MAXWELL PROJECT

Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report

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SOCIAL PLANNING SOLUTIONS

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

Maxwell Ventures (Management) Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Malabar Coal Limited (Malabar), is an independent publicly owned Australian mining company. Malabar is seeking Development Consent under the State Significant Development provisions (Division 4.7) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) to develop an underground coal mining operation, referred to as the Maxwell Project (the Project).

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required as part of the Project's assessment and approvals process. This Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 3 of the Department of Planning and Environment's (DP&E) *Social impact assessment guideline for State significant mining, petroleum production and extractive industry development* (SIA Guideline) (DP&E, 2017a). The SIA Scoping Report informs the Scoping Report, which has been prepared in support of a request for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the EIS.

Scoping is the first phase of the SIA and identifies elements of the natural or human environment ('matters') that are expected to be impacted upon by activities associated with a project, and how those impacts should be assessed. As provided by the SIA Guideline, this report's core objectives are to:

- identify and understand the Project's area of social influence, including people that may be affected by the Project; and
- identify social impacts needing further investigation in the SIA and assign a proportionate level of assessment.

1.2 REPORT STRUCTURE

This report is structured as follows:

Section 1	Outlines the purpose, structure and methodology for this report.
Section 2	Provides a description of the Project, including its location and the history of the site.
Section 3	Outlines the sources of information used to inform scoping of the SIA, including engagement conducted to date.
Section 4	Outlines the current understanding of the Project's area of social influence.
Section 5	Identifies the potential social impacts and describes the proposed scope of the SIA.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The steps undertaken to develop this report are shown in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1: Scoping Report Methodology

Step	Key tasks
Describe the Project	• Consider the location, nature and history of the Project • Consider key Project elements that may affect the social environment over the life of the Project

Analyse existing information	• Review relevant documentation to identify:
	  ○ community priorities;
	  ○ social characteristics, economic strengths and housing availability; and
	  ○ local community views on mining in general and the Project.
	• Analysis to identify social characteristics that are relevant to local vulnerability to social impacts and potential to benefit from Project opportunities

Stakeholder engagement	• Consult stakeholders about existing social conditions and the range of social impacts and benefits that may occur as a result of the Project (Section 3)
Analyse the Project's area of social influence and stakeholder profile	• Identify the Project's area of social influence and social characteristics and trends that influence how Project impacts may be experienced • Identify stakeholders who may be affected by the Project, their potential interests in the Project, and their values and aspirations
Identify potential social impacts	• Consider key matters and the likelihood that social impacts would result from the Project • Identify the potential for cumulative social impacts • Evaluate the likelihood of social impacts and benefits in relation to each key matter • Describe and evaluate potential material social impacts • Identify the level of assessment required for each potential material impact • Identify links to EIS investigations • Develop a plan for SIA engagement
Scoping Report	• Document the outcomes of the SIA scoping exercise for submission with the Request for SEARs

2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project would involve underground coal mining within Exploration Licence (EL) 5460, the use of the substantial existing Maxwell Infrastructure (the former Drayton Mine) and the development of some new infrastructure to support underground mining.

The Project is located east-southeast of Denman, north-west of Jerrys Plains and south-southwest of Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales (NSW). The Project is located within the Muswellbrook Local Government Area (LGA). Part of EL 5460 that would not form part of the Project is within the Singleton LGA (Figure 2-1).

2.2 PROJECT HISTORY

Exploration in the Project area commenced in the late 1940s, with several phases of exploration occurring since that time. EL 5460 has been systematically explored since its grant in 1998.

Previous Operation and Proposed Drayton South Coal Project

The Drayton Mine operated between 1983 and 2016 under several owners and managers, most recently Anglo American plc (Anglo American). The Drayton Mine is now in care and maintenance and has been renamed the Maxwell Infrastructure.

Anglo American lodged its first project application, including an EIS, to develop the coal reserve within EL 5460 as an open cut mine in November 2012 (the Drayton South Coal Project), however the application was refused by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) (as delegate of the Minister for Planning) in October 2014. The key reasons for the refusal were that '*the project did not provide sufficient buffers to protect Coolmore and Darley horse studs from the impacts of mining'* with a potential '*risk of losing Coolmore and Darley and the potential demise of the equine industry in the area with flow-on impacts on the viticulture tourism industries... and the Project is not in the public interest*' (NSW PAC, 2014).

A second development application and EIS for an open cut mining operation was lodged by Anglo American in May 2015. The second Drayton South Coal Project application was subject to an NSW PAC review in 2015. The review found: '*While rejection of the mine would prevent extraction of the coal resource in the Whybrow, Redbank Creek, Whynot and Blakefield Seams for now, there are considerable underground coal resources, of a higher quality that may still be able to be exploited at some future date, pending confirmation that this could be done without impacting on the neighbouring studs/land uses'* (NSW PAC, 2015). The application for open cut mining was refused by the NSW PAC (as delegate of the Minister for Planning) in February 2017 for reasons including potential air quality and blast noise impacts on existing land uses, unacceptable negative economic and social impacts in the locality, incompatibility with '*the particular nature, operations and requirements of existing land uses*', and potential impacts on the sustainability of the Equine Critical Industry Cluster (CIC) (NSW PAC, 2017b).

Transfer to Malabar Ownership

In May 2017, Malabar publicly announced its intention to acquire EL 5460 and the Maxwell Infrastructure. As part of this announcement, Malabar confirmed is commitment to investigate development of the resource in EL 5460 solely as an underground mine. To reinforce this commitment, Malabar announced it would accept conditions imposed on EL 5460 that prevented any open cut development, and that Malabar would be willing to relinquish that portion of the EL that was south of the Golden Highway. Further, Malabar has committed to locating the mine entry in a valley 5 km north of the Golden Highway, which would mitigate visual impacts from the Golden Highway and the horse studs.

EL 5460 was renewed on 8 December 2017 with the voluntary relinquishment of the portion of the former EL boundary that was south of the Golden Highway, and with the imposition of a condition that EL 5460 only authorises prospecting for the purposes of the assessment and potential future extraction of an underground resource.

In December 2017, the Minister for Planning publicly exhibited a proposed change to the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007* (Mining SEPP) that would prohibit a development application for open cut mining in EL 5460 (discussed further in Section 3.2). Malabar wrote a submission in support of this change, and the Mining SEPP was formally amended on 22 December 2017.

The transfer of ownership of EL 5460 and the Maxwell Infrastructure to Malabar was formally completed on 26 February 2018.

Since that time, Malabar has established a team at the Maxwell Infrastructure site, re-commenced rehabilitation activities on former open cut mining areas and has progressed its mine planning for the Project. Section 3.7 provides an overview of the consultation activities conducted by Malabar.

2.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Project would involve an underground mining operation that would produce high quality coal over a period of approximately 26 years. At least 75% of coal produced would be capable of being used in the making of steel. The balance would be export thermal coals suitable for the new generation High Efficiency, Low Emissions power generation. The Project indicative underground mining area is located entirely within EL 5460.

Malabar owns and manages the Maxwell Infrastructure within Coal Lease (CL) 229, Mining Lease (ML) 1531 and CL 395. The Maxwell Infrastructure includes an existing coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP), rail facilities and other infrastructure and services (including water management infrastructure, administration buildings, workshops and services).

The Project would utilise the substantial existing Maxwell Infrastructure, along with the development of some new infrastructure.

During operation, the Project would directly employ approximately 350 personnel. Additional employment would be generated by Project construction activities. This additional employment would be quantified and assessed in the EIS.

A detailed description of the Project is included in the Scoping Report.

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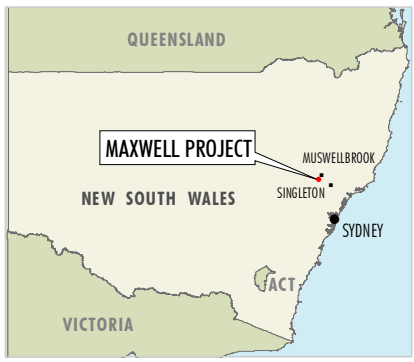

LEGEND

- Mining Operation
- Proposed Mining Operations (Application Lodged)
- Railway
- Local Government Boundary
- State Forest
- National Parks and Wildlife Service Estate
- Exploration Licence Boundary
- Mining and Coal Lease Boundary
- Indicative Underground Mining Area

Source: © NSW Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (2018); Office of Environment and Heritage NSW (2018)

MALABAR COAL

MAXWELL PROJECT

Project Location

Figure 2-1

Key Elements

The key elements of the Project include:

- underground bord and pillar mining with pillar extraction in the Whynot Seam;
- underground longwall extraction in the Woodlands Hill Seam, Arrowfield Seam and Bowfield Seam;
- development and use of mine access drifts and underground roadways and shafts to access and service the underground mining areas;
- development and use of a mine entry and associated infrastructure, services and facilities that support underground mining and coal handling activities and provide for personnel and materials access to the underground mine;
- establishment of an internal access road from Thomas Mitchell Drive to the underground mine entry;
- establishment of power transmission infrastructure including power lines and substations;
- establishment of infrastructure associated with mine ventilation and gas management;
- use of the existing water management systems;
- progressive development of dams, sumps, pumps, pipelines, water storages, water treatment and other water management infrastructure;
- production of up to 8 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal;
- construction and use of a conveyor system to transport coal from the underground mine entry area to the existing CHPP at the Maxwell Infrastructure for processing;
- transportation of early ROM coal via internal roads from the mine entry area to the existing CHPP;
- handling and processing of coal and loading of coal onto trains at the existing Maxwell Infrastructure;
- transport of product coal via the Antiene Rail Spur and Main Northern Railway to market or to the Port of Newcastle for export, or via conveyor to the Bayswater and/or Liddell Power Stations;
- emplacement of coarse rejects and tailings and brine within existing voids in CL 229 and ML 1531;
- continued use of existing facilities and services at the Maxwell Infrastructure, with minor upgrades;
- monitoring, rehabilitation and remediation of subsidence and other mining effects;
- management of subsidence impacts on Edderton Road;
- rehabilitation activities within CL 229, ML 1531 and CL 395, including the rehabilitation of reject and tailings emplacement areas;
- exploration activities within EL 5460 and Authorisation (AUTH) 173; and
- other associated minor infrastructure, plant, equipment and activities.

The Project general arrangement is shown on Figure 2 of the Scoping Report.

It is anticipated that the Project would operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Rail transport of product coal would operate in accordance with the separate Development Consent (DA 106-04-00) for the Antiene Rail Spur and would occur 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Relationship with Other Developments

Malabar intends to consolidate current rehabilitation activities under Project Approval 06_0202 at the Maxwell Infrastructure into the Project Development Consent. The Project would not involve substantial changes to the CHPP infrastructure.

The Project would also involve the use of the Antiene Rail Spur, which is shared with the Mount Arthur Coal Mine, and is regulated under a separate Development Consent (DA 106-04-00). The Project would operate within current rail limits on the Antiene Rail Spur over an extended period.

Malabar also owns and operates the Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project in the adjacent EL 7429 (Figure 2-1). Malabar is continuing to undertake work to enhance the geological understanding of the zone where EL 5460 meets the Spur Hill exploration licence (EL 7429). The improved understanding will be used to optimise the development plans for the Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project. At this stage, it is not anticipated that the Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project would proceed as proposed in previous documentation.

Any future integration of the Maxwell Project and the Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project would be subject to future separate assessments and approvals, including assessment of any potential cumulative impacts. On this basis, potential cumulative impacts from the Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project would not be assessed in the Maxwell Project EIS or SIA. An assessment of cumulative impacts would occur at the appropriate stage in the future, when more detail is available about development plans in EL 7429.

Stakeholder Engagement

Malabar has a strong commitment to engaging stakeholders and local communities. Engagement undertaken to date by Malabar with government agencies, community members and other interested parties regarding the Project, prior to and since taking control of EL 5460 in February 2018, includes:

- keeping the community informed of key Project milestones and Malabar's intentions through notices in the local media in October 2017 and April 2018;
- distribution of a community newsletter providing a Project update to local residents and other stakeholders in June 2018 and placement of the newsletter on the Malabar website;
- creation of a dedicated website (www.malabarcoal.com.au) and phone line ([02] 6542 0283) to provide Project information to interested parties;
- regular meetings with the former Drayton Mine (Maxwell Infrastructure), Spur Hill and Antiene Rail Spur Community Consultative Committees (CCCs) (with meeting minutes provided on the website and emailed to interested parties);
- active, ongoing consultation with lessees and near neighbours proximal to the Project through meetings, property visits (by arrangement), phone calls and emails;
- public notification of the intention to lodge an application for a Gateway Certificate in the local media between 30 May and 1 June 2018;
- meetings with representatives of the Division of Resources and Geoscience (within the DP&E) on 23 May 2018 and DP&E representatives on 13 June 2018;
- meetings with representatives of the Coolmore Stud on 12 June 2018 and Godolphin Woodlands Stud on 28 June 2018;
- publication of a notice and distribution of letters inviting registrations of interest in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) consultation process in June 2018;

- ongoing engagement and briefings with Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) and Singleton Council (SC);
- ongoing consultation with industry groups and private enterprise within the Hunter region; and
- ongoing consultation with surrounding mining and power generation companies.

3 INFORMATION USED TO INFORM THE SIA SCOPE

Information and analysis that has been used to inform the understanding of the Project's area of social influence and the identification of potential social impacts includes:

- review of relevant regional and local plans and policies (Section 3.1);
- review of public submissions on previously proposed projects and planning instruments related to the Project area (Section 3.2);
- analysis of community and social trends in the vicinity of the Project (Section 3.3);
- community research previously conducted in the vicinity of the Project (Section 3.4);
- review of Social Impact Assessments previously completed in the vicinity of the Project (Section 3.5);
- review of community survey commissioned by Malabar in September 2017 (Section 3.6); and
- the results of stakeholder engagement undertaken by Elliott Whiteing and Malabar regarding the Project (Section 3.7).

