Appendix C

# Geology Reports

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GUJARAT NRE COKING COAL LTD
CORPORATE ADDRESS: CNR BELLAMBI LANE & PRINCESS HIGHWAY,
RUSSELL VALE. NSW 2517
ABN 77 111 928 762

# **GUJARAT NRE No. 1 COLLIERY**

### **GEOLOGICAL REPORT ON THE WONGA EAST AREA**



Status: Final

Version: 2.0

Effective: 23/05/14

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**GUJARAT NRE COKING COAL LIMITED** 

**Prepared By – NRE Technical Services Department** 

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GUJARAT NRE COKING COAL LTD CORPORATE ADDRESS: CNR BELLAMBI LANE & PRINCESS HIGHWAY, RUSSELL VALE. NSW 2517 ABN 77 111 928 762

## **GEOLOGICAL REPORT on the WONGA EAST AREA**

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Site: NRE No. 1 Colliery
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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Gujarat NRE Coking Coal Ltd owns and operates the NRE No.1 Colliery at Russell Vale which is approximately 8 km north of Wollongong within the Illawarra district of NSW.

The Colliery Holding covers approximately 63 km<sup>2</sup> and topographically the majority of the area west of the escarpment is a plateau of relatively undulating countryside incised by westerly to northwesterly flowing creeks. The major creeks flow into the Cataract Reservoir and Cataract River systems.

The NRE No. 1 colliery was the former South Bulli Colliery and has a long history of operation extending over 120 years. During its history coal extraction has concentrated on the Bulli Seam, the upper most of the coal seams in the Illawarra Coal Measures. Mining in the Balgownie Seam, approximately10 metres below the Bulli Seam, occurred from 1968 to 1982 and also in the period from 2001 to 2003.

Gujarat NRE purchased the mine in 2004 and identified the unmined Wongawilli Seam, some 30 metres below the Bulli seam, as having potential to produce a high quality coking coal with a thermal coal by-product. Development from outcrop on the Illawarra escarpment commenced in 2008 with longwall mining using modern high capacity equipment beginning in 2012.

This report has been compiled to document the current level of knowledge and understanding of the geology of the current mining domain designated as the Wonga East Study Area. Within this area extensive extraction of the Bulli Seam has occurred and also the mining operations within the Balgownie Seam.

### 2. DEPOSIT GEOLOGY

### 2.1 Regional Geology

Gujarat NRE No.1 Colliery is located in the Southern Coalfield, which is the southern portion of the Permo-Triassic Sydney Basin, as shown in Figure 1, and contains the Illawarra Coal Measures of Late Permian Age. Overlying the Illawarra Coal Measures are sandstones, shales and mudstones of the Narrabeen Group, which in turn are overlain by the Hawkesbury Sandstone, a massive quartzose sandstone unit. The Wianamatta Group, stratigraphically above the Hawkesbury Sandstone, is the top most unit in the Southern Coalfield.

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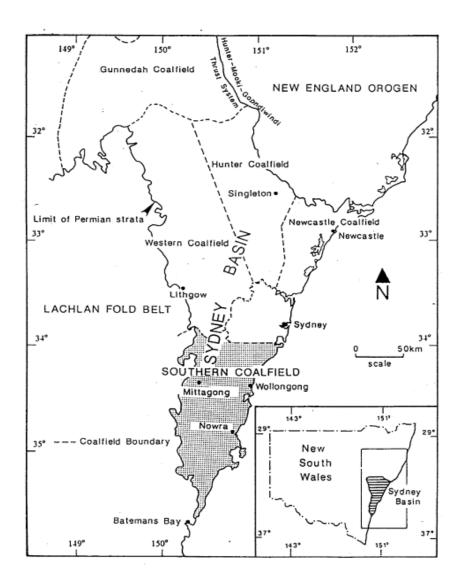


Figure 1 - Location of the Southern Coalfield

Within the Illawarra Coal Measures the Bulli Coal is the uppermost coal member and has been extensively mined across the Southern Coalfield. The Balgownie Coal, stratigraphically around 10 metres below the Bulli Coal has been mined by the longwall method at South Bulli Colliery and in the 2000's by bord and pillar operations (Gibson's Colliery). There are currently no mining operations in the Balgownie Seam within the Southern Coalfield. The Bulli to Wongawilli Coal interval varies from approximately 24 metres to around 35 metres. Although generally consistent in thickness across the Coalfield at 8 to 11 metres, the Wongawilli Seam deteriorates in quality to the north when compared to the southern part of the Coalfield where a basal section is mined at Gujarat's Wongawilli Colliery and BHPB Dendrobium Colliery.

At the broad scale the Southern Coalfield is dominated by a north plunging syncline with associated northwest trending synclines and anticlines, shown in Figure 2. The overall structure of

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the Coalfield is defined from the Bulli Coal but the major structural trends of the Bulli Coal are generally thought to be mirrored through the coal measure sequence.

Large displacement faults in the Coalfield consist primarily of normal faults with dips of between 70 to 85 degrees, trending NW or NNW and are the primary set. The exception to this rule is faults found in a NE trending coastal fault zone. West of this zone northeast faulting still occur but at a much wider spacing and as a secondary set (some of these are strike slip faults associated with dykes). The deformational history of the NW fault system is complex and the pattern is the sum of several events that appear to have starting after the Permian although there is evidence of growth faulting indicating structural activity during coal deposition.

