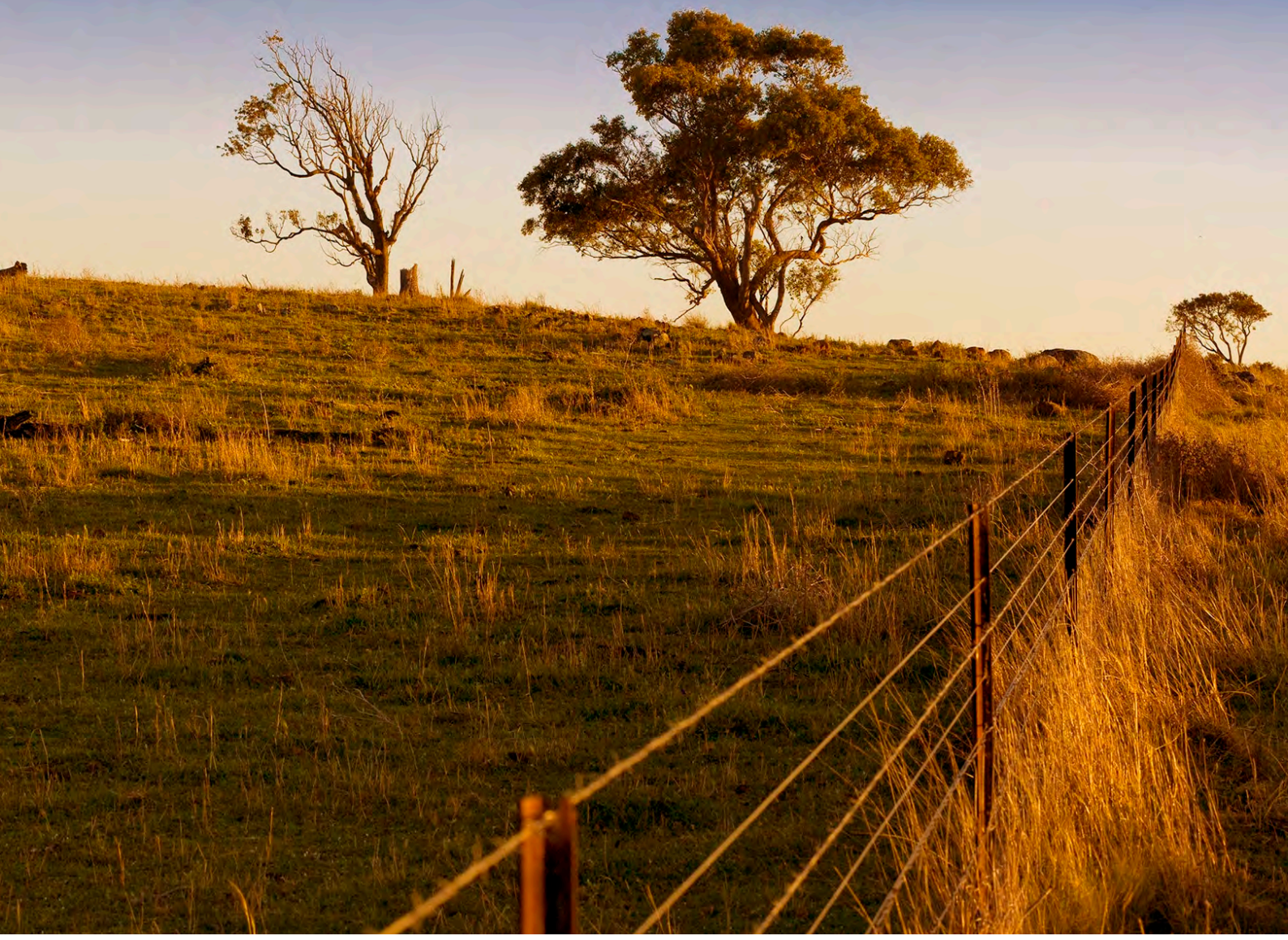
Volume 1

COBBORA COAL PROJECT

Preferred Project Report and Response to Submissions

Prepared for Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited
February 2013



Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited

EMM
EMGA Mitchell McLennan

Volume 1

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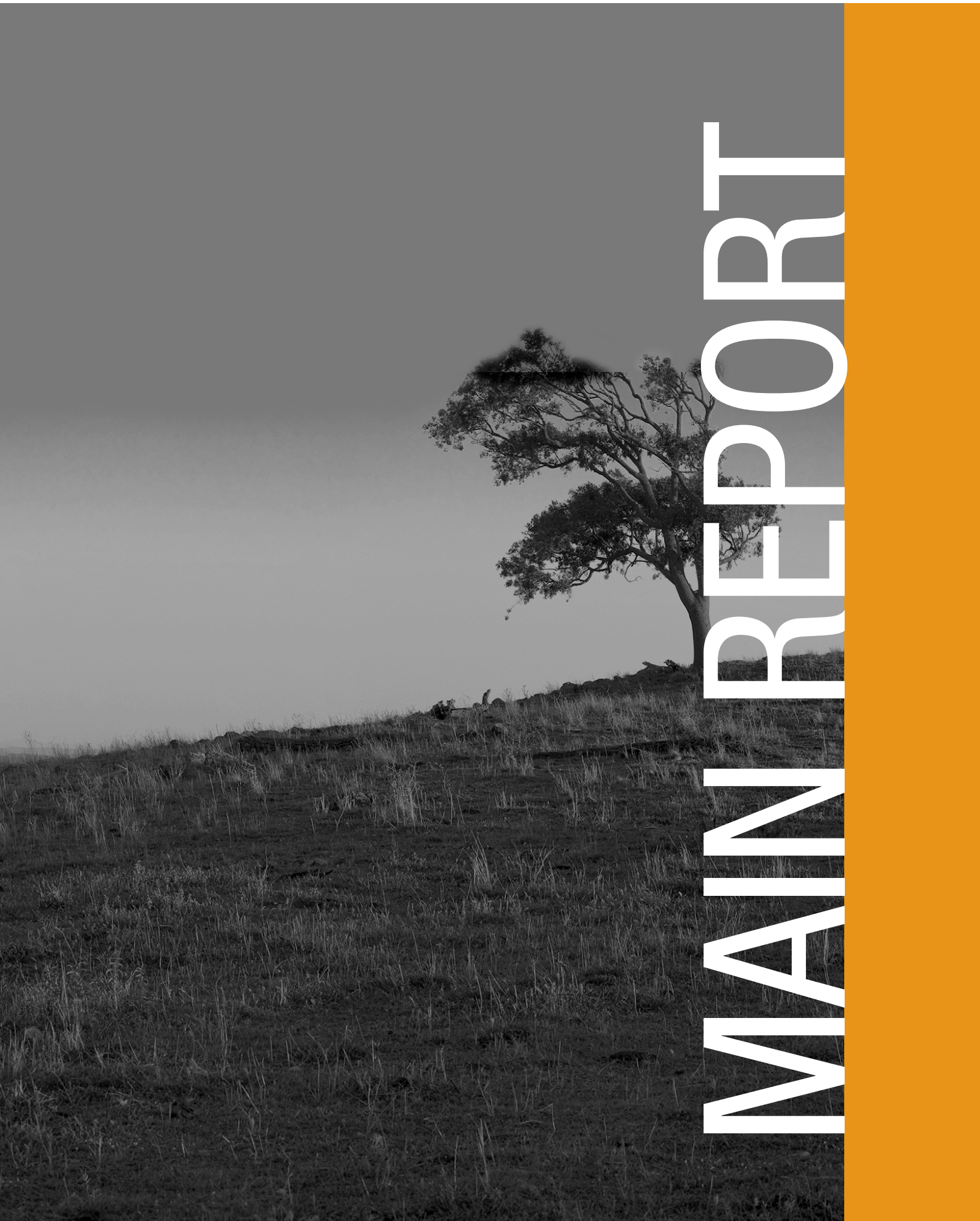

