Agriculture		
	Continued expansion of mining industry onto agricultural land	1
Health		
	Overstretching of service supply	1
Demographics		
	Increased service needs, especially health, of ageing populations	1
Funding		
	Misdirection of taxpayer funds away from renewable energy	1
	Sponsorship of community events and committees	1
Environmental impacts		
	Uncertainty about environmental impacts	1
Tourism		
	Competition for tourist accommodation from mine workers	1

5.3 Secondary assessment area

The secondary assessment area used both census and information from targeted stakeholder consultations across the four LGAs. Consultations were conducted during November 2011 and May 2012. Workforce and industry statistics are based on 2006 census data as the latest data will be released from October 2012.

Appendix A lists the stakeholders interviews carried out as part of this social assessment.

The Project will affect Dubbo, Warrumbungle, Wellington and Mid-Western Regional LGAs. They make up approximately 14% of the Orana region which occupies most of the NSW Central West.

5.3.1 Dubbo LGA

Dubbo LGA is situated around the junction of the Newell, Mitchell and Golden Highways. It is serviced by daily trains and 154 air flights per week. It has a population of approximately 38,800 but serves a wider catchment with community services, schools, employment, health and shopping facilities (ABS 2012).

Dubbo is the largest city in the Orana region and is one of the state's largest inland cities. It has approximately 3,500 businesses, receives 789,000 tourists annually and had a gross regional product of \$2.1 billion in 2008/2009 (Dubbo Economic Development Profile 2011). The LGA is experiencing reasonable population growth (0.5% per annum) and it is forecast to grow by 8,700 people by 2031 (DoP 2010). Unemployment (at 4.3%) and housing costs (median house price \$260,000) are relatively low despite continued population growth (ABS 2010; Housing NSW 2011).

Although being the centre of an established agricultural area, Dubbo has a lower reliance on agriculture than the wider region. Instead, retailing is the LGA's main economic sector and manufacturing, transport, tourism, education, finance, business and government services sectors are also strong. The LGA's health sector is built around three key facilities: Dubbo Base hospital, Dubbo Private hospital and University of Sydney's School for Rural Health. The wholesale trade and construction sectors are well developed which is reflective of Dubbo's support role to mining, agriculture and residential development.

5.3.2 Warrumbungle LGA

Warrumbungle LGA is located on the Newell Highway about halfway between Brisbane and Melbourne. It has a population of approximately 9,600 which is forecast to decline slightly by 2036 (ABS 2012 and DoP 2010).

Warrumbungle LGA supports a diverse agricultural industry which includes horticulture, viticulture, cattle, wheat, sheep and crops, with some saw milling and manufacturing. The LGA contains a range of education, health, recreational and retail facilities, which largely service local needs. The Warrumbungle Ranges, near Coonabarabran, contains the well known Siding Springs Observatory.

The LGA's main towns are Coonabarabran, Coolah and Dunedoo and with smaller settlements being Baradine, Binnaway and Mendooran. Coonabarabran is the largest town, with a population of 3,173, and serves as the administrative centre of the LGA (ABS 2012).

Dunedoo is situated at the junction of the Golden and Castlereagh Highways about 90 km north-west of Mudgee about 22 km north-east of the Project. It has a population of 1,253 (ABS 2012). Dunedoo contains educational facilities including a TAFE, multi-purpose health service centre, sporting facilities and a library and is serviced by police, fire and ambulance stations.

5.3.3 Wellington LGA

Wellington LGA is located at the junction of Bell and Macquarie rivers. It has a population of approximately 8,500, which is forecast to decline slightly by 2036 (ABS 2012 and DoP 2010). It is accessible by daily rail and coach services from Sydney. Agriculture, both grazing activities and crop production, is a key industry sector, along with the Wellington Correctional Centre and council administration (ABS 2010).

Wellington is the main town in the LGA which serves the surrounding farming community. It offers a range of businesses including restaurants, wineries and accommodation. The town has local educational facilities ranging from pre-school to tertiary education and health facilities with a hospital, dentist, aged care facility and a medical centre. There are a number of tourist attractions including the Wellington Caves, wineries, galleries, Lake Burrendong and Burrendong Botanic Gardens.

Elong Elong is a village located along the Golden Highway, 15 km west of the Project. It has a population of 226 people (ABS 2012). Elong Elong has a number of farming businesses in the area with other services largely provided by the town of Wellington. Its main facilities include a public hall and a church.

5.3.4 Mid-Western Regional LGA

Mid-Western Regional LGA is a large predominantly rural area. It has a population of approximately 22,300 (ABS 2012). According to DoP's population projections for the region, population is forecast to be largely stable before experiencing a decline after 2021 (DoP 2010). The main towns in the LGA are Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone. Mudgee is the regional centre and hosts a hospital, library, airport, as well as educational, sporting and shopping facilities. Mudgee is recognised for its high quality local produce especially wine, cheese and fresh produce.

Mid-Western Regional LGA is a diverse and growing economy. The agricultural sector produces a wide range of products including wool, honey and thoroughbred horses. Mining is also important with four coal mines.

Gulgong is located approximately 30 km south-east of the Project and 30 km north of Mudgee. It has a population of 2,383 (ABS 2012). Gulgong's association with the goldfields in 1866 is evident with historic buildings throughout the town, including the Pioneers Museum and the Henry Lawson Centre. A range of important services are also available in the town with a library, two primary schools, a high school, an environment education centre and a multi-purpose health service centre which provides accident and emergency services.

5.3.5 Key socio-economic characteristics

The key socio-economic characteristics of the four LGAs are given in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6 Socio-economic characteristics summary: secondary area

Socio-economic characteristics	Dubbo LGA	Warrumbungle LGA	Wellington LGA	Mid-Western Regional LGA	NSW
Population	38,805	9,588	8,493	22,319	6,917,660
Indigenous population (%)	12.8	9.2	20.0	3.9	2.5
Population growth (2006-2011) (%)	2.5	-2.26	4.59	5.85	5.6
Annual rate of population (2006-2011) (%)	0.50	-0.45	0.91	1.17	1.12
Population growth (2011-2036) (%)	0.46	-0.84	-0.59	0.02	1.12
Median age	36	45	41	41	38
Working age (15 to 64 years) (%)	63.3	57.88	60.6	61.59	66.0
People aged 65 + years (%)	14.2	22.0	18.8	18.1	14.7
Industry structure (ABS 2006)	Retail trade, health care/social assistance and education/training	Agriculture/forestry/fishing, retail trade & education/training	Agriculture/forestry/fishing, retail trade and education/training	Retail trade, agriculture/forestry/fishing and manufacturing	Retail trade, health care/social assistance and education/training

Table 5.6 **Socio-economic characteristics summary: secondary area (Cont'd)**

Socio-economic characteristics	Dubbo LGA	Warrumbungle LGA	Wellington LGA	Mid-Western Regional LGA	NSW
Occupational structure (ABS 2006)	Professionals and technicians/ trade workers	Managers and labourers	Managers and labourers	Managers and technicians/ trade workers	Professionals and clerical/ administrative workers
Unemployment rate 2010 (%) (ABS 2006)	4.3	6.2	8.6	6.0	5.7
Average household size	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.6

Source: ABS (2006 and 2012)

Source: ABS Regional Population Growth: Australia: March 2010 (2011)

Source: DoP Population Forecasts (2010)

Important socio-characteristics of the secondary area can be summarised as follows:

- Relative size of towns: Dubbo is considerably the largest town and it contains the broadest range and majority of higher order facilities. These features will make it an attractive location for the Project's workforce;
- Population structure: Dubbo's population is relatively young whereas the other three LGAs are generally older than the NSW average. Household sizes are generally similar across the LGAs and NSW. In these LGAs, the proportion of Indigenous people is much higher than the NSW average;
- Population growth: Mid-Western Regional, Dubbo and Wellington experienced recent population growth. Warrumbungle experienced a decline in population;
- Future population changes: Dubbo is likely to continue to grow through to 2036. Warrumbungle and Wellington are likely to experience a decline. Mid-Western Regional is likely to remain stable (DoP Population Forecasts 2010);
- Economic structure: retail and community services dominate in Dubbo, while primary industries dominate in areas outside Dubbo; and
- Workforce and occupation structure: there is a higher proportion of managers (which includes farmers), technicians and trades workers and labourers than the NSW average. Unemployment is generally above the NSW average except in Dubbo.

5.3.6 Community infrastructure and services

An assessment of the following community facilities and services has been carried out as part of this assessment to determine their capacity to accommodate greater demands from incoming residents generated by the Project for Scenarios 1 and 2. A summary is given below. This is detailed in Appendix C.

i Education

There are no schools located within the primary area. The secondary area has a high percentage of school-aged children compared to the NSW average and has a selection of government, private and special schools. Discussions with Department of Education and Communities (DEC) stated that schools within secondary area were generally experiencing growing enrolments but there was capacity to take on more students across primary and secondary levels (A. Furney, DEC Assets Manager per comm., January 2012).

A range of tertiary education services are provided in Dubbo. Charles Sturt University services the central western region of NSW, with one of its five campuses located in Dubbo. The University of Sydney's School of Rural Health has a Dubbo campus. It has been in operation since 2001 and accommodates 30 medical students. There are limited tertiary services in Dunedoo, Wellington and Mudgee.

TAFE NSW-Western Institute has colleges at Dubbo, Dunedoo, Wellington and Mudgee. The Western Institute provides the majority of certified training courses for the mining sector and its associated sectors (eg heavy transportation) in Western NSW. Dubbo has another four registered training organisations that offer courses from personal interest to vocational training, including work tickets through to diploma level.

ii Childcare

There is a relatively high proportion of younger families with children 0 to 5 year olds who reside in the region, notably Dubbo and Wellington LGAs. There are a number of childcare centres offering a range of services, including pre-school, playgroups, occasional and long day care, after school care and vacation care services across the four LGAs.

The Commonwealth Government, in collaboration with all the State Governments, has issued the National Quality Framework Guidelines for early childhood education which aims to improve the quality and standard of childcare services. One of the key requirements within the guidelines is implementation of a one staff to four children ratio for 0 to 2 year olds (DEEWR 2009).

Nearly all childcare centres across the secondary area have reported waiting lists for 3 to 5 year olds, with long waiting lists for 0 to 2 year olds. In the case of Dubbo, Council and some private centres will decrease the availability of places for 0 to 2 year olds to meet the Commonwealth guidelines. There is one example where a centre will increase staff numbers to cater for the changes.

iii Health

The secondary area comes under the jurisdiction of the Western NSW Local Health District that contains a number of hospitals. Smaller multi-purpose health service centres are located in the smaller towns of Dunedoo, Coolah and Gulgong.

Dubbo is a major rural health service centre. It has three major hospitals serving the local and wider catchment population: Dubbo Base hospital, Lourdes hospital and community health centre, and Dubbo private hospital. Dubbo Base hospital has received State and Commonwealth funding for major redevelopment. The \$79.8 million redevelopment project is in the planning stages and will improve existing delivery of services and facilities in maternity, paediatric, renal dialysis and surgical areas by September 2014.

In Gulgong, the hospital closed in 2010. In mid 2011, construction of a new multi purpose health centre facility began. This will be completed by March 2012.

The secondary area contains a number of medical centres and specialist health practitioners. Dubbo area is serviced by 28 medical clinics, 12 dentists, five chiropractors, nine physiotherapists, three podiatrists and three diagnostic services. Many residents from the region travel to Dubbo to access these services.

The Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee recommends one general practitioner (GP) per 950 people. There are 46 GPs in Dubbo (44 GPs recommended), eight GPs for Wellington (nine recommended), 11 GPs in Mudgee (19 recommended), two GPs in Gulgong (three recommended) and two GPs in Dunedoo (two recommended). Discussions with the Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice advised that GPs numbers in the Dubbo, Wellington and Warrumbungle LGAs were sufficient to meet current demand. Although Wellington was slightly below the recommended ratio, its close proximity to the major health facilities in the region at Dubbo, enabled a high number of registrars and medical students visiting Wellington to assist local GPs. There was a shortfall in Mid Western Regional LGA. The Division stated that medical centres in the region were adapting to meet the changing pattern of working families by staying open longer during the week and working on weekends.

Due to its regional importance, Dubbo offers a diverse range of health services for women and Aboriginal groups. Dubbo City Council notes that there is competing demand for these services from permanent residents, recently arrived migrants and residents from neighbouring areas where service provision is minimal.

iv Housing

a. Short-stay accommodation supply

The total short-stay accommodation supply of hotel/motel rooms and units within the region is 2,435 rooms/units based on ABS data and discussions with council planning and economic development officers. Current occupancy rates are generally within the range 60 to 70%. Therefore, on average, approximately 35% of this type of accommodation can be considered as potentially available for use by the Project construction workers. Notwithstanding, the Project includes a construction accommodation village containing 400 beds. It will meet the needs of the 350 person relocated construction workforce and ensure the Project does not place additional pressure on the local temporary accommodation market.

b. New housing and rental supply

The supply of new housing can be estimated from the recent annual rates of residential construction in each LGA (ABS 2010):

- Dubbo LGA: 213 new dwellings made up of 179 new houses and 34 new dwellings in “other residential” buildings;
- Warrumbungle LGA: 13 new houses;
- Wellington LGA: 8 new houses; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA: 46 new dwellings made up of 26 new houses and 20 new dwellings in “other residential” buildings.

The above figures illustrate the capacity of the local building industry and assuming current construction rates continue the following supply will be available by 2015:

- Dubbo LGA: 852 dwellings;
- Warrumbungle LGA: 52 dwellings;
- Wellington LGA: 32 dwellings; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA: 184 dwellings.

This could provide a total new supply of approximately 1,120 dwellings by 2015. Assuming that this growth rate remains constant, the following dwellings could be available by 2027:

- Dubbo LGA: 3,408 dwellings;
- Warrumbungle LGA: 208 dwellings;
- Wellington LGA: 128 dwellings; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA: 736 dwellings.

This could provide a total new housing supply of approximately 4,480 new dwellings.

The current cost and recent trends in both the median house price and average new rental cost for three bedroom dwellings in each LGA is presented in Figures 5.7 and 5.8. This is based on Quarterly Rent and Sales Report (Housing NSW 2011).

Although the rental costs have been increasing each year, particularly in the Dubbo and Mid-Western Regional LGAs, the level of house purchase prices has been relatively stable since 2005, with only minor or modest growth in the median house price in any LGA.

Figure 5.1 Median house prices for typical home purchase 2001 to 2011

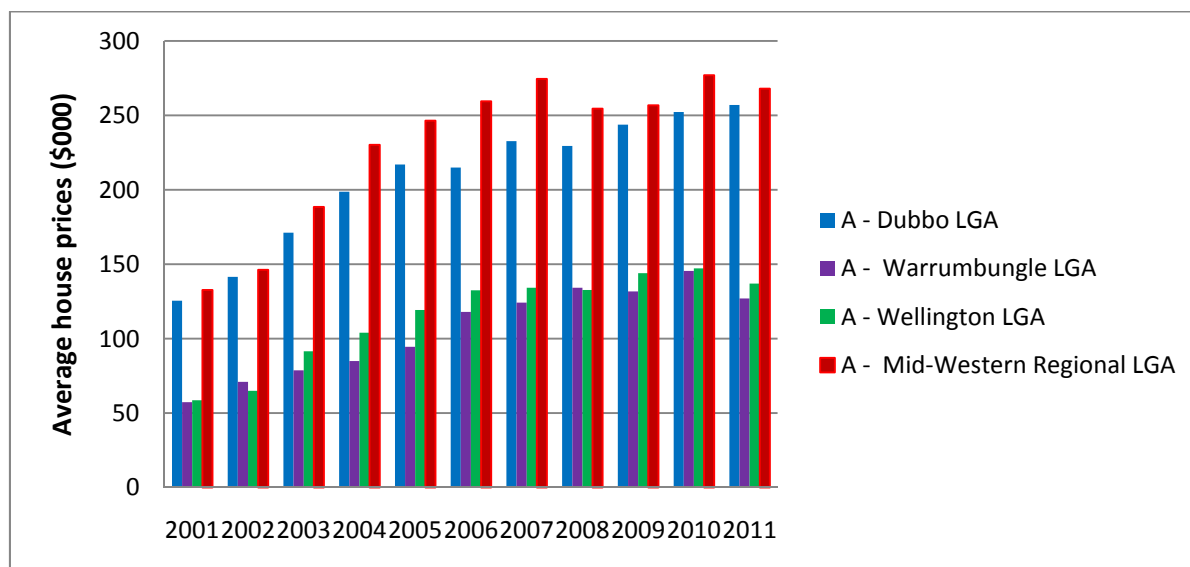
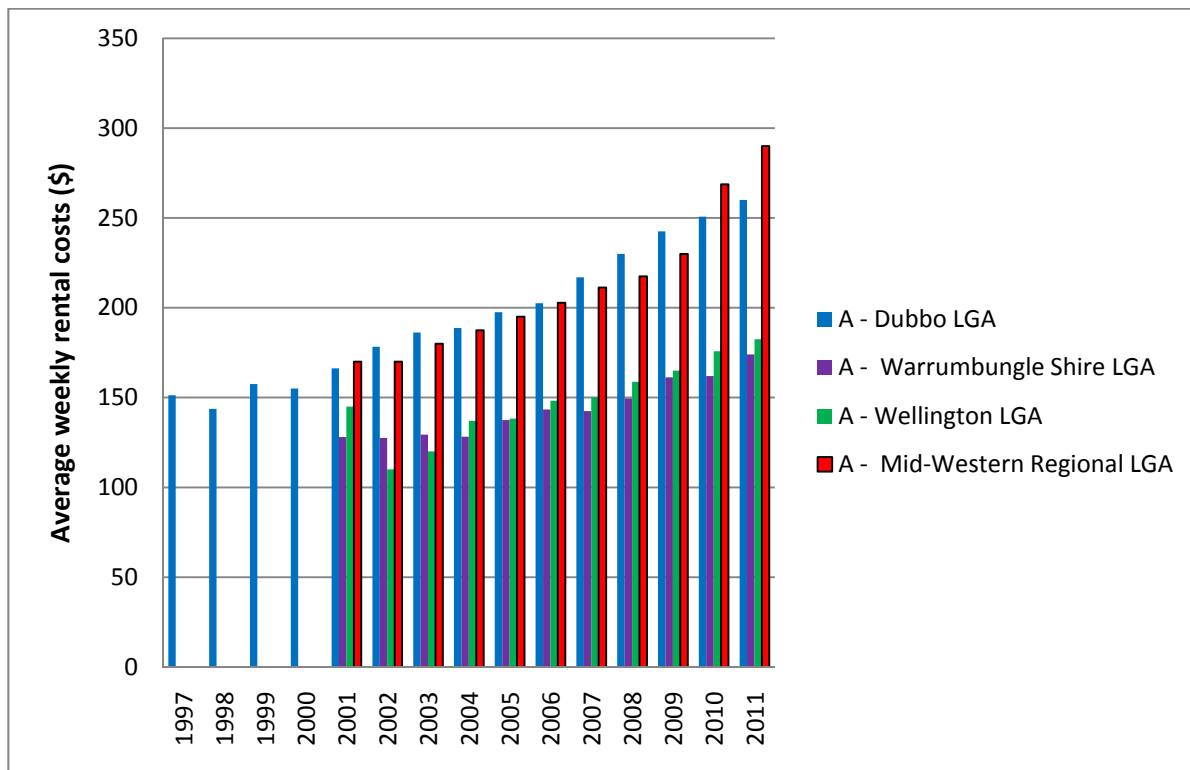


Figure 5.2 Rental cost trends for three bedroom family homes (new rentals) 1997 to 2011



v Emergency services

The region is serviced by the District Emergency Management Office based at Dubbo which comes under the jurisdiction of the Central West Emergency Management District. Dubbo is the regional headquarters for the Ambulance Service of NSW, State Emergency Service, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Police Force. It is also the centre for the Central West District Rescue Committee that oversees operational capacity and capabilities.