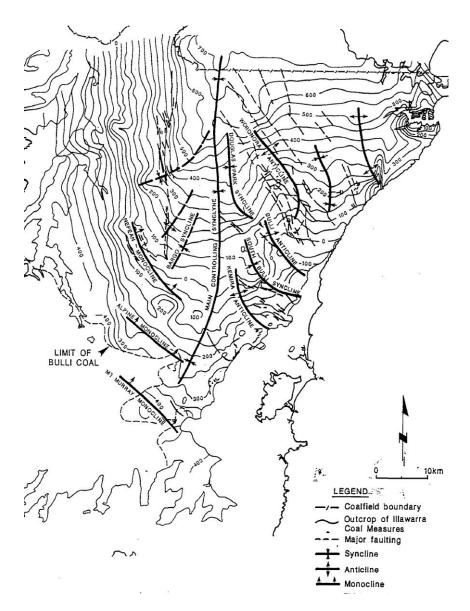


Figure 2 - Structural Elements of the Southern Coalfield

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### 2.2 Stratigraphy

Figure 3 shows the stratigraphy of the Southern Coalfield and gives details of the coal seams present in the Illawarra Coal Measures.

<b>AGE</b>	GROUP	SUB-GRP	CODE	FORMATION & MEMBERS			
TRIASSIC	WIANAMATTA			BRINGELLY SHALE			
	GROUP		WMSH	MINCHINBURY SANDSTONE			
	GROUP			ASHFIELD SHALE			
				MITTAGONG FORMATION			
			HBSS	HAWKSBURY SANDSTONE			
		GOSFORD		NEWPORT FORMATION			
				GARIE FORMATION			
	NARRABEEN	CLIFTON	BACS	BALD HILL CLAYSTONE			
	GROUP			BULGO SANDSTONE			
				STANWELL PARK CLAYSTONE SCARBOROUGH SANDSTONE			
				WOMBARRA CLAYSTONE			
			CCSS	COAL CLIFF SANDSTONE			
				BULLI COAL			
			UNM1	LODDON SANDSTONE			
				BALGOWNIE COAL			
			LRSS	LAWRENCE SANDSTONE			
				BURRAGORANG CLAYSTONE			
			CHSM		CAPE HORN		
			UNM2	ECKERSLEY FORMATION	UNNAMED MEMBER 2		
					HARGRAVE COAL		
	ILLAWARRA COAL MEASURES	SYDNEY			WORONORA COAL		
					NOVICE SANDSTONE		
			WW01-11	WONGAWILLI COAL			
				KEMBLA SANDSTONE			
				ALLANS CREEK FORMATION	AMERICAN CK. COAL		
			APFM	DARKES FOREST SANDSTONE (APP			
				BARGO CLAYSTONE	HUNTLEY CLAYST.		
					AUSTIMER SANDST.		
~			TGSM WTFM	TONGARRA COAL			
PERMIAN			VVIFIVI	WILTON FORMATION WOONONA COAL MEMBER			
				ERINS VALE FORMATION			
		CUMBERLAND		EKINS VALETOKIMATION	FIGTREE COAL		
					UNANDERRA COAL		
				PHEASANTS NEST FORMATION	BERKELEY LATITE		
					MINNAMURRA LATITE		
					CALDERWOOD LATITE		
					FIVE ISLANDS LATITE		
	SHOALHAVEN GROUP			BROUGHTON FORMATION			
				BERRY SILTSTONE			
				NOWRA SANDSTONE			
				WANDRAWANDIAN SILTSTONE			
				SNAPPER POINT FORMATION			
				PEBBLEY BEACH FORMATION			
	TALATERANG			CLYDE COAL MEASURES			
UNDIFFERENTIATED PALAEOZOIC (DEVONIAN, SILURIAN & ORDOVICIAN)							
ROCKS OF THE BASIN BASEMENT							
Information Sourced From - "Geological Survey Report No. GS1998/277 - R.S. Moffitt"							

Figure 3 - Generalised Stratigraphy of the Southern Coalfield

The following is a brief summary of the stratigraphic units of the Southern Coalfield within the NRE No.1 Colliery holding.

The Wianamatta Group is the uppermost unit in the stratigraphical sequence and is prominent in the north of the Coalfield. Within the lease area of NRE No.1 only two boreholes (SR16 and WB8)

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intersected the Wianamatta Shale. Its outcrop is restricted to a very small area in the ar western

portion of the lease and well outside of the Wonga East area.

The Hawkesbury Sandstone outcrops over most parts of the Coalfield and consists of thickly

bedded or massive quartzose sandstone (with grey shale lenses up to several metres thick) with

an average thickness of 154m in the lease area.

Within NRE No.1 Colliery the full Narrabeen Group sequence is about 275m thick.

The Gosford Formation (consisting of the Newport Formation of interbedded grey shales and

sandstones and the Garie Claystone, a generally hard, grey-brown "oolitic" clay stone) is about

12m thick across the lease area.

The Bald Hill Claystone displays characteristic brownish-red coloured "chocolate shale", a

physically weak but lithologically stable unit about 20m thick. The "chocolate shale" is an easily

recognised marker horizon.

The Bulgo Sandstone, averaging 162m thick, consists of strong, thickly bedded, and medium to

coarse-grained lithic sandstone with occasional beds of conglomerate or shale.

The Stanwell Park Claystone (thickness average 14m) consists of greenish-grey mudstones and

sandstones. This "green shale" is very weak lithologically and frets easily on exposure.

The Scarborough Sandstone, averaging 36m in thickness, consists mainly of thickly bedded

sandstone with shale and sandy shale lenses up to several metres thick.

Like the Stanwell Park Claystone the Wombarra Shale (thickness average 20m), consists of

greenish-grey mudstones and sandstones. This "green shale" is also very weak lithologically and

is prone to fretting on exposure.