MAIN REPORT

Cobbora Coal Project

Final

Report J11030RP17 | Prepared for Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited | 4 February 2013

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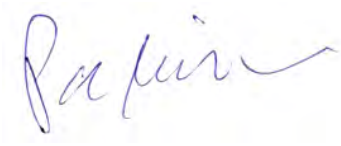
Signature		Signature	
Date	4 February 2013	Date	4 February 2013

Document Control

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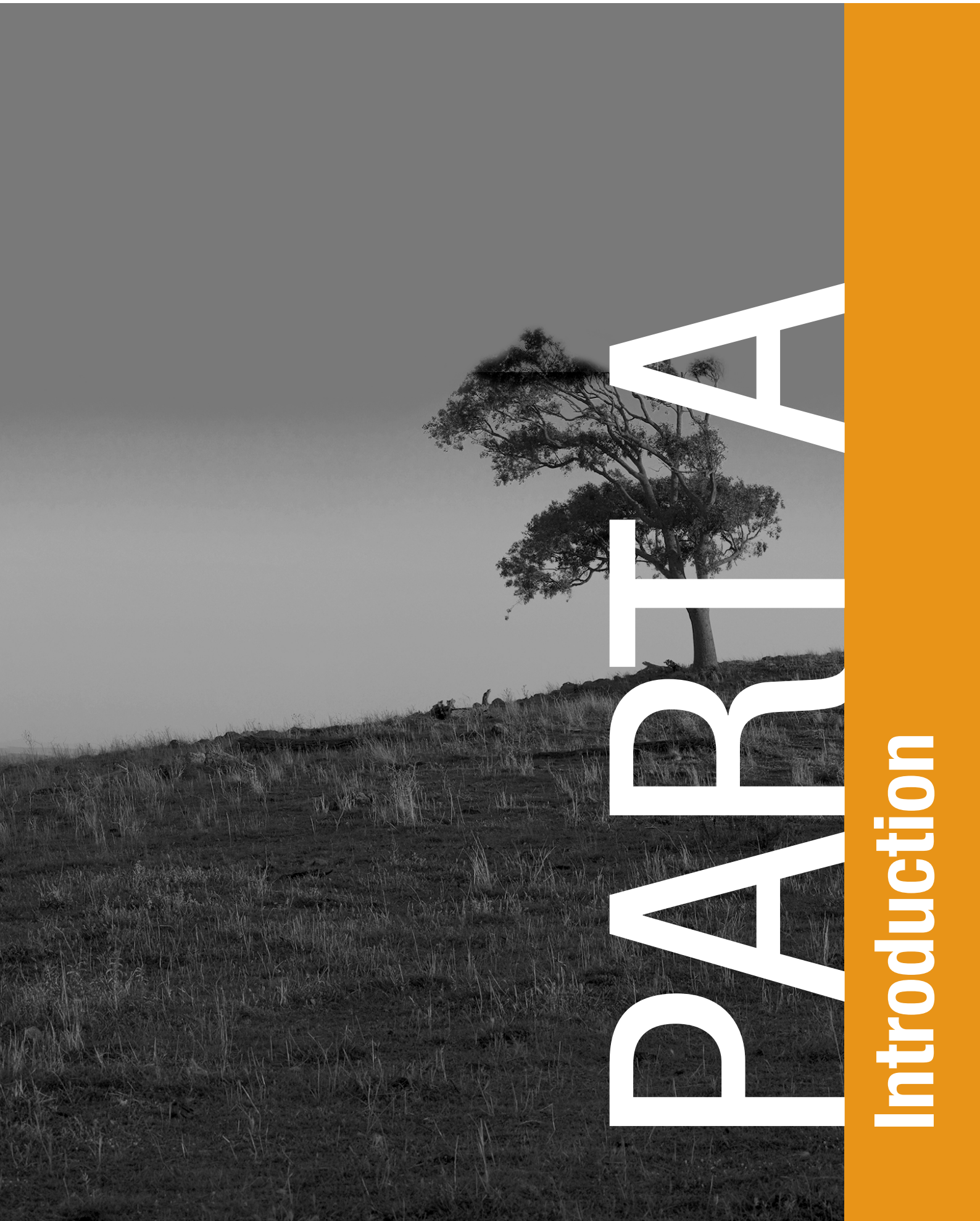