Dubbo, Mudgee, Gulgong and Dunedoo, have an ambulance, emergency services and accredited rescue units. One of the key considerations in relation to accidents and emergencies is that of travel time. Should an accident occurred at the Project site, a call out for an ambulance will take at least 60 minutes travel time from Dunedoo to Dubbo (Base hospital). This is considerable amount of time given that most trauma cases require emergency treatment quickly.

There are aero-medical retrieval providers in the Central West District including the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) which operates from Dubbo airport. There is also a rescue helicopter based in Orange and is crewed by Ambulance Service NSW paramedics. Mudgee airport is also registered as suitable for RFDS operations. A helipad is proposed to be located at the project site.

There are two NSW Police Local Area Commands (LACs) that fall within the region:

- Orana LAC (based at Dubbo) – services Dubbo, Wellington, Narromine and Gilgandra LGAs. It has a total of 144 police officers, 110 of whom are located in Dubbo; and
- Mudgee LAC (based at Mudgee) – services Mid-Western Regional and Warrumbungle LGAs. It has a total of 71 police officers.

The closest RFS units to the Project fall in the Castlereagh RFS zone. They include the Dapper Brigade – Laheys Creek (17 members), Dunedoo Brigade (25-30 members) and Cobbora Brigade (15 members vehicle). As these brigades are predominately volunteering based they range in capacity to respond to fire emergencies.

Discussions with the emergency agencies stated there is sufficient capacity to meet anticipated demand.

vi Youth services

Dubbo's population of 12 to 17 year olds is higher than the NSW average (ABS 2010). Council offers a range of facilities and services to cater young peoples' needs. Structured sporting activities are provided through a wide range of associations at a range of venues. There is also a range of voluntary and cultural agencies such as Scouts, Guides, music, drama, dance, art/culture and church based youth groups that work to support young people. However, discussions with council stated there is limited provision of formal facilities and services for young people in Dubbo (J Watts, Dubbo City Council Manager Social Services per comm., December 2011).

Youth unemployment in Dubbo is above the national average of 5.2%. Male and female unemployment is 12.4% for 15 to 19 year olds (ABS 2006). The *Links to Learning* program is an initiative being offered by DEC in Dubbo to help young adults who have left school early and are not in training or employment, to learn life skills through mentoring and modelling programs. Council is also working with the Dubbo City Development Corporation to attract industries and businesses which enhance the prospects of youth employment.

Without transport young people cannot access employment opportunities, recreation or education and training. There are initiatives with private transport companies to provide young people with alternative transport options outside of the bus operating hours. However, most of these initiatives are subject to future funding grants.

Wellington and Mudgee provide some youth facilities and services but there are limited facilities and services on offer at Gulgong and Dunedoo. As with Dubbo, poor transport options limit many opportunities for young people in these towns.

6 Stakeholder consultation

Stakeholder engagement is an important part of the social impact assessment as it allows stakeholder values, issues, impacts and opportunities associated with the Project to be identified, kept informed and assist in refining the Project's design and implementation.

6.1 Consultation tools

A range of consultation tools have been employed to continually inform stakeholders about the Project.

- a Project website (www.cobbora.com.au);
- a Project hotline number (1800 239 894);
- a full time consultation specialist has been based in the local area to conduct briefings with stakeholders and responding to requests for meetings with both groups and individuals;
- a full time CHC Property Manager has been based in the local area to respond to landholder queries and manage ongoing property issues with CHC-owned land and properties being leased back to previous landowners;
- distribution of responses to Frequently Asked Questions (Appendix D) and a Project fact sheet (Appendix E);
- stakeholder presentations and briefing sessions both initiated by CHC and upon invitation by various stakeholders; and
- Community Information Sessions held at Dunedoo, Wellington, Gulgong and Dubbo during May 2012.

The social impact assessment has incorporated the feedback from both the stakeholder consultation undertaken for the social impact assessment by the EMM social team, as well as, consultation carried out for the Project by the consultation specialist (up until the writing of the social assessment - May 2012).

Appendix A outlines a list of stakeholders consulted as part of the social impact assessment.

6.2 Stakeholder groups

6.2.1 Councils

A total of 24 meetings were held between October 2011 and February 2012 (and are still ongoing since February to August 2012) with the following local councils:

- Warrumbungle Shire Council – 29 September 2011, 20 October 2011, 21 October 2011, 6 December 2011, 8 and 16 February 2012;
- Wellington Council – 28 September 2011, 26 October 2011, 1 and 23 November 2011, 5 December 2011, 2, 17 and 29 February 2012;
- Mid-Western Regional Council – 26 October 2011, 2 and 16 November 2011, 6 December 2011, 1 and 17 February 2012; and

- Dubbo City Council – 2 November 2011, 15 November 2011, 5 December 2011 and 16 February 2012.

Table 6.1 provides a summary of the perceived impacts and issues identified during consultation with council officers and elected officials.

Table 6.1 Councils – matters raised

Theme	Issues and opportunities raised	No. of times raised
Property values and compensation		
	Equitable negotiations with landholders	1
	Geographical extent of land purchases by CHC	1
	Increased sale price of properties	1
Housing		
	Reservations about the construction and necessity of temporary workers accommodation off site	4
	Reservations about the affordability and availability of housing	4
	Dubbo has sufficient land and associated infrastructure for mine and construction workers	2
	Shortage of executive style homes in Wellington	1
	Displacement of local people by mine workers	1
	Difficulty in rezoning the land for residential use	1
Noise and blasting		
	General noise impacts from the mine construction and operations	1
Traffic and transport		
	Location of the entrances to the mine	3
	Access to affordable transport for the workers	2
	Potential road closures	2
	Increased rail movements	2
	Local access to roads and perceived disconnection	1
	Good standard of the re-aligned roads	1
	Impacts of road re-alignments for locals	1
	Do not want to see Dunedoo bypassed	1
Air quality		
	Dust coming from site and machinery	1
	Effects for asthmatics living in the area	1
Project		
	Timeframes of the project	1
	Consensus between the four councils involved in the Project	1
	Lack of project information and not regularly updated on progress of the Project	1
	Timely access to project information	1
	Extent of the mine	1
	Management of the land held by CHC	1
	Potential supply to generators and export markets	1

Table 6.1 **Councils – matters raised (Cont'd)**

Theme	Issues and opportunities raised	No. of times raised
Values		
	Process and adequacy of the Project's cultural heritage survey	1
	Potential incompatibility with organic farming at Elong Elong	1
	Loss and displacement of community members	1
Groundwater		
	Costs for landholders to deepen bores	2
	Effect on landowners aquifers	1
	Compliance with aquifer legislation	1
Surface water		
	Allocation of water	5
	Volume of water to be used	3
	Source of water	1
Infrastructure		
	Sewerage at capacity in Warrumbungle LGA	1
Business and employment		
	Overstretching of long day care services	3
	Stimulate local communities by providing jobs for young adults (men and women) and incentive for young adults to remain in the region due to job security	3
	Growth for local businesses	3
	Diversify labour force skills by families moving into the region, especially women. The increased depth of labour skills can support economic growth	3
	Employment of Aboriginal people	2
	Potential salaries for mine workers	1
	Need for employment opportunities for the young people of Wellington and Dunedoo	1
	Need for employment opportunities to be directed towards Wellington	1
	The number of mine employees and the length of employment required	1
	Loss of workers from other industries to the mines	1
Agriculture		
	Loss of agricultural land and impact on rural industry	3
Health		
	Overstretching of service supply	1
Education		
	Appropriate training courses to cater for mine workers	3
	Overstretching of service supply in education	2
	Some youth service facilities are inadequate	1
	Lack of services for children with special needs	1
	Dunedoo and Mendooran libraries are minimal	1
Demographics		

Table 6.1 Councils – matters raised (Cont'd)

Theme	Issues and opportunities raised	No. of times raised
Tourism	Declining rural population	3
	Retaining young people in the area	1
	Lack of accommodation for tourists	2
	Tourism as a result of a pit viewing location	1
Summary of main issues		
	Allocation of water	
	Reservations of workforce accommodation village located off site	
	Housing availability and affordability	

6.2.2 Agencies and service providers

Table 6.2 provides a summary of the perceived impacts and issues identified during consultation with agencies and service providers. Consultation has been both formal and informal, by face to face and telephone and CHC will continue to consult with government agencies and service providers on a regular basis.

Table 6.2 Agencies and service providers – matters raised

Theme	Issue and opportunities raised	No. of times raised
Housing		
	Reservations about the affordability and availability of housing	2
Noise and blasting		
	General noise impacts from the mine construction and operations	2
	Potential damage to structure of properties	1
Traffic and transport		
	Increased traffic by contractors and workers	2
	Train movements	2
	Disruptions to emergency vehicles trying to cross rail tracks	1
	Role of the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) in providing rail infrastructure and management	2
	Inexperienced drivers on country roads leading to high numbers of accidents	1
	Changes to the roads surrounding Gulgong	1
Air quality		
	General effects on people of air quality impacts	1
	Dust coming from site and machinery (type, quantity and travelling distance)	1
Project		
	Relationship between the four councils involved in the Project	1
	Availability of monitoring data	1

Table 6.2 **Agencies and service providers – matters raised (Cont'd)**

Theme	Issue and opportunities raised	No. of times raised
Visual and lighting		
	Light pollution	1
Values		
	Alcohol fuelled violence correlated with a rise in workers from outside the area	1
	Increase in sex workers in Orange	1
	Increased police presence needed on construction workers' days off at Orange	1
	Reinvigoration of towns	1
Surface water		
	Allocation of water	1
	Discharge of water and location of discharge	1
	Compliance with Dam Safety Committee approvals	1
Infrastructure		
	Funds from mining projects can be used to improve the Rural Fire Service	1
Business and employment		
	Expansion of job opportunities	2
	Employment of Indigenous people	2
	Growth for local businesses	1
	Underestimation of employment numbers	1
Agriculture		
	Loss of agricultural land and impact on rural industry	1
Health		
	Impacts on the availability of GPs	1
	Increase in health professional in the area due to mine expansion	1
Education		
	Appropriate training courses to cater for mine workers	3
	Careers in the mining industries promoted in schools	2
Offsets		
	Appropriate timeframe for the biodiversity management strategy	1
	Rehabilitation used as part of the biodiversity offset	1
Rehabilitation		
	Adequacy of rehabilitation	2
	Removal of infrastructure at completion	1
	Final landform and land use	2
Consultation		
	Keeping agencies regularly informed of workforce population	5

Table 6.2 **Agencies and service providers – matters raised (Cont'd)**

Theme	Issue and opportunities raised	No. of times raised
Summary of main issues		
	Keeping agencies regularly informed of workforce population	
	Appropriate training courses to cater for mine workers	
	Expansion of job opportunities	
	Availability and affordability of housing	

6.2.3 Members of Parliament

Table 6.3 provides a summary of the issues identified during discussion with Members of Parliament. CHC continues to consult Members of Parliament on a regular basis.

Table 6.3 **Members of Parliament – matters raised**

Theme	Issues and opportunities raised	No. of times raised
Project		
	Which power stations would purchase coal from the mine	1
	Value of the coal to be mined	1
	Sufficient extent of land purchased for the Project	1
	Communication with councils	1
Groundwater		
	Volume of water required	1
Surface water		
	Volume of water required	1
Infrastructure		
	Lack of a mobile phone tower in the Goolma district	1
Business		
	The number of mine employees and the length of employment required	1

6.2.4 Community Information Sessions

The community information sessions were held at Gulgong, Wellington, Dunedoo and Dubbo during May 2012 and were well attended. Approximately 220 feedback forms were completed at the end of the sessions. Overall, the responses showed a high level of support for the Project.

A breakdown for each session is provided below. A detailed summary is provided in the EA main report.

i Gulgong

Participants were generally supportive of the Project but raised issues arising from rapid development in nearby Mudgee.

A total of 18 feedback forms were received. Over 70% of feedback forms nominated 'project construction' and 'project operation' as an area of interest for them, as well as 'employment and business opportunities'.

ii Wellington

Participants were particularly interested in the employment and economic benefits that will arise from the Project.

A total of 127 feedback forms were received. Over 85% of feedback forms nominated 'employment and business opportunities' as an area of interest for them.

iii Dunedoo

Participants raised issues of rapid development on local infrastructure and services.

A total of 31 feedback forms were received. Over 70% of feedback forms nominated 'employment and business opportunities' as an area of interest for them. Approximately 15% mentioned 'traffic and transport' and 12% mentioned 'ecology' as an area of interest for them.

iv Dubbo

Participants were particularly interested in the employment and economic benefits that will arise from the Project.

A total of 47 feedback forms were received. Over 90% of feedback forms nominated 'employment and business opportunities' as an area of interest for them.

6.2.5 Aboriginal consultation

The Project team consulted with Aboriginal Affairs NSW on 7 March 2012 to consider strategies to increase workforce participation and business opportunities for local Aboriginal people. Further consultation was carried out with Aboriginal stakeholders as part of the heritage assessment of the Project and is included in the EA main report. This is not discussed further below.

7 Impact assessment

This section describes the Project's potential social impacts. These were identified by comparing the predicted population increase and distribution associated with the Project with the existing social and economic conditions given in Section 5 and Appendix C.

The potential environmental impacts of the Project such as noise, ecology, vibration, visual amenity, air quality, groundwater, and traffic and transport, are described elsewhere in the EA and not discussed further below.

7.1 Project workforce and population change impacts

One of the key social impacts associated with large projects involves the impact of the Project's workforce (construction and operations) on the population in the region.

The additional workforce during the operations phase may result in an increased demand for housing, community facilities and public services.

To assess population impacts, it is necessary to understand the characteristics of the mine workforce and its likely residential distribution. The Project's *Workforce Accommodation Study* (EMM 2012) defined the accommodation needs of the construction and operations workforce and determined their likely residential distribution. This study has been used to predict impacts associated with Project workforce.

7.1.1 Project population impact

i Construction phase

As stated in Table 3.1, the mine construction workforce will begin with 110 workers in late 2013 and then build up to a peak of approximately 550 workers during mid to late 2014. The greatest potential social impacts during the construction phase will be during this peak period.

The construction workforce will predominantly be labourers, earth moving contractors, supervisors, tradespersons, administrators and managers on and off the site. As stated in Section 3.2, 40% (206 workers) of the construction workers will be recruited locally and 60% (344 workers) will be relocated workers.

It is likely that the majority of construction workers will relocate to the area temporarily and not be accompanied by spouses and children. As stated in Section 3.2.2, a construction accommodation village will be built on site to accommodate the relocated construction workforce. Therefore, there will be no further requirements for any temporary housing or impacts on the local short term accommodation market.

ii Operations phase

As discussed in Section 3.3.2, the Project will result in a potential population increase of approximately 140 people in 2015, approximately 717 people in 2020 and approximately 900 people in 2027 to 2030 (peak operations). Table 7.1 shows the population increases across the different age groups in the four LGAs in 2015, 2020 and 2027 assuming the age structure provided in ABS census 2011 remains constant.

Table 7.1 Population growth and age structure generated by the Project

Mine year	Age range	Dubbo LGA		Warrumbungle LGA		Wellington LGA		Mid-Western LGA (Scenario 1)		Mid-Western LGA (Scenario 2)	
		Current % population	Potential population additions	Current % population	Potential population additions	Current % population	Potential population additions	Current % population	Potential population additions	Current % population	Potential population additions
2015											
	0-4	8.0	7	6.4	1	6.6	1	6.6	<1	6.6	3
	5-9	7.0	6	6.7	2	6.8	2	6.5	<1	6.5	3
	10-14	7.5	6	7.0	2	7.1	2	7.1	1	7.1	3
	15-19	7.5	6	6.2	1	6.3	1	6.5	<1	6.5	3
	19+ years	70.0	59	73.7	15	73.2	15	73.3	10	73.3	30
	Total	100.0	84	100.0	21	100.0	21	100.0	14	100.0	42
2020											
	0-4	8.0	35	6.4	7	6.6	7	6.6	5	6.6	14
	5-9	7.0	30	6.7	7	6.8	7	6.5	4	6.5	14
	10-14	7.5	32	7.0	8	7.1	8	7.1	5	7.1	15
	15-19	7.5	32	6.2	7	6.3	7	6.5	5	6.5	14
	19+ years	70.0	301	73.7	79	73.2	79	73.3	53	73.3	158
	Total	100.0	430	100.0	108	100.0	108	100.0	71	100.0	215
2027											
	0-4	8.0	43	6.4	9	6.6	9	6.6	5	6.6	18
	5-9	7.0	39	6.7	9	6.8	9	6.5	6	6.5	18
	10-14	7.5	40	7.0	9	7.1	10	7.1	6	7.1	19
	15-19	7.5	40	6.2	8	6.3	8	6.5	6	6.5	18
	19+ years	70.0	378	73.7	100	73.2	99	73.3	67	73.3	199
	Total	100.0	540	100.0	135	100.0	135	100.0	90	100.0	272

Note: population totals may have some discrepancies due to rounding

Reference to Table 7.1 shows that in 2015 the 140 additional people will increase the region's population of the secondary impact area by 0.17%. For each LGA, this will mean a very minor population increase of:

- 0.20% in Dubbo LGA;
- 0.20% in Warrumbungle LGA;
- 0.23% in Wellington LGA; and
- 0.06% in Mid-Western Regional LGA under Scenario 1 and 0.20% under Scenario 2.

The Department of Planning's (DoP) population forecasts for the four LGAs are shown in Table 7.2 for years 2016, 2020 and 2027 (these figures do not include the anticipated population figures generated by the Project). There will be declining populations in Warrumbungle and Wellington LGAs. Mid-Western Regional will have a stable population before declining after 2020. Dubbo LGA will experience an increase in population but at a declining rate.

Table 7.2 Population forecasts for LGAs in 2016, 2020 and 2027

Year	Dubbo LGA growth rate (%)	Dubbo LGA estimated population	Warrumbungle LGA growth rate (%)	Warrumbungle LGA estimated population	Wellington LGA growth rate (%)	Wellington LGA estimated population	Mid-Western LGA growth rate (%)	Mid-Western LGA estimated population
2016	0.69	42,500	-0.75	9,500	-0.64	8,300	0.12	22,300
2020	0.63	43,460	-0.77	9,180	-0.67	8,060	0.07	22,300
2027	0.57	44,820	-0.82	8,620	-0.72	7,460	-0.13	21,960

Notes: 1. Growth rates have been adjusted source to calculate years 2020 and 2027

Source: DoP (2010)

Reference to Table 7.2 shows that in 2020 the additional 717 people generated by the Project will make up a very minor proportion of the forecast population for each LGA:

- 1.0% in Dubbo LGA;
- 1.1% in Warrumbungle LGA;
- 1.3% in Wellington LGA; and
- 0.3% in Mid-Western Regional LGA under Scenario 1 and 1.0% under Scenario 2.

At the peak operations in 2027 the 900 additional people generated by the Project will be almost the same proportion of the forecast population for each LGA as follows:

- 1.2% in Dubbo LGA;
- 1.5% in Warrumbungle LGA;
- 1.8% in Wellington LGA; and
- 0.4% in Mid-Western Regional LGA under Scenario 1 and 1.20% under Scenario 2.

Based on the population forecast for the region, the principal effect of the Project will be to arrest the rate of population decline or contribute to a small increase.

It is acknowledged that there are other population forecasts that have been prepared, in particular for Mid-Western Regional LGA. Any differences are attributable to varying assumptions particularly: the number of major (mining) projects that will be developed, the number of in-migrating workers, their family sizes, the timing of their recruitment, their residential distribution and the timing of Cobbora's development. This social assessment will use DoP's population forecasts as the preferred source. However, to accommodate forecasts for Mid-Western Regional LGA, this assessment has included a sensitivity analysis as detailed in Section 3.3.2.

7.2 Community infrastructure and services impacts

i Construction phase

The construction workforce relocating to the region is likely to have different demands to the operations workforce. Because of the short term nature of the work, construction workers tend to be single or do not bring families to the region. The key demands for community infrastructure and services will tend to be for temporary accommodation and food outlets. The availability of facilities and services is generally not a major consideration for temporary workers. Therefore, the need for other community infrastructure and services is likely to be minimal, and is not considered any further in this assessment. Temporary accommodation facilities for the construction phase will be provided onsite.

ii Operations phase

7.2.2 Education

The region has a high percentage of school-aged children compared to the NSW average. Up to one-third of the incoming population will be below 18 years of age, with the majority locating in Dubbo LGA.