The Coal Cliff Sandstone averages 10m in thickness. In the coastal region of the Coalfield the

Coal Cliff Sandstone is strong quartzose sandstone. Westward, away from the coast, dominance

of the sandstone diminishes and in many areas the original roof strata of the Bulli Seam, a shale /

mudstone unit, (which can become laminated in places) is prominent.

The Illawarra Coal Measures consist of interbedded shales, mudstones, lithic sandstones and coal

seams of which ten named seams are identified and occur in the Coalfield.

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2.2.1 Coal Seams

2.2.1.1 Bulli

The Bulli Seam is the most extensively worked coal seam in the Southern Coalfield, from outcrop

mines on the coastal margins to current inland mines of BPB Billiton and Xstrata Coal. The seam

produces a high quality hard coking coal (usually needing beneficiating to a coking and energy

fraction) to obtain a marketable low ash coking coal. Resources of the Bulli Seam exist in the

western portion of NRE No.1 Colliery. Average thickness is 2.2m and thickness variations across

the Wonga East Study Area are shown on Figure 4.

2.2.1.2 Balgownie

The Balgownie Seam generally consists of medium to high ash coal with a transitional basal

section of varying proportions of carbonaceous shale, mudstone and coal. Seam thickness

averages 1.2m (varies from 0.2m to 1.7m) and thickness variations across the Study Area are

shown on Figure 5.

Across the colliery the interval separating the Balgownie Coal from the overlying Bulli Coal

(Loddon Sandstone) averages 9.5m (varies from approximately 5.2m to 13.8m). Figure 6 shows

the thickness variations of the Loddon Sandstone in the Study Area.

2.2.1.3 Cape Horn

The Cape Horn Seam is uneconomic with thickness typically varying between 0.06m and 0.8m

and varying in composition from carbonaceous shale to bright coal. It occurs about 9.5m below

the Balgownie Coal and identification is facilitated by the occurrence of the overlying Lawrence

Sandstone Member.

**2.2.1.4** Hargrave

This seam is separated from the overlying Cape Horn Seam by about 2.5m of shale or mudstone

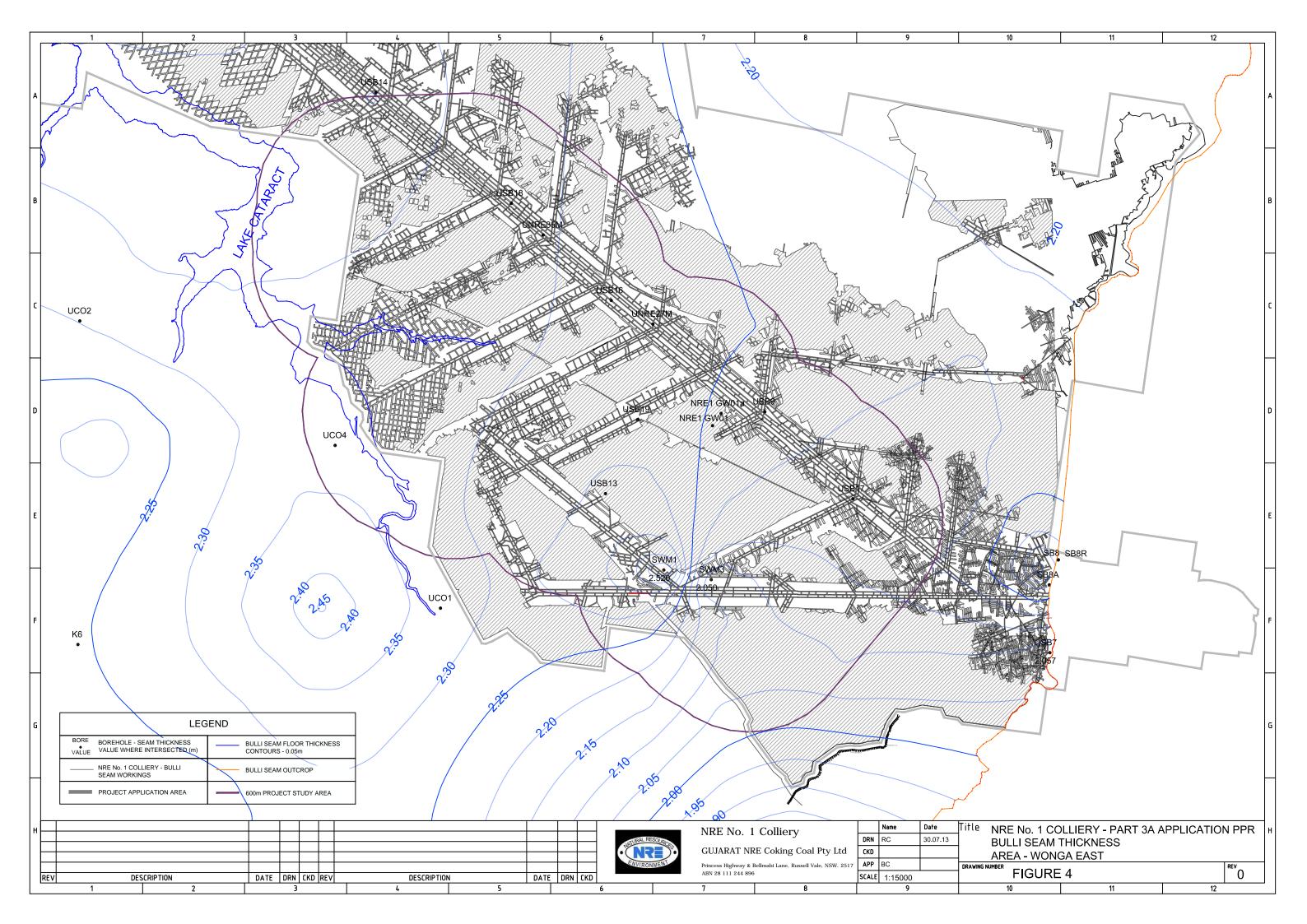
and is not economic, varying in thickness from 0.1m to 0.50m and in composition from bright coal