PART A

Introduction

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Cobbora Coal Project (the Project) is a coal mine that will be developed by Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited (CHC). It is near Cobbora in Central Western NSW. The planned output is 20 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa), which, after processing, will provide about 12 Mtpa of product coal. Most of this will be sold to Macquarie Generation, Origin Energy and Delta Electricity and used to generate electricity in four of the state's major power stations.

The Project's key elements are: three open cut mining areas; a coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP); a rail spur and train loading facility; a mine infrastructure area; access roads; water supply and storage facilities; electricity supply infrastructure; and a temporary mine construction workers' village. The mine will operate for 21 years and will be rehabilitated during and beyond this period.

1.2 Project determination process

Approval for the Project is being sought under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Project is being assessed under transitional arrangements for a Part 3A Major Project application under the EP&A Act. The application originally was lodged with the Department of Planning on 5 January 2010. On 27 September 2012, an environmental assessment (EA) for the Project was submitted to the now Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I).

On 29 November 2011, the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Communities and Population (SEWPaC) determined the Project will require approval as a 'controlled action' under the EPBC Act. On 29 November 2011, SEWPaC accredited the Part 3A assessment process as its pathway for the Project.

An EA was prepared by EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Limited (EMM), with input from external specialists. It was prepared in accordance with the requirements of SEWPaC, the DP&I and other government agencies, as given in the Director-General's Requirements (DGRs) issued on 4 March 2010 and modified on 14 October 2011 and 23 December 2011.

The EA was placed on public exhibition for six weeks between 5 October 2012 and 16 November 2012. Hard copies were displayed at the DP&I in Sydney, Warrumbungle Council's offices in Coolah and Dunedoo, at Mid-Western Regional Council Offices in Mudgee and Gulgong, at the offices of Dubbo and Wellington Councils, and at the Nature Conservation Council in Newtown. Electronic copies of the EA were available from the DP&I and CHC websites.

DP&I received 232 submissions on the Project. The issues raised in the submissions are summarised in Chapter 2 and a list of where all submissions are addressed in this report is provided in Appendix A.

The NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) is reviewing the merits of the Project, which included a public hearing in Dunedoo on 10 December 2012. The PAC review report will be provided to the DP&I, which will prepare the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Report and a set of potential approval conditions. These will be provided to the PAC, which will determine whether the Project will proceed and, if so, the conditions of the Project Approval.

Following approval under state legislation, the Commonwealth Environment Minister will then determine the Project under the EPBC Act.

The assessment and determination process is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