3.1 GOVERNANCE

As described in section 1.3 of the EP&A Act, the NSW Government aims to:

- promote both the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment by the proper management, development and conservation of the State's natural and other resources;
- facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment;
- promote the orderly and economic use and development of land;
- promote the delivery and maintenance of affordable housing;
- protect the environment, including the conservation of threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats;
- promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage);
- promote good design and amenity of the built environment;
- promote the proper construction and maintenance of buildings, including the protection of the health and safety of their occupants;
- promote the sharing of the responsibility for environmental planning and assessment between the different levels of government in the State; and
- provide increased opportunity for community participation in environmental planning and assessment.

The SIA will be conducted with regard to these key aims.

Regional Planning

The *Hunter Regional Plan 2036* (the HRP) (DP&E, 2016a) will guide the NSW Government's land use planning priorities and decisions over the next 20 years, and sets the following regionally focused goals:

- the leading regional economy in Australia;
- a biodiversity-rich natural environment;
- thriving communities; and
- greater housing choice and jobs.

The regional priorities outlined in the HRP, for the Muswellbrook LGA, relevant to the social environment, include:

- a focus on land use compatibility;
- diversifying the energy and agricultural sectors;
- protecting the Equine CIC and allowing for expansion of the industry;
- maintaining of Muswellbrook's regional centre role;
- delivering Urban Release Areas at Denman and Muswellbrook;
- managing demand for residential development in the context of potential mining activity surrounding Muswellbrook; and
- diversifying housing opportunities to respond to changing demographics and housing affordability.

The regional priorities outlined in the HRP, for the Singleton LGA, relevant to the social environment, include:

- a focus on land use compatibility;
- enhancing viticultural and nature-based tourism and associated infrastructure;
- managing productive landscapes that sustain important agricultural sectors;
- maintaining Singleton's role in providing administrative, retail, commercial, education and health services;
- connectivity to major transport corridors;
- measures to manage flooding impacts;
- protecting and revitalising items of heritage significance; and
- delivering Urban Release Areas and exploring redevelopment opportunities for medium-density housing.

These priorities will be considered in the SIA where relevant to the Project.

The Strategic Regional Land Use Plan (SRLUP) – Upper Hunter, which was superseded by the HRP, provided the NSW Government's framework to support growth, manage competing land uses and preserve regional values over the next 20 years (Department of Planning and Infrastructure, 2012). The geographic scope of the SRLUP includes the Muswellbrook, Singleton, Upper Hunter, Dungog and Gloucester LGAs, as well as parts of the Cessnock and Mid-Western Regional LGAs.

The SRLUP describes the Upper Hunter region as underpinned by coal mining and agricultural activity (particularly dairy and beef cattle and pasture production), electricity production and tourism. Key agricultural sectors and industries of national significance include thoroughbred breeding and viticulture/winemaking (with an expanding base in the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs). Singleton and Muswellbrook are identified as the largest towns in the region, initially settled for agricultural purposes and, more recently, where growth associated with the mining industry is most prevalent.

Community Planning

The Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) and Singleton Council (SC) Community Strategic Plans represent the long-term vision for local communities and indicate local community priorities. Local priorities of particular relevance to the SIA are summarised in Table 3-1 and will inform development of the SIA.[1] The Project is likely to support diversification from reliance on thermal coal produced for energy, and to support job growth.

MSC's Community Strategic Plan notes that '*the Shire's economy is closely linked to the fortunes of the energy industry and, in particular, the international thermal coal industry and the domestic power industry*'. The Community Strategic Plan notes that whilst 43% of Muswellbrook LGA is national park, *'a substantial part of the MSC has been disturbed for the purpose of open cut coal mining',* with consequent community concerns about the rehabilitation of mined land, air quality, noise associated with coal mining, final landform voids and the long-term appearance of the post-mining landscape.

Table 3-1: Community Strategic Plan Priorities Relevant to the SIA

MSC Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027	SC Community Strategic Plan 2017- 2027
Goal 1: Support job growth	Objective 1: Singleton is a creative, vibrant, inclusive, safe and healthy community
Goal 2: Diversify the economy, facilitate the development of intensive agriculture and other growth industries, and make the Shire a more attractive place to invest and do business	Objective 2: Singleton is resilient, informed, connected and engaged
Goal 5: Continue to improve the affordability, liveability and amenity of the Shire's communities	Objective 3: Singleton is a well-planned, sustainable, accessible and safe community with vibrant places and spaces
Goal 7: Build social inclusion and improve the delivery of social services	Objective 4: Singleton values, protects and enhances a sustainable environment
Goal 10: Further the process of Aboriginal reconciliation in the Shire	Objective 5: Singleton has an innovative, sustainable and diverse economy
Goal 11: Higher quality final landforms with shallower voids and more emphasis on progressive rehabilitation with local workforce participation	

[1] The CSP includes a total of 25 goals that address economic prosperity, social equity and inclusion, environmental sustainability, cultural vitality, community infrastructure and community leadership. These goals deal with specific community priorities including expansion of childcare services and senior living options, water supply, road, path and cycle way networks and a well-managed Council.

MSC Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027	SC Community Strategic Plan 2017- 2027
Goal 16: Conserve the Heritage and History of the Shire	
Goal 19: Community infrastructure is planned well, is safe and reliable, and provides required levels of service.	

3.2 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to the PAC on Drayton South Coal Project

The NSW PAC's *Drayton South Open Cut Coal Project Review Report* (NSW PAC, 2015) noted that 17,000 submissions were received on the project, the vast majority of which supported the project, highlighting benefits including employment opportunities, investment and multiplier effects for the region, the importance of this to local communities, and the revenue to government which would ensue. Submissions objecting to the project raised concerns, including the reputational impacts on major horse studs, flow-on effects for the region's equine industry, and potential adverse visual, traffic, air quality, health, environmental and Aboriginal heritage impacts. The cumulative impacts of mining in the region were also of particular concern.

In the NSW PAC's *Determination Report Drayton South Coal Project (SSD 6875)* (NSW PAC, 2017a), the NSW PAC noted that public submissions to the Commission raised both the potential negative and positive social impacts that may arise from the Drayton South Coal Project. The majority of submissions opposed the development consent application. Potential negative social impacts identified in the submissions and their relevance to the Project are summarised in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2: Potential Social Impacts Raised in Submissions - Drayton South Coal Project Determination

Potential Social Impacts	Relevance to SIA Scope
Effects on cultural and other landscapes supporting local tourism, viticulture and equine industries	The Project's visual profile would be less intrusive on local landscapes than an open cut mine. Visual amenity and landscape impacts will be assessed in the EIS, and potential social effects are relevant to the SIA scope.
Potential for increased dust or diesel emissions to affect human health, animal health, horticulture and air quality	The Project has less potential to generate dust or diesel emissions than an open cut mine. Assessment of air quality and greenhouse gas emissions will be included in the EIS. The results of air quality assessment in relation to human health are relevant to the SIA scope.
Impacts on nearby residential amenity from operational noise, blasting (including fumes, noise and vibration) and lighting	As an underground mine, the Project will reduce the potential for impacts on the landscape, dust, emissions and noise impacts, and would not involve blasting during operation. Potential impacts on amenity are relevant to the SIA scope.
Health implications from excessive levels of stress due to disruption of lifestyle	An underground mine has less potential to disturb adjoining land uses or quality of life for nearby property owners. Potential impacts of disruption to lifestyle and stress are relevant to the SIA scope.

Potential Social Impacts	Relevance to SIA Scope
Potential impacts of open cut mining (e.g. noise, dust and visual amenity) on equine health and behaviour, with potential to affect the viability of major equine operations, the equine industry cluster and landscape setting of wineries including Hollydene Estate	As an underground mine, the Project has considerably less potential to generate dust or noise or affect valued landscapes. The potential for impacts on the equine and viticulture industries is therefore greatly reduced, but the industry's importance and the potential for any impacts from the Project are relevant to the SIA scope.
Potential for mining industry demand to decrease housing affordability	This is relevant to the SIA scope.
Impacts on roads and intersections in the Muswellbrook LGA, including Edderton Road, Thomas Mitchell Drive, Skellatar Stock Route and the State Road Network	This is relevant to the SIA scope.

Positive social impacts raised in submissions included:

- the provision of current and future ongoing employment, with ongoing material socio-economic benefits to the local community;
- support for the mining industry's attraction and retention of people living and raising families in the region;
- generation of demand and support for local businesses and key community services;
- provision of certainty around future mining and economic growth in the region; and
- community contribution through sponsorship and royalties.

These issues are relevant to the SIA scope.

Submissions by Equine-Related Organisations on Previous Applications

The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association (HTBA), in their submission on Anglo American's Justification Report and Retracted Mine Plan for the Drayton South Coal Project, noted that their key concerns included impacts on horse breeding operations as a result of impacts on air quality or water quality, visual impacts relating to the mine and the final landform, threats to the Hunter River system, a perceived failure to recognise and address the non-Aboriginal heritage and historical values of the studs and their scenic surrounds, and impacts on the Muswellbrook-Jerrys Plains Landscape Conservation Area (HTBA, 2014). The HTBA also stated that they and their member organisations are not opposed to mining but that mining should not '*displace other pre-existing, sustainable industries and the jobs and economic contributions they make to our regional, state and national economies'*.

A submission on behalf of Coolmore and Godolphin (operators of nearby equine enterprises) titled *Response to the Department of Planning and Environment Final Assessment Report for Drayton South Coal Project* (Wright, 2016) stated that:

- the significance of the Upper Hunter landscapes (agricultural, cultural, scenic and visual) is well recognised and are fundamental to the locations of the Coolmore and Woodlands (Godolphin) studs;
- these landscapes have been classified as Equine and Viticulture CICs for their agricultural value;

- the Drayton South Coal Project was proposed to be less than 1 kilometre (km) away from the boundary of the two studs, with the likelihood of direct visual impacts on landscape values and indirect visual impacts manifested in dust and gas plumes, overburden emplacement, and lighting; and
- the impacts of the Drayton South Coal Project on these landscapes and the studs and the significant risk to the studs' brand, image and reputation were unacceptable.

The Maxwell Project's potential for dust and noise has been reduced due to the Project being an underground mine. Large-scale blasting would also not be required. Malabar's voluntary relinquishment of that part of EL 5460 south of the Golden Highway (that overlapped with the horse studs) further reduces the potential for impacts. The potential for visual amenity impacts has also been significantly reduced due to Malabar's commitment to underground mining and its proposal to place the mine entry in a valley 5 km north of the Golden Highway. Notwithstanding, the equine industry remains an important stakeholder group for consideration in the SIA.

Prohibition of Open Cut Mining in EL 5460

In December 2017, the Minister for Planning publicly exhibited an explanation of the intended effect (EIE) of amendments to the Mining SEPP. The effect of the amendments was to prohibit open cut mining in a mapped area of the Upper Hunter region near Jerrys Plains that overlaps with the Project area.

Submissions made during the public exhibition period (DP&E, 2017b) provide a recent and detailed representation of community views on mining in the area.

Nine of 54 submissions expressed support for the prohibition on the basis that it would provide certainty for the local community, an economic boost for the local area, and 'is a common-sense win-win for the community'. In particular:

- the Singleton Shire Health Environment Group expressed support for the prohibition as it still allows underground mining, which they support;
- the Parramatta Climate Action group supported the proposed prohibition on the basis that it would reduce adverse health effects (e.g. asthma) but expressed concern about the health effects of coal mining on miners;
- the HTBA thought the proposal 'a step in the right direction' but sought prohibition of any mining in the mapped area, appropriate buffers (10 km) and prohibition of underground mining in the area of EL 5460, which has been voluntarily relinquished; and
- the Hunter Communities Network supported the proposal but sought prohibition of underground mining as well in relation to potential impacts on water sources.

Other comments (not expressing support or objection) made on the proposal included:

- the prohibition needs to be extended to protect all CICs and strategic agricultural land;
- the prohibition should extend to all forms of mining on the site; and
- coal mining in the Hunter Valley should be stopped.

Four submissions stated that they objected to the proposed prohibition based on similar concerns to those categorised as other comments.

In summary, the submissions indicate that underground mining, if it avoids impacts on CICs, health and water sources, may be seen by local stakeholders as an acceptable land use.

In its response to submissions, the DP&E noted that the prohibition was designed to address the noise and dust impacts identified in relation to open cut mining, and that noise and dust impacts are significantly less for underground mining compared to open cut mining.

3.3 COMMUNITY AND HOUSING PROFILE

The following sections describe key social indicators, social trends and housing availability in the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs.

Social Indicators

A summary of social indicators for the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs is provided in Table 3-3. Key features of relevance to the SIA scope include:

- Muswellbrook LGA had a resident population of 16,086 in 2016, while Singleton LGA had a larger population at 22,987 people;
- population projections suggest Muswellbrook LGA's population will increase to 18,000 and Singleton LGA's population to 25,800 by 2021;
- the percentage of residents who identified as Indigenous was high at 8.3% in Muswellbrook LGA and 5.7% in Singleton LGA, when compared to the whole of NSW (2.9%);
- Socio-economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) and Index of Relative Social Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) scores for the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs in 2016 showed a lower score for Muswellbrook LGA at 917 than Singleton LGA at 974, suggesting that Muswellbrook LGA has a higher potential for socio-economic advantage;
- school completion levels were lower in both Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs than the NSW average, while rates of non-school qualifications (including certificate-level qualifications) were higher than the average;
- the most dominant industry for employment in Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs is mining (representing 21.9% and 23.4% of respective LGA employment); and
- unemployment rates in December Quarter 2017 were high in Muswellbrook at 6.1%, compared to the NSW average of 4.1%, and a low unemployment rate in Singleton LGA of 3.7%.