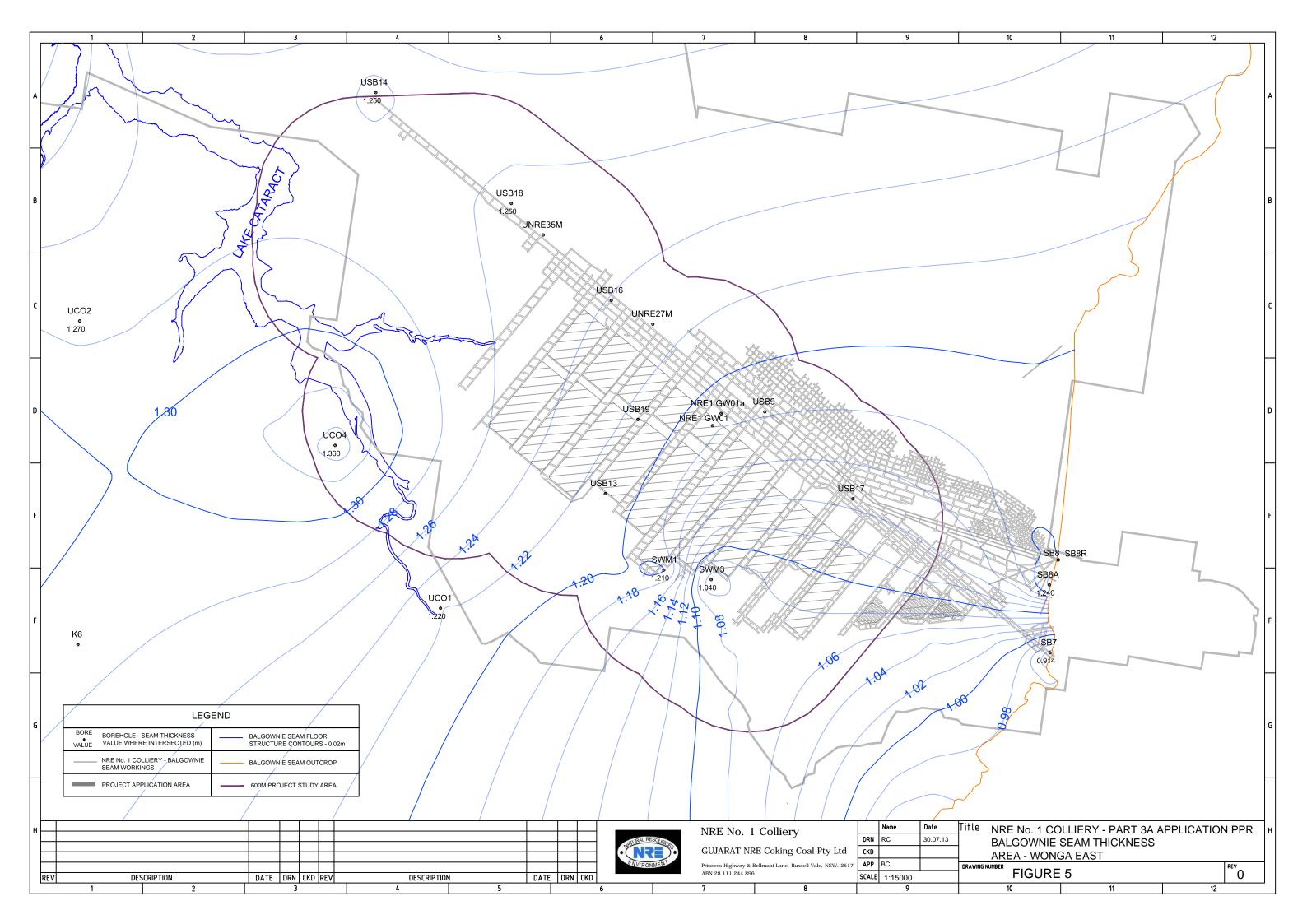
to carbonaceous shale.