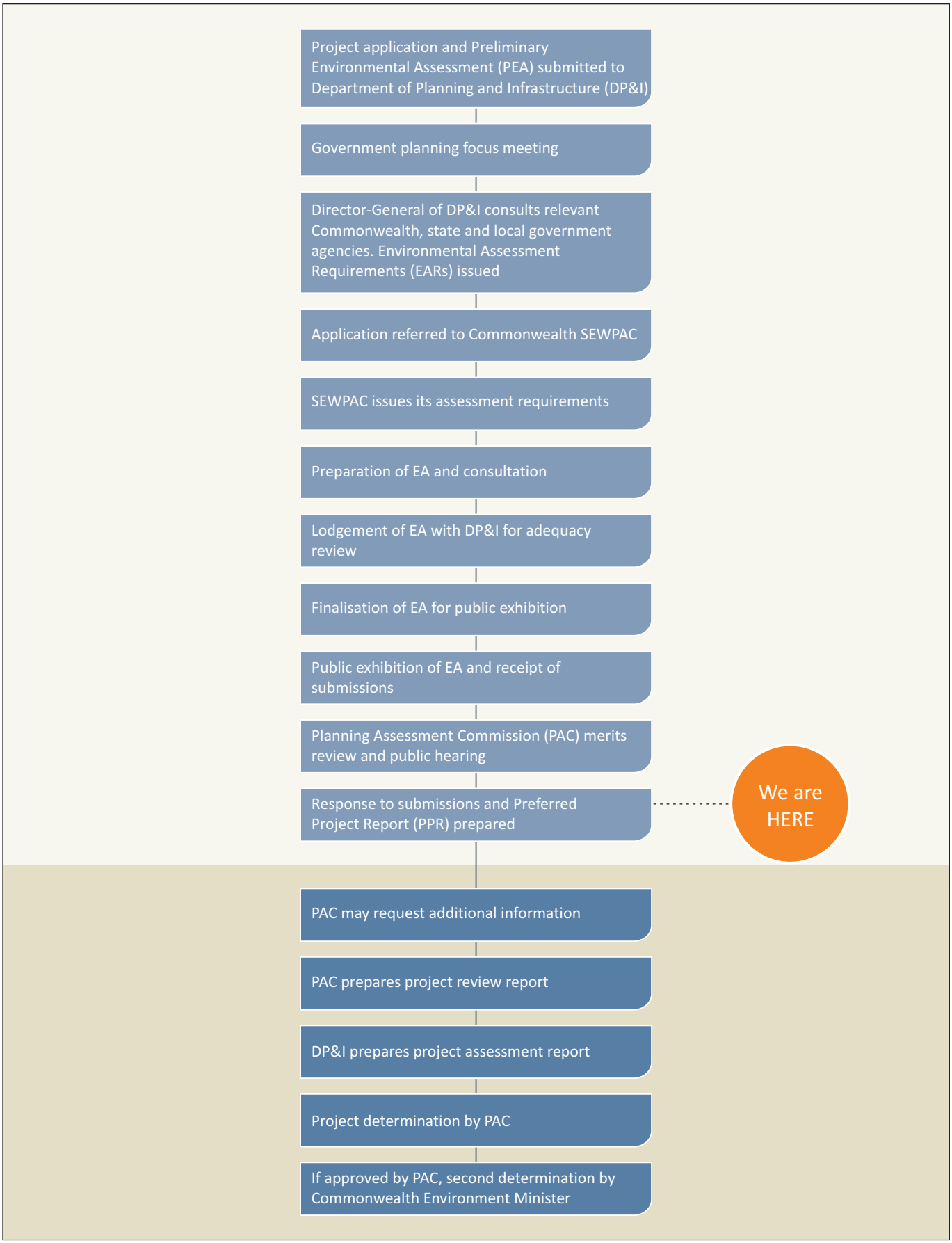
1.3 Changes to the Project

As described in the main EA (Section 3.21), the Project's design has evolved since planning began in 2009, with changes and refinements progressively occurring as coal resource and environmental features become better understood and as a result of ongoing consultation with stakeholders. The submissions on the EA have provided further understanding of stakeholder concerns. In response, the Project design has been further refined to minimise environmental impacts and to incorporate engineering improvements. In spite of this the Project — particularly its layout and footprint — remains consistent with that described in the EA.

On 21 December 2011, the Director General required that a preferred project report (PPR) under s75H(6) of the EP&A Act be prepared. This was to meet the following requirements:

- outline the proposed changes to the Project;
- provide revised maps for all aspects of the Project, including sections of the proposed final landform;
- include a detailed assessment of the impacts of the proposed changes, and updated assessments of the original assessments in the Environmental Assessment (EA) so it is clear what the impacts of the revised project are predicted to be, and these impacts are incorporated into a single document (instead of being spread between the EA and PPR);
- include a revised statement of commitments for the project; and
- include an updated justification for the revised project.

The changes to the Project are described in Chapter 3. Each of these changes has been considered by appropriate technical specialists and assessments revised where required. The suitability of the management and monitoring measures has also been reviewed. The environmental assessment of these changes is provided in Chapters 4 to 21.



Project Determination Process

Cobbora Coal Project - Preferred Project Report and Response to Submissions

Figure 1.1