Most private schools in the regions stated that they were experiencing strong enrolments but still had the capacity to absorb more students.

The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) stated that there is capacity across all the schools (primary and secondary) in the region to accommodate growth. This is expected given the generally stable population forecasts for the region. Most of these schools also have space to accommodate extra demountables and can employ additional teachers to meet increased student numbers when needed under both Scenarios 1 and 2.

DEC noted that enrolments across the four LGAs have fluctuated in recent times due to the increased demand from the opening of new mines compared to losses from an ageing population. Therefore, regular contact between CHC and DEC on workforce projections was recommended as being very important to ensure effective delivery of educational resources over the life of the Project.

Like government schools, TAFE gains resources as population sizes increase and demand for specific trades or skills increases. TAFE schools at Dubbo and Wellington are in a good position to deliver education and training for the anticipated increase in the younger population to these LGAs from the Project and from existing trends of prospective tertiary students relocating to larger centres.

7.2.3 Childcare services

The Project will generate a demand for childcare services. Table 7.3 shows the estimated numbers of 0 to 4 year olds that will be generated by the Project in 2015, 2020 and 2027.

Table 7.3 Estimated numbers for 0 to 4 year olds generated by the Project

Year	Dubbo LGA	Warrumbungle LGA	Wellington LGA	Mid-Western Regional LGA (Scenario 1)	Mid-Western Regional LGA (Scenario 2)
2015	7	1	1	1	3
2020	35	7	7	5	14
2027	43	9	9	5	18

Discussions with councils and childcare providers confirmed that centres in Dubbo, Warrumbungle and Mid-Western Regional LGAs have long waiting lists, especially for 0 to 2 year olds. There is minor capacity in some centres in Wellington LGA.

The recent introduction of the Commonwealth National Quality Framework Guidelines for early childhood has resulted in a new ratio requirement of one staff to four children for 0 to 2 year olds. Discussions with councils and childcare providers indicated that these guidelines will have a considerable impact on the number of spaces available, or even, the viability of some centres. Wellington Council indicated that one centre may need to close due to the new guidelines.

The estimated numbers of 0 to 4 year olds to be generated by the Project in 2015 will be very minor. However, based on existing childcare capacity in the region and the longer term impact of the new guideline, there may be some strains on existing childcare services in 2015 under both Scenarios 1 and 2.

From 2016 to 2027, all LGAs will be experiencing a decline in their population growth rates which will increase the availability of childcare spaces. Therefore, it is probable that the estimated 0 to 4 year olds to be generated by the Project will take up a proportion of these new available spaces when the Project reaches its peak by 2027 and will ensure the continued viability of childcare centres in town centres. Also, there is the likelihood of a small number of spouses from the operations workforce who may be employed by the Project, therefore, increasing demand of child care services during the life of the Project.

Under Scenario 2, there may be some strains on existing childcare services from 2020. However, as total numbers will be split 50:50 between Gulgong and Mudgee, these represent a manageable increase for childcare services.

7.2.4 Health

The Project is likely to attract a younger population than the region's current age structure. Therefore, the biggest impact will likely be on primary and community health services, including child and family health services, GP and dental services rather than hospital services.

The region contains a number of hospitals and smaller multi-purpose health centres, including in the smaller towns of Dunedoo and Gulgong. Dubbo has three hospitals. Dubbo Base hospital has received significant funding for redevelopment. The redevelopment of Dubbo Base hospital has factored in the likely increase in population from the Project.

Discussions with the Local Health District indicated that the projected small populations to be generated by the Project in the three smaller LGAs will unlikely impact on the health services, especially in Dunedoo and Gulgong under Scenarios 1 and 2. A small increase in population is considered positive as it will compensate for losses that would otherwise occur and help maintain the viability of local health services.

As stated in Section 5.3.6, discussions with the Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice advised that GPs numbers in the Dubbo, Wellington and Warrumbungle LGAs were sufficient to meet current demand. There was a temporary shortfall in Mid-Western Regional LGA. The Division stated that medical centres in the region were adapting to meet the changing pattern of working families by staying open longer during the week and working on weekends. It is anticipated that other specialist health care will also respond to population growth in a similar way.

7.2.5 Housing and supporting infrastructure

i Construction phase

Discussions with councils and tourist operators raised concerns about the shortfall of quality temporary accommodation due to competing demand from other mining projects and tourist events. A construction accommodation village containing 400 beds will be built for the construction phase. It will meet the needs of the 350 person in-migrating population and ensure the Project does not place additional pressure on the local temporary accommodation market. It is envisaged the facility will be able to cater for short term visits by technical staff during the duration of project construction.

ii Operations phase

a. Short-stay accommodation supply

There will be a small number of visiting technical staff during project operations. Short-stay accommodation supply of hotel/motel rooms and units was calculated in the *Workforce Accommodation Study* (EMM 2012).

The supply of short-stay accommodation in each LGA (for 2010 and 2011) for the following towns was calculated:

- Dubbo LGA had approximately 1,700 beds in a variety of hotel/motel units and with average yearly occupancy rates typically between 65 to 69%;
- Warrumbungle LGA had approximately 900 short-stay accommodation beds (ABS 2010). Approximately half of these (450 beds) are within daily commuting distance of the Project area, in and around the towns of Dunedoo, Coolah and Mendooran;
- Wellington LGA had approximately 157 short-stay rooms and units available in a variety of hotels, motels and apartments; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA had approximately 1,222 beds in hotel/motel units, apartments and caravan parks (ABS 2010).

The total short-stay accommodation supply in the study area is 2,435 rooms/units. The prevailing occupancy rates in this accommodation are up to 70%. Therefore, assuming the supply of the short-stay accommodation remains steady, approximately 30% of such accommodation would be sufficient to meet the small number of visiting technical staff to the Project.

b. Residential accommodation supply

The demand for operations workforce accommodation in each LGA, at the start of mine operations (2015) has been calculated as follows:

- Dubbo LGA – 27 dwellings;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 7 dwellings;
- Wellington LGA – 7 dwellings; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 5 dwellings (Scenario 1) and 14 dwellings (Scenario 2).

Over the four year period, from 2012 to the commencement of mine operations in 2015, the local building industry could produce the following supply of new housing in each LGA:

- Dubbo LGA – 852 dwellings;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 52 dwellings;
- Wellington LGA – 32 dwellings; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 184 dwellings.

This equates to supply a total of **1,120 new dwellings** over the next four years (from 2012 to 2015) for either rental or purchase. The operations in-migrant workforce is estimated to be 46 people at the start of operations in 2015 and will easily be accommodated in the area, occupying approximately **4% of the total new dwellings**. Also, the projected population decline in the Warrumbungle and Wellington LGAs will lessen the demand.

By 2027, the demand for operations workforce accommodation in each LGA, has been calculated to be:

- Dubbo LGA – 177 dwellings;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 44 dwellings;
- Wellington LGA – 44 dwellings; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 30 dwellings (Scenario 1) and 89 dwellings (Scenario 2).

Assuming current construction ratios within the region continue there will be approximately **4,480 new dwellings** by 2027. They will be distributed as follows:

- Dubbo LGA – 3,408 dwellings;
- Warrumbungle LGA – 208 dwellings;
- Wellington LGA – 128 dwellings; and
- Mid-Western Regional LGA – 736 dwellings.

With 4,480 new dwellings, the in-migrating operations workforce will occupy approximately **7% of the total new dwellings** constructed in the period to 2027.

It should be noted that the recent gazettal of Dubbo City Council's *Local Environmental Plan* (LEP 2011) will greatly increase the available number of available residential lots to over 9,000. Based on this information, and discussions with councils, the Project is unlikely to have significant housing impacts across the region.

Discussions with Mid-Western Regional Council indicated that in 2011 the annual rate of construction has increased to approximately 100 dwellings. Council stated that there were difficulties in getting large-scale residential developments (approximately 100 dwellings or more) built in the Mudgee area. However, even at this rate, the new housing estimate for the LGA, 736 new dwellings by 2027, would still be easily achieved. Scenario 2 (89 dwellings) will represent just 12% of the total demand for new dwellings.

Discussions with councils indicated that town water supply, waste and sewer treatment systems generally had capacity to service an increase in population. It was noted that water and sewerage facilities in Warrumbungle LGA, in particular Dunedoo, were beginning to reach capacity. Constraints in available landfill space were also identified in the towns of Dunedoo and Mudgee. Also, Dunedoo had limited facilities to process recycling of household waste as demand for recycling has recently increased. Both Councils were carrying out further studies to address this shortfall.

TransGrid has recently built a 330 kV transmission line to the existing Wellington substation that will provide reliable electricity services for Dubbo and Wellington LGAs. Discussions with Essential Energy indicated that upgrades to the Mid-Western Regional and Warrumbungle LGAs local network and, any additional workforce requirements generated by the Project, will be carried out over the next two years and incorporated into its planning respectively. Therefore, the Project is not expected to have an impact on electricity service provision.

There will be increased demand for mobile and high speed telecommunication services as a result of the Project. This will see service providers expand their presence in the area. A decision as to whether Dubbo will be part of the third round of the National Broadband Network rollout is expected shortly.

7.2.6 Emergency services

The Project will provide its own first aid facility, with emergency equipment (including a helipad) and personnel.

A concern with the RFS, SES and Volunteer Rescue Squads is their reliance on volunteers. The ageing demographic in the area has seen memberships decline across the primary area. This could be compounded with the relocation of landowners outside the area due the Project. CHC has assisted surrounding RFS by contributing to the purchase of fire-fighting equipment (including two 100,000 L water carts fitted with water cannons) and contributed to train fire-fighters in the local area. There will be no need to relocate the Dapper RFS (located at Laheys Creek).

There are also the perceived concerns within the community about increased crime and assaults associated with male mine workers. However, discussions with the Police LAC and Mid-Western Regional Council have stated that there is no evidence that this will be the case.

Discussions with the emergency agencies stated currently there is sufficient capacity and access to available funding to accommodate growth throughout the region under both Scenarios 1 and 2. The emergency service agencies have requested that CHC to liaise regularly and inform them of workforce population projections for their internal planning.

7.2.7 Other community services impacts

An increase in population due to the Project will increase demand for community and recreation facilities like play areas, youth facilities, libraries and community halls. Council has stated there is limited provision of formal facilities and services for young people in the secondary area. However, all LGAs will be experiencing a decline in their population growth rate in the long term. The Project will offset the decline in demand and help avoid populations falling below threshold levels and the attendant closure risks. Under Scenario 2, the incoming population of 270 people represents a marginal increase and will cause a proportionally small increase in demand for community facilities. Even where capacity is currently stretched, this will cause no noticeable decline in service levels.

Based on economic modelling done for the Project, one job created by the Project will result in the creation of approximately 6.5 indirect jobs in the regional economy (Gillespie 2012). Also, a population increase will see a positive impact for local government revenue via an increase in the number of ratepayers. This will assist councils to maintain and improve community services and facilities.

7.3 Primary assessment area – Laheys Creek locality

The Project will have a direct impact on the Laheys Creek locality, partially affecting the way of life, culture, values and cohesion.

As noted in Section 5.2, Laheys Creek and the surrounding localities are characterised by agricultural industries and rural lifestyles. Local residents stated there is a strong sense of community, especially with the older, retiring farmers whose families have lived in the area for generations. The ageing workforce has seen many farmers begin down-sizing and/or retiring. Coupled with the lack of older children remaining on the farms, the area has experienced a declining population.

The Project will directly affect some landowners who will relocate and increase community fragmentation. There is also the stress on landowners caused by uncertainty. However, the Project will provide employment for the younger generation who have, or plan to move out, and potentially halt the decline of young people leaving the area.

The proponent has implemented the following measures to assist directly affected landowners:

- purchased or other compensation for owners of all land directly affected by the mine infrastructure. This measure has been in place since 2009 and is designed to increase certainty;
- purchased or other compensation for owners of land where modelling has predicted that impacts will exceed thresholds for noise and dust; and
- where properties have been purchased, formal agreements have been made with landholders for them to remain and continue farming operations until an agreed date.

These measures have assisted in providing certainty for many landowners wishing to retire and relocate. CHC has maintained a commitment to assist landowners with any project related concerns during the EA process and the life of the mine.

7.4 Cumulative in-migrant workforce and population change

Consideration of the cumulative impacts from other development projects in the region is necessary. The projects considered are Wilpinjong, Ulan West, Moolarben, Mount Penny mining projects, and the Toongi Zirconia mine (south of Dubbo). Table 7.4 summarises the workforce forecasts and the population projections generated by them in years 2015, 2020 and 2027. Given that most of these projects are in the planning stages there is some uncertainty about their exact development schedules and workforce sizes. However, currently known details are given below.

Table 7.4 Cumulative mining projects and in-migrant workers in secondary assessment area

Project	Peak operational in-migrant workforce 2015	Peak operational in-migrant workforce 2020	Peak operational in-migrant workforce 2027	Assumed in-migrant workforce	Population increase in 2015	Population increase in 2020	Population increase in 2027
Existing approved projects							
Wilpinjong	240	240	0	80%	732	732	0
Ulan West	174	174	174	44%	530	530	530
Moolarben (Stage 1 current)	165	165	165	50%	503	503	503
Future projects							
Toongi Zirconia	0	200	200	80%	0	610	610
Moolarben Stage 2	60	60	60	50%	183	183	183
Cobbora	46	235	295	50%	140	717	900
Bylong	121	121	121	70%	374	374	374
Mt Penny-	103	103	103	50%	313	313	313
Total	909	1,298	1,118	-	2,775	3,962	3,413

Sources: Ulan Coal continued operations project (Coakes 2009), Toongi Zirconia Project Overview (DCDC 2012), Wilpinjong Project Approval (DoP 2006), Moolarben Stage 2 EA (Wells 2009), Mt Penny (EMM 2012) and Bylong EMM 2012.

7.4.1 Population

By 2015, it is estimated that approximately 909 mine workers will move into the region which will result in a population increase of 2,775 people. This will increase to 3,962 by 2020 before decreasing to 3,413 in 2027.

With the exception of Toongi Zirconian, all other projects are located in Mid-Western Regional LGA. According to DoP's forecast, from 2015 to 2027, Mid-Western Regional LGA will experience a decline in its population growth rate and a small decline in population numbers from 2020 onwards. There are no other large scale existing and proposed developments located near or within Warrumbungle and Wellington LGAs except for the Project. Therefore, the predicted population increase to be generated by the Project will offset the anticipated population decline within these three LGAs.

It should be noted that the Project's in-migrant workforce under Scenario 2 represents only 1.5% of the cumulative in-migrant workforce.

During this same period, Dubbo LGA is expected to increase in population by 2,200 people but the rate of growth will decline. The Toongi Zirconia project, combined with the Project, may place some pressure on housing availability and the capacity of community facilities.

7.4.2 Housing

As noted earlier, a construction accommodation village will be provided as part of this Project to cater for the construction workforce. No cumulative housing impacts generated by this Project are envisaged to occur.

By year 2015, there will be a need for 909 dwellings, 1,298 dwellings in 2020 and 1,118 dwellings in 2027 across the region. The construction rate of new housing supply in the secondary impact area has the potential to provide 1,120 new dwellings in 2015, 2,520 dwellings in 2020 and 4,480 dwellings in 2027. Therefore, there will be sufficient supply of housing to accommodate the cumulative population increase across the region.

As the location of the majority of projects will be in the Mid-Western Regional LGA, there will be a material impact on its housing market. Based on the longer term annual rate of 46 dwellings, there could be insufficient housing supply in the LGA. However, discussions with Mid-Western Regional Council indicated that the annual rate of construction has increased to approximately 100 dwellings for 2011. Assuming this rate is maintained until 2015, there will be a supply of 400 new dwellings in the LGA. As there could be a demand for 877 dwellings, this will see a shortfall of approximately 477 dwellings. In 2020, there will be an additional 900 dwellings though 934 dwellings will be required. This demand will decrease to 712 dwellings by 2027. Therefore, the critical period for Mid-Western Regional LGA will be up to 2020.

As the Project is estimated to require up to 14 dwellings in the Mid-Western Regional LGA in 2015 and 71 dwellings in 2020, it is anticipated the Project is unlikely to significantly impact on the local housing market. Also, CHC will focus housing development strategies for relocated workers and their families on the Dubbo, Wellington and Warrumbungle LGAs.

7.4.3 Labour pool

The demand for mining labour by existing projects has resulted in skilled labour shortages in some sectors across parts of NSW. This is an Australia wide phenomenon with builders, engineers and tradespeople in high demand. The Commonwealth's National Skills Shortages Strategy identified the need for greater flexibility in traditional trade training, including short apprenticeships and specialist apprenticeship pathways (Gillespie 2011). The cumulative impacts on demand for particular skills in the region may be significant. Therefore, coordination of policies and strategies and effective delivery partnerships between the three levels of government, business and education providers will be required. CHC has commenced this process.

7.4.4 Community infrastructure

In most areas, the principal effect of the cumulative projects will be to arrest the rate of population decline. Approximately one-third of the population will be aged below 19 years of age. Based on the review of existing community infrastructure, the potential cumulative impacts indicate that there will be:

- sufficient capacity within the primary and secondary education system to accommodate increase in numbers;

- initial strains on health services, predominantly in Mudgee, and to a lesser extent in Gulgong, before easing by 2020;
- strains on existing childcare services, predominantly in Dubbo, Mudgee and Gulgong, before easing by 2020; and
- initial pressure on councils to deliver quality services and facilities, especially for young children and adults, before easing by 2020.

Under Scenario 2, the incoming population to Mudgee and Gulgong, is still a marginal increase and will cause a proportionally small increase in demand for community facilities. In nearly all cases, this will cause no noticeable decline in service levels.

It is recognised that there may be a lag between population growth and the provision of additional community infrastructure and services resulting in temporary strains on health and childcare services in some areas, but ultimately increased populations will result in the provision of more health, education and childcare facilities for communities. CHC has begun discussing the likely needs of service providers.

8 Mitigation and management

The following section outlines mitigation and management measures designed to minimise negative impacts, and enhance positive ones associated with the Project.

8.1 Strategies for impact management

8.1.1 Economic development – employment, education and training

Enhancing economic development was a major theme raised at discussions with stakeholders. In particular, employing local people, or preparing the local workforce for mine employment.

CHC will maximise local employment and provide training and education opportunities by:

- offering apprenticeships, traineeships and scholarships for young people through partnerships with local tertiary and educational providers;
- preparing a labour force recruitment strategies that initially focuses on in-house training for less skilled operator positions;
- actively pursuing an equal employment opportunity approach in workforce hiring; and
- working closely with the Aboriginal community to promote ongoing meaningful employment.

CHC is actively working with local training providers and participating in local forums with agencies, councils, education providers and businesses to discuss and promote employment and training opportunities in the region. These include:

- working with TAFE NSW Western Institute to create a new education module dedicated to training individuals for a mining industry career. The course will give students entry level employment qualifications for surface extraction mining. It will be designed to include mobile simulator training to allow students from smaller towns in the region, such as Dunedoo, Coolah and Wellington, to participate;
- playing a central role in both the Central West and Orana regions' Education Skills and Industry forums recently facilitated by Regional Development Australia in Orange and Dubbo. The focus in these forums will be on developing better pathways to employment for people within both regions;
- developing a pilot training program with local councils and industry groups to ensure a strong supply of apprentices in the region. The program aims to alleviate potential shortages in the future availability of suitably trained apprentices. Consultation is continuing with TAFE NSW Western Institute, State Training Services and a number of secondary schools in the region that have access to trade training facilities on campus;
- developing a Scholarship and Graduate Training Program that will support local students in mine-relevant tertiary education, that will lead to employment upon completion; and

- partnering with Aboriginal Affairs NSW to drive the development of the Central West Aboriginal Mining Steering Committee. The committee aims to develop, implement and monitor the Central West Aboriginal Mining Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), negotiated by mining companies, government agencies, service providers, Aboriginal traditional owners, Aboriginal land councils and the community. In partnership with TAFE NSW Western Institute, the committee aims to develop strategies to assist Aboriginal participants complete the newly created mining module.