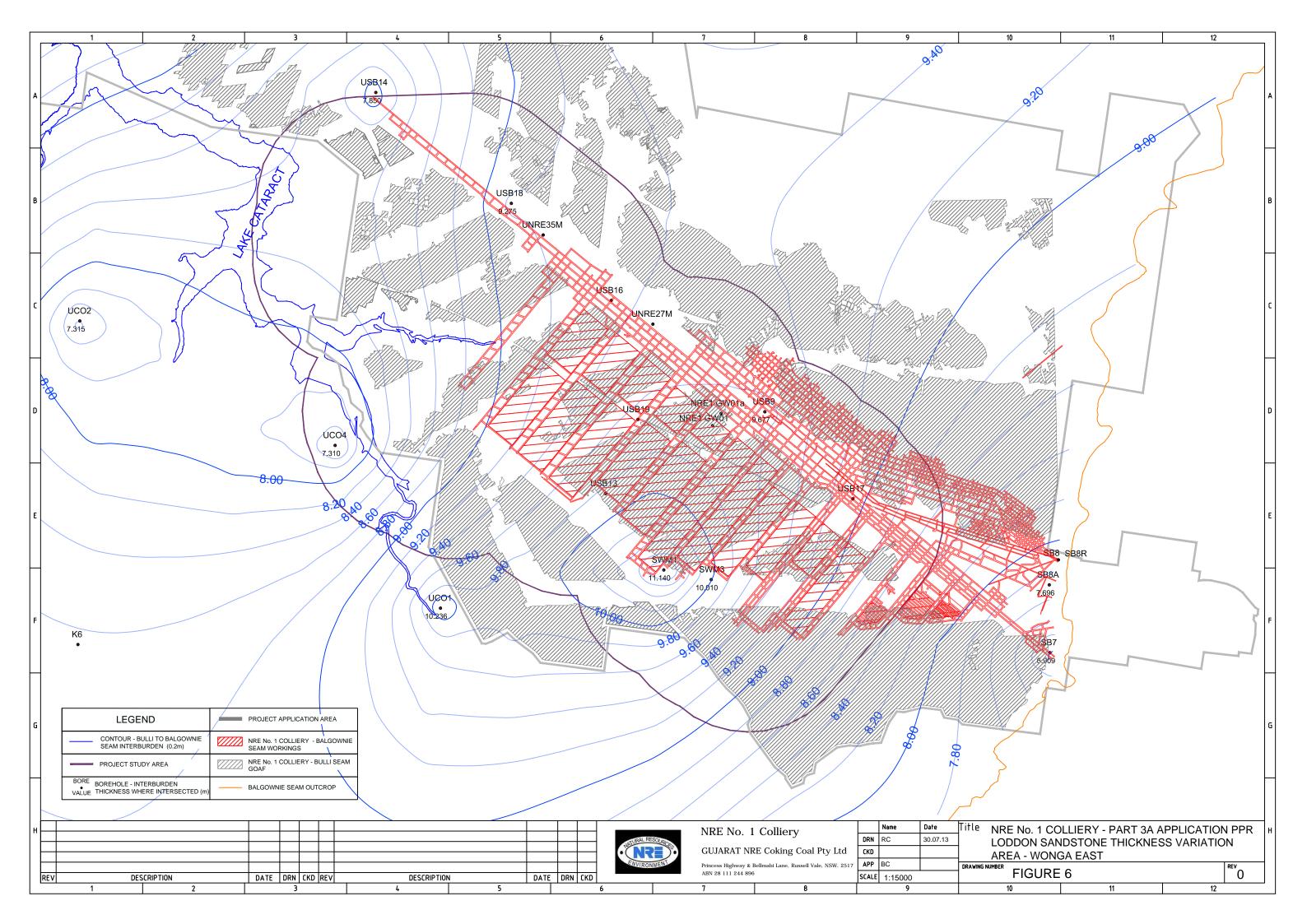
2.2.1.5 Wongawilli

The Wongawilli Seam varies in thickness from 7.7m to 11.9m across the Colliery and consists of

interbedded bands of brown mudstone or grey shales and coal plies.







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In the NRE No.1 Wonga East Study Area there is a basal mining section varying between 2.6m to

2.8m that has been identified as the economic longwall mining section. Figure 7 details the mining

section thickness across the Wonga East area.

The interval between the Bulli Seam and the roof of the Wongawilli mining section averages

around 32m in the NRE No.1 lease area. Figure 8 details this interburden thickness.

2.2.1.6 American Creek

Occurring about 10m below the Wongawilli Seam the seam varies between 0.4m and 3.6m thick,

consisting mainly of carbonaceous and coaly shale and is uneconomic.

**2.2.1.7** Tongarra

Occurs about 33m below the American Creek Seam the Tongarra Seam has no economic

potential, consisting mainly of carbonaceous shale and mudstone bands with thin coaly plies.

Averages thickness is about 1.8m.

2.2.1.8 Other Seams

Three other seams are known to occur below the Tongarra Seam, namely the Woonona, Figtree

and Unanderra Seams. Occurring about 17m below the Tongarra Seam the Woonona Seam is

about 0.40m thick. Approximately 40m below the Woonona, the Figtree Seam is about 0.1m thick.

The Unanderra Seam generally consists of numerous splits over an interval thickness of 9.5m and

occurs some 17m below the Figtree Seam.

2.3 Depth of Cover

Topographic relief over NRE No.1 Wonga East Study Area consists of a series of ridges and

plateaux that slope down into the Cataract Reservoir and its tributaries which incise the landscape.