Table 3-3: Social Indicators for Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs

Social Indicators - 2016 or as referenced	Muswellbrook LGA	Singleton LGA	New South Wales
Resident population	16,086	22,987	7,480,228
Population change 2011 - 2016	1.9%	1.3%	8.1%
Projected population 2021*	18,000	25,800	8,297,500
Projected average annual growth 2016-2021	1.0%	0.9%	1.4%
Median age	35	36	38
Indigenous population	8.3%	5.7%	2.9%
Indigenous population change 2011 - 2016	58.6%	54.1%	25.2%
Indigenous median age	20	21	22
Language other than English spoken at home	3.5%	7.9%	25.2%
Disability (need for core assistance) 2016	4.9%	4.5%	5.4%
SEIFA IRSAD Score**	917	974	-****
Average household size	2.5	2.7	2.6
Median weekly household income ($)	$1,346	$1,682	$1,486

Social Indicators - 2016 or as referenced	Muswellbrook LGA	Singleton LGA	New South Wales
Median mortgage repayment ($/monthly)	$1,733	$1,950	$1,986
Median rent ($/weekly)	$250	$280	$380
Education levels – Completion of Year 11 or 12	38.1%	43.3%	47.2%
Education levels – Non-school qualifications	53.1%	57.3%	50.4%
Labour force participation	58.9%	63.6%	59.2%
Unemployment (SALM) – December 2017***	6.1%	3.7%	4.1%
Top employment industries	21.9% - Mining	23.4% - Mining	13.8% - Construction
	6.9% - Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	7.7% - Health Care & Social Assistance	8% - Retail Trade
Housing – total dwellings (% occupied)	6,831 (84.4%)	8,706 (88.9%)	90.1%
Housing tenure - % occupied private dwellings owned outright	26.3%	30.6%	32.2%

Source: ABS 2016a Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles and Time Series Profiles.
* Source: NSW DP&E. 2016b NSW Population Projections, Regional NSW LGA Data
** Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016b SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage
*** Source: Australian Department of Employment Small Area Labour Markets Publication, December Quarter 2017 by the Commonwealth Department of Jobs and Small Business (2017).
**** ABS was recalibrating the NSW Scores at the time this report was prepared.

Social Trends and Social Change Processes

Describing recent conditions, MSC's Community Strategic Plan (2017) notes '*a strong and sustained reversal in the long term projections for traded thermal coal and substantial local job losses'* from 2013, with social ramifications including rapid rises in unemployment between December 2012 and December 2015, and the reversal of a housing shortage to a 'housing glut'. As a consequence, the Community Strategic Plan states that the community focus had '*changed markedly to jobs, economic diversification and resilience, transition to a low carbon future, education and skills, and for Muswellbrook to develop and emerge as a Regional Centre*'. Key trends noted in the MSC Community Strategic Plan include:

- structural decline or uncertainty in the thermal coal industry, associated job losses, and the need to diversify MSC's economic base;
- the continued growth of the services sector;
- a growing visitor economy;
- ageing water and wastewater infrastructure;
- an aging population and changing retirement patterns;
- social disadvantage and social exclusion, particularly in Muswellbrook South;
- climate change; and
- loss/re-establishment/rehabilitation of native vegetation and vegetation connectivity.

The SC Community Strategic Plan also notes that Singleton has had a significant shift in the local economy since the previous Community Strategic Plan was developed in 2011 (SC, 2017).

These trends will be considered where relevant in the SIA. In relation to diversification, it is noted that the Project would produce high-quality coals, with at least 75% capable of being used in the making of steel.

Housing Availability

The availability of housing is a key factor in considering the potential for impacts on local communities. The Hunter Valley economy includes a broad range of industries, with demand for housing by all sectors, including mining, generally satisfied through residential land releases.

Local housing availability is directly affected by industry fluctuations, and particularly by changes in the mining industry. For example, the wind-down of the Drayton open cut operation saw some rental stock return to the market, however this was taken up by the construction workforce for the Mt Pleasant open cut coal mine and the growth of mine and mine-related workforces as higher coal prices led to increased mining industry operations.

Housing availability in the region has changed significantly over the past three years. Analysis of rental availability and affordability for the Denman, Muswellbrook and Singleton postcode areas (which includes Jerrys Plains) has been derived from the online property research provider, SQM Research (2018).

As at May 2018, the availability of rental stock in Singleton and Denman had reached a shortage with just eight rental dwellings listings in Singleton and two in Denman, while Muswellbrook had just 21 rental dwellings listed. Rental vacancy rates are very low across all three postcodes, indicating a restricted rental market and the potential for further rent increases as shown in Table 3-4.

Table 3-4: Rental Vacancy Rates (and Available Stock) 2015-18

Postcode Area	May-18	Nov-17	May-17	Nov-16	May-16	Nov-15
Muswellbrook (2333)	0.8% (21)	0.8% (16)	1% (30)	3.8% (75)	4% (96)	3.8% (74)
Denman (2328)	0.6% (2)	1% (3)	2% (5)	3% (8)	6% (18)	6% (17)
Singleton (2330)	0.3% (8)	2% (42)	2% (44)	2.5% (64)	2% (50)	3% (80)

Source: SQM Research, 2018. Current at 12 June 2018.

SQM Research data indicate that rental costs were similar across the three postcodes at $344.50 per week in Denman, $352.00 per week in Muswellbrook and $362.90 per week in Singleton. Each postcode showed an increase in rental costs over the three years, including a 21.9% increase in Denman, a 32.4% increase in Muswellbrook and 9.5% in Singleton.

The three-year trend data for purchase stock presented in Table 3-5 indicates good availability of stock to purchase across all postcode areas, but with a decline in stock available from May 2017 to May 2018. In Denman, the decline in stock availability over this 12-month period was 34%, while the drop experienced in Muswellbrook represents approximately 12% and in Singleton, 9%. This again represents increasing housing demand and the potential for increased housing purchase costs in response to major project demands. It is also noted there are Urban Release Areas in Muswellbrook, Singleton and Denman, with the potential to create further housing supply. The potential for these Urban Release Areas to mitigate impacts on housing demand will be considered in the SIA.

Table 3-5: Purchase Stock, 2015-18

Postcode Area	May-18	Nov-17	May-17	Nov-16	May-16	Nov-15
Muswellbrook (2333)	298	318	340	340	400	385
Denman (2328)	66	80	100	95	95	89
Singleton (2330)	384	384	420	460	550	530

The substantial existing infrastructure at Maxwell that will be returned to active use to support the underground project means that the construction workforce will be smaller than that for an equivalent

'greenfield' project. Demand for short term accommodation and housing for construction workers will be assessed as part of the SIA.

Given the skilled mining workforce available in the Upper Hunter region, the Project expects to attract a substantial proportion of its operational personnel from the communities that are within a safe daily driving distance, mitigating demands on housing. 'New local' personnel (drawn to the area by Project employment) are expected to access a mixture of rental and purchase stock. The potential for Project-housing demands to affect the housing market will be assessed in the SIA.

3.4 SELECTED RESEARCH

Economic Outlook

The Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) publishes quarterly updates on the Hunter Region's economic indicators (HRF, 2017). The December 2017 update included:

- growth in the Hunter labour market was reasonably flat during 2017, compared to the period from mid-2015 to the end of 2016;
- unemployment in the Hunter region was 4.7%, up by 0.1% since December 2016 and marginally above the state average;
- the youth unemployment rate was at 8.3%;
- the housing market had rebounded over the most recent quarter, but the annual growth rate had slowed, with considerable variations across LGAs; and
- business performance was at a decade high and forward indicators suggest renewed business and household confidence in the regional economy.

Employment opportunities and the potential for impacts on housing access or affordability are key issues to be considered in the SIA.

Environmental Attitudes

Research by HRF in 2015 on Hunter region residents' environmental attitudes and energy usage (based on 300 surveys with Hunter Region residents) identified the following community attitudes:

- 71% of residents agreed that climate change was a problem, 57% agreed that climate change would directly impact the community in the next 20 years, but only 44% thought 'action should be taken on climate change now'; and
- 49% of residents agreed that coal industry benefits outweighed negative impacts, with 22% disagreeing, and 23% expressing a neutral view.

Of relevance to the SIA scope, this research reflects a broad range of community views regarding the future of mining in the region.

Regional Economic Diversification and Workforce Planning

The *Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Report* (2011) (Buchan Consulting, 2011) provides an examination of the Upper Hunter region's economy and emerging business and employment opportunities for the next 20-25 years. Key recommendations addressed the need for a planned approach in relation to housing and workforce issues. Planning issues for the workforce particularly related to fostering sustainable economic development opportunities for the Region, replacement of some mining jobs as industry location and activity levels change and encouraging continued population growth to underpin local service development and jobs. The Project's support for these

recommendations include diversification into the steel manufacturing supply market, increased employment opportunities and the potential to support population growth.

The *Upper Hunter Workforce Plan* (2014) (MCa Consulting, 2014) was prepared in response to recommendations of the *Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Report* (2011). The *Upper Hunter Workforce Plan* (2014) focuses on supply and demand in relation to energy and resource sector demand, education and training needs and the longer term implications of an ageing population on workforce. Of key relevance to the Project, the objectives of the *Upper Hunter Workforce Plan* (2014) include:

- supporting growth and diversification at a regional and sub-regional level;
- addressing critical local and regional skill shortages; and
- increasing industry involvement in education, training and other workforce solutions.

Health

Research was undertaken for the Hunter New England Area Health Service to identify the scope of potential influencing factors on community health and wellbeing for communities living near coal mines in the Hunter region (Merritt et al., 2013). The research found that General Practice (GP) data for the Denman, Muswellbrook and Singleton postcodes did not demonstrate significantly higher rates of any health disease problems managed, or medications prescribed or supplied, compared with the rest of non-metropolitan NSW.

There were no significant differences in management rates of asthma, acute or chronic respiratory tract conditions, depression or anxiety. However, comparison of the management rates of respiratory problems demonstrated no significant change in the Hunter Valley region despite a significant decrease for the remainder of rural NSW over this period. The report also identified a range of other health risk factors likely to be contributing to poor health outcomes in the area including smoking, diet, insufficient exercise and a lack of preventative health measures and self-management strategies.

The potential for impacts on community health and wellbeing from mining activities or social change processes (e.g. changing housing demands) are relevant to the SIA scope.

3.5 SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Due to lower levels of mining industry activity in the Upper Hunter during 2015–2017, there are few recent relevant social impact assessments available. The results of SIAs undertaken near the Project area in 2012, 2014 and 2015 are briefly discussed below.

SIA for Previous Projects Proposed in EL 5460

The *Drayton South Coal Project Social Impact Assessment* (Hansen Bailey, 2012) identified the following potential social impacts and benefits:

- an average of approximately 126 construction jobs;
- on the assumption that 90% of the construction workforce would be locally based, demand for up to 37 units of short-term accommodation;
- continuation of the Drayton Mine's existing operations workforce, with no anticipated increase in population, housing demands, demand on community services and facilities, or strain on the local labour pool; and
- potential for substantial cumulative social impacts from other proposed mining and gas

developments, including impacts on housing affordability and accessibility, competition for skilled personnel, economic growth and stability, and supply and demand for community services and facilities.

The more recent *Drayton South Coal Project Social Impact Assessment* (Hansen Bailey, 2015) found that as there would be no increased population, housing or social infrastructure demands, the Drayton South Coal Project would not cause significant social impacts. Key local concerns identified by the *Drayton South Coal Project Social Impact Assessment* (Hansen Bailey, 2015) included developing and retaining the skilled labour force, stabilising the local housing market, diversifying the economy and generating employment opportunities.

Hansen Bailey (2015) also noted potential for substantial cumulative social impacts however, due to the (then) current material downturn in the coal mining industry, any such impacts were considered unlikely '*in the foreseeable future*'.

Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project Preliminary SIA

Preliminary social impact assessment was undertaken in 2014 for the Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project, which is located to the immediate west of the Project (Elliott Whiteing, unpublished, 2014). Potential social impacts of significance to local landholders and community members included:

- potential for temporary disruptions to land use and the potential for subsidence-related impacts on properties within EL 7429;
- visual amenity impacts for properties with a site line to the surface infrastructure;
- a small temporary population increase and demand for temporary accommodation in Denman or Muswellbrook during construction;
- during operations, population increases would be within the NSW Government's population increase rate forecast for the Muswellbrook LGA;
- social infrastructure demands (schools, childcare, health and emergency services) which were likely to be within the capacity of existing services; and
- labour draw from local businesses to the Project.

Opportunities identified at the local level included Project employment which would supplement farming family incomes, increased training and employment opportunities, and an increase in local trade through both Project contracts for supply and employees' expenditure with local businesses.

At the regional level, no changes to landscape values, residential amenity, community values, amenity or sense of place or privacy in Muswellbrook LGA were predicted, and a contribution to employment opportunities for workers who are currently unemployed due to the then widespread redundancies in the Upper Hunter region was expected. Support for local and regional planning objectives regarding employment growth and economic diversification was also identified.

3.6 MALABAR COMMUNITY SURVEY

A telephone survey was undertaken for Malabar in September 2017 (Newgate Research, 2017) which involved 400 people within the Upper Hunter State Electoral District (SED), including 150 people from each of the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs, and 100 from the rest of the Upper Hunter SED. The research objectives were to evaluate current attitudes to the coal mining industry, current knowledge and perceptions of Malabar, and awareness and perceptions of previous proposals for the site and the current Project proposal. The researchers confirmed to participants that the Project would be an underground mine. A summary of the survey's results is shown in Table 3-6. Missing percentages in Table 3-6 are due to survey participants providing 'don't know/unsure' responses.

The survey found there was majority support for coal mining in NSW across all areas. Locally, in the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs, the Drayton South Coal Project was supported by a majority of residents (60%). For the total Upper Hunter survey responses, a total of 48% supported the Drayton South Coal Project.

Local residents' views on the Maxwell Project as an underground mine were more positive, with 70% of Muswellbrook and Singleton LGA residents supporting the proposed Project, and majority support was also identified in the total Upper Hunter sample at 59%.

Table 3-6: Community Views on Coal Mining

Area	Support coal mining in NSW (%)	Oppose coal mining in NSW (%)	Supported proposed Drayton South Coal Project (%)	Opposed proposed Drayton South Coal Project (%)	Support proposed Maxwell Project (%)	Oppose proposed Maxwell Project (%)
Muswellbrook LGA	74	11	63	22	71	14
Singleton LGA	68	19	58	25	68	16
Total Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs	71	15	60	24	70	15
Rest of Upper Hunter	61	27	34	46	49	32
Total Upper Hunter	66	21	48	34	59	24

3.7 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN SCOPING

Section 2.3 provides a description of the consultation and stakeholder engagement activities undertaken by Malabar for the Project to date. The Project has also recently initiated the ACHA registration and consultation process in accordance with the relevant guideline.