8.1.2 Economic development – local businesses

CHC will maximise local business opportunities by:

- giving preference (where cost effective) to local suppliers for its Project requirements;
- developing a register of local businesses which will be used to notify them of upcoming tenders; and
- assisting in the development of systems that will be required for businesses that will service the mine operations.

8.1.3 Local housing

Based on the current availability and future supply of new housing in the region, there will be adequate construction capacity to cater for the relocated workforce and their families. The same situation generally applies when cumulative demands are considered, although there could be some shortfall in the short term to 2015. To facilitate smooth production of accommodation housing, CHC will regularly update councils and developers on planned workforce intake over the coming period.

CHC will offer a voluntary planning agreement (VPA) to the four councils (Dubbo, Warrumbungle Shire, Wellington and Mid-Western Regional) as discussed in Section 8.3.

8.1.4 Community infrastructure and services

CHC will regularly update councils and service providers with timing of the Project and planned workforce intake to enable them to respond to any increase in demand for community facilities and services. Emphasis will particularly be on the needs of a younger population, including childcare, young children and youth facilities and services where the analysis identified a potential shortfall.

CHC will actively pursue good practice in areas such as on-site management of waste. Where “downstream” facilities are not adequate, CHC will assist in upgrading of the facilities as part of voluntary planning agreements (VPA) discussions with councils.

CHC is consulting extensively with the four councils to work towards forming VPAs under Section 93F of the EP&A Act to provide in kind and monetary contributions to ensure the potential social effects of the Project are mitigated. These discussions are ongoing, with the VPAs envisaged to be finalised by later 2012.

CHC is committed to supporting the community as a local employer, economic contributor and community partner. CHC already plays an active role in local communities through financial contributions as part of CHC’s Community Support Program to local and regional events and facilities, including:

- contributions to the Dapper Rural Fire Service (RFS) and to the upgrade of St Michael’s Primary school playground facilities and the Cobbora community hall; and

- donations and contributions to the Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival, Gulgong Turf Club, Wellington's Men Shed, Dunedoo Touch Football Club, Dunedoo Mendooran Aged Care Hostel, Three Rivers radio service, Rotary Club Mudgee, Can Assist, Dubbo College South Campus, New Lambton South Public School and Dunedoo Preschool.

CHC will continue to actively support, participate and align its future investment towards community needs by:

- continuing to provide sponsorship support for local community and cultural events during the life of the Project;
- encouraging construction and operations workforce to participate in community events and sports; and
- offering a VPA to mitigate any impacts on council provided social infrastructure.

8.1.5 Health

The current provision of health facilities and services is considered sufficient to cater for the in-coming population. CHC will regularly update the Local District Health and Dubbo Plains Division of General Practitioners with projected workforce increases to assist in forward planning.

8.1.6 Community engagement

CHC will ensure affected landowners and the local community are kept informed of the Project by:

- maintaining open and constructive communication with affected individuals and groups;
- providing information in a timely manner; and
- producing and distributing a Project newsletter outlining the opportunities for community members to review the Project's EA document, once it is lodged. Additionally, on-the-ground briefings and meetings will be conducted with stakeholders in relation to the EA document.

8.2 Monitoring

CHC will monitor and review potential impacts associated with the Project over time. A key component will be continuation of a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan to ensure:

- understanding of community issues and perceived impacts on CHC activities;
- working partnerships with stakeholders to address community needs; and
- effective management of CHC's social impacts.

Key activities within the stakeholder engagement plan will include:

- regular liaison with government agencies, education providers and councils;
- establishment of a Community Consultative Committee;

- production of an annual Environmental Management Report that will review activities and performance in key areas. This document will be publicly available on the website and in hard copy upon request;
- ongoing employment of a full-time property manager, based in the local area, to respond to landowner queries and manage ongoing property issues with CHC-owned land and properties being leased back to former landowners;
- regular project updates with affected landowners and local residents through newsletters, community information sessions and community events; and
- review and adjust CHC's alignment of investment for community needs and sponsorship through CHC's Community Support program.

8.3 Planning agreement

CHC is committed to effectively addressing social and public infrastructure impacts arising from the Project. It is proposed to have Voluntary Planning Agreements with the four LGAs (Dubbo City Council, Warrumbungle Shire Council, Wellington Shire Council and Mid-Western Regional Council) in place by the end of 2012.

CHC is currently formulating the proposed parameters for the agreements that are envisaged to:

- be based on principles established in recent comparable agreements;
- reflect changes in population and demographics arising from the Project;
- address resultant impacts on services and facilities in the LGAs; and
- be for the life of the mine.

It is proposed that separate funding will be provided by CHC for road upgrades and maintenance.

9 Conclusions

There was broad support for the Project in the primary assessment area as the Project will provide meaningful employment for the younger generation and stimulate economic growth in the community. Since 2009, CHC has implemented a range of measures to assist directly affected landowners and provide certainty for those wishing to retire and relocate. CHC will address any Project-related concerns of landowners during the EA process and throughout the life of the mine.

The Project generated positive feedback during stakeholder consultations and from the Gulgong, Dunedoo, Wellington and Dubbo communities during the four community information sessions held in May 2012. CHC is committed to supporting the community as a local employer, economic contributor and community partner. CHC's Community Support Program will continue to support a range of charities and community-based activities and facilities in the region.

A construction accommodation village will be built on site to accommodate 60% of the relocated construction workers, to ensure minimal impacts on the short term local housing market. The additional relocated operations workforce population will be only a small proportion of the total population in the secondary assessment area. Based on the population forecast across the region, the principal effect of the Project will be to arrest the rate of population decline or contribute to a small increase.

Overall, the Project alone is likely to place low demand on housing and community facilities. Dubbo is the largest town in the region which has the capacity to cater for the Project's housing and social service needs. These needs will also be met by regional towns, particularly Wellington. CHC is working with the four councils to put in place VPAs to ensure the potential social effects of the Project are mitigated. Emphasis will be on needs of younger population, including childcare, young children and youth facilities and services where there is a shortage.

CHC is working closely with councils, government agencies, education providers and local businesses and communities so that the economic benefits of the Project in the region are maximised and impacts minimised. The Project will stimulate local communities by:

- providing jobs for young people and incentives (ie improved infrastructure and services) for them to remain in the region;
- employing local people and supporting them with appropriate training, while protecting the labour pool available to existing local businesses;
- working with Aboriginal communities to create initiatives that generate meaningful employment;
- supporting local businesses and the employment they provide by purchasing their goods or services;
- strengthening and diversifying the region's overall depth of labour skills through the relocation of skilled workers and training of local recruits. This stronger workforce will give the region greater potential to attract industry and foster economic growth; and
- preserving local councils' rate base by arresting population decline and maintaining land values.

CHC is committed to continuing to work closely with the community to maximise the opportunities and benefits that the Project will present for the region.

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Appendix A

List of stakeholders consulted as part of SIA

Table A.1 **External stakeholder interviews and meetings**

Stakeholder	Organisation	Title	Date of interview	Communication method
R Poisson	Dubbo City Development Corporation	General Manager	16 November 2011	Telephone interview
A Newton	Dubbo Base hospital	General Manager	28 November 2011	Telephone interview
Rod Single	Landowner	N/A	2 December 2011	Telephone interview
Greg Hartley	Landowner	N/A	2 December 2011	Telephone interview
Rorque Poisson and Bill Kelly	Dubbo City Development Corporation x2	General Manager & Chairman	5 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
John Walkom	Regional Development Australia-Orana	Chairman		
Sandy Dunshea				
Ian Stanford				
	Dubbo Chamber of Commerce	President		
	OEC Group	CEO		
John Watts	Dubbo City Council	Manager Social Services	5 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
Simon Tratt		Manager Commercial Services		
Stephen Wallace		Manager Building & Development Services		
Natasha Comber		Manager Marketing & Communication		
John Clague	Wellington Council	Director of Planning, Environment and Community Services	5 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
Alan Haley	Landowner	N/A	5 December 2011	Face-to-face interview

Table A.1 **External stakeholder interviews and meetings**

Stakeholder	Organisation	Title	Date of interview	Communication method
Rebecca Ryan	Warrumbungle Shire Council	Acting Director Corporate Services	6 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
Tony Meppem		Manager Building & Development Services		
Fiona Luckhurst		Acting Director Community Services Manager		
P Roberts and G Moore	Mudgee based General Practices	General Practicians	5 December 2011	Telephone interview
W Bennett	Mid-Western Regional Council	General Manager	6 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
S Stait	NSW Department of Family & Community Services	Community Program Officer, Community Services, Orana Far West	6 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
P Glencross	Landowner	N/A	7 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
S and M Knott	Landowner	N/A	7 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
P Jackson	Landowner	N/A	7 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
A and J Vivers	Landowner	N/A	7 December 2011	Face-to-face interview
S McCleod	Dubbo City Council	Director Technical Services	8 January 2012	Telephone interview
K Seaton	Police Officer	Dubbo Local Area Command	9 January 2012	Telephone interview
C Best	Practice Manager	Mudgee Medical Centre	13 January 2012	Telephone interview
J Simpson	Wellington Family Practice		13 January 2012	Telephone interview
J Wykes	Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Services	Practice Manager	13 January 2012	Telephone interview

Table A.1 **External stakeholder interviews and meetings**

Stakeholder	Organisation	Title	Date of interview	Communication method
J Marchant	South Mudgee Surgery	Practice Manager	13 January 2012	Telephone interview
R Evans	Gulgong Medical Centre	Practice Manager	13 January 2012	Telephone interview
A Taylor	Coolah Multipurpose Health Service Centre	Health Services manager	13 January 2012	Telephone interview
C Warwicker	Coonabarabran hospital	Acting Health Services manager	13 January 2012	Telephone interview
S Davies	NSW Police Force	District Emergency Management Officer	16 January 2012	Telephone interview
G and D Toomey	Dubbo City Council and Thubbo Medical Centre	Aboriginal Liaison Office and Practice Manager	17 January 2012	Telephone interview
K Smith	Warrumbungle Shire Council	Road Safety Officer	17 January 2012	Telephone interview
M Cronk	NSW Department of Education and Communities	School Education Director – Western NSW Region	18 January 2012	Telephone interview
R Thomason		Regional Asset Planner - Western		
A Furney		School Assets Manager - Western		
J Lo	NSW Department of Education and Communities	Assistant Statistical Services Officer	18 January 2012	Telephone interview
A Lea	Western NSW Local Health Network	Manager Planning and Services	18 January 2012	Telephone interview
Father MacKander	St Michael primary School	Teacher	18 January 2012	Telephone interview
P Woodward	Dubbo Base hospital	Business Manager	1 February 2012	Telephone interview
A Woods	Professional Real Estate	Owner	12 February 2012	Telephone interview
L Beashell	Dubbo Base hospital	Nursing Administrator	12 February 2012	Telephone interview
A Kurtz	Wellington Family Day Care Centre	Children Development Officer	16 February 2012	Telephone interview
O Stanford	Wellington Community Services Centre	Director	16 February 2012	Telephone interview
K Green	Lourdes Hospital	Nursing Administrator	16 February 2012	Telephone interview
M Mitchell	Dubbo Private Hospital	CEO	16 February 2012	Telephone interview
D Hyde	Nanima Preschool	School Administrator	16 February 2012	Telephone interview
S Jenkins	Western NSW Local Health Network		16 February 2012	Telephone interview
K Townie	Nanima Preschool	Acting Manager	16 February 2012	Telephone interview
A Woods	Professionals Real Estate (Mudgee)	Real Estate Agent	18 February 2012	Telephone interview

Table A.1 **External stakeholder interviews and meetings**

Stakeholder	Organisation	Title	Date of interview	Communication method
A Stuart	Milling Stuart (Dunedoo)	Stock and Station Agent	18 February 2012	Telephone interview
J Dennis	Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice	Workforce Program Manager	6 March 2012	Telephone interview
Anthony Fuller	Aboriginal Affairs NSW	Partnership Community Project Officer	7 March 2012	Face-to-face interview
G Bruce	Mid-Western Regional Council	Town Planner	9 March 2012	Telephone interview

Notes: 1.Consultations were carried out between December 2011 and March 2012.

Appendix B

Demographics

B.1 Socio-economic characteristics: secondary area

An analysis of the demographics pertaining to the secondary area is outlined below using 2011 census data. Workforce and industry statistics as part of 2011 census data will be released from October 2012. Therefore, 2006 census data has been used in this analysis.

B.1.1 Population

The secondary impact area had a total population of 79,205 people in 2011. This accounted for over 1.1% of NSW's population (approximately 6.91 million persons). Dubbo and Mid-Western Regional LGAs represented 49% and 28% of the total population respectively. Warrumbungle LGA represented 12% and Wellington 11%.

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders residing in the secondary impact area is considerably higher than the NSW average (2.5%). Wellington LGA had the highest proportion at 20.0%. This was followed by Dubbo LGA (12.8%), Warrumbungle LGA (9.2%) and Mid-Western Regional LGA (3.9%).

B.1.2 Age distribution

Population distribution across the four LGAs and NSW are shown in Table B.1.

Table B.1 Age distribution: secondary area

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Dubbo LGA	8.0	7.0	7.5	7.5	6.2	11.9	12.9	13.4	11.2	14.2
Warrumbungle LGA	6.4	6.7	7.0	6.2	3.8	8.0	11.8	13.5	15.1	22.0
Wellington LGA	6.6	6.8	7.1	6.3	5.1	10.5	12.2	13.3	13.2	18.8
Mid-Western Regional LGA	6.6	6.5	7.1	6.5	4.7	9.8	13.3	14.0	13.2	18.1
New South Wales	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.5	13.6	14.0	13.7	11.7	14.7

Source: ABS (2012)

The largest cohort in the four LGAs was people aged 65 years and over (22.0% - Warrumbungle LGA; Wellington LGA – 18.8%, Mid-Western Regional LGA – 18.1%). Dubbo LGA had 14.2% aged 65 years and over which was comparable to the NSW average (14.7%).

Dubbo LGA had a high representation of 0 to 4 year olds (8.0%), indicating a high proportion of young families residing in the LGA. Conversely, Warrumbungle LGA had the lowest 6.4%. All four LGAs generally had a higher representation of 5 to 14 year olds than the NSW average.

Dubbo LGA had a median age of 36 years. This was below the state average (38 years). Warrumbungle LGA had the highest (45 years), followed equally by Wellington and Mid-Western Regional LGAs (41 years).

The smaller LGAs had a relatively smaller proportion of 15 to 19 year olds (Warrumbungle LGA - 6.2%, Wellington LGA - 6.3% and Mid-Western Regional - 6.5%) than the NSW average (6.7%). Dubbo LGA had 7.5% which indicates a movement of school leavers to Dubbo to work and attain qualifications at tertiary institutions and vocational training colleges in Dubbo.

The proportion of younger working age cohorts, 20 to 24 and 25 to 34 year olds, was considerably lower in the smaller LGAs. Dubbo LGA's younger working age bracket was similar to the NSW average. This confirms an attraction of younger working people to Dubbo (or larger urban centres) to access better training and employment opportunities.

B.1.3 Population growth

Table B.2 summarises the most recent regional population growth statistics from the four study area LGAs as at June 2011 (ABS 2012). The Mid-Western Regional SLA has had the strongest population growth, averaging 1.2% per annum growth, since 2006. Recent population growth rates have generally been lower (less than 1%) in the other LGAs over the same periods.

Table B.2 Summary of regional population growth (2006 to 2011): secondary area

Regional Population Growth to March 2010	Dubbo (Part A) Urban Area	Dubbo (Part B) Rural Area	Warrumbungle LGA	Wellington LGA	Mid-Western Regional (Part A)	Mid-Western Regional (Part B)	Total
Population at June 2011	35,347	3,458	18,977	3,342	9,588	8,493	79,205
Change 2006-2011 (persons)	1,027	-67	1,298	-63	-222	373	2,346
Annual Growth Rate 2006-2011 (%)	0.59	-0.38	1.46	-0.37	-0.45	0.91	0.29
Population density 2010 (persons/km ²)	107.11	1.12	3.20	1.17	0.77	2.06	2.76

Notes: 1. Source ABS 2011 Census (ABS 2012)

B.1.4 Population forecasts

The DP&I has produced a set of population forecast for the period 2006 to 2036 for NSW and regions. The latest projections (2008 release) are based on 2006 ABS census data and the latest data available on fertility, mortality and migration rates (DoP 2010). The DP&I population forecasts for the four LGAs are shown in Table B3 for years 2016, 2021 and 2026, 2031 and 2036.

Table B.3 Population forecasts for secondary area LGAs (2016 to 2036)

Year	Dubbo LGA growth rate (%)	Dubbo LGA estimated population	Warrumbungle LGA growth rate (%)	Warrumbungle LGA estimated population	Wellington LGA growth rate (%)	Wellington LGA estimated population	Mid Western LGA growth rate (%)	Mid Western LGA estimated population
2016	0.69	42,500	-0.75	9,500	-0.64	8,300	0.12	22,300
2021	0.58	43,700	-0.79	9,100	-0.70	8,000	0.03	22,300
2026	0.44	44,700	-0.85	8,700	-0.75	7,700	-0.08	22,200
2031	0.28	45,300	-0.92	8,300	-0.82	7,400	-0.20	22,000
2036	0.10	45,600	-0.99	7,900	-0.91	7,100	-0.33	21,600

Source: DoP (2010)

There will be declining populations in Warrumbungle and Wellington LGAs. Mid-Western Regional will have a stable population before declining after 2021. Dubbo LGA will experience an increase in population but at a declining rate.

B.1.5 Industry profile

The various industry sectors across the region, from 1996 to 2006, are shown in Table B.4.

The agricultural sector is strongly represented in the study area, although this is a declining sector for all LGAs. The industries of forestry and fishing, mining, retail trade, accommodation and food, public administration, health care and social assistance are also above the State average. Dubbo LGA has seen a steady increase in the health care and social assistance sector since 1996. There is also an increasing representation of public administration across the majority of the LGAs with the exception of Warrumbungle LGA which remained steady.

Mining is strong within the Mid-Western Regional LGA with the operations of the Ulan, Wilpinjong and Moolarben mines. Both Dubbo and Mid-Western Regional LGAs have higher proportions of accommodation and food industry sectors due to tourism and the location of Dubbo and Mudgee providing travelling/transportation stop over destinations.

The industries of manufacturing, construction, wholesale trade, transport, postal and warehousing, information media and telecommunications, financial and insurance, professional, scientific and technical and administrative and support services are below the State average.