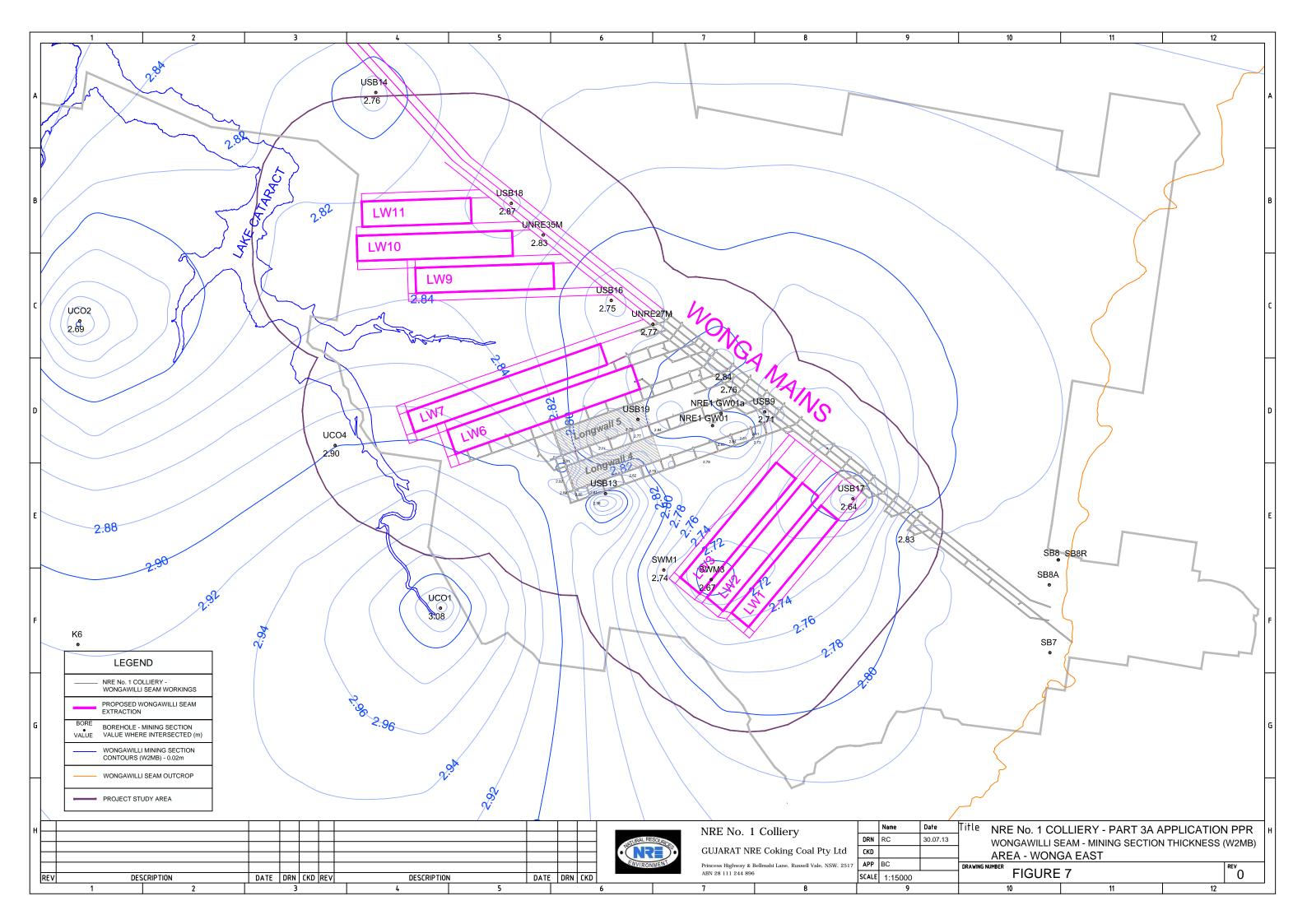
Figure 9 details the surface topography of the Study Area. Over the Study Area the depth of cover

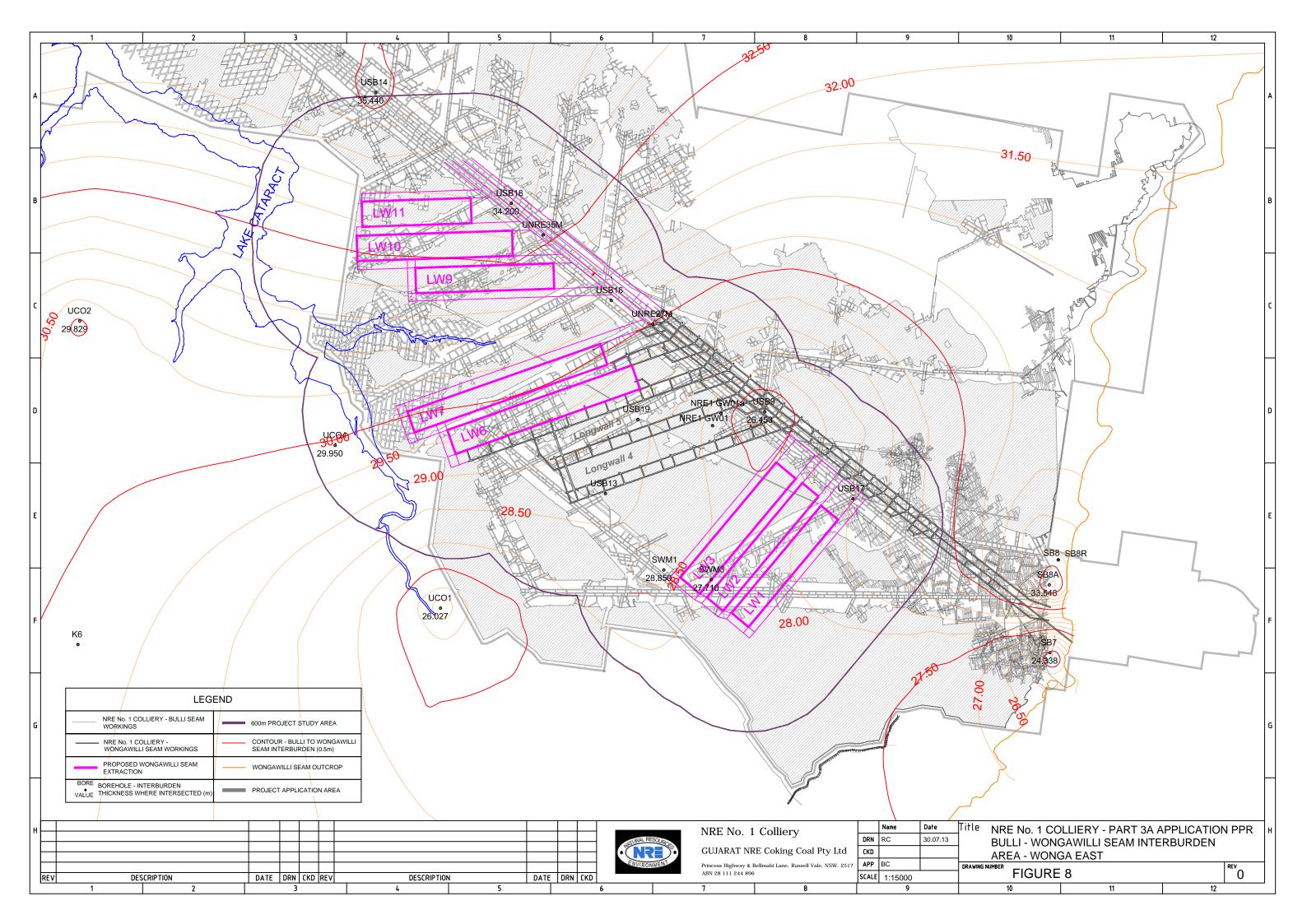
varies from around 225m toward the escarpment to over 350m in the northwest of the Wonga East