Engagement undertaken in support of the SIA scoping process focused on:

- landholders and residents who may be directly affected (e.g. through noise, traffic or changes to connectivity);
- MSC (representing communities within the Muswellbrook LGA); and
- the Drayton (Maxwell Infrastructure) and Spur Hill CCCs, representing community interests in the area near the Project.

Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and the Plains Clan of the Wonnarua People (PCWP) Registered Native Title Claimants were provided with information about the Project and their initial input was sought via the community survey, as the precursor to further engagement during the SIA process.

The Project's proposed mining area and infrastructure are not located within the Singleton LGA, however Malabar provided a presentation on the Project to SC representatives in January 2018. Engagement with SC representatives will be undertaken during the SIA process.

Stakeholder engagement undertaken during the scoping exercise is outlined in Table 3-7.

Table 3-7: Stakeholder Engagement Undertaken for Scoping Process

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholders	Engagement Mechanism
Nearby landholders and residents	Landholders and residents within approximately 5 km of the Project	• Newsletter describing the Maxwell Project and opportunities for community involvement • SIA Scoping Survey hard copy and link to online survey posted with reply-paid envelope
Maxwell Infrastructure CCC	Local landholders Community Representatives MSC	• Meeting with CCC to discuss project and SIA scope • SIA Scoping Survey - link to online survey
Spur Hill CCC	Local landholders Community Representatives MSC	• Meeting with CCC to discuss project and SIA scope • SIA Scoping Survey - link to online survey
Aboriginal community/Native title claimants	RAPs and Aboriginal Community Members	• Registration and consultation process for the ACHA, in accordance with relevant guideline • SIA Scoping Survey hard copy provided to the Wanaruah LALC and the PCWP as Registered Native Title Claimants
Local Government	MSC - General Manager and senior staff	• Meeting with General Manager and key Council Directors, managers and policy officers, to discuss the proposed Project social conditions in Muswellbrook LGA and SIA scope

3.8 RESULTS OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN SCOPING

The results of stakeholder engagement during the SIA scoping process and the social impact areas to which they relate are detailed in Annexure A and summarised in Table 3-8. Inputs address both existing social conditions relevant to community sensitivity to impacts and the potential for Project impacts on social conditions.

Table 3-8: Stakeholder Inputs on Current Conditions and Potential Impacts

Stakeholder Inputs	Potential Social Impact Areas
Existing social conditions	
Community sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of the mine on airborne dust levels, character and sense of place, also reflected in comments received on the community survey	Health and wellbeing – particulate matter Community – character and sense of place
Available underground mining workforce as a result of relevant training courses being provided locally	Way of life – employment
Community desire for an increase in the permanent population in Muswellbrook	Community – population impacts
Current shortage of rental housing in Muswellbrook LGA and community survey feedback that rental housing is unaffordable in Muswellbrook.	Way of life – housing
Existing cumulative impacts of mining operations on traffic conditions including traffic safety	Health and wellbeing – safety Way of life – access
Effects on neighbourhood amenity, decreased activation of town centres and a re-orientation of the retail sector towards the non-resident workforce	Way of life - general
Existing impacts as the result of mining industry contractors renting housing in Muswellbrook, which include decreased housing availability, increased homelessness, effects on neighbourhood amenity, decreased activation of town centres, and a re-orientation of the local retail sector towards the non-resident workforce	Way of life – housing Surroundings – amenity
Visual amenity impacts, primarily relating to cumulative impacts of mining and the need to rehabilitate post-mining landforms to a more natural form	Surroundings – amenity
Potential social impacts and benefits	
Possibility of coal dust resulting from the train load-out facility to affect air quality or visual amenity/character, or to settle in water tanks	Surroundings – amenity Health and wellbeing – water quality Health and wellbeing – particulate matter
Possible impacts on residential amenity resulting from the train load-out facility, including noise from locomotives idling, night-lighting impacts and mine traffic impacts	Surroundings – amenity
The high value of locally-based employment and the need for local residents to be supported to gain training relevant to underground mining	Way of life – employment
Prospect for the Project to positively influence local business, industry and economic development, with suggestion for a Project Local Buy and Procurement Policy received through the community survey	Community – composition Way of life – business

Stakeholder Inputs	Potential Social Impact Areas
Possibility for the Project personnel's childcare demands to strain the existing low capacity of local childcare services	Access to infrastructure, services and facilities – childcare
Community survey feedback that an increased residential population associated with the Project may sustain local police services in Muswellbrook	Access to infrastructure, services and facilities – emergency services
Recognition of Malabar's community investment as benefiting local communities	Community – cohesion Access to infrastructure, services and facilities – community services
Possible employment to benefit residents of Scone, Muswellbrook, Denman and Aberdeen.	Way of life – employment
Possible impacts on traffic safety as a result of over-sized loads, increased road use at shift changes, or use of undesignated roads by personnel or deliveries	Surroundings – safety Way of life – access
Possibility for the Project to have a negative effect on housing availability and affordability (identified by community survey participants)	Way of life – access to housing
Consultation fatigue and distrust as the result of continual requirements for community participation in mining project approval processes and the feeling that impacts on communities are not being properly recognised	Community – cohesion and resilience Decision-making systems

4 AREA OF SOCIAL INFLUENCE

The Project's area of social influence includes:

- landholdings in the Project's immediate surrounds, which may experience potential impacts on surroundings, connectivity, livelihoods or wellbeing;
- nearby communities which may experience demands for housing, social infrastructure or other social resources, and may benefit from Project employment or business opportunities; and
- the LGAs in which the Project is located, where Councils and communities may experience a range of impacts and benefits relating to population change, housing, social infrastructure, community identity or land use change.

At the broader regional level, there is potential for the Upper Hunter region's mining workforce and businesses to benefit from supply chain opportunities, or to experience competition for skilled personnel and business services. The areas of social influence are outlined below.

4.1 PROJECT AREA AND NEARBY PROPERTIES

The indicative Project area includes the underground mining extent, mine entry, transport corridor, Maxwell Infrastructure, and the Antiene Rail Spur. Nearby properties are defined as those within approximately 5 km of the Project area. However, the sensitivity of nearby agricultural, viticulture and equine industries may extend beyond the area for consideration in some areas, particularly in view of potential cumulative impacts from other mining uses.

Land within EL 5460 owned by Malabar is leased for cattle grazing. All freehold tenure within the Project indicative underground mining area is owned by Malabar.

Land adjoining the eastern boundary of EL 5460 is owned by AGL Macquarie and contains Plashett Dam, Bayswater Power Station and Liddell Power Station.

Thoroughbred breeding operations Coolmore Stud and Woodlands (Godolphin) Stud operate to the south of EL 5460 and are widely considered to be important to the Upper Hunter equine industry cluster. The Final Assessment Report for the Drayton South Coal Project (DP&E, 2017c) notes that '*the Hunter thoroughbred industry is one of the largest and most important breeding clusters in the world … (and) produces around half of all thoroughbred horses in Australia and around 70% of Australia's thoroughbred horse exports*'.

Hollydene Estate Winery is located within the Coolmore Stud property and owned by Coolmore. The winery operates a cellar door and restaurant business and has MSC development consent for the establishment of tourist and visitor accommodation on the estate (NSW PAC, 2017a).

Rural land adjoins the western boundary of EL 5460, some of which is owned by Malabar.

A number of properties could potentially be affected by the Project activities, including impacts to air quality, noise, traffic and visual amenity. There may also be potential cumulative impacts from the Project as a result of its proximity to the Mount Arthur Coal Mine. The number of properties potentially affected would be determined through the assessment of air quality, noise, traffic impacts and visual amenity impacts during the preparation of the EIS.

4.2 NEARBY COMMUNITIES

Jerrys Plains, an historic rural village located near the Hunter River, is the closest community to the Project, approximately 5 km south of EL 5460 (Figure 2-1). In 2016, the Jerrys Plains State Suburb (SSC) had a population of 385 people and a total of 140 private dwellings. The school and service station in Jerrys Plains service village residents and families living on rural properties surrounding the village.

Denman is located approximately 10 km west of EL 5460 and is recognised as the fast-developing centre of the Upper Hunter's tourism industry (MSC, 2018). In 2016, the Denman SSC had a population of 1,789 people and a total of 842 private dwellings. Denman has a good range of local-level social infrastructure, including primary schools, a small hospital and health services, a range of sporting and community facilities, a vibrant main street, a range of shops and services and community events which generate visitors to the region. MSC is planning a Town Centre Upgrade to create opportunities for improved retail, commercial and public spaces and activities in Denman.

The Golden Highway which passes through Denman is the primary goods and services transport route between the NSW coast and central-western NSW. The Golden Highway is also an identified tourist route. Local tourism attractions include expansive vistas, vineyards and cellar doors, restaurants, and bed and breakfast accommodation.

Muswellbrook is the municipal centre for the Muswellbrook LGA and is located approximately 10 km north of the Maxwell Infrastructure. In 2016 the Muswellbrook SSC had a population of 12,075, with 5,495 dwellings. Muswellbrook offers a range of local and district level services such as a district hospital, primary, high and trade schools, training facilities, community and civic centres, recreational facilities and government services. Muswellbrook is positioned at the junction of the Main Northern Railway Line and the Muswellbrook-Gulgong Railway Line, with Muswellbrook Railway Station serviced by local and long-distance rail services, interstate coaches and local bus services (MSC, 2013a).

The New England Highway is the primary road connection between Newcastle and Tamworth and passes through Singleton and Muswellbrook, however there are plans for a Muswellbrook bypass in the future.

4.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Muswellbrook LGA (in which the Project is located) is centrally located in the Upper Hunter Valley. The Muswellbrook LGA covers an area of approximately 3,400 km², with national park covering 43% of this area (MSC, 2012). At the time of the 2016 Census, the Muswellbrook LGA had a population of 16,086 people.

MSC's Town Plan recognises Muswellbrook and Denman as centres for urban growth. The LGA also includes a number of outlying rural communities, including Sandy Hollow, Wybong, Baerami, Martindale, Widden, McCullys Gap and Muscle Creek (MSC, 2013a).

Muswellbrook LGA's economy is characterised by coal mining, thermal coal power generation, agriculture, horse breeding and viticulture. The LGA is a main centre for NSW power generation and the major centre of Upper Hunter coal mining, recognised as having the largest concentration of open cut mines in the state (MSC, 2013b).

The Singleton LGA is located in the south of the Upper Hunter Valley and is in proximity to the Project. The Singleton LGA has an area of 4,893 km² and includes Singleton (the municipal centre), and the villages and rural localities of Broke, Bulga, Howes Valley, Putty, Warkworth, Jerrys Plains, Mount Olive, Carrowbrook, Mirranie, Elderslie, Belford and Branxton. At the time of the 2016 Census, the Singleton LGA had a population of 22,987 people.

SC's website notes that coal mining and related industries have played a significant role in Singleton's history since the late 1800s, and that Singleton's local economy is predominantly driven by mining.

4.4 REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Upper Hunter's economy is underpinned by coal mining, agriculture (particularly dairy and beef cattle production), horse breeding, electricity production, tourism, winemaking and associated service industries (Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining [CSRM], 2015).

Communities and businesses within the Hunter Valley have extensive capacity to supply construction and mining labour, business services and supplies to the mining industry. The Hunter Valley Statistical Area 4 (SA4) includes the Muswellbrook, Singleton, Maitland, Upper Hunter, Dungog, Cessnock and Port Stephens LGAs, where the residents and businesses are likely to benefit from Project opportunities and may also experience issues such as competition for labour or in-migration of Project personnel. As such, the Hunter Valley SA4 has been considered as the regional context for analysis of labour availability and business capacity.

There is potential for mining industry personnel and businesses in other LGAs to benefit from the Project, however no material adverse social impacts are expected.

4.5 TRADITIONAL OWNERSHIP

MSC identifies traditional ownership of the Muswellbrook region as belonging to the Wanaruah[2] and the Kamilaroi peoples (MSC, 2013c). Consultation with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people will be conducted through the ACHA consultation process. Consultation with Indigenous community organisations will be undertaken as part of the SIA.

The Project would be located on land within a native title claim filed on behalf of the PCWP and was registered by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) on 16 January 2015. The native title claim includes lands and waters within the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs, as well as land within the Upper Hunter, Cessnock, Dungog, Hawkesbury and Maitland LGAs (NNTT, 2015).

4.6 POTENTIALLY IMPACTED FEATURES

Natural Features

EL 5640 is located in close proximity to the Hunter River to its west and south.

The provisional Development Application Area includes land mapped as 'Environmentally Sensitive Land' under the *Muswellbrook Local Environmental Plan 2009* (Muswellbrook LEP).

A preliminary investigation of environmentally sensitive areas of State significance (as defined in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011*) has identified that no Project land or component is located within other areas of specific environmental sensitivity (Section 3.2 of the Scoping Report).

Cultural Features

A presentation to the NSW PAC for the Drayton South Coal Project by Dr. Tim Owen, of GML Heritage and Flinders University (Owen, 2016[3]) noted that:

- the Drayton South Coal Project area and surrounding landscape contained significant Aboriginal cultural values, which are connected to the long-term continuing use of this cultural landscape by Aboriginal people;
- an area in proximity to the Project area may have been a place of violence where a massacre took place and is culturally significant to the Wonnarua; and
- open cut mining has already removed significant areas associated with Aboriginal traditions, dreaming, initiation and creation stories.

[2] Previous consultation with the Wanaruah LALC identified a distinction between the Wonnarua people and people belonging to the Wanaruah language group, although both spellings have been used to describe population groups in different contexts. The spelling variations can be attributed to oral histories and limited written documentation that identifies traditional population groups and sub-communities.