Table B.4 Industry of employment: secondary area

Industry of employment	Dubbo LGA (%)			Warrumbungle LGA (%)			Wellington LGA (%)			Mid-Western Regional LGA (%)		
	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	6.3	5.7	4.0	33.0	33.7	30.2	23.9	33.7	30.2	14.4	15.8	12.9
Mining	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	2.0	0.3	0.2	8.0	4.8	7.3
Manufacturing	8.0	8.3	7.6	3.7	3.7	4.1	4.8	3.7	4.1	11.3	12.2	8.4
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	1.3	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1
Construction	6.6	6.2	7.3	3.5	4.6	3.7	6.0	4.6	3.7	4.2	5.4	7.5
Wholesale trade	6.3	7.1	4.7	3.2	3.8	2.2	4.1	3.8	2.2	3.2	6.0	2.9
Retail trade	13.5	13.1	13.7	8.6	9.5	10.3	10.6	9.5	10.3	11.2	11.4	13.1
Accommodation & food services	7.7	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.5	5.5	6.9	6.5	7.4	7.2	8.2
Transport, postal & warehousing	5.3	4.8	4.9	4.0	3.4	4.5	3.1	3.4	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.2
Information media & telecommunications	2.4	2.3	1.5	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.6	1.5	1.1	0.9
Financial & insurance services	3.1	2.8	2.7	1.5	1.0	0.8	1.6	1.0	0.8	1.7	1.2	1.2
Rental, hiring & real estate services	1.2	1.5	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2
Professional, scientific & technical services	3.1	4.3	4.2	2.5	2.3	2.6	3.2	2.3	2.6	3.0	3.1	4.1
Administrative & support services	1.9	2.6	2.3	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.9	1.8
Public administration & safety	5.2	5.5	7.0	4.4	5.2	5.9	3.9	5.2	5.9	4.5	3.8	4.2
Education & training	7.6	7.5	8.8	8.9	8.6	10.1	7.4	8.6	10.1	6.8	7.2	7.0
Health care & social assistance	10.9	11.4	13.2	7.9	8.0	9.4	10.8	8.0	9.4	8.1	7.5	8.3
Arts & recreation services	1.3	1.4	1.2	2.1	0.9	0.8	1.4	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7
Other Services	4.9	4.8	4.6	3.1	2.6	2.7	3.6	2.6	2.7	3.1	2.7	3.3
Inadequately described / not stated	2.4	2.0	2.3	3.4	2.7	2.8	3.8	2.7	2.8	3.4	2.3	2.7

Source: ABS censuses (1996, 2001 and 2006)

Table B.5 **Occupation type: secondary area**

Occupation type	Dubbo LGA (%)	Warrumbungle LGA (%)	Wellington LGA (%)	Mid-Western Regional LGA (%)	NSW (%)
Managers	12.6	29.9	23.9	18.2	13.6
Professionals	16.7	12.8	13.9	12.9	21.2
Technicians	15.0	10.9	12.0	16.5	13.6
Community and personal service workers	9.3	8.3	11.2	7.8	8.6
Clerical and administrative workers	14.6	8.2	9.3	9.5	15.4
Sales workers	12.0	6.8	8.0	9.7	9.7
Machinery operators and drivers	6.0	6.9	6.1	9.8	6.4
Labourers	12.4	14.6	14.2	14.2	9.5
Inadequately described / not stated	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.9

Source: ABS (2006)

B.1.6 Occupation profile

As shown in Table B.5, the occupation profile for employed persons and their existing skill level and training will primarily determine the potential for the Project to recruit local workers into the mine workforce. In 2006, managers were the most represented occupation across the study area except within Dubbo LGA. This was above the State average. Dubbo LGA's highest representation was professionals, which was the highest within the study area but still below the State average.

Interestingly, the region had a higher proportion of technical, trade based and labour skills than the State average. These are key occupations required to supply mine sites, especially during the construction phase of the Project.

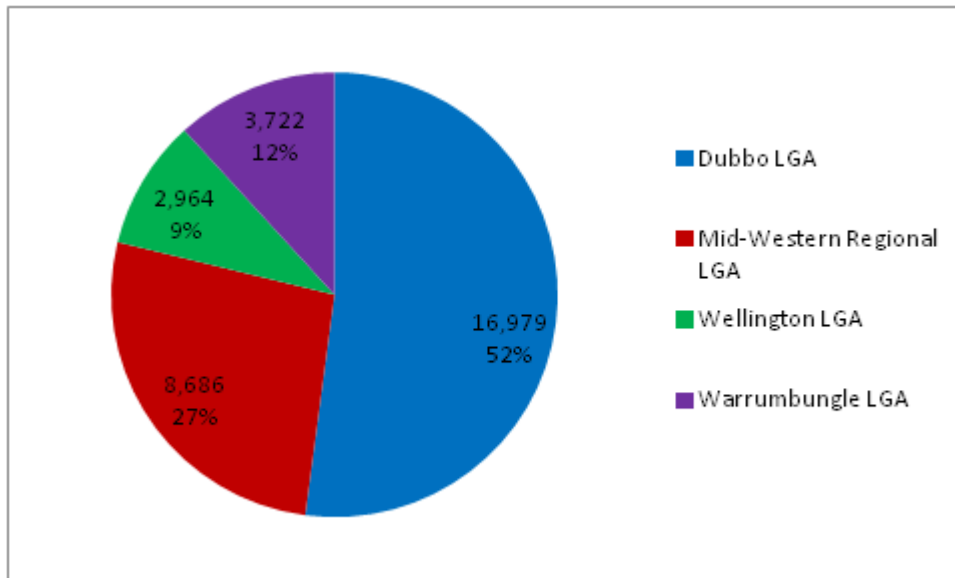
Key differences between the LGAs include:

- Warrumbungle LGA had a significantly higher proportion of people employed as managers (29.9%) and labourers (14.6%), which were both higher than the other LGAs and the NSW average of 13.6% for managers and 9.5% for labourers;
- professionals (16.7%) and technicians and trade workers (15.0%) were the two largest occupations within Dubbo LGA, followed closely by clerical administrative workers (14.6%) and labourers (12.4%);
- Mid-Western Regional LGA had a significantly higher proportion of people employed as managers (18.2%) and technicians (16.5%), which were both higher than NSW average of 13.6% for managers and 13.6% for technicians; and
- Along with managers (23.9%), Wellington LGA also had a high proportion of community and personal services workers (11.2%), which were both higher than the NSW average. 13.6% and 8.6% respectively).

B.1.7 Workforce

The total regional workforce in 2006 was 32,351 persons (including unemployed persons). The distribution of this labour force between each of the LGAs is shown in Figure B.1. The total regional workforce increased by 4,458 persons, between the 2001 and the 2006 censuses.

Figure B.1 Regional (labour) workforce (2006): secondary area



The most recent unemployment statistics from the ABS are shown in Table B.6 (ABS 2010).

Table B.6 Trends in workforce and unemployment (2006 to 2010): secondary area

LGA	Total workforce (year)		Unemployed persons (year)		Unemployment rate (year)	
	(2006)	(2010)	(2006)	(2010)	(2006)	(2010)
Dubbo	16,979	22,394	963	972	5.6%	4.3%
Warrumbungle	3,772	5,068	340	314	9.0%	6.2%
Wellington	2,964	4,046	273	347	9.2%	8.6%
Mid-Western Region	8,686	11,544	671	694	7.7%	6.0%
Total	32,351	43,052	2,247	2,327	6.9%	5.4%
NSW	2,925,572	3,081,446	183,159	203,851	5.3	5.7

Source: ABS (2011)

The size of the total labour force in the four LGAs had grown strongly to over 43,000 persons in 2010. This corresponds to a declining unemployment rate across the study area, whereas the State's unemployment average has marginally increased since 2006. With the exception of Dubbo LGA, all three LGAs still have a higher unemployment rate when compared to the NSW average. Therefore, there is the potential to employ existing skilled local workforce.

A falling unemployment rate is generally a sign of strong economic growth and an increasing range of employment opportunities in an area. In the study area, coal mining is already contributing significantly towards regional population growth and economic development in the more easterly towns, such as Gulgong and Mudgee in the Mid-Western Regional LGA and Coolah in the Warrumbungle LGA.

In the western parts of the study area, Dubbo also has had strong population growth recently and has a declining unemployment rate, although this is due to factors other than coal mining. Wellington has had comparatively lower economic growth recently.

B.1.8 Income

Table B.7 shows the median weekly income of individuals and households.

Table B.7 Median weekly income (2006): secondary area

	Dubbo LGA	Warrumbungle LGA	Wellington LGA	Mid-Western Regional LGA	NSW
Median individual income (\$/week)	\$463	\$326	\$339	\$353	\$461
Median household income (\$/week)	\$970	\$609	\$623	\$700	\$1,036

Source ABS (2011)

With the exception of Dubbo LGA, medium weekly income for individuals in the region is below the NSW average. All LGAs has a lower median household income compared to the NSW average.

Appendix C

Community facilities and services: secondary assessment area

An assessment of community facilities and services has been carried out to determine capacity levels for future incoming residents generated by the Project. As the primary assessment area contains very limited number of community facilities and services, the assessment relates to the secondary assessment area. The assessment has examined the following facilities and services:

- education (primary, secondary and tertiary);
- childcare;
- health;
- housing;
- emergency services;
- women and Aboriginal services;
- youth services;
- libraries and cultural facilities;
- recreation and tourism;
- transport; and
- infrastructure (water, sewer, electricity and telecommunications).

C.1 Education

The secondary impact area catchment has a high percentage of school-aged children compared to the NSW average. It has a selection of government, private and special schools within most towns.

Dubbo LGA also houses a number of tertiary and college institutions that service beyond the LGA. These are examined below.

C.1.1 Dubbo LGA

i Primary education

Dubbo LGA's primary educational network includes nine public schools and five private schools (Table C1).

Table C.1 Dubbo LGA primary schools

Primary school	Sector	Student numbers	Teacher numbers
Dubbo South Public School	Government	656	36
Orana Heights Public	Government	522	34
St Marys	Private	409	21
Dubbo Public	Government	404	33
St Johns	Private	376	23
Dubbo West Public	Government	350	27

Table C.1 **Dubbo LGA primary schools (Cont'd)**

Primary school	Sector	Student numbers	Teacher numbers
Dubbo North Public	Government	233	18
Buninyong Public	Government	224	16
St Pius X	Private	192	10
St Laurences	Private	189	14
Wongarbon Public	Government	65	4
Eumungerie Public	Government	17	2
Burrabadine Cornerstone Community	Private	26	5
Ballimore public	Government	9	1

Notes: 1. Government school student figures (J Lo, Assistant Statistical Services Officer, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., 18 January 2011).

Dubbo has two special schools (Table C.2).

Table C.2 **Dubbo LGA special schools**

Special school	Sector	Student numbers	Teacher numbers
Lincoln Education and Training Unit	Government/Special	32	11
Mian	Government/Special	28	9

Notes: 1. Government school student figures (J Lo, Assistant Statistical Services Officer, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., 18 January 2011).

Lincoln school is located within the Dubbo Juvenile Justice facility. The school provides education programs to students who are either on remand or control orders and who have had long periods away from formal education. The school provide educational, social and vocational learning opportunities.

Mian supports students from the Dubbo, Narromine and Wellington. It aims to encourage students to increase their attendance. The school is currently at full capacity.

ii Secondary education

The secondary educational network in Dubbo LGA includes four government schools and three private schools (Table C.3).

Table C.3 **Dubbo LGA secondary schools**

Secondary school	Sector	Year	Student numbers	Teacher numbers
Dubbo College (Delroy campus)	Government	7-9	417	41
Dubbo College (Senior Campus)	Government	10-12	920	67
Dubbo College (South Campus)	Government	7-9	678	47
Dubbo Christian	Private	K-12	550	40
St Johns College	Private	7-12	1,023	87
Macquarie Anglican Grammar	Private	K-12	398	40
Dubbo School of Distance Education	Government	P*-12	495	88

Notes: 1. Government school student figures June 2011 (J Lo, Assistant Statistical Services Officer, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., 18 January 2012).

2. P*- Pre-Kindergarten.

3. Private school figures: www.myschool.edu.au (2010) or provided by school.

Dubbo Christian school indicated that it was experiencing strong enrolments for pre-Kindergarten. Year 7 is currently at capacity, with limited spaces for Years 8 to 12.

Discussions with other private schools indicated that there is capacity in existing enrolments with no immediate plans to expand.

Consultation with the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) indicated that the projected numbers of school children to be generated by the Project will not cause an issue with capacity. It was noted that all schools within Dubbo LGA had sufficient physical space to install extra demountables to accommodate Dubbo's forecasted population growth (A. Furney, DEC Assets Manager per comm., January 2012).

C.1.2 Warrumbungle LGA

i Primary education

There are four government primary schools (three offer Year 7 to 12) and two private schools in Warrumbungle LGA (Table C.4). Dunedoo Primary is the closest school within the LGA to the Project area and it caters for children with special needs.

Table C.4 **Warrumbungle LGA primary schools**

Primary school	Sector	Years	Student numbers	Teacher numbers
Dunedoo Central	Government	K-12	219	17
Binnaway Central	Government	K-12	110	10
Mendooran Central	Government	K-12	119	11
Coonabarabran Public	Government	K-6	319	20
Sacred Heart (Coolah)	Private	K-6	56	6
St Michaels (Dunedoo)	Private	K-6	44	6

Notes: 1. Private school figures supplied by each school January 2012.

2. Government School figures June 2011 (J Lo, Assistant Statistical Services Officer, Data Analysis and Collections, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., 18 January 2011).

Sacred Heart and St Michaels schools have experienced decreasing enrolments over the last 20 years. Both schools have capacity for 100 students (Father MacKander, Dunedoo Parish, pers comm., 18 January 2012).

ii Secondary education

There are four high schools as shown in Table C.5.

Table C.5 Warrumbungle LGA secondary schools

Secondary school	Sector	Years	Student numbers	Teacher numbers
Coonabarabran High	Government	7-12	417	37
Dunedoo Central	Government	K-12	219	17
Binnaway Central	Government	K-12	110	10
Mendooran Central	Government	K-12	119	11

Notes: 1. Government school student figures as from January 2012 (J Lo, Assistant Statistical Services Officer, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., 18 January 2012).

DEC has advised that schools in the Warrumbungle LGA have capacity to take on more students.

C.1.3 Wellington LGA

i Primary education

There are five public schools and one private school in Wellington LGA as shown in Table C.6.

Table C.6 Wellington LGA primary schools

Primary school	Sector	Years	Student numbers	Teachers numbers
Wellington Public	Government	P-6	531	38
Geurie Pubic	Government	K-6	42	2
Mumbil Public	Government	K-6	25	1
Euchareena Public	Government	K-6	16	1
St Columbas	Private	K-6	14	3
Stuart Town Public	Government	K-6	14	1

Notes: 1. Private school figures supplied by each school January 2012.
2. Government school student figures as from January 2012 (J Lo, Assistant Statistical Services Officer, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., 18 January 2012).

St Columbus indicated it has capacity to take on more enrolments.

ii Secondary education

There are three high schools that service the Wellington LGA, with one public school and two private schools (Table C.7).

Table C.7 Wellington LGA secondary schools

Secondary school	Sector	Years	Student numbers	Teacher numbers
Wellington High	Government	7-12	332	38
St Marys Central	Private	K-10	220	21
Wellington Christian	Private	K-10	60	8

Notes: 1. Private school figures supplied by each school January 2012.
 2. Government school student figures as from January 2012 (J Lo, Assistant Statistical Services Officer, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., 18 January 2012).

DEC stated that schools within Wellington LGA are experiencing growing enrolments and has advised that all schools have capacity to take on more students.

C.1.4 Mid-Western Regional LGA

i Primary education

There are 12 schools that service Mudgee, Gulgong and Goolma, with 11 public schools and one private school (Table C.8). Gulgong Public is the closest school in the LGA to the Project. It caters for children with special needs.

Table C.8 Mid-Western Regional LGA primary schools

Primary school	Sector	Student numbers	Teacher numbers
Cudgegong Valley Public	Government	589	28
Mudgee Public	Government	495	30
Gulgong Public	Government	194	10
Goolma Pubic	Government	11	1
Rylstone Public	Government	94	5
Hargraves Public	Government	26	2
Ulan Public	Government	14	1
Lue Public	Government	21	1
Cassilis Public	Government	23	1
Wollar Public	Government	9	2
Windeyer Public	Government	9	2
All Hallows	Private	118	7

Notes: 1. Private school figures supplied by each school (January 2012).
 2. Government school student figures as from January 2012 (J Lo, Assistant Statistical Services Officer, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., 18 January 2011).

ii Secondary education

There are three high schools consisting of two government schools and one private school (Table C.9).

Table C.9 **Mid-Western Regional LGA secondary schools**

Secondary school	Sector	Years	Student numbers	Teacher numbers
Mudgee High	Government	7-12	1,100	80
St Matthews Central	Private	K-10	480	42
Kandos High	Government	7-12	259	26

Notes: 1. Private school figures: supplied by each school January 2012.
 2. Government school student figures as from January 2012 (J Lo, Assistant Statistical Services Officer, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., 18 January 2011).

St. Matthews Central School is currently expanding the school to accept an additional 200 students (680 students in total) as part of an \$8 million development. The school aims to offer Years 11 and 12 classes in the future (R Vanraad, Principal, St. Matthews Central, pers comm., 18 January 2012).

Consultation with DEC stated that all schools within Mid-Western Regional LGA had sufficient physical space to install extra demountables to accommodate the Project's forecasted population (A. Furney, Assets Manager, Department of Education and Communities pers comm., January 2012).

C.1.5 Tertiary education and training centres

Tertiary education in the secondary impact area is provided in Dubbo, Mudgee, Dunedoo and Wellington.

Charles Sturt University (CSU) services the central western region of NSW, with one campus located in Dubbo. The Dubbo campus offers a range of courses including education, social work, community and public health and business. It also arranges regional placements for nurses and teachers (Professor B Moriarty, CSU Dubbo Campus, pers comm., 28 November 2011).

The University of Sydney's School of Rural Health has a Dubbo campus. It has been in operation since 2001 and accommodates 30 medical students. The school ensures students have opportunities to work at Dubbo Base Lourdes Hospitals as part of their training. The Dubbo campus opened new Dental and Oral Health Centre in 2011.

TAFE NSW-Western Institute has colleges in Dubbo, Mudgee, Dunedoo and Wellington. The Western Institute provides the majority of certified training courses for the mining sector and its associated sectors (eg. heavy transportation) in Western NSW. This includes heavy vehicle, electrical, construction, mechanical and front line management/supervisor training. A new \$15 million Light and Heavy Vehicle Training Centre in Dubbo was completed in 2011. The facility will provide exposure to apprentice mechanics, or mechanics wanting to re-skill on vehicles used in mining operations.

Dubbo has another four registered training organisations that offer vocational training, including work tickets through to Diploma level courses. These include:

- Western College;
- Access Group Training;
- Central West Community College (Dubbo and Mudgee); and
- Skillset (formerly the Central West Group Apprentices).

C.2 Childcare services

There are a number of child care centres offering a range of services, including pre-school, playgroups, occasional and long day care, after school care and vacation care services across the four LGAs. Dubbo and Wellington LGAs have a relatively higher proportion of younger families with children aged between 0 to 5 year olds.

The Commonwealth Government has issued the National Quality Framework Guidelines for early childhood education. One of its requirements is the implementation of the one staff to four children ratio for 0 to 2 year olds.

Discussions with Councils and some childcare providers believe the guidelines will have a considerable impact on the number of spaces on offer, or even, the viability of some centres.

C.2.1 Dubbo LGA

Dubbo has 11 long day care centres, with Council operating one centre, the Rainbow Cottage (Table C.10). Allira Aboriginal Childcare Association provides for care for Aboriginal children. Council has a Family Day Care Coordination Unit that assists parents in the placement of children and monitors the quality of care provided.

Table C.10 Dubbo LGA childcare centres

Name	Sector	Places
Rainbow Cottage	Dubbo City Council	54 (52 from 01/01/2012)
Peppercorn	Private	71
Allira Aboriginal Childcare Association	Private	39
Stepping Stones	Private	90
Regand Park Early Childhood Education Centre	Private	79
ABC Learning Development Centre (Dubbo)	Private	76
Playmates Cottage	Private	42
ABC Learning Development Centre (Dubbo East)	Private	75
Little Learners Long Day Care and Preschool	Private	83
ABC Learning Development Centre (Delroy Gardens)	Private	90
Orana Gardens Childcare Centre	Private	40
Total		737

Notes: 1. Dubbo City Council Social Plan (2011/12).

There were a total of 737 places available for children in long day care, which gives a ratio of 3.8 children for each childcare place (Dubbo City Council Social Plan, 2011). Council has removed two places for 0 to 2 year olds to meet the new guidelines. All other private centres will reduce 0 to 2 year old places also. One centre will increase staff numbers to cater for the changes (Dubbo City Council Social Plan, 2011).

All centres have waiting lists for 3 to 5 year olds, with extensive waiting lists for 0 to 2 year olds.

Dubbo has three preschools (Dubbo and District Preschool, Dubbo Christian School and West Dubbo Preschool). These schools have extensive waiting lists.

The Dubbo Family Day Care Scheme is run by Council that provides flexible care in a family environment. Western NSW Local Health District has recently secured 10 places for their employees' children in the scheme.

Council is promoting the Home Care initiative as an alternative for parents. This initiative is where children are cared for in their own homes by carers approved by Dubbo Family Day Care. The take up of this initiative has taken time to be seen as a potential alternative to the traditional model.

The Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre operates one vacation care in central Dubbo. A total of 65 places are available which are usually booked for holiday care. Northcott Disability Services offers a Vacation Care Program for special needs children.