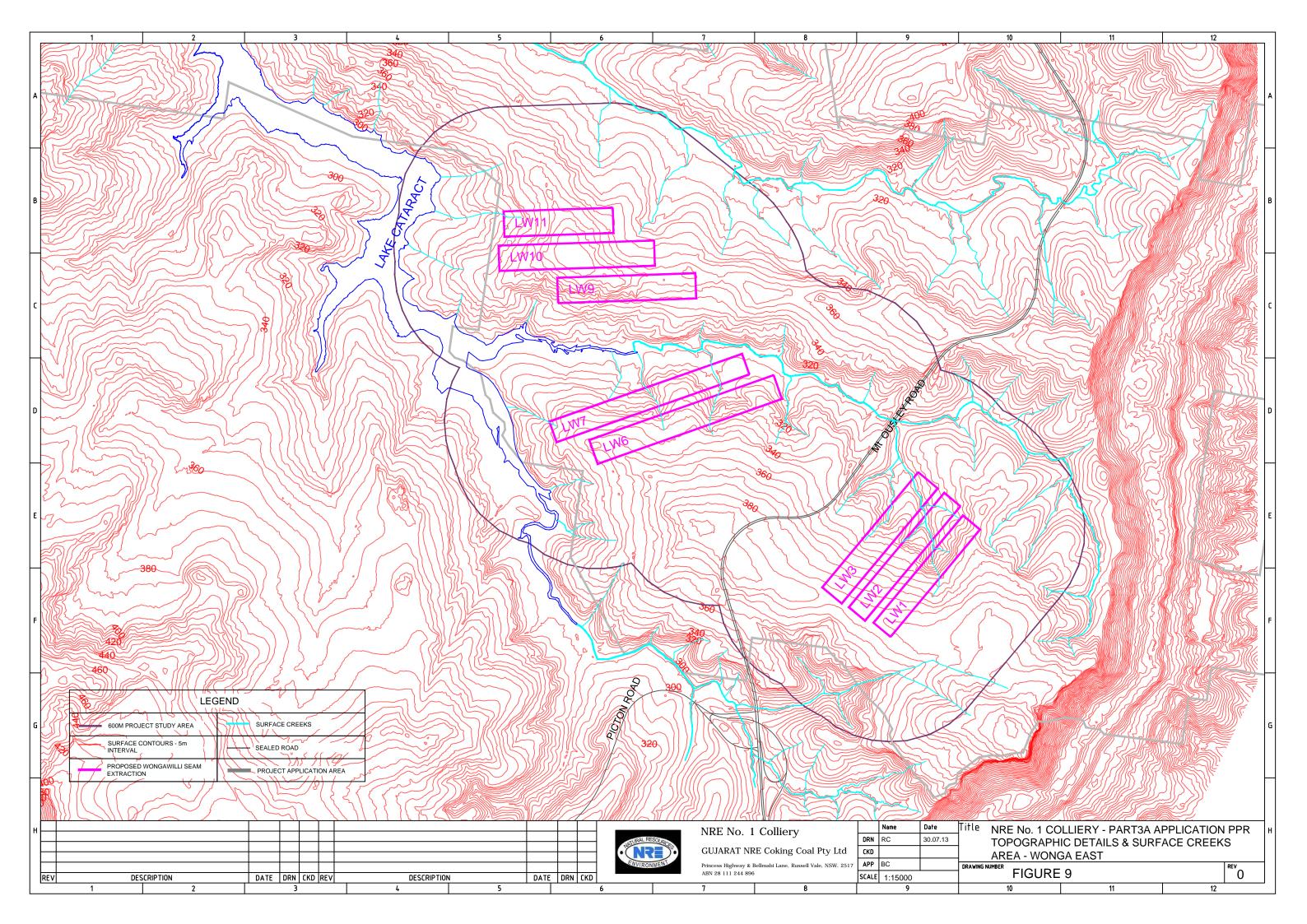
area. The attached depth of cover plan, Figure 10, is to the roof of the Bulli Seam.