[3] Owen, T. presentation to the Drayton South Coal Project NSW PAC accessed at http://ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/projects/2016/09/drayton-south-coal-project/public-meeting-presentations-and-comments/46-tim-owen-speech.pdf on 28 May 2018

The Project is located within the Muswellbrook-Jerrys Plains Landscape Conservation Area recognised by the National Trust Register, which is a non-statutory register. The landscape includes natural features such as the Hunter River and its alluvial flats, views and vistas of the river flats, bluffs of the Wollemi National Park, and undulating rolling hills. The Project design includes significant measures to mitigate impacts to the broader Muswellbrook-Jerrys Plains Landscape Conservation Area.

No lands, places, buildings or structures listed on the State Heritage Register under the NSW *Heritage Act, 1977* occur within the Project area.

Built Features

The are no built features located within the Project area with significant social importance.

4.7 STAKEHOLDER PROFILE

A summary of the current understanding of how stakeholders expect the Project may affect them and stakeholders' relevant interests, values and aspirations is provided in Table 4-1, as informed by the information described in Section 3.

Table 4-1: Stakeholder Profile

Stakeholder Group	Potentially Affected/Interested Stakeholders	Current Understanding of Values and Aspirations	Potential Impacts and Benefits of Interest
Adjacent and nearby landholders	Private landholders near the Project Area	• Co-existence • Continued agricultural land use • A quiet rural or semi-rural lifestyle	Potential for: • Availability of local employment, and consequent family and community benefits for local residents • Noise impacts from Maxwell Infrastructure (train load-out facility) and/or traffic on local roads • Visual amenity impacts • Increased dust, including coal dust affecting amenity or water tanks • Increased traffic on rural roads, and associated impacts to safety and amenity (noise) • Traffic impacts or disruption to Edderton Road or Golden Highway
Denman community	Residents, businesses and organisations Spur Hill CCC	• A sustainable and attractive town with a high level of amenity in public places • Natural and cultural landscapes supporting the tourism industry and local amenity • A diversified local economy supported by tourism, wineries, events and the mining industry • Potential for growth as a key centre	Potential for: • Impacts on Denman's character or nearby tourism values • Impacts on housing access or affordability • Competition for skilled labour • Impacts on agricultural uses, including viticulture and horse studs • Impacts on traffic safety

Stakeholder Group	Potentially Affected/Interested Stakeholders	Current Understanding of Values and Aspirations	Potential Impacts and Benefits of Interest
Jerrys Plains community	Residents, businesses and organisations	• Continued quiet rural lifestyle, supported by basic village amenities and agricultural land uses	Potential for: • Impacts on quiet village character and rural values due to increased traffic • Impacts on agricultural uses • Pressure on local housing stocks • Changes to connectivity between Jerrys Plains and Muswellbrook
Muswellbrook and Singleton communities	Residents, businesses and organisations Spur Hill CCC Maxwell Infrastructure CCC Elected Representatives Hunter Communities Network Hunter Environment Lobby Denman Aberdeen Scone Healthy Environment Group (DAMS HEG)	• Increased employment opportunities • Economic diversification • A healthy environment, including successful rehabilitation of mine affected areas • Maintaining housing affordability • Addressing social disadvantage • Activation of Muswellbrook town centre	Potential for: • Local employment opportunities and support for increase in stable, long-term population • Retention of skilled workers and young people • Cumulative noise impacts • Cumulative dust impacts • Impacts on housing access or affordability • Impacts on visual amenity and local character

Stakeholder Group	Potentially Affected/Interested Stakeholders	Current Understanding of Values and Aspirations	Potential Impacts and Benefits of Interest
Local governments	MSC	• Managing the effects of the mining industry's 'boom-bust' cycle on employment levels and housing demands • Rehabilitation of mine-affected areas and re-establishment of landforms that reflect the natural environment • Supporting job growth • Diversifying the economy • Continue to improve the affordability, liveability and amenity of the MSC's communities • Maintaining adequate levels of social infrastructure to address changing and growing needs • Achieving quality of final landforms and progress with rehabilitation	Potential for: • Employment opportunities and support for population growth • Impacts on housing availability or cost, with consequent potential for impacts on homelessness • Increased demands for social infrastructure, including childcare • Conflicting land uses, particularly with respect to equine and viticulture industry clusters, visual amenity and tourism values • Traffic impacts on local roads, e.g. Edderton Road or Thomas Mitchell Drive • Availability of local employment • Contribution to cumulative impacts and cyclical trends affecting housing and social infrastructure capacity
	SC	• Economic regeneration following the recent slump in mining industry activity • A creative, vibrant, inclusive, safe and healthy community • Well-planned, sustainable, accessible and safe community with vibrant places and spaces • Values, protects and enhances a sustainable environment • An innovative, sustainable and diverse economy	Potential for: • Employment opportunities and support for population growth • Impacts on housing availability or cost • Impacts on social infrastructure capacity • Contribution to cumulative impacts and cyclical trends affecting housing and social infrastructure capacity

Stakeholder Group	Potentially Affected/Interested Stakeholders	Current Understanding of Values and Aspirations	Potential Impacts and Benefits of Interest
Aboriginal peoples that have connection to the Project area and its cultural values	Wanaruah LALC PCWP Other Aboriginal persons and organisations	• Protection of cultural heritage and values • Employment opportunity • Increased social and economic participation for Aboriginal people	Potential for: • Impacts on Aboriginal objects, cultural values and landscapes of significance • Impacts on, or opportunities for, the advancement of Aboriginal peoples. • Housing or health impacts to have a disproportionate impact on Aboriginal people
Social infrastructure service providers	NSW Hunter New England Health Service NSW Department of Education MSC SC Upper Hunter Community Services (UHCS) Primary schools (Muswellbrook, Singleton, Denman and Jerrys Plains) Muswellbrook High School Muswellbrook TAFE Emergency Services Various community organisations	• Maintenance of quality and accessible community services and facilities, commensurate with population demand and cultural needs	Potential for: • Impacts on demand for health and education services • Impacts on Councils' community and cultural services • Impacts on people already experiencing social disadvantage, including low income families and Indigenous people • Increase in demand for community funded or managed services • Further contributions to local communities through Malabar community engagement and investment

Stakeholder Group	Potentially Affected/Interested Stakeholders	Current Understanding of Values and Aspirations	Potential Impacts and Benefits of Interest
Local businesses and business associations	Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry Singleton Business Chamber Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Local retail and hospitality businesses Mining-related support services (local and regional)	• Economic diversification • Tourism sector development • Business growth in mining and construction sectors • A diversified and growing local economy	Potential for: • Participation in the Project's supply chain • Population-driven demand for services and products • Competition for labour and skills • Recruitment difficulties • Support for population growth and stability
Equine industry, including related services and industries	Coolmore Australia (owner of Coolmore Stud) Godolphin (owner of Woodlands Stud) Other thoroughbred breeding and agistment studs Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association Scone Equine Hospital Other suppliers and support services for the equine industry	• Maintaining the economic viability and international reputation of the horse studs, and of the Hunter thoroughbred industry • Maintaining the quality and health of the thoroughbred horses • Maintaining an image and visual presentation that is consistent with the studs' 'brandscape'.	Potential for: • Impacts on the viability or operation of the Coolmore and Woodlands Studs and the Hunter thoroughbred industry • Associated impacts on suppliers, support services and downstream industries

Stakeholder Group	Potentially Affected/Interested Stakeholders	Current Understanding of Values and Aspirations	Potential Impacts and Benefits of Interest
Viticulture industry, including support services and industries	Hollydene Estate Winery Upper Hunter Winemakers' Association	• Maintenance of a strong and sustainable viticulture industry • Environmental qualities that enable continued operation, including water access and quality • Scenic setting	Potential for: • Impacts of the Project on the landscape, amenity or operation of the vineyards, wineries and associated cellar doors and restaurants • Associated impacts on suppliers, support services and downstream industries.
Regional workforce	Construction and mining industry workers Retail, hospitality and service employees	• Diverse employment opportunities • Employment continuity	Potential for: • Direct employment opportunity • Indirect employment opportunities

5 SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCOPE

This section describes the scope of the SIA including:

- likelihood of social impacts;
- the potential for cumulative impacts;
- the level of assessment and investigations to be undertaken in the SIA; and
- stakeholder engagement to be undertaken as part of the SIA process.

5.1 LIKELIHOOD OF SOCIAL IMPACTS

Key matters to be considered as part of SIA are provided by the SIA Scoping Tool (Appendix B of Scoping Report). Table 5-1 summarises the range of likely potential social impacts, informed by stakeholder inputs, the nature and location of the Project, and the social context as outlined in Sections 3 and 4.

Table 5-1: Social Impacts Considered Likely

Potential Social Impact Area	Why Impacts are Considered Likely	Links to Checklist of Matters
Community Including its composition, cohesion and character, how it functions, and sense of place	The Project's workforce may contribute to population growth in the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs as people move from other regions for Project employment. This would be seen as positive but may strain the capacity of existing social infrastructure. Sense of place may be affected by land use change depending on effects on cultural heritage and visual amenity.	Built Environment, Heritage, Community
Personal and property rights Including whether their economic livelihoods are affected, and whether people may experience personal disadvantage or have their civil liberties affected	Any acquisition of private property to mitigate Project impacts may affect connections to the local area or the livelihoods of affected landholders, however acquisitions are currently considered unlikely. Horse stud and vineyard owners are concerned about potential land use conflicts or amenity impacts that may affect their operations, and consequently, Equine and Viticulture CICs.	Access, Community, Economic
Way of life • how people live • how people work, • how people play	Project impacts on residential amenity near the Project may result from changes to noise levels, air quality, traffic volumes or visual qualities. The Project's construction phase may induce demand for short term accommodation in local centres such as Muswellbrook and Singleton. The Project's operation may increase demand for housing rental or purchase in the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs. The Project's supply chain opportunities are likely to support local and regional businesses.	Access, Heritage, Community, Economic
Surroundings Including access to and use of ecosystem services, public safety and security, access to and use of the natural and built environments and their aesthetic value and/or amenity	The Project's changes to the local road network have potential to affect connectivity or travel times. Community members are likely to be concerned about potential for effects of mining and subsidence on agricultural productivity, the landform or visual amenity during and post-mining. The Project has potential to cause groundwater drawdown or diversion of surface water flows, which may affect other landholders' access to water.	Amenity, Built Environment, Heritage, Community, Economic, Air, Biodiversity, Land, Water

Potential Social Impact Area	Why Impacts are Considered Likely	Links to Checklist of Matters
Culture Including shared beliefs, customs, values and stories, connections to land, places and buildings, and including Aboriginal culture	Aboriginal cultural heritage values and/or other heritage values may be affected by the Project. The Project may support local communities' identities as mining communities.	Heritage, Community
Access to and use of infrastructure, services and facilities Provided by local, State or federal governments, or by for-profit or not-for-profit organisations or volunteer groups	Any population increases induced by the Project may affect demand for community, education, health and/or emergency services in the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs.	Access, Built Environment, Community
Health and wellbeing Including physical and mental health	Changes to community health determinants (e.g. housing or service access) are possible as a result of Project-induced population growth. Potential impacts on mental health (e.g. due to anxiety about land use change or uncertainty about potential Project impacts) are possible. The Project would be designed to operate within environmental standards, which protect human health. There is potential for cumulative impacts on noise or air quality to cause community concern or affect quality of life.	Community, Air, Land, Water
Fears and aspirations Related to one or a combination of the above, or about the future of their community.	Community members are likely to be concerned about potential impacts on groundwater, subsidence effects on ecological values or landform, amenity impacts, the viability of horse studs, or the potential for environmental change that is inconsistent with community aspirations for economic diversity and environmental sustainability.	Air, Biodiversity, Land, Water

A summary of the matters that were considered unlikely to be adversely impacted by the Project (without mitigation) or not applicable to the Project is provided in Table 5-2.

Table 5-2: Summary of Matters Considered Unlikely to be Impacted

Potential Social Impact Area	Why Impacts are Considered Unlikely
Decision-making systems	Malabar will continue to engage with communities and stakeholder engagement to develop a Project that can co-exist with local landholders and communities. Malabar will also provide open communication and a complaints mechanism to support adaptive management of Project impacts.
Surroundings – odour, gases and microclimate	The Project would not produce significant odours or gases, and is unlikely to change the microclimate in the Project area.
Surroundings – access, off-site parking	Access to public and private property would be maintained. Sufficient parking would be provided on-site and the Project is not located near regulated parking areas.
Surroundings – public domain	The Project is unlikely to impact public spaces and streets as the closest towns are at least 5 km from the Project site.
Access to and use of infrastructure - utilities	Access to utilities would be maintained.
Health and wellbeing - safety	The Project would operate within regulatory standards and hazard and risk management protocols, which mitigate impacts on public safety. The Project is not expected to exacerbate current flooding risks. No significant steep slopes are located in the Project area.

5.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Recent research on cumulative impacts in Mixed Industry Regions used the Upper Hunter Valley[4] as a case study (CSRM, 2015). Cumulative impacts in relation to the mining industry were noted in the context of the 'boom-bust' cycle as including:

- high demands for housing during boom periods leading to impacts on housing supply and affordability, and decreased housing demand during mining downturns;
- cumulative impacts on social infrastructure facilities, with the loss of mining employees from the region impacting the service levels provided in schools, hospitals and other services;
- noise as a major impact for landholders and those living in settlements very close to the mines;
- the visual and cultural aesthetic of coal mines and associated infrastructure and landscapes was seen by some people as exceeding a threshold of acceptability, especially given the proximity of mines to settlements; and
- high impacts on the local labour force arising from mining companies attracting most skilled labour in the region and as out-competing other local industries in the region.

[4] The Upper Hunter Valley includes the LGAs of MSC, SC and Upper Hunter.

The EIS would assess the potential cumulative impacts with respect to noise, air quality, visual amenity and traffic, the results of which would be considered in the SIA. Mount Arthur Coal Mine's ongoing operation is particularly relevant to assessment of cumulative impacts at the local level, given the proximity to the Maxwell Project. AGL's Liddell power station, located adjacent to the Maxwell Infrastructure, is planned for closure in 2022 (AGL, 2017). Potential impacts on population growth and housing demands may also be relevant for nearby local communities.