Dubbo has 13 playgroups servicing approximately 500 children per week (Dubbo City Council Social Plan, 2011).

Council has been liaising with the NSW Government on a future strategy to address childcare shortages in the area (N Comber, Dubbo City Council, pers comm., 2 December 2011).

C.2.2 Warrumbungle LGA

The majority of childcare services in Warrumbungle LGA are provided in Coonabarabran, including the Yuluwirri Kids Community Childcare centre. This is operated by Council and offers long day care and preschool services.

The Castlereagh Family Day Care Scheme offers a mobile children's service for 0 to 5 year olds ('Connect 5'). It services towns including: Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo and Mendooran.

Mendooran has a community owned preschool for 3 to 5 year olds. This operates two days per week. It has 14 children but can accommodate 29. Dunedoo has a preschool for 2 to 6 year olds. It is full with 30 children but plans to double the number of places by end of 2012.

Discussions with Warrumbungle Shire Council stated that there was no capacity in child care across the LGA. The issue was more acute for 0 to 2 year olds (F Luckhurst, Acting Director Community Services, Warrumbungle Shire Council, pers comm., 6 December 2011).

C.2.3 Wellington LGA

Wellington LGA has one private long day care centre. It accommodates 49 places and has spare capacity. There is Family Day Care Scheme and five playgroups operating in the Wellington LGA (A Kurtz, Children Development Officer, Wellington Family Day Care, Wellington, pers comm., 16 February 2012).

There are three preschools in Wellington. The Wellington Community Service Centre Inc caters for 3 to 5 year olds. It has 35 children and has capacity for 40 children (O Stanford, Director, Wellington Community Service Centre, pers comm, 16 February 2012). The Nanima preschool facility currently has 41 children and holds up to 59 children (K Townie, Acting Manager, Nanima preschool, pers comm., 16 February 2012). DEC has a preschool facility. It has 20 children with no additional capacity (D. Hyde, School Administrator, Nanima preschool, pers comm., 16 February 2012).

Discussion with the Wellington Council indicated that childcare facilities are starting to reach capacity. It was noted that one childcare centre may need to close due to the new guidelines (J Clague, Director Planning, Environment and Community Services, Wellington Council, pers comm., 5 December 2011).

C.2.4 Mid-Western Regional LGA

Mudgee has five privately run childcare centres (Table C.11). Council runs a Family Day Care Centre Scheme in Mudgee and there are). The Mudgee PCYC facility offers after school care, school holiday and vacation care. It is noted that there is only limited availability for 0 to 2 years in most of these centres.

Table C.11 Mudgee childcare centres

Name	Sector	Age Group	Places	Availability
Imagination Early Learning Centre	Private	0-6 years	63	Full with limited availability for 0-2 years and 4-5 years
Puggles Long Day Care	Private	0-5 years	46	Full Capacity
Mudgee Kidz	Private	0-5 years	30	Full. Planned expansion with 15 more places
Squeakers Childcare	Private	2-5 years	No information available	Limited availability
Squeakers Childcare on Douro	Private	0-6 years	No information available	Limited availability

Gulgong has one private childcare which caters for 0 to 6 year olds. This long day care facility has 25 places with no vacancies. Gulgong Preschool caters for 3 to 5 year olds and has 25 places available. There is a Family Day Care Centre Scheme and one playgroup in Gulgong.

C.3 Health

In January 2010, the former NSW Greater Western Area Health Services was divided into two Local Health Districts (LHDs): the Western LHD and the Far West LHD. The secondary impact area comes under the Western NSW LHD.

The Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee recommends one GP per 950 people. There are 46 GPs in Dubbo (44 GPs recommended), eight GPs for Wellington (nine recommended), 11 GPs in Mudgee (19 recommended), two GPs in Gulgong (three recommended) and two GPs in Dunedoo (two recommended). Discussions with the Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice advised that GPs numbers in the Dubbo, Wellington and Warrumbungle LGAs were sufficient to meet current demand, though there was a shortfall in Mid Western Regional LGA. The Division stated that medical centres in the region were adapting to meet the changing pattern of working families by staying open longer during the week and working on weekends.

C.3.1 Dubbo LGA

i Hospitals and multi purpose health service centres

Dubbo is a major rural health service centre. It has three major hospitals serving the local and wider catchment population: Dubbo Base hospital, Lourdes hospital and community health centre and Dubbo private hospital.

Dubbo Base hospital is a regional hospital with 151 beds. Currently, 98% of beds are occupied. It provides a range of inpatient and outpatient services including emergency, general medical and surgical, mental health, maternity, gynaecology, paediatrics, critical care, diagnostic services, cancer care, renal dialysis and palliative care. The hospital also provides comprehensive community health services with local and outreach services (L Beashell, Nursing Administration, Dubbo Base hospital, pers comm., 16 Feb 2012).

Dubbo has benefited from a strong recruitment drive for medical staff to rural areas in recent years, with an increase in medical officers junior medical officers since 2009 (P Woodward, Business Manager, Dubbo Base hospital, pers comm., 1 February 2012).

A new 10-bed mental health facility will be built within Dubbo Base hospital at the end of 2012. Funding between the Commonwealth and NSW Governments will see the redevelopment of the Dubbo Base hospital. The \$79.8 million redevelopment project is in the planning stages and will improve existing delivery of services and facilities in maternity, paediatric, renal dialysis and surgical areas by September 2014.

Lourdes hospital and community health centre is a public hospital managed by Catholic Healthcare and subsidised by NSW Department of Health. The facility has 34 beds, with 90% of these currently occupied. The facility provides inpatient rehabilitation and aged care services plus a range of community, aged and extended care services. It offers community and outreach services, which is funded by the Commonwealth (K Green, Nursing Administrator, Lourdes Hospital, pers comm., 16 February 2012).

Dubbo Private Hospital is a 53 bed facility, with 48% of these occupied. The facility provides surgery, medicine, rehabilitation, obstetric, post-natal care and accommodates a children's ward. Since opening in 1994, its catchment includes patients from within the secondary impact area including Mudgee and Coonabarabran (M Mitchell, CEO, Dubbo Private Hospital, pers comm., 16 February 2012).

It is noted that all three hospitals work collaboratively together to share key facilities when required due to patient bed occupancies and theatres for operations (A Newton, General Manager, Dubbo Base Hospital, pers comm., 28 November 2011).

Other health services located in Dubbo include:

- Western Plains Day Procedure Centre – provision of endoscopy and day surgery services;
- Thubbo Aboriginal Medical Practice – provision of primary health, medical, dental and counselling services;
- Royal Flying Doctor Service (Dubbo Base) – provision of emergency services and aerial health services programs to remote towns as part of the rural; and
- Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice – network of General Practitioners (GPs) which services the secondary impact area with primary medical services.

ii Community health and private clinics

The Dubbo area is serviced by 28 medical clinics, 12 dentists, five chiropractors, nine physiotherapists, three podiatrists and three diagnostic services. There is an extensive primary and community health network which provides outreach services to the broader region. Discussions with the Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice Division stated that medical centres in the region were adapting to meet the changing pattern of working families by staying open longer during the week and working on weekends. The Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee recommends one GP per 950 people. The Division stated there were 46 GPs in Dubbo which is above the 44 GPs recommended (J Dennis, Workforce Program Manager, Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice, 6 March 2012).

Dubbo is a regional centre for health service delivery and therefore, is a key location for state agencies. Dubbo provides a broad range of community health and welfare centres as shown in Table C.12.

Table C.12 Health and welfare services

"Temilee" Respite Care	Aboriginal Homecare Services of NSW – Ngangana Branch
Australian Homecare (Formally H.A.N.D.S)	Alzheimer's Association of NSW
Carers NSW	Break Thru People Solutions
Child and Family Health Nursing Services	Centacare – Family and Community Services
Community Care Services – Uniting Care	Child and Family Health Nursing Services – Outreach Clinics
Country Care Link Sisters of Charity Link	Cobra Street Counselling Centre
Department of Community Services – Disabilities Services	CRS Australia
Emmanuel Car Centre Inc	Department of Community Services – Partnership Planning
Health and Aged Care Services – Lourdes Hospital	Dubbo Community Health Centre Dieticians
Homecare Service of NSW Dubbo Branch	Dubbo Community Health Centre Genetic Counselling
Lifeline Central West Inc	Dubbo Community Health Centre School Health
Lourdes Hospital and Community Health Service Occupational Therapy	Dubbo Community Health Centre Women's Health
Lourdes Hospital Health and Aged Care Services	Family and Community Services (FACS) and Indigenous Co-ordination Centre (ICC)
Lourdes Hospital Residential Aged Care	Family Day Stay Centre
Macquarie Child Protection Service (PANOC)	Macquarie Women's Health
Meals on Wheels	Midwives Association
MS Society of NSW	NALAG Centre for Loss and Grief Dubbo
Schizophrenia Fellowship	NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare (DADHC)
Spastic Centre Children's Therapy Service	Orana Early Childhood Intervention Centre
St Vincent de Paul Family Help Centre	Salvation Army
The Northcott Society	Schizophrenia Fellowship – Carers Support Unit
The Oaks (Formally Emmanuel Renewal Centre Inc)	Transition to Work and Community Participation (ATLAS)
The Smith Family Learning for Life	Uniting Care Burnside
The Yerrendale Day Care	Vision Australia
Uniting Care Burnside – Youth Service Team, Doorways	Visioncare NSW

Dubbo has ten dental practices specialising in Orthodontics through to Laser Cosmetic Dentistry, including the CSU's Dental and Oral Health Centre.

C.3.2 Warrumbungle LGA

i Hospitals and multi purpose health service centres

Coonabarabran hospital offers acute care, restricted emergency care and rehabilitation services. The 24 bed facility has no on-site doctors but there are two doctors who are on call to attend the facility when required. There is a health service manager and nurse who currently attend 21 patients. The hospital experiences nursing shortages (C. Warwicker, Acting Health Services Manager, pers comm., January 2012).

Dunedoo Multi Purpose Health Service Centre offers a 15 bed, low care residential service (currently 13 are occupied), a 10 bed, high care residential service (currently eight occupied) and a 5 bed acute care service (currently three occupied). The facility provides 24 hour first line emergency care, including the stabilisation of critically ill or injured people prior to transfer or retrieval to a larger health centre. It provides primary and community health services including child and family health nurse, mental health services, dietetics, aged care assessment and Aboriginal Health workers. The facility currently has two doctors. The facility is planned for future expansion (C Warwicker, Acting Health Services Manager, pers comm., January 2012).

Coolah Multi Purpose Health Service Centre consists of 27 beds (7 acute and 10 high care; 10 low care; some of these are residential age beds). These are currently averaging 45% occupancy. The facility provides 24 hour first line emergency care, including the stabilisation of critically ill or injured people prior to transfer or retrieval to a larger health centre. It provides primary and community health services, aged care assessment and mental health services. There is child and family health nurse, dietician and Aboriginal health workers (A Taylor, Health Service Manager, Coolah Multi Purpose Health Service Centre pers comm., 13 January 2012).

Dental care is provided part time to both Coolah and Dunedoo Multi Purpose Health Service Centre Centres on a weekly basis. There are no other specialist services available in Warrumbungle Shire, with patients travelling to Dubbo or Orange to access these services.

ii Community health and private clinics

There are five GPs operating in Coonabarabran and two in Dunedoo. These meet the recommended the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee ratio for these towns. There are six community medical clinics available in the LGA the closest to the Project is in Mendooran which is an outreach community health centre. Residents within the LGA regularly travel to Dubbo to use its health services.

C.3.3 Wellington LGA

i Hospitals and multi purpose health service centres

Wellington Health Service Centre is a non-surgical small rural hospital with 20 acute beds. Currently, 70% of the beds are occupied. It provides 24 hour first line emergency care and primary and community health services including child and family health nurse, physiotherapy, mental health services, dietetics, aged care assessment and Aboriginal health workers.

There are no specialist services available in Wellington LGA, with patients travelling to Dubbo to access these services.

ii Community health and private clinics

Wellington LGA has four community health centres, three are outlined below. Residents travel to Dubbo to access health services.

Swift Street Medical Centre has six GPs. It provides paediatric, cardiology, ophthalmology and physiotherapy services. The Centre has capacity to take on additional patients from early 2012.

Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Services has two GPs. It provides services to the whole community, not exclusively to the Aboriginal community. It offers services that include social and emotional wellbeing, Aboriginal family partnership, podiatry, hearing and women's health. The centre has capacity take on additional patients (C Wykes, Practice Manager, pers comm., 13 January 2012).

Wellington Family Practice provides general health care and chiropractic services. The centre is at full capacity (J Simpson, Wellington Family Practice, pers comm., 13 January 2012).

Wellington is serviced by eight GPs operating three separate private medical practices. This is just below the recommended ratio by the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee (nine GPs). However, due to Wellington's close proximity to the major health facilities in the region at Dubbo, there are a high number of registrars and medical students who visit Wellington to assist local GPs, which ensures the area is well serviced by GPs (J Dennis, Workforce Program Manager, Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice, 6 March 2012).

C.3.4 Mid-Western Regional LGA

i Hospitals and multi purpose health service centres

Mudgee hospital is a district health service centre with 52 acute beds. Currently, 64% of the beds are occupied. It provides a range of inpatient and outpatient services including emergency, general medical and surgical, maternity, gynaecology, diagnostic services, cancer care and renal (S Jenkins, Western NSW Local Health Network, Mudgee, pers comm., 16 February 2012).

There are nine doctors with three registrars and one locum. There are approximately 10 visiting medical officers and one nurse practitioner managing approximately 80 nurses. The operating theatres function three to five days per week (S Jenkins, Western NSW Local Health Network, Mudgee, pers comm., 16 February 2012).

In Gulgong the hospital recently closed. In mid-2011, construction of a new Multi Purpose Health Centre facility began and it is to be completed by March 2012. The facility will provide 24 hour first line emergency care, including the stabilisation of critically ill or injured people prior to transfer or retrieval to a larger health centre. It will provide for residential aged care and community health services. There are currently three emergency beds and 10 nursing home and acute beds (A Lea, NSW Western LHD, pers comm., 16 February 2012).

ii Community health and private clinics

Private health services in the area include: the Mudgee Medical Centre and South Mudgee Surgery.

Mudgee Medical Centre is a recently built centre with eight GPs and a Practice Manager, servicing approximately 20,000 patients. The centre is running at full capacity. The centre needs three additional GPs to service current demand but there are no plans to recruit additional doctors (C Best, Practice Manager Mudgee Medical Centre, pers comm., 13 January 2012).

South Mudgee Surgery currently has seven GPs, servicing approximately 12,000 patients. The centre is seeking to employ another full time GP. There are plans for a minor improvements to room configurations (ie nursing and administration rooms), though the centre has no physical space to carry out any major building extension (J Marchant, Practice Manager, pers comm., 13 January 2012).

Gulgong Medical Centre currently has one full time and one part time GP, servicing approximately 3,500 patients. The centre offers paediatrics, podiatry, dietician counsellor, diabetic educator. The centre is taking new patients for people only living in Gulgong (R Evens Practice Manager Gulgong Medical Centre, per comms., 13 January 2012).

All practices within Mudgee provide dental services but there is up to a four week wait.

There are two full time GP's at Gulgong (P Roberts, 2011 Mudgee General Practitioner, pers comm., 5 December).

The Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee recommends 1 GP per 950 people, which would equate to 19 GPs for the Mudgee and Gulgong areas. Currently there are only 11 GPs. Discussions with the two local GPs confirmed that local medical services are over-stretched. The increasing ageing population in the LGA has placed significant demand on health services. Compounded by an ageing GP workforce, the current waiting time to see a GP has extended beyond four weeks. It is not uncommon for people within Mudgee to travel to Dubbo to visit a GP (P Roberts and G Moore, 2011 Mudgee General Practitioners, pers comm., 5 December).

C.4 Housing

A review of current supply and demand of local accommodation across the region can be found in the Project's *Workforce Accommodation Study* (EMM 2012) which is appended to the EA.

In addition to this information, discussions with Mid-Western Regional Council officer indicated that the annual rate of construction in the LGA has increased to approximately 100 dwellings for 2011 (G Bruce, 2011 Mid-Western Regional Council town planner, pers comm., 9 March). This is more than double the historic rate of construction for the LGA (46 dwellings per year).

C.5 Emergency services

The region is serviced by the District Emergency Management Office based at Dubbo which comes under the jurisdiction of the Central West Emergency Management District. Dubbo is the regional headquarters for the Ambulance Service of NSW, State Emergency Service, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Police Force. It is also the centre for the Central West District Rescue Committee that oversees operational capacity and capabilities.

C.5.1 Rescue

There are currently several mines and associated infrastructure in the region with capacity to respond to 'mine rescue' emergencies associated with mining operations. One of the key considerations in relation to accidents and emergencies is that of travel time. Should an accident occurred at the Project site, a call out for an ambulance will take at least 60 minutes travel time from Dunedoo to Dubbo (Base hospital). This is considerable amount of time given that most trauma cases require emergency treatment quickly.

All rescue operations are under the coordination and management of the NSW Police Force. The Dubbo Rescue Squad (VRA) is the primary rescue unit. It has 17 operators and 3 rescue vehicles, two rescue boats, a lighting trailer, catering van and portable fencing. The secondary rescue unit is Dubbo NSW Fire and Rescue which has 34 operators and 2 rescue vehicles. Dubbo SES is a non-accredited rescue unit with 36 members, two vehicles and a rescue boat (S Davies, District Emergency Management Officer, NSW Police Force, pers comm., 16 January 2012).

There are aero-medical retrieval providers in the Central West District including the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) which operates from Dubbo airport. There is also a rescue helicopter based in Orange and is crewed by Ambulance Service NSW paramedics. Mudgee airport is also registered as suitable for RFDS operations.

C.5.2 State emergency services

The regional headquarters is based at Dubbo. The centre coordinates all local state emergency services (SES) units within the region. Local SES units are located at Dubbo, Mudgee, Dunedoo and Wellington.

Dubbo SES provides general land and flood rescue services. It has approximately 30 volunteer members. Mudgee and Wellington SES units provide land and flood rescue services. Wellington SES is also vertical rescue accredited, due to rescues associated with Wellington Caves tourist complex and un-used/old mining shafts in the LGA area.

C.5.3 NSW Police

There are two NSW Police Local Area Commands (LACs) that fall within the region:

- Orana LAC (based at Dubbo) - services Dubbo, Wellington, Narromine and Gilgandra LGAs. It has a total of 144 police officers, 110 of whom are located in Dubbo; and
- Mudgee LAC (based at Mudgee) - services Mid-Western Regional and Warrumbungle LGAs. It has a total of 71 police officers.

(K Seaton, Dubbo LAC, pers comm., 9 January 2012).

C.5.4 Fire and Rescue NSW

The Region west Headquarters is based at Dubbo. Fire stations and crew across the region come under the following zones:

- Region West 1 Zone (Dubbo) - Dubbo, Dunedoo, Coolah and Wellington;
- Region West 2 Zone (Bathurst) - Mudgee, Gulgong and Rylstone/Kandos; and
- Region North 3 Zone (Tamworth) - Coonabarabran.

Two fire stations are located in Dubbo (Dubbo and Delroy Brigades) and one in the towns of Mudgee, Gulgong, Wellington, Coolah and Dunedoo.

C.5.5 NSW Rural Fire Service

The NSW RFS is the lead agency in preventing and combating bushfires. The closest RFS units to the Project fall in the Castlereagh RFS zone. They include the Dapper Brigade – Laheys Creek (17 members and a Category 7 vehicle), Dunedoo Brigade (25-30 members, Category 2 and Category 7 vehicle) and Cobbora Brigade (15 members and a Category 7 vehicle). As these brigades are predominately volunteering based they range in capacity to respond to fire emergencies (S Davies, District Emergency Management Officer, NSW Police Force, pers comm., 16 January 2012).

C.5.6 NSW Ambulance services

The Greater Western Sector and the Western Region Operations Centre (“000” centre) is based at Dubbo. Ambulance Stations are located in Mudgee, Gulgong, Dunedoo, Wellington, Dubbo City, Coolah and Coonabarabran.