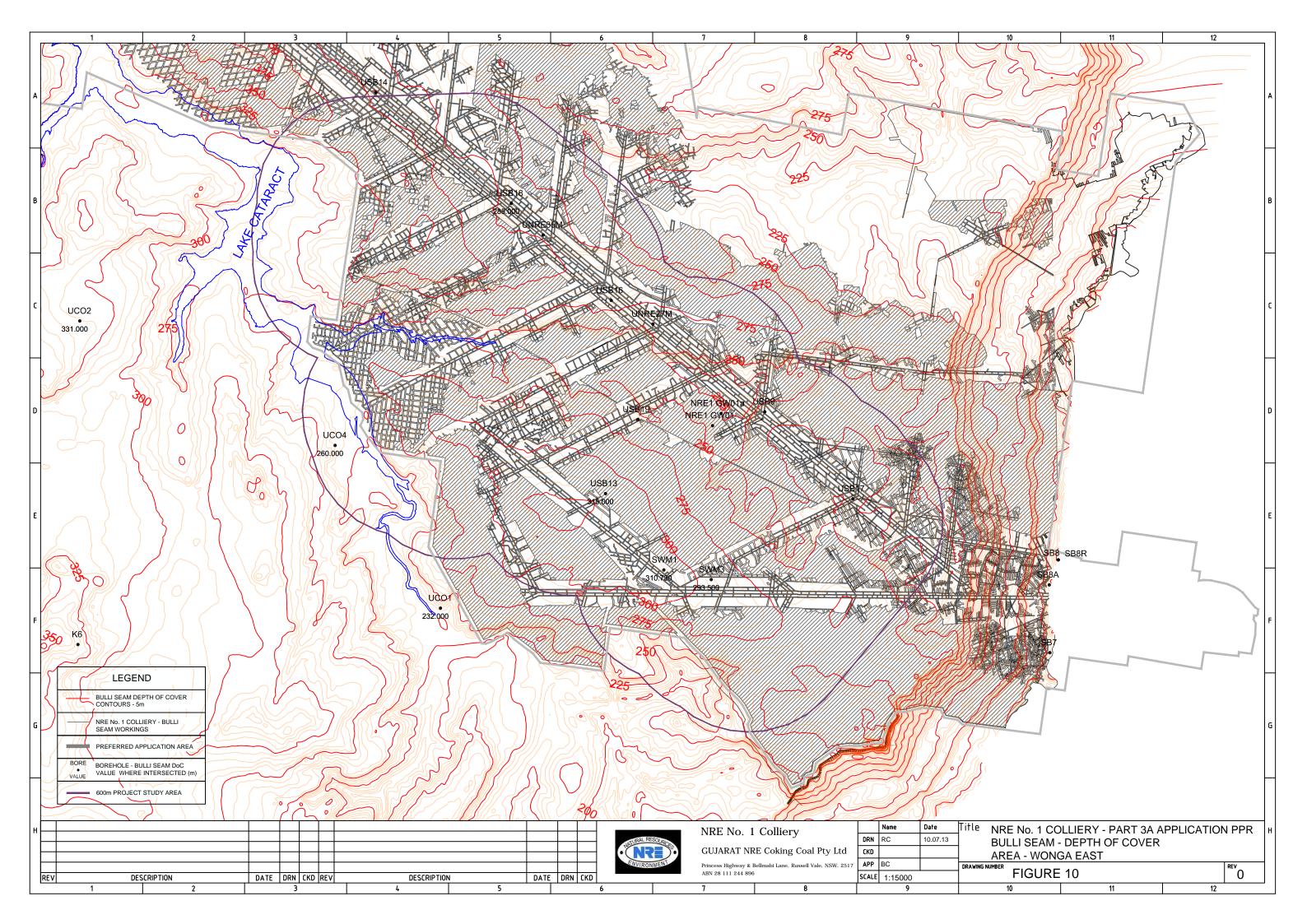
Depth of cover for the lower seams has similar trends to the Bulli Seam with the roof of the

Balgownie Seam some 11.7m deeper than the Bulli Seam floor. For the Wongawilli Seam depth of









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cover is taken to the top of the planned longwall extraction height which is 2.8m. Depth to the

mining roof for the Wongawilli Seam from the Bulli Seam floor averages 32.5m.

2.4 Surface Geology

Surface geology in the Wonga East Study Area has been reviewed through ground proofing

traverses, detailed Lidar topographic data at 1.0m contour intervals and aerial photography. Figure

11 details the understanding of the surface geology to date and the following section discusses the

interpretation.

Dominant over the plateaux and ridges is the Hawkesbury Sandstone forming prominent cliff lines

in some areas. Descending into the Cataract Reservoir foreshore the Hawkesbury Sandstone is

still prominent on the eastern Reservoir shoreline where alluvium and colluvial deposits cover any

outcrop of the lower stratigraphy. This colluvial deposit is still prominent toward Cataract Creek

until the Gosford Formation, likely the lower Garie Formation, becomes evident. Further east along

Cataract Creek the Bald Hill Claystone becomes evident in the creek bed. Approximately 800m

west of Mt. Ousley Road the Bulgo Sandstone becomes evident in the creek bed. The Bulgo

Sandstone appears to have undergone a small amount of erosion given the proximity of the Bald

Hill Claystone boundary. The outcrop of the Bulgo Sandstone remains east of Mt. Ousley Road

within the base of the Cataract Creek for about 500m, often covered by Bald Hill Claystone derived

alluvium. East of Mt. Ousley Road the Bald Hill Claystone is prominent in the main tributaries of

the Cataract Creek before ascending through the Gosford Formation to the widespread

Hawkesbury Sandstone.

Figure 12 details two cross-sections within the Study Area, their traces are shown on Figure 11 as

section lines A – A and B – B. These cross-sections show consistency in strata thickness across

the Study Area with section B - B indicating a slight anticline across the northern section of the

project area.

2.5 BULLI SEAM STRUCTURE

The contours of the floor level of the Bulli Seam (AHD) are based on surface drilling and Colliery

workings and are shown in Figure 13. The extensive workings of the Bulli Seam and information from

surrounding collieries (Bulli, Cordeaux and Corrimal) have been used to develop an understanding of