Following the downturn of the mining industry from 2013, there has been a resurgence in the coal industry in response to rising coal prices. From an average of just $90.93 US Dollars per metric tonne (USD/t) in 2015, the average coking coal price rose to $170.76 USD/t in 2017 (Focus Economics, 2018). As a result, a new mine is under development to the east of Muswellbrook and expanded coal mining projects have been proposed.

At the local government level, there is potential for cumulative impacts on environmental and social conditions, due to the combined effects of other proposed modifications, extensions and new mining projects and the planned closure of the Liddell power station. At the broader regional level, there is potential for cumulative impacts on labour force availability in the Upper Hunter region. These potential impacts would be considered in the SIA.

5.3 CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT MATTERS

The Project is likely to have the following benefits and opportunities:

- 350 direct jobs for 26 years, with consequent social benefits at family and community levels;
- indirect local and regional employment opportunities, and associated maintenance of living standards and community wellbeing;
- continued community investment;
- business and procurement opportunities for local and regional businesses; and
- payment of royalties and taxes to the NSW and Commonwealth Governments, which contribute to providing services and infrastructure for the people of NSW.

These benefits and opportunities will be described in the SIA.

The matters that were considered likely to be adversely impacted by the Project (without mitigation) were identified using the SIA Scoping Tool. Table 5-3 provides a summary of all matters identified as requiring assessment and includes:

- potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, which could have material social impacts; and
- investigations that would be conducted to evaluate the significance of social impacts and benefits.

Table 5-3: Summary of Potential Social Impacts for Investigation

Potential Material Impact	Extent	Duration	Severity	Sensitivity	Investigations
Community					
Potential for community conflict, or to affect cohesion and resilience, and increased travel times	Rural localities between Denman and Jerrys Plains	Construction and early years of operation	Likely to be low	Landholders and community members are sensitive to amenity changes	• Examination of severance between properties and communities • Review of travel time increases (expected to be immaterial) and any changes to connectivity • Review of stakeholder inputs to identify potential of conflict or other impacts on community cohesion
Increased population, supporting population stability, with potential for change to composition, e.g. non-resident workers or gender imbalance	Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs	Life of Project/ Permanent	Likely to be within current population projections for the LGAs	Councils likely to welcome increased population and stability	• Describe the population profile, mobility, settlement pattern, and community values of the study area • Identify the Project's contribution to population size and composition • Assess the likely impacts of mine closure on the LGA populations and their characteristics

Potential Material Impact	Extent	Duration	Severity	Sensitivity	Investigations
Decreased housing affordability and financial stress, displacement of low to moderate income households, and impacts on key workers' housing access, particularly in the context of cumulative impacts	Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs	Construction and early years of operation	Dependent on availability of local personnel and Project recruitment strategies	Current housing shortage in Muswellbrook LGA	• Identify the capacity of short-term accommodation and rental housing in the LGAs • Identify Project plans for accommodation of non-local construction workers (noting there are no current plans for use of accommodation camps) • Identify the capacity of existing housing stocks and model the Project's potential impacts on housing demand • Consider the planned Urban Release Areas (particularly in Denman and Muswellbrook) • Consider the potential for housing demands to decrease rental housing availability and/or increase rental housing costs which could affect low to moderate income households
Personal and property rights					
Noise impacts from the Maxwell Infrastructure, train load-out facility or use of local roads, affecting the amenity and use of properties	Potential for impacts beyond the site boundary	Life of Project	To be quantified with reference to EIS findings	Residential and rural uses	• Analysis of results of noise impact assessment findings • Consultation to identify level and distribution of concern about displacement • Quantification of potential displacement effects
Potential to affect landholders' access to water, e.g. through bore water drawdown or effects on surface water	Potential for impacts beyond the site boundary	Operational phase	To be quantified with reference to EIS findings	Water access is critical to maintaining agricultural productivity	• Review of outputs of water quality and Groundwater and Surface Water Assessments • Consideration of engagement and monitoring programs which are, or will be, in place in relation to groundwater and surface water

Potential Material Impact	Extent	Duration	Severity	Sensitivity	Investigations
Potential for local and regional business to benefit from participation in the Project supply chain, and potential for labour draw to the Project to affect local or regional businesses	Upper Hunter and potentially Newcastle regions	Life of Project	Contribution to ongoing demand for local business and industry strengths	Assists to buffer impacts of mining industry cycles	• Analysis of the Project's material, personnel and services requirements and match to local and regional business capacities • Identification of the distribution and industry type of potential Project suppliers • Review of available mechanism for increasing local and regional participation in the Project's supply chain
Potential for land use conflicts or amenity impacts which may affect the operation of horse studs and vineyard owners	Potential for impacts beyond the site boundary	To be quantified with reference to EIS findings	To be quantified with reference to EIS findings	Equine and viticulture CICs are part of the community identity and economy	• Analysis of results of agricultural, land, economic, noise, air, traffic and visual amenity assessment results • Consultation to identify level and distribution of concern about conflicting land uses
Way of life					
Impact on residential amenity or liveability and use of rural properties to noise, traffic, visual amenity or air quality changes	Potential for impacts beyond the site boundary	Life of Project	To be quantified with reference to EIS findings	Residential uses	• Analysis of results of noise, air quality, traffic and visual amenity assessment results • Consultation to identify fears and concerns to be addressed in the SIA
Increased employment opportunity and workers/family wellbeing, and potential for indirect employment	Creation of 350 operation jobs and indirect employment opportunities	Life of Project	Substantial benefit	High unemployment rate in Muswellbrook LGA	• Assessment of the Project's contribution to employment and household wellbeing • Direct and indirect employment benefits to be assessed in the Economic Assessment for the EIS and considered in the SIA • Describe the Project's Indigenous employment training programs outcomes and plans • Consideration of planned Indigenous employment and training programs and goals

Potential Material Impact	Extent	Duration	Severity	Sensitivity	Investigations
Potential for local and regional businesses to benefit from participation in the Project supply chain, and potential for labour draw to the Project to affect local or regional businesses	Upper Hunter and potentially Newcastle regions	Life of Project	Contribution to ongoing demand for local business and industry strengths	Assists to buffer impacts of mining industry cycles	• Analyse the Project's material, personnel and services requirements and match to local and regional business capacities • Identification of the distribution and industry type of potential Project suppliers • Review of available mechanism for increasing local and regional participation in the Project's supply chain
Surroundings					
Potential for connectivity/travel time impacts	Potential for impacts beyond the site boundary	Life of Project	To be quantified with reference to EIS findings	Rural communities dependent on private travel and local social connections	• Review of results of traffic assessment results and consultation outcomes • Consultation to identify fears and concerns to be addressed in the SIA
Potential future use of mined land, e.g. effects on agricultural productivity	Within or adjacent to site boundary	Permanent	Dependent on the extent of subsidence and rehabilitation	Agricultural values are integral to community identity and economy	• Identification of Project alignment with local and regional planning values • Consultation to identify the level and nature of concerns about changes to landform or land use • Analysis of outputs of soil and land use assessments
Potential for effects on visual amenity during and post-mining	Within or adjacent to site boundary	Life of Project/ Permanent	Dependent on the extent of subsidence and rehabilitation	Unique landscape values and cultural landscapes	• Review of outputs of visual amenity assessment • Consultation to identify the level and nature of concerns

Potential Material Impact	Extent	Duration	Severity	Sensitivity	Investigations
Increased traffic volumes, with potential for concerns about traffic safety	Impacts on moderate to large geographical areas (suburbs)	Life of Project	Low to moderate increases in traffic volumes	Residential and tourism uses may be affected	• Review and incorporation of EIS results on changes to traffic volumes, level of service and/or safety as a result of the Project or cumulative impacts
Culture					
Concern about impacts on landscape conservation area and cultural and natural landscape values	Within or adjacent to site boundary	Life of Project/ Permanent	To be quantified with reference to EIS findings	Unique landscape values and cultural landscapes	• Analysis of results of project consultation with Aboriginal parties
Concern about cultural heritage impacts	Within or adjacent to site boundary	Life of Project/ Permanent	To be assessed with reference to EIS findings	Previous cumulative impacts on cultural heritage and cultural landscapes	• Review of cultural heritage assessment findings • Analyse the potential for the Project to contribute to supporting or detracting from rural, social or cultural values
Concern about loss of built heritage or disturbance to heritage items	Within site boundary	Life of Project/ Permanent	To be assessed with reference to EIS findings	Cultural heritage (built and historical) is highly valued in the two LGAs	• Review of cultural heritage assessment findings

Potential Material Impact	Extent	Duration	Severity	Sensitivity	Investigations
Access to and use of infrastructure, services and facilities					
Potential for Project personnel demands for childcare to strain current social infrastructure capacity, including childcare	Potential for impacts on moderate to large geographical areas (suburbs)	First few years of operation	To be assessed with reference to SIA findings	Current limited childcare capacity	• Assessment of potential population increases and consequential demands for childcare placements
Health and Wellbeing					
Potential for Project noise within regulatory standards, or cumulative noise impacts or cumulative dust deposition to affect wellbeing (e.g. sleep, outdoor amenity or tank water quality)	Potential for impacts beyond the site boundary	Life of Project	To be assessed with reference to EIS findings	Community sensitivity to cumulative impacts on air quality	• Consultation with landholders who have been or may be affected by dust or noise • Review and incorporation of EIS results on air quality and noise changes due to the Project or cumulative impacts
Impacts on community health determinants (e.g. housing or service access) or mental health (e.g. anxiety about environmental/land use change or uncertainty about potential Project impacts)	Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs	Construction and early years of operation	To be determined in SIA	Vulnerability indicated by Muswellbrook LGA social indicators	• Consultation to identify the nature and extent of any concerns about health impacts • Research to identify the potential for Project impacts to affect health determinants
Increase in demand for social infrastructure as a result of migration related to the Project	Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs	Construction and early years of operation	To be determined in SIA	Existing disadvantage indicated by Muswellbrook LGA social indicators	• Describe current provision and any known deficits or capacity limitations of social infrastructure in the area of influence, and any Project-related demands • Describe the likely effects of employment status for household wellbeing

5.4 LINKS TO EIS INVESTIGATIONS

The SIA would require information provided in the following specialist studies to further assess the social impacts:

- Subsidence Assessment;
- Groundwater Assessment;
- Surface Water Assessment;
- Biodiversity Development Assessment Report;
- Noise Assessment;
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment;
- Road Transport Assessment;
- Economic Assessment;
- Agricultural Impact Assessment;
- Preliminary Hazard Analysis; and
- Visual Assessment.

5.5 APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT

Malabar plans to strengthen the generally positive climate established with the stakeholders associated with the Project by continuing its consultation activities, with a focus on landholder interactions, CCC meetings, ongoing community investment and attendance at community events.

A stakeholder engagement program has been developed for the Project. Key objectives of this program are to:

- engage with government and public stakeholders about the Project;
- seek input from key stakeholders on elements of the Project;
- recognise and respond to local interest or concerns regarding the Project; and
- continue the ongoing dialogue between Malabar and stakeholders

The EIS engagement program would include:

- public availability of key documents;
- quarterly meetings of the Drayton (Maxwell Infrastructure) CCC;
- community information sheets and letterbox drops;
- provision of information on the Malabar website;
- information sessions;
- consultation with the Aboriginal community in consideration of the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010); and
- meetings with government agencies and other stakeholders.

The experience and views of local community members are critical inputs to the SIA. This includes people who may be directly affected as well as those with an interest in community and environmental issues. The SIA requires a structured process that produces both quantitative and qualitative data.

5.6 SIA ENGAGEMENT

During the assessment phase, SIA engagement will include the following stakeholders:

- MSC and SC representatives;
- Drayton (Maxwell Infrastructure) and Spur Hill CCC members;
- potentially impacted landholders;
- Aboriginal community members including people who can speak for Country; and
- other interested community members and service providers.

The SIA will also use the outcomes of the EIS engagement conducted by Malabar.

The SIA Engagement Plan is outlined in Table 5-4. Engagement is planned for the second half of 2018.

Table 5-4: SIA Engagement Plan

Stakeholder Group	Potentially Affected/Interested Stakeholders	Engagement Mechanism
Adjacent and nearby landholders	• Private landholders near the Project Area	• Information sessions/meetings • CCC Meetings • Newsletters
Denman community	• Residents, businesses and organisations • Spur Hill CCC • DAMS HEG	• Information sessions • CCC Meetings • Newsletters
Jerrys Plains community	• Residents, businesses and organisations	• Newsletters • CCC Meetings
Muswellbrook and Singleton communities	• Residents, businesses and organisations • Spur Hill CCC • Drayton (Maxwell Infrastructure) CCC • Elected Representatives (i.e. Ministers) • Hunter Communities Network • Hunter Environment Lobby • DAMS HEG	• Information sessions • CCC Meeting • Newsletters • Meetings and other engagements conducted by Malabar
Local governments	• MSC • SC	• Meetings with Malabar and Elliott Whiteing
Aboriginal peoples that have connection to the Project area and its cultural values	• Wanaruah LALC • PCWP • Other Aboriginal persons and organisations	• Separate ACHA engagement process • Meetings/workshop

Stakeholder Group	Potentially Affected/Interested Stakeholders	Engagement Mechanism
Social infrastructure service providers	• NSW Hunter New England Health Service • NSW Department of Education • MSC • SC • Upper Hunter Community Services (UHCS) • Primary schools (Muswellbrook, Singleton, Denman and Jerrys Plains) • Muswellbrook High School • Muswellbrook TAFE • Emergency Services • Various community organisations	• Workshop and/or meetings • Information sessions
Local businesses and business associations	• Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry • Singleton Business Chamber • Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue • Local retail and hospitality businesses • Mining-related support services (local and regional)	• Chamber meetings • Information sessions
Equine industry, including related services and industries	• Coolmore Stud • Woodlands Stud • Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association • Scone Equine Hospital • Other thoroughbred breeders, suppliers and support services for the equine industry	• Meetings • Information sessions
Viticulture industry, including support services and industries	• Hollydene Estate Winery • Upper Hunter Winemakers' Association • Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association	• Meeting • Information sessions
Regional workforce	• Construction and mining industry workers • Retail, hospitality and service employees	• Website information • Information sessions

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ANNEXURE A: SUPPORTING INFORMATION – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

This annexure provides the results of stakeholder engagement during the scoping phase.