Discussions with the emergency agencies stated currently there is sufficient capacity and access to available funding to accommodate growth throughout the study area. The emergency service agencies have requested that CHC to liaise regularly and inform them of workforce population projections for their internal planning (S Davies, District Emergency Management Officer, NSW Police Force, pers comm., 16 January 2012).

C.6 Women and Aboriginal services

C.6.1 Dubbo LGA

a. Women services and programs

Dubbo offers a diverse range of services for women and Aboriginal groups. Council noted that there is competing demand for these services from permanent residents, a large migrant population who recently arrived into Dubbo, and residents from neighbouring areas towns where service provision is minimal. These services include:

- Dubbo Emergency Accommodation - provides 24 hour crisis service to women and children escaping domestic violence, and/or experiencing homelessness;
- Dubbo Women’s Housing - provides medium term housing options for homeless women and children;
- Dubbo & Wellington Court Assistance Scheme - provides court support for women escaping domestic violence;
- Dubbo Counselling Service - provides counselling and support to women escaping domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Interrelate - offers counselling to couples and singles;
- The Outreach Women’s Solicitor - works out of the Community Legal Service for Western NSW, and provides legal support for women and children escaping violence;
- The Thubbo Medical Service - provides support to Aboriginal women and men;

- Family Support Service - provides counselling and support to families, including single mothers with children; and
- The Aboriginal Family Health Services – its role is to enhance and engage Aboriginal families, communities and relevant agencies to take control and work collaboratively to achieve a reduction in family violence.

Violence against women in Dubbo has been identified as a priority by community groups and government agencies (Dubbo Social Plan, 2011). Dubbo was ranked 10th in NSW LGAs for domestic violence related assault with just under 400 reported incidents. It was ranked 6th in 2006 (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2010).

There are a number of government, non-government and community organisations based in Dubbo working together on prevention and intervention projects, all within a context of high community education and awareness. The NSW Government sponsored Tackling Domestic Violence program utilises Dubbo Catholic Young Mens Society (CYMS) and Dubbo Macquarie Rugby League teams to help change attitudes and reduce domestic violence in the Dubbo community.

b. Aboriginal services and programs

Council works with the Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council and a number of local community groups to develop innovative Aboriginal programs and support services in the LGA. Some key groups include:

- Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party;
- Dubbo KIN (Koori Interagency Network);
- Dubbo Aboriginal Community Justice Group;
- Gulbri Men's Group;
- Carewest (Dubbo);
- Dubbo Aboriginal Pre and Post Relief Office;
- Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation; and
- Western Aboriginal Legal Service.

Some programs include:

- Safe Aboriginal Youth (SAY) Patrol - the program provides safe transport of young people to their homes, sporting events, youth centres or a safe place at night; and
- Aboriginal Employment Strategy - assist Aboriginal community members gaining employment.

There is a council Aboriginal Liaison Officer who works with the community on issues and activities affecting the local Aboriginal community.

Dubbo Police, as part of Orana Juvenile Detention Centre, has a local area Aboriginal advisory group that meets quarterly (G Toomey, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Dubbo City Council and D Toomey, Thubbo Medical Centre; pers comm., 17 January 2012).

C.6.2 Warrumbungle LGA

a. Women services and programs

There are a range of women services within the LGA, with the majority located in Coonabarabran. These include:

- Centacare Women's Counselling;
- Western Local Health Network; and
- Castlereagh Family Day Care.

A range of Home and Community Care programs are offered across the LGA.

b. Aboriginal services and programs

There are a number of Aboriginal organisations working within the LGA. The Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal Land Council employ members of the local Aboriginal community to a range of duties which include cultural heritage surveys, native vegetation management within National Parks, and house and land maintenance on Aboriginal housing as part of the Aboriginal Employment Scheme. Other groups in the LGA:

- Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal Land Council Elders Group;
- Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal Land Council Grandmother and Mothers Group;
- Coonabarabran Aboriginal Education Consultative Committee; and
- Aboriginal Legal Service - visiting Solicitor from Walgett 1 day per month to coincide with Court Hearings.

C.6.3 Wellington LGA

a. Women services and programs

Barnardos Wellington, runs a program called Re-connect which incorporates a Mother's Group Training Skills Program, Women's Health Issues Program and a Breakfast Club for children aged from 7 to 18 years who live with their grandparents. Barnardo's Wellington runs play groups in Wellington.

b. Aboriginal services and programs

Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS) offers professional health services through specialist programs by staff either employed by Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service or through partnership links with visiting services such as:

- Australian Nurse Family Partnership;
- Orana Aboriginal Corporation; and
- Wellington Aboriginal Health Services.

There are approximately 67 staff and specialists that service Wellington and surrounding districts. Services include: providing health checks (both adults and children), eye care, pregnancy and family planning, and specialists advice on nutrition and fitness.

C.6.4 Mid-Western Regional LGA

a. Women services and programs

Mudgee has a range of services for women. There is a Barnardos Centre that provides a range of linking services for women and mothers with health, housing, counselling services and legal advice. The Benevolent Society works to improve the health and wellbeing of mid to older women and women experiencing domestic violence.

The Women's Domestic Violence and Court Advocacy Service gives professional support and understanding, information about domestic violence, ADVO's, criminal charges and the court process.

b. Aboriginal services and programs

The Mudgee Aboriginal Community Co-operative Limited offers Indigenous community development, management and self determination by developing culturally appropriate programs, projects and services for the Mudgee Aboriginal Community.

C.7 Young people ('Youth') services

According to the NSW Department of Local Government's *Social and Community Planning and Reporting Manual (2002)*, young people are defined as those aged between 12 and 24 years.

C.7.1 Dubbo LGA

Council offers a range of facilities and services to cater to young people's needs. Examples include:

- parks, playing fields and Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre;
- library services with resources aimed at young people;
- cycle ways, BMX track and skate ramp;
- employment of a full time Youth Development Officer and Aboriginal Liaison Officer;
- operation of Youth Council;
- coordination and funding for annual Youth Week activities;
- coordination of youth music events and organising Committee "Dubbo Rock Up"; and
- Aboriginal Apprenticeship Scheme.

Structured activities are provided through a wide range of associations at a range of venues. There is also a range of voluntary and cultural agencies such as Scouts, Guides, music, drama, dance, art/culture and church based youth groups that work to support young people. However, Council does acknowledge there is limited provision of formal facilities and services for young people (Dubbo City Council Social Plan 2011).

Youth unemployment in Dubbo is above the national average of 5.2%. Male and female unemployment is 12.4% for 15 to 19 year olds (ABS, 2006). The *Links to Learning* program is an initiative to help young adults who have left school early and are not in training or employment, to learn life skills through mentoring and modelling programs, with an emphasis on alternate schooling. The program has been extended two days to include Year 10 School Certificate course.

Council is also working with the Dubbo City Development Corporation to attract industries and businesses, which enhance the prospects of youth employment.

The Smith Family works with young people through their Scholarship, Mentoring, Literacy and Personal support programs. Mission Australia's Dubbo Leadership and Cultural Development Program provides support to young Aboriginal students, with the aim of keeping them in school and building resilience.

Without transport young people cannot access employment opportunities, recreation or education and training. Dubbo currently has a private bus company. The hours for the Dubbo buses are from Monday to Friday up to 6 pm and Saturdays up to 2 pm. There are no services on Sundays. The Youth Taxi Voucher Scheme offers young people, up to 17 years old, an alternative transport option outside of the bus operating hours. The vouchers are currently available at Council and the Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC). The taxi voucher scheme will be subject to future funding grants.

C.7.2 Warrumbungle LGA

There are very limited youth facilities and services available within Warrumbungle LGA. The Coonabarabran Youth Club drop-in centre is open to accommodate high school students three days a week. The Club is managed by the Uniting Church in conjunction with enthusiastic volunteers from the local community and is a place where adolescents can drop-in, talk, socialise, and learn in a safe environment.

There is the Coolah Youth and Community Club at Coolah. Other services in this LGA which cater for young adults include:

- Mission Australia (Coonabarabran);
- Centre Care (Coonabarabran);
- Reconnect McKillop Rural Community Services: provides assistance in youth returning to educational programs; and
- Housing Accommodation Support Initiative (Coonabarabran).

With the exception of sporting clubs, there are very limited youth facilities and services located at Dunedoo and Mendooran.

C.7.3 Wellington LGA

Wellington LGA has a PCYC that offers activities for local youth. Council organises the Youth Council Community Program from 0 to 12 years. However, there are very limited youth facilities and services available within Wellington LGA.

As with Dubbo LGA lack of reliable local transport denies young people access to employment opportunities, recreation or education and training.

C.7.4 Mid-Western Regional LGA

The bulk of facilities and services are located at Mudgee, with limited facilities and services on offer at Gulgong.

Mid-Western Regional Council Youth Services Officer works with young adults, youth agencies, volunteer groups, schools and other organisations to increase the number of events, workshops and programs held throughout the entire region and to increase engagement with young adults on recreational, educational and employment issues.

There is a Youth Council with two members representing each high school within the LGA.

Mission Australia Youth Connections (Mudgee) assists young adults to discover pathways to strong families and healthy, happy children Pathways and work-ready skills Pathways to sustainable employment.

The Mudgee PCYC offers a number of activities and young adult programs for the young adults of the community. The aim of the Mudgee PCYC is to offer a positive and safe environment that encourages and instills confidence in our young adults so they can develop into productive members of our community.

C.8 Cultural and recreational facilities

C.8.1 Dubbo LGA

The Macquarie Regional Library is based at Dubbo. It services Dubbo, Narromine, Warrumbungle and Wellington LGAs. A mobile library operates in conjunction with TAFE Western and provides a library service to the villages of Geurie, Stuart Town and Wongarbon.

Council's Cultural Development program helps fund community groups that perform cultural activities in the City. Council provides support to cultural groups by way of financial contributions and the provision of facilities to foster cultural activities.

The Western Plains Cultural Centre in Dubbo is managed and operated by Council. The centre incorporates Dubbo Regional Gallery, Dubbo Regional Museum and the Community Arts Centre. The state of the art facility provides space for local performances and attracts major events to the wider region.

Dubbo is a major sporting centre in Western NSW. Dubbo has over 80 ha of public open space reserved for active recreation such as cricket, football, netball, swimming, soccer, basketball, tennis and hockey that serve over 120 different sports clubs and associations catering for different ages. The majority of major sporting venues are modern facilities and maintained to a high standard. These include Victoria Park No.1 Oval, Apex Oval/East Dubbo Sporting Complex, Dubbo Showground, Barden Park and Riverbank Fields.

Outdoor recreational activities such as bushwalking, bird watching, swimming, fishing, boating and camping are also enjoyed at over 15 nature reserves in and around Dubbo. Victoria Park Action Sports Precinct, Elston Water Park, Western Plains Riding Centre, Dubbo Golf Club and Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre also provide recreational and leisure facilities.

Dubbo has some major tourist attractions such as the Taronga Western Plains Zoo and the Old Dubbo Gaol. Dubbo LGA has an average of 789,000 people visiting every year; this includes day and overnight visitors. Domestic overnight tourism in the city is estimated to be worth \$128 million per annum. As a major service area to the surrounding Orana region, Dubbo attracts over \$75 million a year from day visitors (Dubbo Economic Development Strategy 2011).

C.8.2 Warrumbungle LGA

Warrumbungle Shire LGA has a small satellite library in Coonabarabran which is linked to the Dubbo library.

The Warrumbungle LGA has a diverse but limited range of cultural facilities and programs including:

- Cultural Centre and Art Gallery Warrumbungle;
- Pandora Gallery;
- Coonabarabran Museum;
- Warrumbungle Arts and Crafts Inc.;
- Crystal Kingdom Museum; and
- Dunedoo Historical Museum.

There are 38 sporting clubs and associations within the LGA. Majority of major sporting venues are modern facilities and well maintained to a high standard, including:

- Baradine Oval;
- Binnaway Oval;
- Coonabarabran Oval;
- Coolah Oval; and
- Dunedoo Oval.

The Warrumbungle LGA is home to six national parks, nature reserves and state forests including:

- Warrumbungle National Park;
- Coolah Tops National Park;
- Binnaway Nature Reserve;
- Goonoo State Forest; and
- Cobbora State Forest.

Warrumbungle National Park is the most popular tourist destination in the Shire, attracting more than 70,000 visitors annually (www.environment.nsw.gov.au).

Siding Springs Observatory attracts approximately 30,000 visitors per year and is Australia's largest centre for optical astronomy.

Coonabarabran is a midway transit stop for those travelling between Brisbane and Melbourne. Tourism is estimated to be worth more than \$30 million per annum to the Shire, and employs approximately 5.4% of the workforce (ABS, 2010).

C.8.3 Wellington LGA

Wellington has a fully functional satellite library supported by the Dubbo Library. It has a large number of sporting fields such as:

- Pioneer Oval;
- Union Park;
- Rygat Park;
- Kennard Park; and
- Bell Park.

Some of these parks include dedicated rugby league and rugby union ovals, three cricket fields with turf pitches, a number of others with synthetic pitches. There is a first class athletics complex and basketball, netball and tennis courts. The Lake Burrendong Sports and Recreation Centre offers a variety of sporting and outdoor activities and includes accommodation for up to 180 people. Wellington has an Olympic size pool, with children's swimming areas.

There are a number of sporting clubs and associations within the LGA, with the majority located in Wellington.

Wellington LGA also includes Lake Burrendong State Park. This recreational area is a very popular that offers year-round activities for fishing, water sports, bushwalkers and campers.

Wellington LGA is home to the Wellington Caves and Phosphate Mine, Burrendong Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, Lake Arthur State Park and Mount Arthur Nature Reserve which support the local tourism industry. Between January and April 2009, 5,550 people visited Wellington region (Wellington Tourism, 2009a).

C.8.4 Mid-Western Regional LGA

The Mid-Western Regional LGA has three libraries servicing Mudgee, Kandos and Gulgong. It also has one mobile library.

Mid-Western Regional has a range of cultural facilities. These include:

- Mudgee Community Cultural Centre ('the Stables');
- Regent Theatre cinema;

- Gulgong, Cudgegong Gallery;
- Gulgong Pioneers Museum;
- Memorial Hall (Gulgong); and
- The Henry Lawson Centre.

Council maintains 55 parks, gardens and oval/playing field areas. There are over 50 sporting clubs and associations within the LGA, with the majority located in Mudgee. The majority of sporting venues are modern and in good condition. The main facilities include:

- Robinson Park Oval;
- Lawson Park Swimming pool;
- Glen Willow Sporting Complex;
- Jubilee Oval;
- Victoria Park Skate Board Park;
- Mudgee Show Grounds; and
- Gulgong and Rylstone Swimming Pool.

Mid-Western Regional boasts a strong tourism sector, with many businesses catering to accommodation, food services, viticulture and retail trade in the area. The LGA receives approximately 100,000 visitors to Mudgee and more than 295,000 visitors to the region annually. Retail trade is also strongly supportive of the tourism and viticulture industry, with an abundance of establishments (over 300) located in the heart of Mudgee, and also in Gulgong and Kandos. Gulgong is a historical town famous for being on the now superseded Australian \$10 note. Gulgong flourished during the 1870s gold rush era, which is uniquely preserved in the museums and narrow streets.

There are a number of popular nature reserves within the LGA including the Goulburn River National Park, Coolah Tops National Park and the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve.

C.9 Transport

i Road

The major form of transportation in the region is road vehicles. The four LGAs have financial and jurisdictional responsibility for the road network often in partnership with the NSW Government depending on the category of the road. The national roads that traverse the Central West NSW region are the Newell and Oxley Highways while the state roads are the Golden, Castlereagh and Mitchell Highways. These come under the jurisdiction of the NSW Road and Maritime Services. The main roads include: the Cobbora Road (MR 353), Goolma Road (MR233) and Gollam Road (MR 7512). Other roads are categorised as local roads.

The Golden Highway and the Castlereagh Highway are major roads linking the Project to the regional centres of Dubbo and Mudgee respectively. The Golden Highway has two way flows, with approximately 1,000 vehicles daily, and the Castlereagh Highway has two way flows, with approximately 500-800 vehicles daily. The traffic counts averages between 2,500-3,000 vehicles outside of Mudgee. The Golden Highway has about 3,500 vehicles per day and about 10% are heavy vehicles in the outskirts of Dubbo (P Dearden, RMS per comms. January 2012). The Golden Highway is one of only three B-Double transport routes across the Great Dividing Range. The Golden Highway has some areas of substandard alignment where the road narrows including at Sandy Hollow, Jerrys Plains, Denman and Merriwa (P Dearden, RMS per comms. January 2012).

Discussions with Warrumbungle Shire Council indicated that it plans to continue upgrading Forest Road, with 12-13 km remaining to be sealed. This will improve access to the Project site for local employment and service provision. Cobbora Road is currently a gravel road connecting Mendooran and Cobbora, although Warrumbungle Shire Council also proposes to upgrade this road (K Smith, Warrumbungle Shire Council, pers comm., 17 January 2012).

The primary usage of public transport within the primary area is by school buses. The major school bus routes within the Project site operate to and from Gulgong via Spring Ridge Road - Laheys Creek Road (south) and the Castlereagh Highway.

ii Rail

CountryLink NSW operates a daily passenger rail service (XPT) from Sydney to Dubbo return. The train arrives in the afternoon and leaves the following morning. This service is well patronised by commuters throughout the Orana region. This train service stops at Wellington and Orange on the way through to Sydney and takes approximately 6.5 hours.

The Ulan Mine east of Gulgong is serviced by a rail line which runs through the Hunter Valley to Newcastle (Ulan line). The line between Binnaway and Gwabegar is not operational however the Gwabegar line north of Gulgong and the Ulan line are both leased to the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC).

iii Air

Dubbo airport is the largest airport close to the Project. It is a regional airport with 154 flights per week operating to and from the airport, as well as chartered flights, general aviation flight training and airfreight operations. In 2010-11, more than 176,420 passengers passed through the airport, an increase of 3.0% from 2010-11 (K Rogers, Dubbo City Council, pers comm., 16 January 2012). Qantaslink operates a 'One World' customer service from Dubbo to global destinations. It allows Dubbo passengers to connect to their international destinations.

Future development of the airport is dependent upon Qantas allocating Q400 aircraft to the airport (K Rogers, Dubbo City Council pers comm., 16 January 2012). Once allocation of aircraft is made, Dubbo City Council will apply for funding to upgrade the passenger and baggage scanning (estimated \$600,000) plus upgrading of the lounge area (estimated \$500,000). These upgrades will be subject to Commonwealth funding.

The airport is currently building a new general aviation area (estimated \$500,000). It will provide private and industrial hangar spaces including an area set aside for the NSW RFS Air Base. A new taxi lane is being constructed to connect this area with the rest of the airport.

The Dubbo City Development Corporation, in conjunction with Newcastle Council and other Newcastle stakeholders are currently negotiating to operate a 19-seat J32 aircraft from Newcastle to Dubbo daily (R Poisson, Dubbo City Development Corporation, pers comm., 16 November 2011).

The Mudgee airport is a smaller airport close to the Project. Council aims to maintain and develop the airport into a modern regional airport, to attract new aviation businesses to the area. The airport uses Aeropelican Airlines that operates between Mudgee and Sydney 12 times per week.

C.10 Infrastructure

C.10.1 Water supply system

i Dubbo LGA

Council owns and operates its own water supply system and sources its portable water supply from the Macquarie River (typically 80%) and from seven bores within the South Dubbo bore field (typically 20%). The water from both sources is treated at the John Gilbert water treatment plant before being pumped to service reservoirs throughout Dubbo (S McCleod, Dubbo City Council, pers comm., 8 January 2012).

Council has carried out a number of water infrastructure projects to expand the water supply to the urban areas (S McCleod, Dubbo City Council pers comm., 8 January 2012).

ii Warrumbungle LGA

Coonabarabran, Coolah, Dunedoo have water reticulation systems. Each reticulated system has its own supply, which varies across the towns.

Coonabarabran sources its water from the Castlereagh River, which is supplemented by Timor storage dam (Timor Dam). Timor Dam is currently the only drinking water supply for the town. The limited water supply has constrained town growth and industries, including agricultural activities, that are high water users.