CCC INPUTS

The Maxwell Infrastructure CCC and the Spur Hill CCC represent community interests in relation to the two projects, respectively. The SIA team met with the two CCCs (separately) on 4 July 2018 to provide a presentation on the SIA process and potential scope, and seek members' inputs on the range of potential social impact and benefit areas to be investigated. The Maxwell Infrastructure CCC members' inputs on the scope of the SIA included:

- that impacts from the Drayton Mine had included coal dust deposition, described as being from the CHPP, affecting homes, outdoor areas and water tanks;
- that there is less community concern regarding the effects of underground mining, as opposed to concern regarding open cut mining;
- the potential for changes to landforms or land use to affect drainage to dams on nearby properties;
- the view that the Project would be able to access underground mining workers from the local area;
- concern that locomotives idling at the train load-out facility would result in noise impacts;
- recognition of Malabar's community investment as benefiting local communities;
- the potential for night-lighting from the Maxwell Infrastructure area to affect the amenity of homes; and
- the potential for mine traffic to affect the amenity of local residents living close to roads used by the Project or its personnel (as was experienced while the Drayton Mine was operating).

The Spur Hill CCC's inputs on the scope of the SIA included:

- the question of whether there would be social impacts for the Scone community;
- the critical importance of the Project offering employment to local people, which would increase family and community wellbeing, and support local businesses;
- advice that the Coal Services Training Centre in Singleton provides training services and qualifications of relevance to Project needs, so there should be appropriately skilled personnel living locally;
- advice that general community perceptions are that another mine is directly equivalent to more dust in the local atmosphere, however most community members recognise that an underground mine has less potential for impacts than an open cut mine;
- the potential for increased traffic and wide loads to contribute to road safety risks;
- the view that the Maxwell Project as an underground mine would result in fewer impacts on visual amenity and local character; and
- the likelihood that personnel and families who would migrate to the Muswellbrook LGA for Project employment may be more likely to seek housing in Denman than in Muswellbrook.

MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL

A meeting was held with MSC's General Manager and senior staff to discuss the SIA scope on 5 July 2018. Key points identified for consideration included:

- Council's strong focus on rehabilitation and restoration of mined landform to as natural a landscape as possible;
- the potential for Project traffic and transport to impact on local roads (e.g. Edderton Road and Thomas Mitchell Drive) and therefore on residents or businesses, noting that mine traffic does not always use designated routes;
- the potential availability of personnel from the Integra Underground Coal Mine if that operation closes following completion of mining in the Middle Liddell Seam in early 2023;
- the need for local residents to be supported to engage in training relevant to underground mining;
- the current shortage of rental housing;
- current social impacts being experienced as the result of mining industry contractors renting housing in Muswellbrook and surrounding areas, with consequences including:
    - local people are being displaced from housing;
    - neighbourhood amenity is being affected;
    - the retail offering has shifted from more locally-oriented to servicing construction and mining personnel (e.g. 'you can buy plenty of motor parts but you can't buy shoes locally');
    - the town 'empties out' on weekends when contractors return home and there is less activation of town centres;
- a recent increase in homelessness in the Muswellbrook LGA which was putting a strain on local services;
- local residents and industry clusters are highly sensitised to the environmental and social impacts of mining;
- the visual character and connectivity of the Muswellbrook LGA's forests and ridges (e.g. the connections to the Wollemi National Park) are important to the community;
- the cumulative impacts of mining operations on local character and sense of place are keenly felt;
- community members feel they aren't being listened to with respect to individual and cumulative social impacts, but are weary of consultation after several years of participation in various approval processes;
- the community's desire for an increase in the permanent population; and
- potential for the Project's personnel to place strain on local childcare services.

SIA SCOPING SURVEY

During the week of 11 June 2018, a Project newsletter and a community survey seeking input to the SIA scope were distributed to all nearby private properties, representing approximately 150 households that have the highest potential to experience adverse Project impacts. Please refer to Figure A-1 for the newsletter and community survey distribution zone. An online survey link was provided as part of the newsletter, with access available until 13 July 2018.

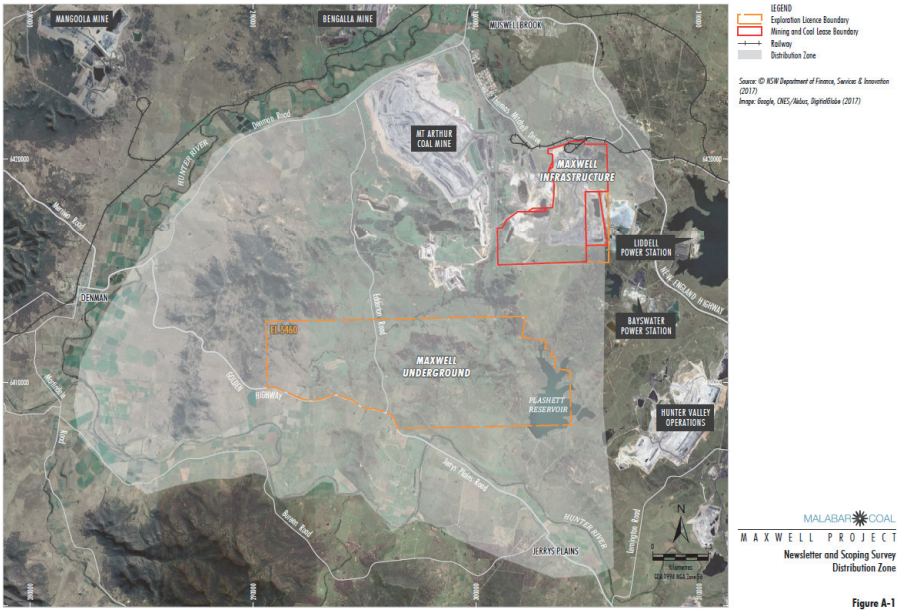
Scoping surveys were also distributed through the Maxwell Infrastructure and Spur Hill CCCs, and made available at the Muswellbrook Shire Council office.

Fifteen completed hard copies and two online surveys were received. This was not a statistically valid sample, but the responses provided an indication of community views. Of the 17 surveys received:

- five respondents were residents of Jerrys Plains, five were from Denman, two were from Muswellbrook and five were from elsewhere in Muswellbrook LGA;
- seven respondents worked in farming, two worked in mining, one worked in the equine industry and five were retired (two skipped the question);
- 13 respondents were male and four were female;
- 12 respondents were aged over 51 years (including eight respondents aged over 65 years), two were aged under 35 years, two were aged between 36 and 50 years, and one preferred not to say; and
- no respondents identified as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

Survey responses are summarised below. The survey is provided as Annexure C.

Figure A1: Newsletter and Community Survey Distribution Zone



RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND BENEFITS

Respondents were asked to consider whether they thought there was potential for an effect on social conditions as a result of the Project, and to provide comments on the potential effects. One respondent skipped the questions on scoping social impacts and benefits. Findings from the remaining 16 responses are summarised in Table A-1.

Table A-1: Scope of potential social impacts and benefits

Social conditions	Would the Project affect this
Employment and training opportunities	• Fourteen respondents thought the Project would have an effect on employment and training opportunities, and two didn't know. • Four respondents provided comments that indicated they expected a positive effect on the availability of employment for local people, with three stressing the importance of recruiting from within the Muswellbrook LGA.

Social conditions	Would the Project affect this
Local business, industry and economic development	• Twelve respondents thought the Project would have an effect on local business, industry and economic development, and four didn't know. • Three respondents provided comments that indicated that they expected a positive effect, including 'more work' and 'support for local businesses'.
Community harmony and connectedness	• Twelve respondents thought the Project would have an effect on community harmony and connectedness, two expected no effect and two didn't know. • Three respondents provided comments that indicated that they expected a positive effect, e.g. 'less unemployment, community feels more secure' and 'support for community and sporting grounds' and one indicated potential for a negative effect e.g. 'there are high feelings about mining'.
Lifestyles	• Twelve respondents thought there would be an effect on lifestyles, three identified no effect and one didn't know. • Three respondents provided comments that indicated that they expected a positive effect related to increased employment, and one comment indicated potential for a negative effect due to impacts on amenity.
Enjoyment of towns or local properties	• Twelve respondents thought there would be an effect on enjoyment of towns or local properties and four identified no effect. • One respondents provided comments that indicated that they expected a negative effect on local amenity as a result of noise and/or dust, and three provided comments that anticipated a positive effect, e.g. 'putting money into community' and 'it may quieten the negative sentiment in town'.
Community, health and emergency services	• Ten respondents thought there would be an effect on community, health and emergency services, four expected no effect and two didn't know. • One respondent provided comments that indicated an expected negative effect on services, due to increased numbers of trucks on local roads and more dust in the atmosphere.
Public infrastructure	• Ten respondents thought there would be an effect on public infrastructure, three expected no effect, and three didn't know. • Three respondents provided comments that indicated that they expected a positive effect through financial contributions to provision of infrastructure and one indicated potential for a negative effect relating to increased traffic on local roads.
Local cultural and/or heritage values	• Ten respondents thought there would be an effect on cultural and/or heritage values, five thought there would be no effect, and one didn't know. • One respondent indicated that they expected a positive effect in relation to local identify as a mining community, and one anticipated a negative effect (unspecified).
Community connectivity	• Ten respondents thought there would be an effect on community connectivity, four expected no effect, one respondent didn't know and another skipped the question. • The one comment received indicated anticipation of a negative effect due to road works causing traffic stoppages.

Social conditions	Would the Project affect this
Housing availability and affordability	• Ten respondents thought there would be an effect on housing availability and affordability, four expected no effect, and two didn't know. • Three respondents provided comments that indicated that they expected a negative effect as a result of increased demand in the context of current limited availability of rental housing.
Natural surroundings	• Twelve respondents thought there would be an effect on natural surroundings, while four expected no effect. • Five respondents provided comments that indicated that they expected a negative effect, including changes to natural landforms (three comments) and increased dust (two comments).
Health and safety	• Eleven respondents thought that there would be an effect on health and safety, four identified no effect and one didn't know. • Three respondents provided comments that indicated that they expected a negative effect with respect to dust or pollution, including dust in water tanks, increased traffic at shift changes and 'tired drivers'.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Respondents identified the following for consideration in the SIA:

- a strong local buy and procurement policy will support the prosperity of Scone, Muswellbrook, Denman and Aberdeen, which were severely affected when Drayton Mine ceased production;
- the Project workforce should be encouraged to live locally;
- the effect on the farming community, e.g. coal dust and air pollution, resulting in increased maintenance requirements;
- support for local community values and businesses;
- awareness of the impact that dust and noise has on the community; and
- the potential for Project-related dust to affect tank water.

Two respondents expressed their general support for the Project.

PROJECT ENGAGEMENT

Respondents suggested using newsletters, mail-outs and emails to keep the community informed about the Maxwell Project and/or facilitate their input to the Project. A suggestion was also made for the Project team to work closely with Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce to distribute information to its members, via their newsletter and also via Project representation at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast (email provided: Info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au).

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY/NATIVE TITLE CLAIMANTS

At the time of writing, the Maxwell Project had recently commenced its Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) process and associated consultation with members of Registered Aboriginal Parties. Results of this consultation were not available for the Scoping Report, but will be considered in the SIA. The project newsletter, SIA community survey and online survey link were provided to the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and the Plains Clan of the Wonnarua People (PCWP) Registered Native Title Claimants but did not result in survey participation. Consultation will be undertaken with Wanaruah LALC, the PCWP Registered Native Title Claimants, and community organisations who work with or represent Aboriginal people, as part of the SIA.

ANNEXURE B: SCOPING TOOL - SIA

Social impact assessment (SIA) scoping worksheet for:			*Maxwell Project*			Date:		*Jul-18*		
Scoping results from EIS Worksheet						**Is there a social impact?**		**What information will be required to assess the social imapct?**		
Social and environmental matters *Click on a matter below for brief description, or refer to full glossary*			**Outline of impact** *(Auto fill from EIS worksheet)*	**Is a material effect on the matter expected?** *(Auto fill from EIS worksheet)*	**Is there community or other stakeholder concerns regarding the impact or activity?** *(Auto fill from EIS worksheet)*	**With regard to the matter expected to be impacted, will there be a social impact?** *Select this cell for brief description, or click link above for further detail*		**Are impacts on the matter expected to require a non-SIA specialist study?** *(Auto fill from EIS worksheet, then manually enter non-SIA report type)*	**Will the non-SIA specialist study address the social impact?** *Click on link above for further detail on potential classifications* *(Select from list)*	**Level of assessment for the social impact in the SIA** *Click on link above for further detail on potential classifications* *(Auto fills)*
						Yes/No *(Select from list)*	**If yes, outline the social impact** *(Manual entry, if not already covered in column D)* **If no, outline why** *(Manual entry)*			
What does the proposal mean for people?	AMENITY	acoustic	The Project would involve noise-generating activities, which will require detailed modelling and assessment to determine potential noise impacts. The Project would include project-specific measures to minimise and mitigate noise impacts (including locating new infrastructure away from sensitive receptors).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential concerns/impacts related to residential amenity or liveability and use of rural properties.	Yes - Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment	Yes - in part	Standard SIA
	ACCESS	utilities	The Project would involve potential subsidence effects on Ausgrid low voltage powerlines and Telstra copper cables that would require management.	Yes	No	No	Serviceability of utilities would be maintained wherever practicable, and loss of serviceability would be fully compensated.			No SIA required
		road and rail network	The Project would generate additional traffic movements associated with employees, deliveries and visitors. Project-related traffic is expected to be similar to traffic generated during previous open cut mining activities near the Maxwell Infrastructure. The potential impacts on the road network require further assessment. The Project would also involve the transportation of product coal via rail, within the existing rail limits on the Antiene rail spur.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential concerns/impacts related to residential amenity or liveability and use of rural properties. Potential concerns about traffic safety.	Yes - Road Transport Assessment	Yes - in part	Standard SIA
	BUILT ENVIRONMENT	public infrastructure	The Project would involve underground mining and subsidence along the current alignment of Edderton Road. This would require management during mining through either road maintenance along the existing alignment or realignment of the road around the underground mining area.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential concerns/impacts related to travel time.	Yes - Subsidence Assessment and Road Transport Assessment	Yes - in part	Standard SIA
		other built assets	The Project would involve underground mining and the subsidence of other built features, predominantly owned by Malabar. These would require management during mining.	Yes	No	No	All freehold land above the underground mining area is owned by Malabar. Serviceability of built features would be maintained wherever practicable, and loss of serviceability would be fully compensated.			No SIA required
	HERITAGE	cultural	It is recognised that the broader area has cultural significance for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The Project is also located within the Muswellbrook Jerrys Plains Landscape Conservation Area recognised by the National Trust Register, which is a non-statutory register. Potential impacts on cultural heritage would be assessed in the EIS.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential concerns about impacts on social and cultural values.	Yes - Heritage Assessment and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA
		Aboriginal cultural	The Project area has Aboriginal cultural values that will require assessment in consultation with the Aboriginal community.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential concerns about impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage.	Yes - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA
		built	Items of identified local significance have the potential to be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project. This requires further assessment and the development of project-specific mitigation and management measures.	Yes	No	Yes	Potential concerns about loss of built heritage or disturbance to heritage items.	Yes - Heritage Assessment	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA
	COMMUNITY	services and facilities	The Project may affect demand for, and access to, services and facilities. This will be assessed further in the EIS.	Yes	No	Yes	The Project may affect demand for, and access to, services and facilities.	No - Addressed in Social Impact Assessment	No	Comprehensive SIA
		cohesion, capital and resilience	Ongoing engagement through the SIA process (as part of the EIS) will be required to assess any potential impacts on cohesion, capital and resilience.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cohesion, capital and resilience may be potentially impacted by community fears or conflict.	No - Addressed in Social Impact Assessment	No	Comprehensive SIA
		housing	Project demand for housing may further constrain the availability of rental housing. This will be assessed through the SIA process (as part of the EIS).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Project demand for housing may further constrain the availability of rental housing.	No - Addressed in Social Impact Assessment	No	Comprehensive SIA
	ECONOMIC	natural resource use	The Project would involve the extraction of coal and the payment of associated royalties to the State of NSW. The Project would also have potential impacts on other natural resources (e.g. groundwater) which will require further assessment.	Yes	No	Yes	Potential concerns about competition for, or impacts on, natural resources.	Yes - Economic Assessment	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA
		livelihood	The Project would create significant long-term employment opportunities. The equine industry has raised concerns regarding potential impacts on the economic viability and international reputation of the Coolmore and Woodlands Studs, and the Hunter thoroughbred industry more broadly, which will be addressed through engagement and in the EIS.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Increased direct employment opportunities in the region. Potential for indirect employment. Concerns regarding potential impacts on the economic viability and international reputation of the Coolmore and Woodlands Studs, and the Hunter thoroughbred industry more broadly.	Yes - Economic Assessment	Yes - in part	Standard SIA

Social impact assessment (SIA) scoping worksheet for:			Maxwell Project			Date:		Jul-18		
Scoping results from EIS Worksheet						Is there a social impact?		What information will be required to assess the social imapct?		
Social and environmental matters *Click on a matter below for brief description, or refer to full glossary*			Outline of impact *(Auto fill from EIS worksheet)*	Is a material effect on the matter expected? *(Auto fill from EIS worksheet)*	Is there community or other stakeholder concerns regarding the impact or activity? *(Auto fill from EIS worksheet)*	With regard to the matter expected to be impacted, will there be a social impact? *Select this cell for brief description, or click link above for further detail*		Are impacts on the matter expected to require a non-SIA specialist study? *(Auto fill from EIS worksheet, then manually enter non-SIA report type)*	Will the non-SIA specialist study address the social impact? *Click on link above for further detail on potential classifications* *(Select from list)*	Level of assessment for the social impact in the SIA *Click on link above for further detail on potential classifications* *(Auto fills)*
						Yes/No *(Select from list)*	If yes, outline the social impact *(Manual entry, if not already covered in column D)* If no, outline why *(Manual entry)*			
	ECONOMIC	business opportunity	The opportunity costs associated with proceeding, and not proceeding, with the Project will require further assessment in the EIS.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential for local and regional business to benefit from participation in the Project supply chain. Potential for labour draw to the Project to affect local or regional businesses. Concerns regarding potential impacts on the equine industry.	Yes - Economic Assessment	Yes - in part	Standard SIA
What does the proposal mean for the natural environment?	AIR	particulate matter	The Project would involve dust generating activities which will require detailed modelling and assessment to determine potential particulate matter impacts. The Project would include project-specific measures to minimise and mitigate particulate matter impacts (including locating new infrastructure away from sensitive receptors).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential concerns/impacts related to residential amenity or liveability and use of rural properties.	Yes - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment	Yes - in part	Standard SIA
		atmospheric emissions	The Project would directly and indirectly generate greenhouse gas emissions, which would require consideration and assessment.	Yes	Yes	No	It is noted that there is general anxiety and fear about climate change. The Project's contribution to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions would be small, and therefore does not warrant detailed consideration of this aspect from a social perspective.			No SIA required
	BIODIVERSITY	native vegetation	The Project would involve the disturbance of native vegetation which will require assessment in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method.	Yes	No	No	The Project area has not been identified as an area of social importance from a biodiversity perspective.	Yes - Biodiversity Development Assessment Report		No SIA required
		native fauna	The Project would involve the disturbance of native fauna habitat which will require assessment in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method.	Yes	No	No	The Project area has not been identified as an area of social importance from a biodiversity perspective.	Yes - Biodiversity Development Assessment Report		No SIA required
	LAND	stability and/or structure	The Project has the potential to affect soil stability and/or structure through direct disturbance (e.g. alteration of structure beneath hardstand areas) and potential subsidence impacts. This requires assessment and the development of project-specific mitigation and management measures in the EIS.	Yes	No	Yes	Potential concerns about long-term, future land use and productivity.	Yes - Agricultural Impact Assessment	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA
		soil chemistry	The Project has the potential to affect chemical properties of the soil as a result of direct disturbance. This requires assessment and the development of project-specific mitigation and management measures in the EIS.	Yes	No	Yes	Potential concerns about long-term, future land use and productivity.	Yes - Agricultural Impact Assessment	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA
		capability	The Project has the potential to affect land capability through direct disturbance (e.g. alteration of structure beneath hardstand areas) and potential subsidence impacts. This requires assessment and the development of project-specific mitigation and management measures in the EIS.	Yes	No	Yes	Potential concerns about long-term, future land use and productivity.	Yes - Agricultural Impact Assessment	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA
		topography	The Project would involve underground mining that would result in surface subsidence. The Project would also involve emplacing CHPP rejects from processing of Project coal within existing final voids.	Yes	No	No	These impacts are at a scale that would have no material effect on the visual landscape as a whole.	Yes - Subsidence Assessment		No SIA required
	WATER	water quality	The Project may have potential water quality impacts. This requires detailed assessment and the development of project-specific mitigation and management measures in the EIS.	Yes	No	Yes	Potential concerns about competition for, or impacts on, water resources.	Yes - Groundwater and Surface Water Assessments	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA
		water availability	The Project would use surface water and groundwater resources that are shared with other users and the environment. This requires detailed assessment and the development of project-specific mitigation and management measures, including licensing, in the EIS. Recycled mine water would be preferentially used for water supply on-site.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential concerns about competition for, or impacts on, water resources.	Yes - Groundwater and Surface Water Assessments	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA
		hydrological flows	The Project has the potential to modify the movement of water across the landscape. This requires detailed assessment and the development of project-specific mitigation and management measures in the EIS.	Yes	No	Yes	Potential concerns about competition for, or impacts on, water resources.	Yes - Geomorphology Assessment	Yes - fully	Desktop SIA

ANNEXURE C: SIA COMMUNITY SURVEY

MAXWELL PROJECT

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – COMMUNITY SURVEY

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Introduction

Malabar Coal Limited (Malabar) is seeking consent to develop an underground coal mine referred to as the Maxwell Project, under the State Significant Development provisions of the NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), that includes a Social Impact Assessment (SIA), will be required as part of the Project's assessment and approvals process.

This survey has been designed to engage community members, land owners, businesses and service providers in the Muswellbrook and Singleton Local Government Areas. The purpose of the survey is to give you an opportunity to have your say on how the development of this new underground mine may affect you and your community.

This survey is being conducted by Elliott Whiteing, an independent social planning company, that is developing the SIA for this Project.

This survey is anonymous and confidential. You do not need to provide any contact details. It will take about ten minutes to complete.

Please lodge your completed survey by 9pm, Sunday 8 July 2018.

You can complete the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MaxwellSIA or post your completed copy of the survey using the reply paid envelope to: Elliott Whiteing Pty Ltd, PO Box 3220, Newmarket QLD 4051.

Data collection and use: Please note that by completing this survey, you provide your consent for Elliott Whiteing Pty Ltd to use your survey inputs for the Maxwell Project SIA and EIS only, which involves storage of your responses on a secure server held in Australia and also the USA (via online survey tool SurveyMonkey®).

About the Maxwell Project

The Maxwell Project is located within the Muswellbrook Shire, east of Denman and south of Muswellbrook. The Project is the development of an underground mine, with mining over a period of approximately 26 years. Malabar plans to preferentially produce coal for the steel manufacturing industry. The coal seams within the project area are very high quality. Any coal not sold to the steel manufacturing industry will be premium quality thermal coal, suitable for use in High Efficiency, Low Emission (HELE) power plants.

Existing infrastructure located within the existing Drayton mine area including coal processing and transport facilities will be used by the Project. (This area has been renamed "Maxwell Infrastructure").

During its operation, the Project is expected to directly employ approximately 350 personnel. Estimates of indirect employment will be assessed as part of the EIS.

More information about the Project, including a map showing the exploration and mining leases, is available at http://malabarcoal.com.au/projects/maxwell-underground

Thank you for your time and participation.

Elliott Whiteing Pty Ltd

About you

1. Where do you live? (Please tick one)

- ☐ Denman
- ☐ Muswellbrook
- ☐ Merriwa
- ☐ Singleton
- ☐ Sandy Hollow
- ☐ Elsewhere in Muswellbrook Shire Local Government Area
- ☐ Jerrys Plains
- ☐ Elsewhere in Singleton Local Government Area
- ☐ Other (please state which town or area)

_____

2. What industry or work are you involved in? (Please tick one)

- ☐ Farming
- ☐ Mining
- ☐ Merriwa
- ☐ Retail, tourism and hospitality
- ☐ Equine
- ☐ Government services
- ☐ Home-maker or carer
- ☐ Viticulture
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Currently seeking work
- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Community services
- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Technical / Trade
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other (please state)

_____

3. What is your gender

- ☐ Male ☐ Female
- ☐ Other / prefer not to say

4.Please tell us your age group

- ☐ Under 15 years
- ☐ 16 to 25 years
- ☐ 26 to 35 years
- ☐ 36 to 50 years
- ☐ 51 to 65 years
- ☐ Over 65 years
- ☐ Other / prefer not to say

5. Do you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

About your community

6. Community wellbeing. Thinking about your community, please tell us your views on the following statements, by choosing one box on each line and where relevant, providing examples in the comments sections. Additional comments are appreciated, but optional. You may also attach additional information at the end of the survey.

QUESTION	OPINION					
Access to housing is affordable for most people.	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
Comments						
Local businesses are generally doing well.	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
Comments						
Our community has adequate community and health services.	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
Comments						
Our community needs variety in the jobs available.	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
Comments						
Our community needs better education and training opportunities.	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
Comments						
Our community is a clean healthy and safe place to live	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
Comments						
Quality of life in our community is good.	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
Comments						
Our community responds well to change.	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
Comments						
The roads servicing our community are generally good.	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
Comments						

7. What is special about your area (natural features, buildings and structures, social or cultural)? Please identify as many as you wish using these prompts, or your own.

Social (e.g. things to do, local people)

_____

Natural places and surroundings

_____

Built infrastructure (e.g. community facilities, roads)

_____

Places with cultural value

_____

Other

_____

Impacts and Opportunities

For the following questions, please consider whether the Maxwell Project could affect local people, businesses or communities positively, negatively, or not at all.

8. Considering the following, how do you think the Project might affect local people or your community?

QUESTION	OPINION					
Your enjoyment of towns or local properties	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
The natural surroundings	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Community attributes such as connectedness and harmony	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Getting around your community	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Lifestyle (e.g. how you live, work or play)	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Local cultural and/or heritage values	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Health and safety	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Community, health and emergency services	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Public infrastructure	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Housing availability and affordability	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Local business, industry and economic development	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						
Employment and training opportunities	☐ Strongly Agree	☐ Agree	☐ Neutral	☐ Disagree	☐ Strongly Disagree	☐ Don't Know
How might the project affect this?						

9. What would you like Malabar Coal to know about your community as they consider the Maxwell Project's social or environmental impacts?

10. How would you like to be kept informed about the Maxwell Project and/or provide input to the Project team?

How to Provide Feedback

1. Online: You can fill in the survey online at https://www.research.net/r/MaxwellSIA

2. Using the reply-paid envelope: You can complete the survey, then post your response to us.

3. Over the phone or via email: Monday to Friday, between 8am and 4pm, you can call or email Donna McLaughlin, Manager Environment and Community (contact details below) to provide your answers add details.

Donna McLaughlin

Email: info@malabarcoal.com.au
Phone: (02) 6542 0283
Web: www.malabarcoal.com.au

If you would like to register for further information about the Maxwell Project, please send an email titled 'Register for Maxwell Project information' to info@malabarcoal.com.au and include your name, address and phone number.

Thank you for your time and participation in this survey.