Coolah obtains its water from sub-artesian bores. Groundwater is used for town supply in Coolah and Dunedoo, irrigation, stock and domestic purposes. The groundwater source is recharged by rainfall and stream flow with water quality being generally good upstream of Elong Elong, suitable for all purposes. Water quality downstream is suitable for agricultural purposes.

iii Wellington LGA

Wellington is currently operating at 60% capacity of its water supply and Council has advised it has sufficient capacity to cater for future residential and industry growth in the town. Geurie's supply of water is drawn from the Macquarie River and treated to potable standards. Gollan and Elong Elong source their water from rain water tanks (E Poga, Wellington Council pers comm., 4 January 2012).

iv Mid-Western Regional LGA

Three separate water supply schemes are operated at Mudgee, Gulgong and Rylstone. Water of Mudgee and Gulgong is sourced from the Cudgegong River sown stream of the Windamere Dam. Water is treated and supplied annually via more than 266 km of mains. Council has advised that water availability is adequate for anticipated increases in demand, particularly in Gulgong and Mudgee (J Geddes, Mid-Western Regional Council pers comm., Jan. 2012).

C.10.2 Sewage

i Dubbo LGA

Dubbo City Council provides sewage services to the urban areas of Dubbo. Council is currently upgrading the Troy Junction sewage treatment plant, designed to service a population of up to 55 000 people in Dubbo (S McCleod, Dubbo City Council, pers comm., 8 January 2012).

ii Warrumbungle LGA

Reticulation is provided to four towns in the Shire: Baradine, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo and Coolah. The remaining settlements, including Cobbora and Mendooran, rely solely on onsite effluent disposal. Coonabarabran is serviced by a sewage plant that is close to capacity. Council has not committed to building a new plant at this stage. Dunedoo also has a sewage system that is reaching capacity. Council has not made a decision to the system's future (K Smith, Warrumbungle Shire Council, pers comm., 12 January 2012).

iii Wellington LGA

Wellington and Geurie are connected to the Wellington Council sewage scheme and no further works are proposed or required (E Poga, Wellington Council, pers comm., 4 January 2012).

iv Mid-Western Regional LGA

Mid-Western Regional Council operates and maintains a 174 km reticulation network that includes 12 pumping stations and 10 km of rising mains. The sewage treatment system comprises four sewage treatment plants, one each for the townships serviced (J Geddes, Mid-Western Regional Council, pers comm., 16 February 2012).

C.10.3 Waste

i Dubbo LGA

Dubbo City Council, via a private operator, has begun to provide a domestic recycling service on a fortnightly basis. The recyclable waste material is transported by road to a recycling facility in Sydney for sorting and processing. Local residents can drop off their excess recyclable waste at North Dubbo at no charge.

Majority of Dubbo's waste disposal services are provided at Council's Whylandra waste depot located approximately 16 km west of Dubbo.

Discussions with council indicated that there is sufficient capacity within waste system in Dubbo to absorb the projected population numbers in the LGA as the landfill has a projected operational life of 150 years.

The Dubbo Whylandra Waste Depot also provides waste disposal services to the town of Wellington (S McCleod, Dubbo City Council, pers comm., 8 January 2012).

ii Warrumbungle LGA

Council provides a weekly kerbside and recycling service throughout the shire. An annual kerbside domestic hard waste collection is provided in the LGA, and collects approximately 500 tonnes per year (K Stuart, Warrumbungle Shire Council, pers comm., 9 January 2012). There is a landfill located 3 km from Coonabarabran that is estimated to have an operational life expectancy of 10 years.

Council advised that household recycling in Dunedoo that increased recently. However, there is limited infrastructure capacity to sort out recycling waste in the town (F Luckhurst, Community Services Officer, Warrumbungle Shire Council, pers comm., 6 December 2011).

iii Wellington LGA

The Dubbo Whylandra Waste Depot provides waste disposal services for Wellington LGA (S McCleod, Dubbo City Council, pers comm., 8 January 2012).

iv Mid-Western Regional LGA

Council operates three urban (Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos) and 13 village and rural waste transfer stations. Accumulated domestic waste and recycling materials are transported to the Mudgee Waste Facility for sorting, processing and land filling. The existing cell at the Mudgee Waste Depot will reach capacity within 2 to 3 years. Council is preparing a landfill environmental management plan designed to extend the operation of the facility for another 50 to 60 years.

C.10.4 Electricity

High voltage electricity for the region is carried via TransGrid's electricity network. TransGrid has recently built a 330 kV transmission line connecting the existing Wellington substation to a new substation at Wollar, north-east of Mudgee. It provides electricity for residents of Wellington, Dubbo, Parkes and Nyngan. The Wellington gas power station is a 660 MW open cycle gas fired power station that will generate electricity as an on-required basis. This project is awaiting planning approval (J Clague, Wellington Council, pers comm., 5 December 2011).

Essential Energy has its regional office in Dubbo and services Dubbo, Warrumbungle, Mid-Western Regional and Wellington LGAs. Essential Energy is rolling out significant electricity upgrades throughout Dubbo to service a 55,000 population in the LGA. Essential Energy is constructing a \$10 million new zone substation south of Dubbo to cater for future residential load growth and is currently participating in the provision of 66 kV powerlines and substations to support electricity infrastructure for the Toongi Zirconia project, 25 km south-west of Dubbo. Essential Energy has advised that it proposes to upgrade power supply to Coonabarabran and Dunedoo over the next two years (P Ramian, Essential Energy, Dubbo, pers comm., 8 January 2012).

C.10.5 Telecommunications

There is limited specific data regarding telecommunication service provision in the region. The majority of the Dubbo LGA has 4G mobile coverage ADSL+2 or ADSL access. The National Broadband Network (NBN) - Dubbo is part of a 10 year plan to roll out this fibre optic network. At present, no date is set for the rollout of this technology in the Dubbo area.

The towns in the Warrumbungle LGA have basic access to telecommunications services incorporating Internet access, 2G and 3G mobile coverage and landline phone networks. Most areas in the LGA now have access to broadband services. Coonabarabran and Mendooran both have ADSL and ISDN internet access; Dunedoo has ISDN, and Coolah has ADSL and Dial Up internet access.

Appendix D

Cobbora Coal Project: frequently asked questions

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How will the mine affect my land?

Properties in the local area of the mine include agricultural properties, stand-alone permanent residences and lifestyle properties.

Properties that will be directly impacted by mine operations, such as the pit areas, have generally been acquired by Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited (CHC) already. CHC owns the majority of the land required for the project and is currently in negotiation with landowners to acquire all other properties that it believes will be impacted by the mine.

Where possible, CHC has entered into long term lease-back arrangements with the previous land owners or new tenants until the mine commences. Land not directly impacted by the mine will continue to be managed for agricultural purposes.

A historic heritage assessment is being prepared as part of the environmental assessment report for the project. This will recommend mitigation and management measures to protect the heritage values of the historic items in the area.

2. Will the mine result in loss of agricultural land and ecological values?

#

The mine will result in the short-term loss of some agricultural land within the active mining areas that includes pits, dumps and mitigation structures. The mine infrastructure area will be lost for the life of the mine. Also, the current agricultural use of some land owned by CHC may also be temporarily restricted during mining to provide buffers for activities such as blasting.

The agricultural impact assessment will determine the area of agricultural land that will be directly impacted. This study is being prepared for inclusion in the environmental assessment report.

As mining activities are completed the affected areas will be progressively rehabilitated. The mined areas will be rehabilitated to a combination of agricultural land and native vegetation. Mining operations have been able to demonstrate very effectively their ability to return land to at least pre mining capability following the removal of the coal. The environmental assessment report will provide details of the proposed final land use.

The mine will unavoidably require the removal of some areas of native vegetation, including small areas of Threatened Ecological Communities. A biodiversity offset package will be developed to compensate for this loss of vegetation as required by the NSW and Commonwealth governments.

The amount of vegetation to be removed and the biodiversity offset package, including location and size of potential biodiversity management areas, is still being determined.

#

3. How will the mine impact groundwater?

#

The groundwater levels in the project area have been measured in existing bores and in bores drilled specifically to determine groundwater characteristics and to establish a reliable baseline prior to mining. Groundwater pathways, water movement and volumes are also currently being measured. This groundwater information is being used to build a groundwater model that will allow the impacts of the proposed mining activities on groundwater to be determined. The results of this modelling will be reported in the environmental assessment report.

The mining activities may intersect rock strata containing groundwater. The groundwater level may need to be controlled to prevent water accumulating in the base of the pits. Any groundwater collected will be used within the mine and coal handling and preparation plant and will reduce the amount of water that is required to be extracted from the Cudgegong River under CHC's high security water access licences.

Groundwater bores of landholders around the project have been monitored as part of the groundwater impact assessment for the project. CHC over the life of the mine will continue to monitor groundwater. As part of the project approval, CHC will develop a framework of mitigation measures that can be initiated if activities associated with the mine impact on the availability of groundwater to surrounding water users.

4. How much dust will be created by the mine?

#

An air quality assessment is being undertaken to examine how much dust will be emitted by the mine and how this dust will be dispersed over the range of prevailing winds. The assessment will be based on data obtained from meteorological and dust monitoring network of instruments that have been operating in the area for more than 12 months.

The air quality assessment will determine where impacts from the mine are predicted to be above normal regulatory criteria. This is known as the zone of affectation. CHC will be required to acquire residences within this zone if a request to do so is made by the property owner. The acquisition requirements ensure that the landowner is economically no worse off.

Outside of the zone of affectation, CHC may also be required to implement management measures in areas where acquisition is not warranted, but additional management measures are required (zone of management).

The environmental assessment report will describe measures to minimise dust emissions and a meteorological and dust monitoring program. This monitoring will allow the mine to adjust operations to ensure that regulatory criteria established for the mine are met.

5. How much noise will be created by the mine?

#

A noise assessment will determine how much noise will be emitted from the mine and the noise levels at neighbouring private residences. As described for dust above, a zone of affectation or a zone of management may be applied where the normal regulatory limits cannot be achieved.

The environmental assessment report will describe measures to minimise noise emissions and a noise monitoring and management program. This monitoring will allow the mine to manage operations to ensure that the mine operates within the regulatory limits set.

6. What will be the visual impact of the mine?

#

While there will be visual impacts from a number of vantage points around the mine, the visual impact of the mine at any given location will depend on the operational stage of mining and the stage of progressive rehabilitation. Management measures, eg, planting of screening vegetation, creation of intervening elevated landforms and "camouflage" colouring of structures, will be implemented where significant visual impacts are predicted.

These matters are all being considered in the visual impact assessment that will be part of the environmental assessment report. The report will include photomontages showing the mine and associated infrastructure from selected viewpoints.

7. How many hours a day will the mine operate?

#

The mine has been planned on the basis of a 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year operation. This allows for the efficient use of stationary and mobile equipment as well as for the loading of trains to fit within available time slots in the Hunter Valley train timetable.

8. Will there be blasting and, if so, what happens if my property is damaged as a result?

#

Blasting will be required to allow for efficient removal of the rock covering the coal (overburden) and the coal itself.

Potential affects on buildings from blasting activities will be considered when planning blasts (size, layout, detonation sequence, etc). Blasts will be designed to limit annoyance based criteria and to prevent affects on structures due to ground vibration, over-pressure or fly rock. The established limits for buildings are set to ensure over-pressure from blasts does not impact susceptible building elements such as windows, while ground vibration limits are designed to ensure that cracking and similar effects do not occur.

Building surveys of all private structures within a 2 to 3 km radius of proposed blasts, will be undertaken prior to the start of operations to establish pre-mining baseline conditions. Ground vibration and over pressure will be monitored at representative receptors during all blasts allowing any exceedence of regulatory criteria to be detected.

In the unlikely event that private property is affected as a result of blasting, CHC will rectify any damage.

Quantification of the potential impacts from blasting will be determined as part of the noise and vibration assessment which is underway.#

9. How much extra traffic will there be during construction and also when the mine is operational?

#

The project will generate traffic on the State roads (eg, Golden and Castlereagh highways) that are the responsibility of Roads & Maritime Services (previously Roads and Traffic Authority) as well as on local roads that are responsibilities of the local Councils.

##

During the 2 year construction period, there will be significant additional traffic comprising employee and contractor vehicles plus vehicles delivering goods that include construction materials (eg, concrete and steel), stationary equipment (eg, coal handling equipment), mobile equipment (eg, trucks) and diesel.

A temporary construction camp to house a portion of construction workers close to the construction sites is being proposed by CHC. This will be included in the environmental assessment report. The temporary construction camp is proposed on CHC land within the footprint of the future mine area.

This will reduce the numbers of workers that will need to commute from surrounding areas and therefore minimise the increase in traffic during construction, particularly along the highways.

During operations, there will be additional traffic as a result of employee and contractor vehicles, and vehicles delivering fuel, equipment and maintenance items. The additional traffic will peak around shift changes. Coal will be transported by rail.

A transport assessment is underway and will form part of the environmental assessment report. This will describe the existing traffic, provide an indication of where traffic will increase, by how much.

10. Who pays to fix the roads if they are damaged and how quickly will they be repaired?

#

Based on the initial studies, the incremental increase of traffic on State roads will be relatively small. Responsibility for repairing these roads lies with Roads & Maritime Services.

A report detailing the condition of local roads will be prepared following approval of the project and prior to the start of construction.

Voluntary Planning Agreements will be negotiated with each of the Councils. These may include a contribution towards the ongoing maintenance of local roads servicing the project area.

11. Will any roads near the mine be closed either temporarily or permanently?

#

Some local roads intersect the footprint of the mine or related infrastructure and will need to be either realigned or closed.

A northern section of Spring Ridge Road will be permanently closed towards the end of the construction phase (end of 2014). An alternative road will be opened beforehand connecting Spring Ridge Road to Sweeney's Lane and to the Golden Highway.

The eastern end of Dapper Road will need to be closed during the life of the mining operation (around 2026). An alternative road will be opened beforehand that joins Dapper Ridge Road to Spring Ridge Road 4 km south of the existing intersection.

Road realignments will be required along the eastern end of Brooklyn Road to allow construction of the rail spur. These realignments will provide access to the properties along Suzanne Road.

#

The affect of these diversions on travel times will vary depending on the origin and destination of the journey. The project is also looking at where local roads may be upgraded, eg along sections of Spring Ridge Road to improve current travel times. The road diversions and changes to travel times will be described in the environmental assessment report.

12. What value will the Cobbora Mine bring to the local community?

#

The project will provide significant direct employment and training opportunities for members of the local community plus it will bring additional people to the area to meet the immediate and long term needs of the operation. The peak mine construction workforce is estimated to be approximately 550. Mine operations will commence during 2015 with an initial workforce of around 170 people, around 300 people during 2016 to 2017, rising to a peak of around 570 people after 2025.

There will also be opportunities to provide services to the mine and to the mine workers. The money earned by mine workers living in the area and from the provision of services will benefit the local economy. These benefits will be described in the socio-economic impact assessment in the environmental assessment report.

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13. What is the Cobbora Holding Company doing for the local community?

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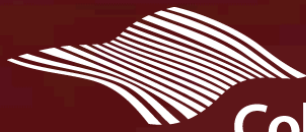
CHC looks forward to working with the community as an economic contributor, large employer and community partner as the project progresses.

CHC is currently supporting local organisations that are making a valuable contribution to building their local communities through its Community Support Program. CHC welcomes applications from local organisations seeking support for their activities.

An application form is available on CHC's website www.cobbora.com

Appendix E

Cobbora Coal Project: Project fact sheet



Cobbora Holding
Company Pty Limited

Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited (CHC) was formed in January 2011 to develop the Cobbora Coal Project. CHC is owned by the State of NSW.



The Cobbora Coal Project will supply up to 9.5 million tonnes of coal per annum to three customers which operate major coal-fired power stations in NSW:

Customer	Power Station(s)	Location
Maquarie Generation	Bayswater and Liddell	Upper Hunter Valley
Origin Energy	Eraring	Central Coast
Delta Electricity	Vales Point and Munmorah	Central Coast

Coal will be supplied on long-term contracts at a pre-agreed price to ensure these power stations can continue to provide a secure supply of competitively priced electricity to NSW residents. The mine may produce up to 2.5 million tonnes of additional coal per annum for sale on the open market.

Project Overview

The Cobbora Coal Project is a proposed new open cut coal mine located approximately 5km south of Cobbora, 22km south-west of Dunedoo, 64km north-west of Mudgee and 60km east of Dubbo.

Construction is planned to commence in mid-2013. Mine operations will start in the first half of 2015. A mine life of 21 years is proposed.



Project Location

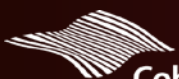
In the past 12 months, the scale of the project has been reduced and design modifications have been made to reduce environmental impacts.

Reduced environmental impact includes:

- Reduced disturbance footprint
- No creek diversions
- Riparian areas and agriculturally valuable land have largely been avoided
- Reduced air quality and noise impacts
- No trains through Mudgee, Kandos or Rylestone

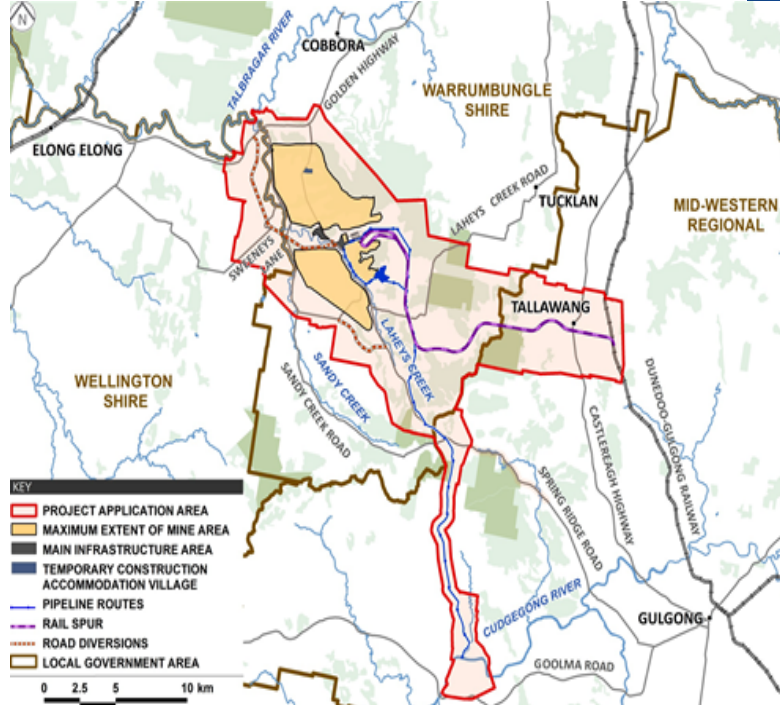
The mine development site will include a coal handling and preparation plant, coal conveyor, administration buildings, workshops, equipment storage facilities and train loading facilities.

Associated infrastructure will include a rail spur line, water supply pipeline, pumping station, access roads, power lines and an electricity substation.



Cobbora Holding
Company Pty Limited

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Email: info@cobbora.com.au
Website: www.cobbora.com
Date of Issue: February 2012



Project Layout



Aerial View of Project Area

Planning Approvals Process and Environmental Assessment

A Major Project application under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning in January 2010. A preliminary environmental assessment accompanied the application.

The Director General's environmental assessment requirements (DGRs) were issued in March 2010.

Due to the changes to the project, a Project Update Report was provided to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I) in August 2011. Amended DGRs were issued in December 2011.

Specialist environmental consulting firm EMGA Mitchell McLennan is currently preparing a detailed environmental assessment (EA) in accordance with the DGRs.

Specialist technical studies that are currently being undertaken for inclusion in the EA are:

- Groundwater and surface water
- Air quality and greenhouse gas
- Noise
- Ecology
- Cultural heritage
- Traffic and transport
- Visual amenity
- Soils, landscape and agriculture
- Socio-economic impact

Community input into the EA is valued and CHC will consult widely with stakeholders in the coming months. Community consultation will include direct discussions with neighbouring landholders and the wider community. Community information sessions will also be scheduled following completion of the environmental studies.

EA and Project Approvals Process



Further information can be found in the Project Update Report and Revised Director General's Environmental Assessment Requirements which are available on the CHC website www.cobbora.com